

mies in Los Angeles quite as bitter as the unions. Then why suspect the unions? But as the Times made this report, it tried to back it up with proof. And how? Twelve hours afterward detectives go to Gen. Otis' home—he is the owner of the Times—and to the home of the secretary of the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association, and there they find unexploded dynamite. They seemed to know just where to look. One of those infernal machines went off after they found it, and they threw it into the street. A rather strange circumstance that two of the conveniently placed infernal machines did not go off and the other did. As strange as that they thought of looking for them twelve hours after the explosion, and found them. It looks rather suspicious. I heard one person say he would have thought it was gas if it had not been for those finds. Hence their importance.

Now if this was a dynamite explosion and not gas, the Times and the gas company would not be liable in damages for the loss of life. Another gas explosion in the same neighborhood about a year before had cost the gas company a good deal of money.

No one in Los Angeles has any confidence in Earl Rogers, the attorney employed by the city to investigate this matter. He is the attorney who defended the big grafters in San Francisco when Francis Heney was shot and Gallagher's home was blown up with dynamite by an employe of the street car company.

GERRIT T. THORN.

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## GROWTH OF MILITARISM IN THE UNITED STATES.

Wilmington, Del.

The past twenty-five years have seen a phenomenal growth of a distinct military caste in a country whose Constitution and whose history has been regarded by the whole world as a model of democratic government. Epaulettes, and brilliant naval and military uniforms, are the most conspicuous feature of every reception in Washington, which is the acknowledged center of military influence as well as the seat of Executive authority. President Taft, casting aside the simplicity of Jefferson, of Jackson, and of Lincoln, has made himself as inaccessible as the German Kaiser or the English King. Every one must make an appointment and sometimes wait for weeks, who has a personal desire to meet President Taft. Washington is the home of hundreds of military and naval officers who have been retired on pensions because of advancing age, and these pensions constitute an increasing drain on the national treasury. Within the last quarter of a century, a military caste has become established, and its members are clamoring loudly for larger appropriations for the army and navy.

It is plain enough to men who see the growth of this obnoxious class that those who belong to it intend to make it a privileged order. Just as the soldiers of Sparta and Athens regarded themselves as the only class whose happiness was worthy of consideration, so do our modern military and naval officers regard the people whose labor furnishes their

vessels, their weapons and their incomes as their inferiors, whose struggles and whose sorrows enter only indirectly into their lives. New recruits must come from the people to be sure, and so reluctant are the people to enlist in the army and navy now that conscription in time of peace has been openly advocated by army officers.

Has it been the demand of the people that has brought about this sudden change of policy in a republic to which the whole world has looked as an example of the success of popular government? Far from it. The growth of army and navy has been contemporary and parallel with the growth of enormous individual fortunes, and of the most startling concentration of wealth the world has ever known. The conviction is general among working people that the army is always used against those who are striving for a bettering of the hard conditions under which wages are earned. Rightly or otherwise, working men and women regard the men who control the army as paid agents of the men who are the holders of great wealth. Can it be that there is an understanding between the few very rich men of the United States that a large army and navy must be kept to awe into submission those who might perhaps resist with force the enforcement of laws made wholly in the interest of predatory wealth?

A revolution is sure to come. But let us make it a peaceful one. Revolution means simply a change from laws and customs that have produced such concentration of wealth as we see today in the United States, to juster laws and customs which will recognize the right of the men who earn the wealth of the country to spend it.

No one can truly assert at present that any multimillionaire has earned his wealth. The means by which it came into his possession have often been called "frenzied finance;" and it is to support the claim of the frenzied financier to the protection of his holding by the strong arm of the government that the present army and navy are needed.

The history of ancient Rome is once more being enacted by the United States of America; but by the help of God, the ending of it will be the reverse of that wave of barbarism which swept over the highest civilization the Roman world had attained, leaving smouldering ruins where proud cities once stood. For we must remember that one half of the population of Rome at the time of its greatest power were slaves. Thank God for the intelligence so long and widely disseminated by our public schools; for by its aid the plots of those who scheme to make slaves of the children of those who fought for freedom in 1776 become transparent and will end in defeat.

I repeat that the army and navy are the instruments which those who hope to enslave the people by controlling natural resources and the tools of production intend to use to rivet the chains of industrial slavery on a free people. Every defeat of appropriations for army and navy weakens the hands of those who are the only real enemies of our great Republic.

WILLIAM CANBY FERRIS.