

BANDITS SLUG ATTENDANT AT COAL YARD

U.S. AND JAPAN MAY SUFFER BY OIL TRIAL TALE

War Scare Discussion Likely to Affect Friendship of Nations.

By William Philip Simms
Times Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The Fall-Doheny oil conspiracy trial seriously threatens to disturb relations between the United States and Japan.

Cables reveal that nothing in years has stirred Tokio like Edward L. Doheny's testimony that he had been officially informed that Japan had actually mobilized for war against the United States and that "an invasion" of the Pacific coast was part of the plan.

The charge, if true, means that at the very time Japanese delegates were busy in Washington negotiating the four-power peace pact of the Pacific, back in Japan preparations were in full swing to turn those waters red with war.

Doheny claims his information came from Rear Admiral J. K. Robinson, then chief of the Naval Bureau of Engineering. This would seem to reflect on the good faith of Japan. Thus it would be in order were Tokio to make diplomatic representations to Washington to have the matter cleared up.

On the other hand, the Japanese press is now charging the United States with bad faith on the ground that while working for a reduction of armaments in Washington we were strengthening our Pacific defenses.

Just how near war were the United States and Japan in 1921-22?

Ridiculed War Idea

I was in the Orient for the Scripps-Howard papers almost the whole of 1921. I spent a long time in Japan and months in China and the Philippines studying the situation during that much discussed period, yet no informed person, whether of Japanese, American, British or other nationality, ever expressed to me anything but ridicule for the idea that Japan would ever attempt to invade California, save, perhaps, in the event of a vast coalition against us.

During the winter of 1920-21, however, there was a feeling of crisis in the air. I had felt it in Washington before I started for Japan in December. But the feeling was not one of fear for our own shores, but an uneasiness lest something should happen on the other side of the Pacific—most likely in the region of the Philippines.

In Japan I found a similar unrest. This was along in January and February, 1921. A few hot heads among the Japanese jingoes were saying that sooner or later the two countries would have to measure swords, and the sooner the better. But there was no sign of early hostilities. To the contrary, the vast majority of the Japanese whom I talked were distinctly of the opinion that war at that time would be suicidal for them unless they could count on British support.

Here, perhaps, was the biggest obstacle in the way of a Japanese war against the United States. There was, of course, an Anglo-Japanese alliance, but it was even then moribund. I found not one Britisher, from Tokio to Peking and from Han- kow to Hong-Kong, but who was violently opposed to that alliance and in favor of dropping it at the very first opportunity.

Australia's Status

Quite apart from my question of sentiment, a common tongue or anything of that sort, there was Australia. Australia feared, and still fears, Japan. Could Britain remain neutral while Japan was establishing herself in the Philippines, within striking distance of Australia? The plain truth is Japan could not even count on British neutrality in such a war, let alone British support. So when, during the summer of 1921, President Harding invited Japan to come to Washington to talk arms reduction and peace in the Pacific, Japan readily accepted.

This marked the beginning of the end of whatever "war scare" there was at that time. That was definitely ended exactly five years ago to day. On Dec. 13, 1921, Japan, Britain, France and the United States signed the Treaty of Washington with a view to the preservation of the general peace of the Pacific ocean."

This treaty buried the already dead Anglo-Japanese alliance. It was ratified by the Senate on March 24, 1922. It made peace in the Pacific quite as certain as the good faith and honor of the four nations signing it, and the charge that one of the nations planned to violate it almost before the ink on its signature was dry becomes a serious matter.

The first of the Fall-Doheny oil contracts, it appears, was entered into on April 25, 1922, three and a half months after Japan had signed. The second was made on Dec. 11, a whole year afterward.

Thus the whole testimony charging Japan with mobilizing for war against the United States in 1922 was hardly to be expected to please the Japanese.

NEW SCHOOL HEAD

William F. Vogel Quits State Job for Shelbyville Post.

By United Press
SHELBYVILLE, Ind., Dec. 12.—William F. Vogel, director of the teachers' training and licensing division of the State department of public instruction, will assume duties of superintendent of schools here Jan. 1, it was learned today.

Vogel will fill the place left vacant

by the death of A. C. Kirby.

PEANUTS IN LIMELIGHT ONCE AGAIN

Threatening Note Found on
Vending Machine at
City Hall.

Peanut politics held sway in little sense today at the city hall.

Temporarily relegated to the darkness following Lew Shanks' theme of the sack of peanuts Senator James E. Watson said would content the farmers, the noble peanut today once more was back in the political limelight.

It appeared that a patron of the penny peanut machine on the second floor was dissatisfied, malcontent and unhappy with his wares.

For, pasted on the machine, was the typewritten message:

"This machine is not fair. You had better fix it to deliver 1 cent's worth or all your business will go to the stand downstairs."

The threat referred to a hot peanut stand on the lunch counter in front of the bronze memorial tablet of dedication of the municipal building on the first floor.

The notice did not mention the fact that the downstair peanuts are hot while the variety that flourishes a higher altitude are a bit frigid.

In some quarters, the ominous warning was construed as veiled criticism at the studding of the lobbies with vending machines of many types.

For instance, a neighbor of the altitudinous peanut machine under the marble and onyx pillars is the celebrated Dime Dinner contrivance, which dispenses cake and candy when it works.

Descending the stairs to the first floor, one finds a twin of the dinner machine resting under marble panels while across the lobby is a truly aristocratic peanut machine.

This de luxe mechanism for a mere penny emits candied peanuts of a reddish hue.

At its side and in strict equality of position is one of the garden variety of ball chewing gum machines, with all the lure of varicolored balls.

For the truly hungry, the regular city hall stand dispenses food to nearly the extent of table d'hôte dinner.

Assails Convention

"Nothing is more subject to gusts of passion, anger and emotion of all sorts than the old-time convention," Beveridge asserted. "I have seen such a body stampeded for a candidate by a big brass band in the gallery suddenly starting up." "Marching Through Georgia" and playing the tune as loudly and inspiringly as the band could play it.

I know just how it feels for I went through that experience Saturday night.

Going home Saturday night I met at E. Tenth and Hamilton Ave. Fred Steinberger, who said he had just been relieved of between \$300 and \$400 by some bandits. The thugs had caught him as he was closing up his meat shop at 2037 E. Tenth St.

Police were called and a thorough search of the neighborhood was made, but no suspicious characters were found.

Laughing at Fright

Secretly laughing at the apparent fright of the butcher, I continued on my way. I knew just what I would do (so I thought) if any one would try anything like that on me. I would be brave, laugh at them and tell them to go to hell, a very hot climate. In fact, bluff them.

I was passing the dark alley behind the meat market which had just been held up, when I felt something jammed into the small of my back and a voice hiss, "Stick 'em, buddy, and don't make a move or let out a squawk if you know what is good for you."

How did I feel? What did I do? I never stopped to feel or think. I just reached for Kingdom Come like I expected to pull myself up and I sure wished that I could have.

I had two \$10 bills in the right breast pocket of my shirt and 15 cents in my trousers' pocket. The bandit searched me and found the 15 cents, but not the bills. They conferred in whispers for a moment or two. During that time every sound of a hold-up I had ever read or heard used.

They believe she may have a nervous disorder, brought on by overwork. She was a stenographer in Attorney General Moody's office while taking advanced courses in the university. Moody is Governor-elect.

Was I scared?

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Simply Paralyzed

I was simply paralyzed with fright. My tongue clave to the roof of my mouth and I couldn't have moved if I had wanted to, which I didn't. I wondered why I had left my home in a small Indiana village to seek fame

and fortune as a reporter in a big city. I'm positive that my knees played "Home Sweet Home" and never missed a note.

Finally, after what seemed a century, with that gun playfully nestling in my back all the time, one of the bandits returned the 15 cents to me and told me to run and not look back.

My knees may have been weak for a while, but when I was told to go, they came right to my assistance. The only regret that I have is that

they did not move or squawk.

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