

RUSSIA'S VAST OIL SUPPLY IS STRIFE GERM

English and U. S. Companies in Bitter Competition for Monopoly.

Editor's Note: This is another of a series of articles on oil, telling the romantic story oil is playing in world politics and economics.

BY RODNEY DUTCHER

NEA Service Writer

(Copyright, 1928, NEA Service, Inc.) WASHINGTON, March 7.—Last spring the British government severed its relations with Soviet Russia, allegedly because Russia had been trying to stir up trouble within British borders.

But behind that rupture most authorities on the international oil situation in Washington saw the hand of the British oil interests, with which the British government vitally is concerned.

Russia has the greatest oil supply in the world, principally in the Caucasus. It has been estimated at seven billion barrels.

The British-controlled Royal Dutch Shell Company had tried unsuccessfully for years to obtain a monopoly on that oil.

Finally the Standard Oil interests of this country obtained what seemed to be the "inside track" in Russia and not only did a break in Anglo-Soviet relations follow, but there was talk of Russo-British war.

High-Priced Publicity

The Standard Oil interests apparently are seeking American recognition of Russia so that their gains may be held and extended.

Russian recognition hardly can come immediately, but it may be considered quite possible after the next change in administration in this country.

In March, 1926, the Vacuum Oil Company, a Standard subsidiary, signed an agreement with the Soviet oil syndicate for the sale to Vacuum of 800,000 tons of kerosene. A year ago December Standard Oil of New York signed a contract for 500,000 tons of Russian kerosene and last June another contract for 500,000 tons of Russian fuel oil.

These companies are now taking about 430,000 tons of Russian oil each year.

British Make Outcry

It was soon after the signing of that last contract that Sir Henry Deterding, head of Royal Dutch Shell, went completely up in the air. Standard Oil apparently had

Twins Shun Films; Star



The Dodge twins, Betty and Ruth, grew up right in Los Angeles, but they withstood the lure of the movies and went on the stage. Now they have just closed a successful season in London and are to be featured next in the new Folies Bergere Theater in Paris.

dashed his hopes for a monopoly on Russia's seven billion barrels of oil.

The terms of the Standard's agreements had been secret and it may be that they involved something close to what Deterding himself had envisioned.

At any rate Deterding emitted a terrible howl at the iniquity of American companies which bought Red oil. He sought to persuade the American public that we shouldn't trade in the "stolen" oil of this pariah among nations.

The newspapers were full of the possibilities of an "oil war." There were possibilities of that, for Deterding previously had threatened price wars against Standard companies in continental Europe and Mediterranean countries.

But it was absolutely ridiculous to believe, as many did at the time, that Standard of New Jersey was engaged in a bitter fight with Vacuum and Standard of New York over the Russian oil question.

"Another factor of the Anglo-Soviet-Deterding difficulties, incidentally, was that the Soviet oil syndicate had entered the market of the British Isles with oil which was

CLOTHING BANDIT HELD

Captured After Fleeing With Women's Wearing Apparel.

Harold Harris, 17, was captured after a five-block chase today as he ran from the dry goods store of William S. McClain, 1901 College Ave., with \$5 worth of women's clothing.

Joe Carver, 539 S. New Jersey St., a truck driver, captured Harris. Harris was charged with vagrancy and petit larceny.

The William H. Block Company will award medals to the boy and girl winners of the Lincoln oratorical contest in every high school in Marion County; it was announced today by Mrs. L. G. Hughes, Indianapolis school chairman, in charge of the contest.

The contest is being conducted in connection with the Indiana Lincoln memorial campaign to raise funds to establish a national shrine in southern Indiana as a tribute to Lincoln and his mother.

THE INDIANAPOLIS TIMES

G. O. P. LEADER DENIES BOOZE IS VOTE ISSUE

Tilson Also Doubts That Religion Will Be Big Election Question.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, March 7.—House Republican Floor Leader Tilson believes prohibition will not be an issue in either party in the presidential campaign this year.

"Every one knows," he said in a radio address here last night, "that a very sharp division on this subject exists in both parties. It is almost certain that neither party will make adherence or opposition to the cause of prohibition the test of party loyalty."

SEES NO RELIGIOUS ISSUE

Neither will the religious issue be raised, in his opinion. Tilson pointed out that many believe it will if Governor Al Smith of New York is nominated at Houston, but he said, "it is hard to believe that with all our professions of religious liberty and tolerance the American people will permit such an issue to be controllingly on either side."

Speaking with Tilson over the radio in the weekly voters service on "What Congress Is Doing," Democratic Floor Leader Garrett declared this session of Congress will "pass into history as well nigh a blank page."

CALLS CONGRESS A BLANK

Citing the leading problems facing Congress—tax reduction, farm relief, flood relief and Muscle Shoals, Garrett said:

"We have been in session now three months and it cannot be said that any proposal as to any one of these matters has reached a stage which encourages the slightest hope of final enactment."

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By United Press

WASHINGTON, March 7.—A war map to be used this spring for directing dry enforcement activities in every part of the country is being drafted at prohibition headquarters.

Treasury officials are making a survey of all prohibition districts to learn which sections will need the greatest number of agents this year and what measures must be taken to suppress liquor trafficking.

MAKE NATION-WIDE SURVEY

The "prohibition board of strategy" now in the field, includes Prohibition Commissioner J. R. Doran, inspecting Florida activities; Assistant Prohibition Commissioner Alf Oftedahl, inspecting Pacific Coast activities; and Lieutenant Commander Stephen Yeandle of the coast guard, inspecting the Gulf region.

Admiral Frederick C. Billard, commanding of the coast guard has just returned from a trip to Florida and Georgia where he surveyed guard operations against rum runners.

Assistant Secretary of Treasury Lowman and Commissioner of Customs Ernest Camp will leave for Florida tonight to survey the work of Federal forces on land and sea against liquor rings.

PLAN TO SPEED UP WORK

Commissioner Doran already has made an inspection trip of the Middle West and Major Herbert H. White, prohibition field supervisor, has been designated to visit places other officials fail to touch.

When the survey is completed the "strategy board" hopes to formulate a system to speed up enforcement activities throughout the United States.

3 HELD IN AUTO THEFT

PRISONERS AT PLAINFIELD CLAIM TO BE Ft. HARRISON SOLDIERS.

By United Press

NORTHAMPTON, Mass., March 7.—A Lithuanian laborer, father of three children, is held here after falling into a trap set for the possible kidnaper of Miss Frances St. John Smith, missing Smith College freshman.

Michael Bulinickas, a spinner in the Belding mills, was arrested Tuesday night when he called at the post office for a decoy bundle placed there in answer to a \$50,000 ransom demand.

Postal inspectors who made the arrest said Bulinickas hired a post office box under a fictitious name and wrote to St. John Smith, wealthy father of the girl, who disappeared from her Smith College dormitory here last Jan. 13, demanding \$50,000 in exchange for news of his daughter.

The bills were to be sent to Box 515 at the local office in an unregistered and uninsured letter.

Under questioning at Police headquarters, Bulinickas admitted renting the box under the name of K. Klunsky three days before Miss Smith vanished.

The fact the Lithuanian hired the box before the disappearance led authorities to believe he might have some knowledge of the mystery.

BOY, 12, SEEKS ARREST

Starts Campaign to Place Himself in Prison With Brother.

By United Press

OREGON, Ill., March 7.—Kenth Nichols, 12 year old and determined, started a campaign designed to win for him a term in the St. Charles reformatory.

First he tried to steal an automobile, but he was too small to reach the starter. Then he attacked another boy with a broomstick.

"My brother's in St. Charles and I want to be with him," he told authorities.

The sheriff's office declined to commit him to the reformatory.

SEEK TOBACCO BANDITS

By United Press

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Police were without a clew as to the whereabouts of tobacco bandits who entered a grocery by a rear window and made away with cigars, cigarettes and plug chewing tobacco valued at \$15.

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