

WAR BETWEEN JAPAN, RUSSIA MAY BE NEAR

Japan Confident of Her Power Since Latest Chinese Conquest.

BY WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor
WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Failure of the great powers to back up the peace treaties, in the opinion of a high diplomat here, has brought the far east to the verge of an explosion which may rock the world. This dovetails with information reaching the capital over the weekend that Japan and Russia may clash in the spring—not because Russia wants it, but because the Japanese general staff, now in the saddle, is said to believe that the world situation favors the Mikado's arms.

That Japan senses that she now holds most of the trump cards, is indicated in her reply to the American note on Manchuria. Ironically she admits interpreting the nine-power treaty to suit herself, her interpretation setting at naught the avowed purpose of the treaty. She excused her occupation of Manchuria by saying "that the present unsettled and distracted state of China is not what was in the contemplation of the high contracting parties at the time of the treaty of Washington."

Sure of Success

On the contrary, it is pointed out here, China's "unsettled and distracted state" was precisely what was in the minds of the framers of the treaty, and that it was to protect China, while in such state, that the agreement was signed.

In fact, the official title of the document is "the treaty of Chinese integrity," and it pledged the signatories not to take advantage of the chaos existing in China, but to help her get on her feet.

Thus, after carefully feeling her way for the last four months, Japan today seems confident of a pretty clear field ahead, so far as the peace pact signatories are concerned. And therein is seen the chief danger.

Great Britain is too occupied with troubles at home and in India to go adventuring in China. Nor, for that matter, is she seriously concerned. Her interests are chiefly in central China, not in the north, and if China fails to pieces her share of the loot is pretty well staked out.

U. S. Stands Alone

France, too, is busy nearer home. Anything can happen in Germany, her next door neighbor, or to Europe for that matter, and she does not intend to become involved at this juncture in disturbances on the other side of the world. Besides, if China is to be dismembered, her slice would be in the south.

Italy is not a far eastern power, and can not become one unless China is broken up. Meanwhile so long as the open door is not closed to her comparatively small trade, she won't get very excited.

Belgium, Holland and Portugal all are too small to count.

The remaining party to the treaty—omitting Japan and China—is the United States. Alone it is genuinely interested in China's territorial and administrative integrity. In the light of history as written a third of a century ago, it is the one great power seriously opposed to China's dismemberment. Trade, not territory, is its chief interest.

Japan Watches Russia

To date, however, the United States has done nothing to cause Japan to stay her hand as she warily pursues her course in Manchuria.

Russia is the one power Japan really has to fear. Though not a party to the nine-power treaty, she has a greater interest in Manchuria than any foreign country. She has fought one war to hold on to her warm-water, ice-free port on the Yellow sea, and nobody doubts her willingness to fight another to get it back.

But Russia is not ready for war. Only a single-track railway across Siberia affords communication. However, a French authority declares this will be remedied within the next few years. Meantime, he asserts she has 1,000,000 well-drilled troops in barracks and 3,000,000 in reserve. As soon as she gets her industries going to back up these soldiers she will have the most powerful army in the world.

Far eastern sources declare the peril of the moment is that the Japanese general staff, sensing all this, will decide to strike now, before Russia is ready.

NAB 3 IN STOLEN CAR

Trio Held on Vagrancy Charges to Explain Auto, \$1,000 Bills.

Three men, two of whom are on state prison parole, were held today by police on vagrancy charges after they are alleged to have had a stolen automobile and several \$1,000 bills in their possession.

Officers arrested Eddie Lee and Frank Dixon, recently released from the prison, and Earl Roberts, 1410 Delos street, in a new downtown hotel Tuesday night.

Police say the car, driven by Lee, was the property of Charles E. Wood of Muncie, and recently was stolen from a downtown parking place.

AUTO DEATH RATE LESS

More Fatalities in 1931 Than 1930, But Proportion Drops.

CHICAGO, Jan. 20.—Despite a numerical increase of 250 fatalities in 1931 over 1930, the motor vehicle death rate in the United States decreased 2 per cent, the national safety council announced today.

In 1930, the council estimated, 32,750 persons died from injuries received in automobile accidents. Last year, the figure was placed at 33,000. On the basis of increasing population, however, the automobile death rate decreased 1-5 of 1 per cent.

Liberty Party in Mass Meeting
Mass meeting of the Liberty party of America will be held tonight in the courthouse at Lebanon, Forest L. Hackley, state chairman, announced.

'Yeah, Ain't Love Grand?'



Streets of the city sometimes hum strains of "Love's Old Sweet Song."

They hum especially during these springlike days, and so Jerry and Nellie, the two "neuters" of the "boss" family, shown in the above photo, were snapped by The Times camera as they muzzle each other while waiting for the laundry wagon driver to come back with a bundle. Sez Jerry, "Ain't love grand?" Sez Nellie, "Don't be a sap."

IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPHELD BY COURT

Tax 'Speakes'

By United Press

PATERSON, N. J., Jan. 20.—The board of aldermen, persuaded by Joseph W. King that the city is overlooking a substantial source of revenue in failing to license its 700 speakeasies, has instructed the legal department to draft an ordinance so providing.

But Alderman King is less concerned about the \$100,000 or so additional yearly revenue that would accrue than he is about the type of persons who have been operating the speakeasies. Almost any Tom, Dick, or Harry can open a speakeasy in Paterson, the alderman inferred.

"Under the ordinance, we could choose who could operate the speakeasies."

MINE MISERY TOLD

Pastor Aids Side of Workers in Kentucky.

The Rev. Jim Grace, representing the International Labor defense, presented the miners' side of the eastern Kentucky coal funds in a speech Tuesday night at Workers' Center, 932½ South Meridian street.

Mr. Grace placed the blame for the disorders in Harlan county last spring on the shoulders of the mine operators for lowering wages of miners, and the United Mine Workers for not supporting the strike last spring.

Mr. Grace, one of the leaders in the National Miners' union, now is under indictment in Kentucky for criminal syndicalism.

Charging that "the state and county governments in Kentucky are under the thumb of the mine operators," Mr. Grace claimed for the National Miners' union credit for whatever relief has been given the poverty-stricken miners.

Principal speaker will be Boyd Gurley, editor of The Times, who will discuss utility rates.

Reports will be given by committees working on utility rate reductions, removal of the woman's prison and on lower bus fares.

Proposal for an east side club federation to work for betterment of the east side will be discussed.

The proposition is being considered by several civic clubs. The Sherman-Emerson Civic League Tuesday night named Cecil McConahey and E. Curtis White to confer on the matter with Samuel Harrig, president of the New York street league.

SEIZE WHISKY IN RAID

Police Squad Also Confiscates Stills at Residence.

By United Press

HELSINGFORF, Finland, Jan. 20.—Provisions of the government bill for new liquor laws include a state controlled monopoly for the manufacture of liquor, and state control of sales and consumption.

Every one 21 years old, or over, will be allowed to obtain a liquor passbook in which purchases will be recorded, but may be deprived of the book if its use is abused. Nobody will be allowed to keep over twenty liters (about twenty-one quarts) of wine and beer at home, and the limit on spirits will be five liters.

FINNS DRAFT BOOZE ACT

Sanction State Control, Placing Limit on Legal Supplies.

By United Press

LIMA, Peru, Jan. 20.—Strong earthquake shocks late Tuesday caused extensive property damage here and at Callao, resulted in injuries to many and the loss of one life, a checkup today revealed.

The shocks were continued for forty-five seconds.

Injuries were caused by falling pieces of walls, balconies, cornices and shattered windows. The death reported was at the small seaport of Huacho, North of Lima. The town of Huacho, Huarez, Canete Pisco and Chiclayo reported property damage.

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SWELLING ROLL AT POOR FARM VEXES COUNTY

Commissioners Warned of Overcrowding by John McGregor.

Under present condition, with as high as ten persons applying daily, Marion county utterly is unable to provide shelter for its poor and helpless, without dangerously overcrowding buildings at the poor farm.

This was disclosed by county officials today, despite the recent erection of a \$20,000 temporary dormitory for men.

Charles Schlotz, poor farm superintendent, hoped today to clear hallways in the men's old dormitory, which for many months have been crowded with beds and sleeping pallets, by moving 144 inmates into the new dormitory.

"If the stream of incoming inmates continues," Schlotz declared, "it will be necessary again to force some inmates to sleep in hallways, and the place then will be overcrowded."

Can Not Be Turned Away

Since taking office, Jan. 1, Schlotz has admitted fifty-four patients to the farm. He reported that more than 600 inmates, men and women, now are confined there.

This number exceeds by 100 the number confined at the farm a year ago, at which time it was charged that overcrowding existed. "Of course it is crowded, with the county can not refuse or turn them away," Thomas Ellis, new Democratic commissioner, stated.

Both George Snider and Dow Vorhes, board members, declared that "something may have to be done, if the stream of applicants continues."

Urge New Buildings

Report on final inspection of the new dormitory was made by John McGregor, former county commissioner, Tuesday.

"New buildings must be erected," according to McGregor, who declared that "possibility of the state ever taking over the county infirmary, as commissioners desire, is far distant."

The plan to move poor farm inmates to Julietta, present county insane hospital, through a transfer of insane patients to the state, may be impossible under the poor farm deed.

The deed giving the land to the county provided it should only be used for poor farm purposes, according to McGregor.

Bandit Sentenced

By United Press

PERU, Ind., Jan. 20.—A prison term of ten years was imposed upon Carl Zuber, 24, Denver, Colo., when he pleaded guilty in Miami circuit court here to robbing a Peru theater.

Under this system the street will be widened and curbs set back. Other property owners in the area have consented to permit their houses to be moved the necessary distance.

Ellott was successful in his first fight against the works board three years ago, when the improvement order was passed originally. He obtained an injunction halting the work for the entire length of the street.

In answer to this the city split the improvement at Ellott's property. Again Ellott appeared in court, protesting that passage of two improvement resolutions for the single project was invalid.

Ryan, however, held the procedure was legal and that costs of the improvement were not in excess of the property values, as Ellott charged.

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