

SHAH OF PERSIA DENIES OIL CONTRACT WAS BROKEN BY FOREIGN INTERESTS' PRESSURE

American Reporter Gets First Interview Granted by Monarch Since He Ascended Fabled 'Peacock Throne.'

The picturesque shah of Persia, who moved in the fabulous peacock throne from the obscurity of a Persian cossack regiment, has defied the powerful British government in the dispute over the Anglo-Persian oil contract. Eugene Lyons, United Press staff correspondent, here presents the unusual picture of an interview with a reigning monarch—the first audience the shah has granted to a foreign newspaper man since his coronation.

BY EUGENE LYONS

United Press Staff Correspondent

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TEHERAN, Persia, Jan. 10.—The Shah of Persia sat at his desk in a modern office built into his new and westernized palace here, and gave voice to a vigorous plea for closer economic relations between his country and the people of the United States.

This "king of kings," garbed in a plain khaki uniform rather than the rich royal robes one associates with rulers over the fertile Persian lands, was most cordial and democratic throughout the interview.

He denied that his arbitrary cancellation of an oil contract with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company had been a result of pressure brought by foreign interests.

Instead, the shah declared, he had the door open wide for negotiations with the company, but, in view of what he called the menacing attitude of the British government—which controls the company—had presented the matter to the League of Nations.

He realized this was defying the might of the British empire, but hoped that the League council would co-operate with the Persian government in reaching an amicable decision in a controversy which has threatened to inflame the near east.

Russian Influence Denied

Riza Shah Pahlevi, Persia's shah, or king of kings, indignantly denied intimations that Soviet Russia or other foreign interests were back of his action. He said:

"The insinuations are entirely false. We acted altogether independently to protect our own rights and natural resources."

The shah, a towering, square-shouldered man of 60, was warmly cordial throughout the interview. He expressed a warm friendship and admiration for the American people, and added:

"I sincerely hope that this friendship will deepen and bear fruit in closer cultural ties and larger economic relations to our mutual benefit."

"If any incident or misunderstanding has arisen, I want to assure America that the responsibility does not rest on my government or on the intelligent, patriotic portion of my people, who always are anxious to strengthen our traditional bonds of friendship."

Simplicity Marks Interview

My audience with the shah, the first he has granted to a foreign newspaper man since his coronation, was marked by a simplicity which seemed strange in this remote land.

Here was a man who had risen from a private in a Cossack regiment to become ruler of his country—a potentate who ruled from the historic "peacock throne" of fable.

But he rose to greet me, and shook hands in western fashion. He wore a plain, unadorned khaki uniform, and I found that he was unquestionably the hardest working monarch in the world. He arises at 4 a.m. daily.

I had been coached by diplomats in the proper manner of bowing and speaking before the shah. But when I came into his office, it was more like meeting a business executive than an oriental potentate used to intricate social forms of greeting.

The palace, built since his coronation, is more modest and modern than the palace of his predecessors, Golestan palace, where ceremonial occasions still are celebrated.

I was accompanied by his highness, Amir Nezam, master of ceremonies in the imperial court, to the interview. We crossed a luxuriant garden, mounted a broad marble staircase, and were ushered into the royal offices.

I took a seat before a crackling

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Left to right, Louis J. Borinstein, president of the chamber of commerce; Miss Eleanor Sussman, Miss Sally Maurer, and Mrs. L. L. Goodman.

TAKES OVER NEW DUTIES

William D. Gill Named Statehouse Building, Grounds Chief

William D. Gill, 21 North Tacoma Avenue, today took over the duties of superintendent of statehouse buildings and grounds as the Democratic successor to Frank G. Cayler. He was statehouse electrician for the last two years.

Appointment was by the building and grounds committee consisting of secretary of state, auditor and Governor Paul V. McNutt.

Gill announced appointment of

Mrs. Silvia Searey to succeed Mrs. Neil Whitaker as the superintendent's secretary.

BOY, 8, LOSES HIS LIFE

Skull Is Fractured When He Falls While Roller Skating

By United Press

FT. WAYNE, Ind., Jan. 10.—Wiley Fox, 8, died Monday from a skull fracture received when he fell while roller skating. He was being towed behind a bicycle.

Moor and his wife were returning from Indianapolis when her death occurred. Moor first told authorities that his wife had been slain by robbers while he was unconscious. His alleged confession later stated, however, that "she left dirty dishes in the sink" and that he was jealous of her, professionally.

Both were teachers.

Mrs. Moor was a graduate of Butler University in Indianapolis and Moor attended Butler.

Moore

CONFESION OF MOOR FOUGHT IN DEATH CASE

Defense Attorneys Seek to Bar Alleged Killer's Signed Statement.

(Continued From Page One)

today were Victor Miller, former state's attorney, Dr. Will M. Rogers, Clark County coroner and Dr. Earl Mitchell, autopsy surgeon.

Although Moor later repudiated the confession, Perdum expects to clinch its acceptance by producing witnesses present at the time Moor's statement was given.

The death penalty will be asked by the state, Perdum said, a fact which was foreshadowed by the questioning of prospective jurors, several of whom were dismissed because of prejudice against capital punishment.

According to Albert E. Isley, defense attorney, at least two days will be taken by the defense, with Dr. Dudley Dawson, Danville, Ill., alienist, former fellow teachers and neighbors testifying in Moor's behalf.

Employment of Dawson is regarded as preliminary to a plea of insanity. The defense also questioned jurors regarding their willingness to return a verdict of acquittal in event insanity was proved.

Moor's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Moor, 24 South Irvington Avenue, Indianapolis, were seated with their son at the trial opened. In the courtroom were the Rev. and Mrs. A. E. Wrenthorpe, 227 South Ritter Avenue, Indianapolis, parents of the slain woman. They refused an invitation to sit at the prosecution's table, opposite their son-in-law.

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New Utility Board Setup Is Demanded by McNutt

Old Age Pensions, Dry Law Repeal Also Advocated in Message; Cites Need for Budget Balancing.

(Continued From Page One)

both as a humanitarian and economic advantage.

Pointing out that increased demands on sources now taxed are unwise—if not impossible—McNutt suggested retaining all or part of the motor vehicle fund in the general fund.

Must Consider Sales Tax

"I am opposed unalterably," he said, "to the principle of a sales tax, but I find the exigencies of the situation force its serious consideration. A tax on tobacco and soft drinks and other luxuries demands attention."

"Roads and buildings may wait, but not the children. The care of its wards and education of its children is an obligation the state can not deny, even in times of greatest stress."

"Where county tax adjustment boards have declared no emergency under the \$1.50 tax minimum law, many school corporations will be compelled to reduce the school term to three months."

"Some will not be eligible for state aid and others will have barely enough to meet bond requirements."

Income Tax Advocated

"I urge you to give careful consideration to the plan of school financing now in effect in twenty-seven other states. The plan may be advisable, but impossible, under present conditions, but is well worth consideration."

In addition to forms of taxation in connection with balancing of the budget, the Governor suggested the adoption of a personal income tax with "proper exemptions." These

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KELSO, Wash., Jan. 10.—Kids got an unexpected holiday when many schools in this district closed down early in December until after the Christmas holidays following a protracted cold spell.

SLAIN BANDMAN UNFAITHFUL, IS WIDOW'S CLAIM

Story of Romantic Life in Bohemian Style, Is Bared.

(Continued From Page One)

tensions might be left free for Miss Holland.

She said that when she left the apartment on the evening of the pajama incident she went to a hotel, where she stayed with Bradberry for ten days.

One fact new to police was brought out. Mrs. Schildhauer said that on the afternoon preceding her husband's death she kept an appointment with Bradberry, meeting him briefly in the county building, where he was employed as a deputy.

She denied flatly Stige's question as to whether Bradberry was one of the men whom she saw kidnap her husband.

Police started a hunt for a nickel-plated revolver which a maid in the Schildhauer home reported she had seen in a bureau drawer.

They also engaged a force of twenty-five unemployed men to hunt in the vicinity where Schildhauer's body was found in a belief that killers might have tossed away the weapon nearby.

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