

U. S. TRADERS SEEKING NEW CHINA MARKET

Appeal for Washington Help
After Manchuria 'Open
Door' Closes.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—The "open door" in Manchuria having been politely but firmly closed in their faces by the Japanese, American business concerns in the orient have appealed to Washington to help them find a new market for United States exports elsewhere in China.

The "open door" for American goods in the territory seized by the Japanese admittedly now is a mere fiction.

Not that the new puppet state of Manchukuo technically has violated the principles of the open door. It hasn't.

But, so far as this country is concerned, that market of 30,000,000 inhabitants has virtually "ceased to exist just the same.

Two reasons are given. First, despite of the yen from 50 cents to somewhere around 20 has given the Japanese a tremendous price advantage over gold standard countries; and, second, Japanese officials, actually in control of the country, naturally see to it that orders go to their own nationals.

British Get Their Share

Belief is general in American circles on the other side of the Pacific that before things settle down again in that part of the world, the Japanese will have similar control over the business of all north China.

As the British already occupy a preferred position in south China, thanks to the crown colony of Hongkong, one of the greatest transhipments ports in the world, the door to China as a market for American goods gradually is being closed, locked and barred.

Today central China alone seems to offer a future for American commerce. Through the region runs the Yangtze over the Chinese Mississippi. In its fertile valley live 100,000,000 people, more than one-third of the country's population and one-tenth of the total population of the globe.

Appeal to Government

American business men in the far east have appealed to the United States government to establish additional consulates in that area to facilitate trade.

At present there are only three—at Shanghai, Nanking and Hankow. Additional offices are wanted at Changsha, Ichang and Chengtu or Chungking.

Chungking and Chengtu are in the province of Szechuan, one of the richest and most populous in China. Its inhabitants are estimated at 50,000,000.

Changsha is the capital of Hunan, a province of more than 30,000,000.

Ichang is in the province of Hupeh, almost equally populous. Chungking, with 1,300,000, and Ichang, with 500,000 inhabitants, are both Yangtze ports.

Concentrated in Changsha

Chengtu, inland in the heart of Szechuan, has a population of 500,000, while Changsha, in the rich Tung Ting Lake region of Hunan, is connected by railway with the mighty Yangtze.

The United States formerly maintained a consulate at Chungking but closed it in 1927 at the time of the Nationalist drive northward.

The so-called anti-foreign incidents of that period led to the concentration of foreign nationals in Shanghai, and other more accessible treaty ports.

THREE IN RACE FOR AIR SECRETARY POST

Assistant Job to Commerce Chief
Draws Hot Battle by Backers.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—With the entrance of William F. Centner, superintendent of Port Columbus, one of the most important flying fields in the nation, the contest for the post of assistant secretary of commerce in charge of aeronautics has become one of the hottest in the entire realm of "little cabinet" positions.

A nonpartisan group of Major Centner's friends has promoted his candidacy and presented his name to President-Elect Franklin D. Roosevelt. Major Centner formerly was airway extension superintendent in the department of commerce.

A campaign for appointment of Steadham Acker, manager of the municipal airport at Birmingham, Ala., has been in progress for weeks, while friends of Eugene Vidal, West Point graduate and former football star, are urging Mr. Roosevelt to name their candidate.

RETIRED FARMER DEAD

Louis Grautman, 80, Was Resident of Indianapolis Fourteen Years.

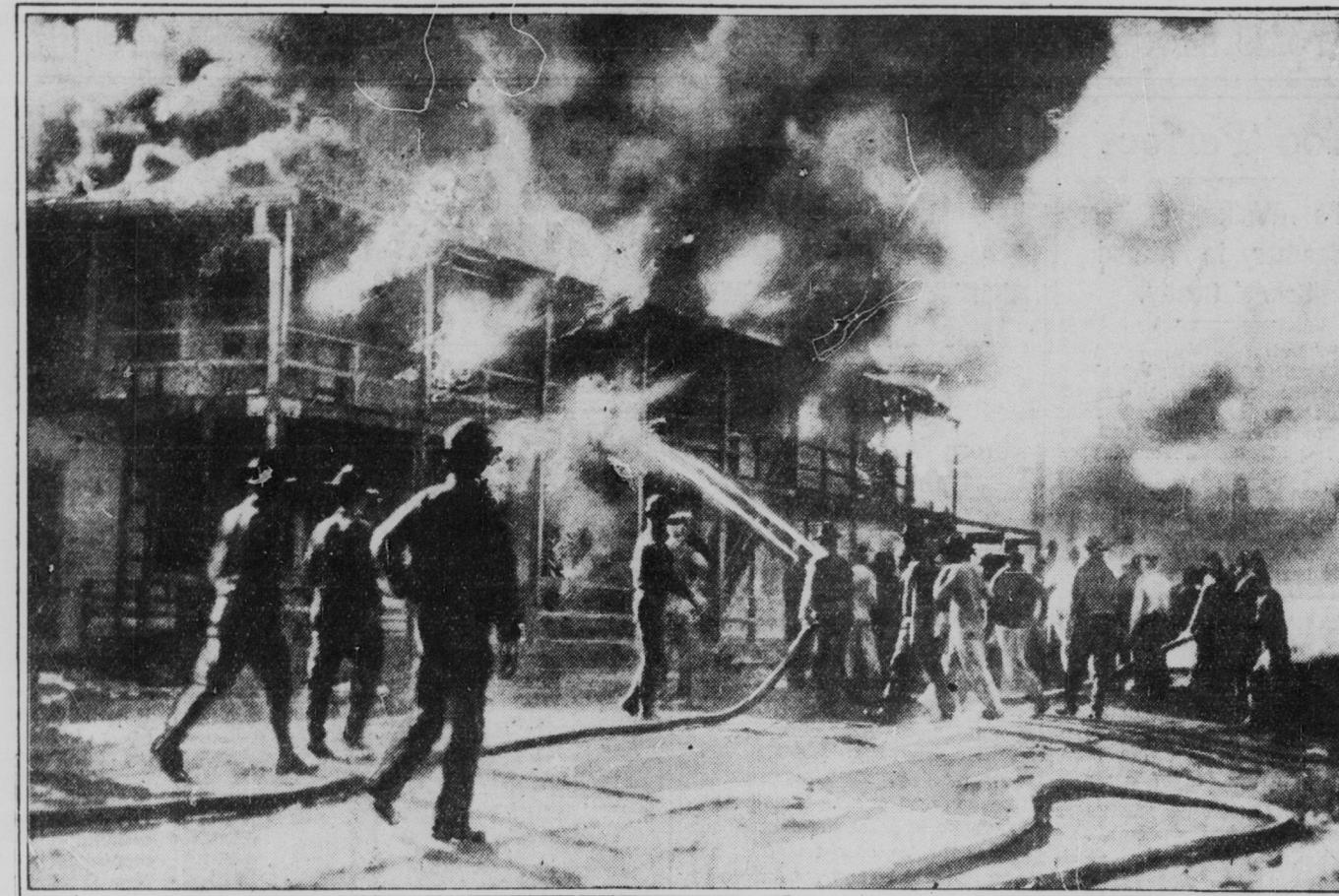
Funeral services for Louis Grautman, 80, a retired farmer who died Friday at his home, 1515 Broadway, will be held at 10:30 Monday in the home. Burial will be in Lebanon.

Survivors are the widow, Mrs. Anna Grautman and a daughter, Mrs. Annabelle Platt.

Mr. Grautman had been a resident of Indianapolis fourteen years.

DYNAMITE IN THE DARK!

Giant Munitions Warehouse Saved by Daring Sleuth



An actual photograph of one of the series of incendiary fires at Ft. Sill, Okla.

This is the fourth of a series of stories based on information from the files of the United States Bureau of Investigation and other sources, telling for the first time the bureau's agents' part in famous mysteries.

By LOU WEDEMAR
Times Staff Writer

SPECIAL AGENT J-540 just had

asked for permission to take his vacation earlier than it was scheduled.

The chief looked at him quizzically and J-540 blushed. He was

new in the bureau and hadn't mastered the poker face.

He stayed there for two days, doing odd jobs for the cook, until the officer in charge spotted him.

"Chase that bum off the reservation," the captain ordered.

So J-540 proceeded to firehouse station No. 3.

A hard-faced man stood outside the fire station, and on the principle that appearances are deceiving, J-540 approached him with a sad story. He needed a sewing kit to patch his pants, J-540 said. Could he get one?

The chief laughed.

"Go ahead, chief," he said. "Take as long as you need."

J-540 had been married just twenty-four hours when he was located by telegraph and ordered to Oklahoma City.

Several disastrous fires had occurred on the Ft. Sill military reservation. Despite efforts of three separate organizations of fire-fighters on the reservation, new fires occurred with sinister regularity. In four months there had been eleven, with a loss of more than \$3,000,000.

The climax had occurred on Aug. 28, 1927, and J-540 was told about it on his arrival by the agent in charge.

Conklin got him a needle and some thread from another soldier, Al Bickford.

While he was waiting, J-540 got into conversation with a group of the men, who found the supposed tramp's news of the outside world interesting.

"I suppose I'll have to be signing up again," J-540 said. "But I don't like work, and there isn't any excitement in the service these days."

Conklin laughed.

"Join the quartermaster's corps and you'll get plenty of excitement," he said, winking at Bickford. "We sure do."

"I suppose you call this excitement, sitting around doing nothing."

"Hell, no. When we want to have some fun we get one of the fire trucks out."

"One of the buildings at Ft. Sill is a big warehouse," he said. "It contains 1,500,000 rounds of ammunition, several tons of explosives, hand grenades and several tons of black powder and other high explosives."

"A week ago, during a small fire on the reservation, one of the officers saw a bonfire at one side of this warehouse. He put the fire out, but now the whole reservation is worried."

"Now you'll be of value, because you have served two enlistments in the army. You ought to be familiar enough with military life to get the job at the post."

"Let's have a party to celebrate," he suggested.

Conklin located two other men stationed at the fire house, Corporal Gasway and Private Carey, and J-540 took them to a movie and dinner. In Lawton that was the nearest possible approach to a party. When the movie was over and they had drunk coffee there was nothing apparently left but to turn in for the night.

As they stood on a street corner Conklin whispered something to Corporal Gasway, a six-footer known for his brutal treatment of underlings.

"I don't care if he has got money," Gasway said aloud. "I don't trust him. I think he's a government man!"

J-540 whirled around.

"Just what do you mean by that?" he demanded.

COME on, now, fellows, don't let's break up in a fight," interposed Conklin. "I know he's all right. Corporal, if he gives us the money for the gasoline, he'll be with us, and he won't dare talk."

This pacified Gasway.

"We'll show you a real party, pal," he said. "Just tag along with me."

"We'll have the biggest party we've ever had, tonight."

J-540 knew he meant they were going to try to blow up the dynamite storehouse.

He must get in touch with the major-general at once. The major-general had been notified by mail that an agent was at Fort Sill investigating, and specially selected officers and agents waited. J-540 called. But would he be able to telephone the major-general?

At the stroke of midnight, J-540 entered an old barn near the edge of the reservation, in company with Gasway, Conklin, and Carey.

"Carey," the Corporal said, "it's your job to make the rounds for the fire signals and telephone boxes and put them out of commission."

"We don't want to be called out before the fire gets under way, especially tonight. We've got a lot of gasoline, thanks to our new pal."

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BIG CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP OF SENATE LIKELY

Men Entering Cabinet Will Make New Places; Garner to Be 'Contact Man.'

By Scripps-Howard Newspaper Alliance
WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.—Important changes in the senate Democratic leadership are in prospect.

With Franklin D. Roosevelt facing a crucial time of his administration as he takes office, men who heretofore have been in the background will be called upon to push through his program.

In the house as well, because Speaker Garner is to become Vice-President, the leadership will undergo a change.

At least two of the Democratic older statesmen in the senate, Thomas J. Walsh of Montana and Cordell Hull of Tennessee, are expected to go into the cabinet.

If this happens, such men as Senators David Walsh (Mass.), Kenneth McKellar (Tenn.), Pat Harrison (Miss.), Ellison Smith (S. C.), Walter George (Ga.), Henry Ashurst (Ariz.) and Key Pittman (Nev.) would become more closely affiliated with Senator Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas in the Democratic leadership.

Progressives More Powerful

It is not improbable, too, that under these circumstances the Republican progressives would become a more powerful group, with Senators Borah, Norris, La Follette, Coughlin and Cutting wielding more force.

There are two important reasons why Mr. Roosevelt would want Senators Walsh and Hull in his cabinet—reasons outside the individual abilities of these two.

One is that he would want men in key administrative positions about him who are familiar with current issues and good Democratic policies concerning them; the other is that he would want men who would insure a smooth transition for his legislative recommendations.

On the other hand, it is observed that the senate would lose if these men are taken over to the administrative branch of the government; for one, Senator Walsh is a noted constitutional lawyer and Senator Hull is regarded as an expert on tariffs and international trade.

Robinson May Take Bench

Garner's transfer changes the senate situation considerably, too. It can be said with confidence that Garner will not be content to simply preside over the senate.

To begin with, he will sit in with the cabinet; and there probably will be nothing in the cabinet room that will give Mr. Garner into silence. He is understood to be ready to assume the job of contact man to the White House and the congress, to help put through the "new deal."

Finally, there is the possibility that Senator Robinson himself may within the next few years leave that body and go to the supreme court, in which event the senate leadership would be open.

Would the explosion occur before he got to the bottom? The repercussion would not only blow him to bits, but would probably set off the explosives stored in the big building nearby.

As the flames whirled along a trail of gasoline, something unexpected happened. Forty soldiers surrounded Conklin and another fireman, disarmed the sentry, and extinguished the fire before it had done any damage.

Simultaneously, in Lawton, Carey's group and two others were captured in like manner at the instant they ignited fires. No alarm was turned in, for none was necessary.

And Corporal Gasway and Special Agent J-540 went about their task of blowing up Fort Sill.

J-540 did not hesitate. He could not tell where the dynamite had landed. Maybe the fuse had gone out; maybe not.

A moment later he discovered what had happened. The dynamite had landed in the bottom of a ventilator shaft twenty feet deep.

It was almost hopeless race against time, but some one had to risk it. J-540 called out:

"Get everybody away from here. There's no use any one else being blown to pieces?"

At that moment he heard the sputter of the fuse. His fall had knocked the dynamite aside, behind the debris of the ladder. He landed on the bottom with a thud.

Wildly he felt around for the dynamite. He could not find it!

Panic gripped him. Had he lost consciousness? Was he about to be blown to pieces?

At that moment he heard the sputter of the fuse. His fall had knocked the dynamite aside, behind the debris of the ladder. He landed on the bottom with a thud.

There was a scant half-inch projection of the fuse unburned as he grabbed it and pulled it out. Fort Sill was saved.

Evidence given by J-540 and the men who had helped trap the firebugs sent Gasway, Conklin, Carey and ten others to the penitentiary for terms totalling 226 years. Four others, sentries, were court-martialed.

The wind was blowing fitfully and Corporal Gasway was worried. Bidding J-540 wait for him beside an empty shack a few yards from the storehouse, he went to the edge of the clearing and dug up a large package.

"This is a little trick I saved up," he lectured. "It's real dynamite and a fuse. After the fuse gets burning, we'll light the fuse and run like hell. Good thing the sentry isn't around, or he'd get hurt."

A moment later Gasway set fire to some crumpled paper soaked in gasoline, and flames leaped up inside the shed. He and J-540 ran toward the warehouse. Gasway fumbling with the fuse on the dynamite storehouse.

At that moment the major-general himself came around a corner of the warehouse on the run, at the head of about fifty other officers and men. They had left their quarters at the first sign

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