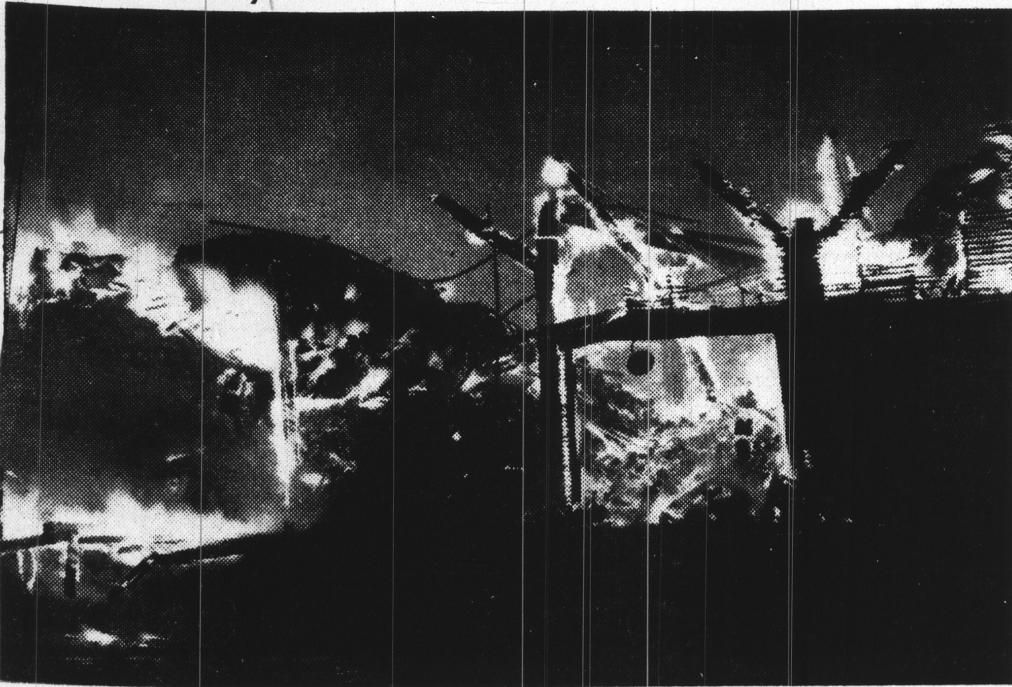


Stokely Fire Loss Set at \$250,000



This fire destroyed the Stokely packing plant and warehouse at Martinsville last night.

OFFICIALS SEEK ORIGIN OF BLAZE

Strong Wind Blows Flames Through Plant; Explosions of Catsup Handicap.

Times Special
MARTINSVILLE, Ind., Oct. 7.—Police and officials of Stokely Bros. & Co. today sought to determine the origin of a fire which last night destroyed the main Stokely packing plant and warehouse with a loss estimated at \$250,000.

The fire started at the west wall of the building and was blown through the plant by a strong wind. The building itself was without fire walls and hundreds of wooden packing crates contributed to the intense flames.

Residences Threatened
The Martinsville Fire Department received a first call at about 6:30 p. m., but its work was hampered by the rapid-fire explosion of hundreds of bottles of catsup.

At one time a nearby residential section was threatened. Several railroad freight cars full of merchandise about to be delivered were burned.

The fire was discovered by a skeleton crew at work in the plant. Past the break of the packing season, the plant payroll carried only about 200 employees as compared to 650 a few weeks ago.

Search Debris

A light rain aided firemen somewhat, but it was not until after 9 p. m. that the fire was under control.

Company officials and Sheriff W. R. Rainwater said that a search for clues to the fire's origin would be made in the debris today.

At one time three smokestacks threatened to fall, but firemen fastened the guy wires to new anchors outside the reach of the fire and saved them.

Today's War Moves

(Continued from Page One)

detect oil wells against sabotage show anxiety to camouflage the real Axis purpose. The Romanians, themselves, have been able to safeguard the wells from local interference.

But, Russia's new military bases in Bessarabia put the Slav air bombers within half an hour's flying time of the Romanian air fields, and that is a matter of grave importance for the totalitarian states.

Hitler and Mussolini may well be moving as they are because of a gradual improvement of Anglo-Russian relations. Simultaneously with the announcement of the new events in Rumania comes the statement today that Sir Stafford Cripps, British Ambassador to Russia, and Russian Premier Foreign Commissar Molotov conferred for one and one-half hours Friday night.

This was the longest interview they have had for a considerable time, and it followed immediately Hitler's and Mussolini's Brenner Pass meeting. The trend of events since the signing of the German-Italian-Romanian alliance is tending to bring Britain and Russia closer together to safeguard their mutual interests.

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Rome and Berlin charge British propaganda with circulating the reports of Axis military moves in Rumania, whereas the revelations come entirely from Rumanian quarters both in Bucharest and Berlin.

Anxiety of the Germans and Italians to accuse the British reveals their desire not to alarm Russia, since the Slavs must necessarily be deeply concerned over any new totalitarian action in the Balkans. It is Rumania herself, not the Brit-

ish, who is tearing the veil of secrecy from the movement to increase totalitarian military power in southeastern Europe at this time.

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Oil Field Protection Suggested

One suggestion was that the Germans had come to protect the Rumanian oil fields, a vital source of fuel for German war and industrial machines, against a British sabotage plot.

The Rumanian legation in Berlin first said the Germans had come to train and reorganize the Rumanian Army and that Italian troops were expected also. Later this was denied and it was said the matter was still under negotiation.

Nazi sources said that confusion had probably arisen because of the presence in Rumania of unarmed SS Corpsmen to handle repatriation of Germans from Russian-occupied Bessarabia.

At the other end of the Axis there were surprise and denials. Rome scouted the suggestion that German troops had moved in and denied flatly that any Italian troops were going to Rumania.

Russia Figures in Speculation

Importance of any German move into Rumania is emphasized because the state is a dividing line of Russian and German interest. Under the Vienna award whereby Rumania ceded most of Transylvania to Hungary, Germany and Italy guaranteed Rumanian frontiers.

Speculation has been growing in European capitals regarding possibility of more friendly relations between Russia and Great Britain. Sir Stafford Cripps, British Ambassador to Moscow, had an hour and a half interview with Soviet Premier and Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov Friday night, it was revealed belatedly today.

It was said in London that Britain's decision to reopen the Burma Road as a supply route for China Oct. 17 would be communicated to Russia in direct contrast with Britain's failure to advise Russia when the route was closed.

Address by Duce Awaited

The possibility of some revelation of the decisions made at Brenner Pass by Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini was seen in Rome reports that Mussolini may make an important public address Thursday.

The Duce stood on top of an armored car at Verona today to review Fascist troops during a military tour in north Italy. He inspected the Pasubio division at the Army parade grounds at Verona in the presence of about 150,000 persons.

The Italian High Command admitted today that a British submarine had slipped up to the Italian Riviera Coast and shelled the town of Savona, 20 miles west of Genoa, killing one person and wounding six. The sinking of another British submarine and an attack on a Red Sea convoy was claimed.

Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka of Japan called on China to line up with Japan, Germany and Italy and cease playing a role "in the front line of European and American capitalism."

Continuing a series of attempts to define the aims of the Japanese-German-Italian alliance, and Japan's own part in it, Matsuoka said:

"Japan has no intention of picking a quarrel with any country, but it must peremptorily reject the acts of all nations which attempt to disturb the peace of the Far East by prolonging the Chinese-Japanese conflict by extending assistance to the Chiang Kai-shek regime."

U. S. Rapprochement With Japan Is Regarded as Forlorn Hope

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS

Times Foreign Editor

WASHINGTON, Oct. 7.—It would be no exaggeration to state that officials here, both civil and military, now regard a rapprochement with Japan as the forlorn hope.

Information received from pro-American circles in Japan indicates that the most ardent Japanese liberals have now swung over to the military clique's point of view, almost to a man.

Thus, while some of these continue to be sincere advocates of better relations with the United

States, they lay down terms which this country has not the slightest intention of accepting—because to do so would necessitate a complete right-about—face on long-established principles, including those of the nine-power treaty and the open door.

I have just received Mr. Simms' article on the example of the very thing that is inspiring the deepest pessimism here. It is an appeal for a better Japanese-American understanding from Juji Kasai, Diet member and former parliamentary councillor of overseas affairs at Tokyo. He is a lifelong friend of this country and is well known to many Americans.

What baffles Washington is the apparently sincere conviction on the part of even the most liberal Japanese that first, Japan is entitled to dominate the whole of greater East Asia, including the Dutch East Indies, by force.

Second, that they are only applying a Monroe Doctrine to Asia when America not only refuses to recognize Japan's Asiatic conquests but declines to facilitate the conquest by supplying her with war materials.

Third, that it constitutes a hostile act when America not only refuses to recognize Japan's Asiatic conquests but declines to facilitate the conquest by supplying her with war materials.

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