

FAR EAST A POWDER GEK; LEAGUE THE ONLY HOPE

Japanese Penetration of the Mainland of Asia Creating a Dangerous Situation—Secretary Colby's Note on Saghalin Occupation Said to Have Punch.

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By FREDERIC WILLIAM WILE.

Washington, Aug. 7.—Japan's reply to the American note on Saghalin has not yet been received. The contents of the American note will not be disclosed by the State Department before the Japanese answer is in hand and mutual agreement to publish the correspondence is reached.

Japanese insinuations that the United States has blundered out of geographical ignorance into a protest on the Saghalin occupation are a critical distortion of well-known facts. Exactly three months today, May 4, it was exclusively foreshadowed in a Washington dispatch to the Public Ledger that the occupation was objectionable to our government. The dispatch indicated that sooner or later the occupation would be diplomatically opposed.

For ninety days at least therefore, Japan has had knowledge of American misgivings about her new act of aggression upon Russian territory, although our formal protest was not dispatched until the week-end of July 7. Tokio is fully aware that Washington at no stage has been "mixed" either on the geography, the politics or the underlying objective of the Japanese "grab" of the coast of Siberia.

Secretary Colby's representations which, when publicly available, will be found to have genuine "punch" in them, so further than to reassert our traditional policy of the Open Door in the Far East. They call Japan's attention to a specific agreement into which we entered with her two years ago. That arrangement provided for joint American-Japanese action for the protection of the Amur-Siberian railroad in order that the Allies might have, through Vladivostok, a second gateway for military supplies in addition to Archangel. A corollary object was to frustrate a German-Bolshevik raid into Eastern Siberia. In contracting to co-operate with Japan on that occasion, the United States expressly stipulated that there must be no violation of the Russian territory under any guise whatever. Our present protest against the occupation of the northern half of Saghalin is therefore a firm reminder to Japan that she has not lived up to the bargain we made with her.

Emphasizes the Protest.

The circumstances that in addition to occupying the northern half of Saghalin, Japan has also found a pretext for seizing the adjacent Sakhalin mainland town of Nikolaievsk emphasize the legitimacy of our protest. The position the United States has taken in the pending discussion with Japan is that both the Sakhalin and Nikolaievsk occupations are part and parcel of a systematic encroachment upon Russian territory. The American government conceives that the time may come when a rehabilitated and viable Russian, with a democratic government, worthy of the name may find it suitable to cede northern Saghalin to Japan. It is not vital to Russia and contains certain resources, principally coal, of value to the Japanese. But the United States has seized upon Japan's aggression as an opportune moment for pointing out that what might come day properly obtained from a responsible Russian agent, is a different thing from what Japan finds it possible to "grab" from a Russia which is undergoing the labor pains of a rebirth.

Old-Time Situation.

The Far East at present presents what is known as an "old-time classic diplomatic situation." That is to say, the great powers which are the main factors in it have obvious reasons for pursuing "long-haul" policies of their own. It is Japan's interest that Great Britain and the United States should not work together too closely in the East. It is to Great Britain's advantage that the United States and Japan should remain somewhat estranged. It is to the interest of the United States that the Anglo-Japanese alliance should be of too intimate a character.

There are men in Washington, not yet blinded by the partisan discussions of the hour, who know the East. Recognizing the guilpowner in the classic diplomatic situation above described, they see salvation only in the establishment of the League of Nations. These men say that Japan's policy of peaceful penetration on the mainland of Asia—today China, tomorrow in Manchuria, next week in Siberia—will be prosecuted with increasing boldness until, by international action, the great powers reduce military and naval armaments.

Japan's Disproportionate Armament.

An eminent authority now in Washington thus diagnoses the situation: "Japan has vaulted into the ranks of the great powers through having built up a military and naval machine mighty out of all proportion to the comparatively impoverished island which her people inhabit. The 'drive' of Japan for territory and power on the Asiatic mainland is inspired by the necessity to show results which will justify to the Japanese people the maintenance of oppressive armaments. Once the excuse for huge armaments is withdrawn by international agree-

ment, the militarists of Japan will find the ground cut from under them. The tremendous energies which the Japanese nation must now lavish on the upkeep of an absurdly disproportionate army and navy will then be released for activities less menacing to the peace of the world.

Until the great powers have joined hands to keep military establishments within reasonable limits, the Japanese militarists are not likely to renounce the policy which the Saghalin occupation is the latest, but hardly the last, manifestation.

"The Japanese program in the Far East is seldom linked up with the League of Nations discussion. Yet they are closely related. I am convinced that if there is no effective league, or something to take its place, the Pacific is destined inevitably to be the scene of spoliation and contradictory actions, which must ultimately lead to another world catastrophe."

Canada Looking For Trade With Britain

Is Disposed to Assist English Paper Manufacturers if Sufficient Inducement is Offered.

(Copyright, 1920, by Cross-Atlantic News Service.)

London, Aug. 6.—T. J. Stevenson, director of the Ripollon Sales Company of Montreal, who is in London investigating the outlook of the pulp trade, states that his company is very favorably disposed to assist British paper manufacturers by sending bleached sulphite wood pulp and spruce pine lumber. This would be in the mutual interests in view of the large English interests invested in Canadian pulp mills.

"The Dominion," he said, looks for increased business with the Motherland. Her dollar is only able to purchase 85 cents worth of goods in the United States, but 110 cents worth in France, and the difference is all in favor of purchase in the Motherland. But England offers Canada no inducement, thus she is driven into the American market.

Pulp and paper exported from Canada now amount to 100,000,000 tons, America being the chief buyer.

Washington recently approached Ottawa with representations for the removal of provincial restrictions, saying in effect: "Unless the restrictions are removed, we stop the supply of coal and sulphur, but Canada has raw materials and can afford to smile owing to the demand from the States."

Regarding the paper crisis, Mr. Stevenson said: "It is all a matter of plant for the production of pulp. During the war, plant was diverted in other directions, and has only now been restored to its proper use, while stocks of raw material have been accumulating at the rate of five per cent. per year. It will be a matter of three or four years before conditions of the trade become normal again."

The Ripollon Company's new Kipawa mill at Quebec at present produces 150 tons daily. When completed, we expect it to increase to 600 tons."

Mr. Stevenson, who has been under the London travel specialist, Sir Milson Reeves, has gone to Scotland, afterwards visiting Ireland. After a tour on the continent, he returns to Canada about six months hence.

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