

U. S. URGING JAPAN TO LEAVE SIBERIA

Wisdom of Withdrawing Troops Poured Out to Authorities in Tokio

OLD QUESTION REOPENED

By the Associated Press
Tokyo, Jan. 17.—Government officials here today made public the text of the American note protesting against the shooting of Naval Lieutenant W. H. Langdon by a Japanese sentry at Vladivostok. Publicists, however, express the belief that Washington has not only asked reparation with guarantees removing a probability of similar incidents in future, but also has again pointed out to Japan the wisdom of reducing, if not withdrawing altogether, her troops from the country where she possesses no sovereign rights, but the littoral of which is dominated by her military power.

This would open the old thorny question which Japan has been finding difficult in settling. A division of opinion exists in government circles as to the Siberian problem, it is reported here. Leaders of the military party insist Japanese troops should remain in Siberia while the peace party is more inclined to mean to abandon an adventure which, it is contended, is ruinously expensive and without hope of compensation. The impression exists here that Japan will insist upon solving the question in her own way and at her own time, if for no other reason than to assert the doctrine that she is paramount in the Far East.

Para Cabinet Still Strong

The Para cabinet appears to retain its strength, and it is believed it will survive the impending session of the Japanese Diet, at which relations between this country and America will be discussed.

The correspondent of the Associated Press, who has just returned to Tokio from a visit of the many larger cities of the Far East, found some uneasiness regarding relations between Japan and the United States. In well informed circles these misgivings appeared to be based more upon what was described as "Japan's resentment to any American policy calculated to curb Japanese expansion in Asia" than upon the California question. The latter problem, while touching Japan's national prestige and the interests of Japanese in America, is apparently not regarded with the same seriousness as the question of Japan's vital interests near Nippon.

Solution of Problem Forecast

On the contrary, it takes the view that the attitude of both the Tokio and Washington governments is based on confidence that a solution for trouble some matters now in the foreground will be discovered. Japan's popular protests against California legislation appear to have been followed by an attitude of patience and restraint.

Cognizance is taken of the fact that America has encountered genuine difficulties in finding a solution for the triple problem of satisfying popular opinion on the Pacific slope, serving America's national interests and meeting Japan's desires.

Efforts of the American state department, through Ambassador Roland S. Morris, have profoundly impressed the Japanese with the fairness with the United States. For this reason the killing of Lieutenant Langdon is genuinely regretted here, because it is believed it will have the effect of reopening the entire question of Japanese military occupation of Siberia, concerning which America has sent several protests to Tokio.

TODAY'S MYSTERY STORY

By PHILIP FRANCIS NOWLAN

Saturday's Mystery Solution

IN THE case of "Quick Action" Harvey Hunt, knowing that he would not have time himself to search the apartment for the hidden documents, hit upon a plan for making the woman reveal to him their hiding place. During her brief absence he had time to upset and disarrange most of the furniture in the apartment. Then he chose a point of vantage from which to watch her when she entered. Seeing the room apparently empty, with every evidence of having been vacated, both her reason and instinct, in that startled moment, made her run to the hiding place to see if the intruder had found the documents. She had concealed them by placing them between the folds of a newspaper lying openly on one of the window sills. As she grabbed the paper the documents fell out, and Harvey Hunt, stepping from his place of concealment, appropriated them by force and departed, courteously but swiftly, after relieving the lady of a wicked little automatic.

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LIII

Can you solve this case of—

By His Ear

"HUNT, you've scored this time. You have gratuitously meddled in my affairs and spoiled the biggest operation I have launched so far. You have made it too hot for me—temporarily. I shall have to leave town. But your puritanical conscience need take no pride in the fact. You are a fool to think that you can stop this sort of thing. This old town owes me a living. It owes me a fortune. It would give me that fortune and be none the sadder or worse for it, were it not for you and your ilk.

"No, I shall not waste my time in any attempt to put you out of the way. Annoying as you are, it will be easier and more profitable for me to evade you than to bring down further danger on my head by satisfying my grudge. Revenge pays no dividends.

"But I'm going to humor myself and give myself just this much satisfaction. The injury you have done me is thoroughly right. You have wasted your time. Within six months I shall be back here in this town, taking what it owes me, and you, poor fool, will be blissfully ignorant of who or where I am, and what I am doing. It will take a bigger man than you to stop me, Harvey Hunt."

The man's self-control was perfect. Only the steely glitter of his eyes showed the malevolence the criminal investigator had stirred in his soul. But Harvey Hunt only chuckled, as he gazed meditatively at the man who sat opposite him in the Pullman. Peter Mantz had turned his head and was staring out the window.

Peter Mantz was what might be described as a "super-confidence" man. His business deals were marvels of cleverness. He lived on other men's losses. But his keen brain always piloted those schemes of his safely through the tortuous channels of legal dishonesty. Just once he had slipped. That had been a year ago, and as fate had it, it was Harvey Hunt, acting for certain fabled interests, who discovered his mistake.

Mantz had escaped prosecution and

conviction by making restitution, but Harvey Hunt still held the threat of prison over his head, and finding him up to his old tricks again, had given him his choice of making restitution a second time and leaving town, or of facing a judge and jury. And Hunt was escorting him part of the way on his journey.

True to his word, Peter Mantz was back in town within six months. But none of his former associates recognized him, though he passed freely among them. His fingerprints had never been taken, so he had no fear of identification by that means. For the rest his appearance had been completely changed by a series of surgical operations. His nose had been altered in shape. A taking up of the skin on his scalp, where the hair would hide the scar, had pulled new lines into his face and smoothed out old ones, entirely altering his expression. A daily application of hair dye kept any one from suspecting that the man actually was a blond.

Yet one day as he rode in the subway he started violently at a greeting whispered in his ear.

"Hello Mantz," Harvey Hunt drawled. "You kept part of your word, I see, but not all of it. Why man, I would have recognized you anywhere. By the way, you're leaving town tonight aren't you? Yes, I thought you would be. Awfully glad to have seen you again. Wouldn't have missed you for the world. You know—"

But the man had made a break for the exit.

"How did you recognize him?" asked DeKrye. "I never would."

"Quite simple," said Hunt. "I knew him by his ear."

"But there's nothing wrong with his ear," said DeKrye. "I've been sitting here in the seat behind him looking at it for the last ten minutes before you spoke to him. There's no mark on it. It's just a normal ear. It might belong to any one of a thousand men, so far as I can see."

Can you tell how Harvey Hunt could recognize the man by his ear when that ear was without mark or blemish, just the normal sort of ear that "might belong to any one of a thousand men?" The answer will appear tomorrow.

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KILLS FAMILY AND SELF

Quadruple Murder and Suicide Due to Financial Trouble

Charleston, S. C., Jan. 17.—(By A. P.)—Crazed by brooding over financial difficulties and family troubles in which an estate worth probably \$75,000 was at stake, L. S. Bigham shot his mother, his sister and the latter's two adopted children last Saturday, then ended his own life, according to information received today from Florence, S. C.

The dead, in addition to Bigham, are

Mrs. M. M. Bigham, Mrs. Marjorie A. Black and Leo and John McCracken. All were evidently killed instantly except Mrs. Bigham, the mother, who lived a few moments, and the oldest child, who died next day.

Author Arraigned for Larceny
Madison, Wis., Jan. 17.—(By A. P.)—Herr P. Author, who two weeks ago eloped with the wife of Philip Franzen, of Madison, pleaded not guilty

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