

# JAPANESE AND CZECHS CLASH

### Fighting in Baikal Region Growing More Frequent and Serious.

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS, International News Service.

The activities of Japanese troops along the Chinese Eastern railway and in the vicinity of Vladivostok, Khabarovsk, and Nikolaiovsk, in eastern Siberia, are being watched from Washington with uneasy interest.

Clashes between Japanese troops and the Russians, and between the Japanese and armed workers, among them being Czechs, along the line of communication by rail from the Baikal region to the Sea of Japan, it is observed, are growing in seriousness and in frequency, while officials here admit neither the exact cause of the friction, nor the precise aim of Japan's military operations has been made clear.

The State Department has been informed that two new Japanese divisions will be dispatched to Asia almost immediately. A message from Tokyo explained that these divisions are to replace tired divisions now in Siberia. This is taken to indicate that, instead of withdrawing from that part of the world, as Japan was supposed to do when the French, British, and Americans cleared out of Russia, Japan intends keeping large forces there.

**36,000 in Nippon's Army.**

These forces now number about 36,000. The original intention of the allies was for the United States, France, England, and Japan each to send to Russia about 7,000 men. Japan first sent 60,000, but later cut this number down to half, only to re-increase the contingent subsequently by two fresh brigades.

An excerpt from a Japanese paper printed in Hawaii has reached Washington with the assertion that the Japanese are in Siberia to stay.

Officials declare they are unable to place an authoritative interpretation upon Japan's action, though in some quarters the opinion is hazarded that the Monroe doctrine of the East, with Japan playing the principal role, may have something to do with developments.

The United States has recognized that Japan has "special interests" in China, but this agreement does not extend to Siberia. In this connection it is pointed out that Senator William E. Borah of Idaho, through questions put to Secretary of State Lansing last fall, revealed a possible considerable difference of opinion between this country and Japan over Japan's policy in China, which policy is now believed to have been expanded to cover at least parts of Siberia.

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# 400 RUSSIANS DIE IN BATTLE WITH JAPANESE

### LONDON, April 17.—In a violent battle at Khabarovsk, 237 Japanese soldiers and 400 Russians were killed, said a Central News dispatch from Tokyo today. Fifteen hundred Russians were made prisoners by the Japanese.

Habarovsk, or Khabarovsk, is an important Siberian city, a little more than 500 miles north of Vladivostok. It lies on the Ussuri branch of the Trans-Siberian railway. Its population is 16,000, and it is a large trading center.

To discuss it," Senator Borah asked Secretary Lansing.

"Yes," the latter replied.

"What did he say in reply to that?" the Senator queried.

"He continued the discussion," and did you understand what he interpreted the words, special interests, to mean?"

"No," he did not," the Secretary answered.

"The Japanese embassy here it was explained that the fighting around Vladivostok, at Nikolaievsk and Khabarovsk, was due to the aggressive attitude of the Russians necessitating their disarmament, but that since they were in armed conditions are becoming quiet."

# RECALL ALL YANKS, SEN. CAPPER URGES

### Kansas Senator Says It's Our Business to Keep Out of "Family Row."

Recall of all United States troops in Europe was urged by Senator Capper (Republican) of Kansas, in a statement made public today.

"It is our business to keep out, and entirely out of Europe's family row," Capper said. "The war has degenerated into nothing more. The place of every American soldier now in Europe is home. The Government should recall every one in uniform from foreign soil lest through our presence there and in spite of ourselves, we become involved in these entanglements."

"We are lingering too long at the scene of action. We have led the European horse to the trough of reason and liberty, but we cannot make it drink. We must leave the rest to nature and instinct. Having nothing left to fight for and having no quarrel with anybody, the 19,000 American soldiers should come home."

"The results of the war have been so disastrous and far reaching to the entire national life that the people and the country are now seeking eagerly for positive men with leadership to get us out of the ditch."

**Baker's Brother Mans Engine as Volunteer**

CALDWELL, N. J., April 17.—Major Frank H. Baker, brother of the Secretary of War, yesterday made good as a volunteer fireman in the rump rail strike.

The major, donning his old army uniform, was called out with the volunteers to man commutation trains from New Jersey communities into Jersey City. He fired an engine from Caldwell to Little Falls and then relieved another volunteer from Little Falls to Jersey City.

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# W. R. & E. MEN CALL OFF STRIKE PLANS

### Vote Unanimously to Accept Ham's Promise to Arbitrate Differences.

(Continued from First Page.)

men, Mahany declared the letter meant the company had practically agreed to arbitrate everything.

**Take Mahany's Word.**

"I give you my word, the word of the Department of Labor, and the word of the United States Government, that these companies will arbitrate all differences," declared Mr. Mahany. It was shortly after this declaration the men voted against a strike.

When the meeting opened at 2 o'clock this morning the attendance was very small. By 2:30 200 men had filled the room. During the first half hour the men read the letter from Ham. Conciliator Mahany occupied the floor the entire time.

"You men have practically won out," said Mr. Mahany. "For the first time in many months, the President Ham has accepted of all differences, including the question of contract."

**Read Ham's Letter.**

The letter of Mr. Ham's, which was read, stated the company would arbitrate all matters. Although Mr. Ham did not definitely say the company would arbitrate the question of a contract, Conciliator Mahany told the men that the proposition practically held him to such a proposition. He pointed to this paragraph: "We respectfully submit that this communication, under the circumstances, should suffice to meet all the requirements of the existing situation."

"All of the requirements," Mr. Mahany declared would necessarily include the matter of contract, and he pointed to the letter, which was one single thought in mind, and that was to convey to Secretary of Labor the assurance that his companies were willing to arbitrate all points of differences.

"It is the best assurance we can give of our entire good faith in carrying out awards which may be made by such committees of arbitration as may be selected to pass upon the question of wages, working conditions and matters which we cannot come to amicable settlement by direct negotiation with our employees," said another part of the letter.

**Letter is Now a Record.**

Following the reading, complaint was made by several trimmen that the letter not specifically state he would arbitrate the dispute over the contract. Mahany told the men that the letter was now a record of the Department of Labor, and stated emphatically that there was no slightest doubt in his mind that the company would arbitrate.

"The union men voted to accept the letter of President Ham as one made in good faith and to arbitrate, through a board of arbitration, all the points of company representative, one association representative, and the third to be selected by the first two named. This board is to have full power to settle all disputes, including contract."

Question arose regarding the selection of a third man. Mahany was asked who would appoint the third arbitrator if the first two men failed to pick men suitable to both sides. He declared that ten days would be given to appoint a third party and if after that time was up no man was appointed, then the District Commissioners should make the appointment.

Mr. Mahany made it clear the men or company could not object to the commission's appointment.

**Calls Letter "Camouflage."**

During the debate over the letter of A. E. Jones, international officer of the Amalgamated Association, who presided, threw a bombshell in a meeting when he made this declaration: "I can see nothing in the letter which binds the company to arbitrate the question of contract. I do not want you men to be influenced by what I say, but I feel compelled to tell you how I feel on the matter. I have very carefully read Mr. Ham's letter. It contains a lot of words, and appears to me as a great piece of camouflage."

Conciliator Mahany then made a further explanation of his opinion of the meaning of the letter. He failed to convince Mr. Jones.

J. H. Cookman, business agent of the division of the Amalgamated Associated with the Capital Traction Company, was the next man to take the platform.

"I am of the same opinion as Jones. All we have here is a bunch of high class words. I fail to see any word in the letter that mentions a signed contract nor do I see any assurance by the company that they will arbitrate the question of contract."

**Mahany Claims Victory.**

"I claim I have won a victory for you men," declared Mr. Mahany. "You have my word of honor that the company will arbitrate all matters. My word is the bond of the Government of the United States. I have done my duty and you gentlemen can take such action as you wish. I wish to say, however, that this is not a representative meeting, and that any adverse action taken will not be considered by the United States Government as the expression of sentiment of employees of the Washington Railway and Electric Company."

Many questions were asked Mr. Mahany. The carmen appeared puzzled over the meaning of the letter. FI-

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# SONG WRITER SUES FOR \$500,000 BAIL

### "Monte" Brice Seeks Damages From Husband of Former Wife.

(Continued from First Page.)

James E. Duke, the American tobacco magnate.

Helen Brice before her marriage at Anny Park on March 13, 1914, was Miss Helen Elizabeth Oliver, sometimes called Mazie Oliver, daughter of James H. and Mary Elizabeth (Berkeley) Oliver, humble residents of a small manufacturing town, Washington, near Pittsburgh.

Marville Cooper Brice, plaintiff in the \$500,000 "mystery" suit and defendant in the update action, is, by name, James E. Brice, "Monte" Brice, song writer and employee of a well-known firm of music publishers.

Monte's uncle, by adoption, are W. Kirkpatrick Brice, lawyer and club member in this city, and Mrs. Brice, who occupies the Brice home at 693 Fifth avenue.

Monte's mother, Mrs. Catherine W. Mount, is married to a son of United States Senator Brice, of Ohio. Then the Senator's son, Stewart Melly Brice, adopted the boy, who has been known variously as Stewart Brice, Mrs. Brice, and the boy's father by adoption died insane at Anny Park in 1910.

During war days, "Monte" Brice served first with the Department of Justice and later got a commission in the Commissary Department of the army.

**\$4,000,000 Gift Rumored.**

Reports after the marriage of Helen Brice to the British baronet asserted the bridegroom's gifts to his bride included a check for \$4,000,000 and a necklace of pearls valued at \$50,000. On this point Mr. Roth, counsel for Mrs. Brice, when she sued for divorce, spoke interestingly.

"After her decree had been made final, I learned that Mrs. Brice was to marry Cunliffe-Owen. The tobacco magnate had evidently discussed the gift with her, and she had agreed to give him a prenuptial agreement, for Mrs. Brice told me: 'He is an Englishman, and I guess his word is good. If he says he will make a prenuptial settlement, I see no need of doubt in my mind that he will do it.'"

"As a matter of fact, Sir Hugo gave her many magnificent gifts. These included jewelry and two automobiles. I also understand he has given her \$100,000 worth of certificates, which, however, are 'graveyard' and not to be converted by her.

"Despite the difference in their ages, there is no question of the baronet's affection for his young client. She is a remarkable little woman, very beautiful and with splendid social qualities. I am sure she will grace any social circle.

**Has Fairly Good Voice.**

"Her parentage was humble and her career before she came to my office is unknown to me. I have heard she has a fairly good voice and sang in cabarets; also she enjoyed a brief career as a professional singer. She made many trips to California.

"I do not know the exact nature of her former husband's suit. But everything about the Brice divorce was properly done, and I don't see any possible attack can be made upon it. Of course, I do not know what facts 'Monte' Brice has about Sir Hugo's friendship for Mrs. Brice before their marriage, but that cannot concern the validity of her divorce.

Although counsel for Brice would not even disclose the nature of the \$500,000 suit yesterday, another man close to Mr. Brice said:

"There are revelations in the complaint which will astound everyone who reads them. Accusations are made that reveal a most remarkable story. Mr. Brice, who overburdened every cent he has, if necessary, in the prosecution of this suit."

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# WOOD IS ALARMED AT PERSHING DOOM

### Hastens to Nebraska After Having Given Up Fight to Win That State.

Political Washington today was interested in another change in the plans of Gen. Leonard Wood's campaign, which was revealed by Wood's sudden entry into Nebraska after apparently having given up the fight there.

On all sides it was looked upon as a move born of necessity to save the Wood cause after his disastrous rout in Illinois, where he attempted to take the State vote away from Governor Lowden. Following the Illinois defeat, General Wood changed his decision to go back to his post in the central department.

At the Capitol it was said that the loss of Nebraska would put Wood out of the running, and his advisers, evidently nonplussed at the reports that Pershing is certain to carry Nebraska, with Johnson second, have determined that Wood shall go to Nebraska, and by his presence there attempt to turn the tide.

Generally, it was held by keen observers that Wood's trip to Nebraska at this time will be taken there as an admission of weakness and hurt rather than aid him in the vote Tuesday.

Nebraska was the big topic in all circles here today. Hiram Johnson has just finished a tour of the State, at which he drew great crowds. General Pershing has made a similar statement that he would take the Republican nomination if Nebraska gave him its vote and the convention called him; and now Wood is on his way there, without the special train, which injured his cause with the Illinois and Michigan voters.

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