

Teapot Dome Lease Is Scandal Of Generation

Dragging Its Ugly Trail Across Republican Administration Fall Now Bigger White Elephant to His Party Than Was Ever Lorimer or Newberry

By DAVID LAWRENCE
Copyright, 1921, by The Advance

Washington, Jan. 25.—The biggest scandal the national capital has had in a generation or more has swept its ugly trail across the Republican administration.

Albert B. Fall, while a member of the Harding cabinet, borrowed \$100,000 from his friend E. L. Doheny, oil magnate, and a few months later negotiated in secret a Government contract with the Doheny interests giving them a valuable lease to oil lands which three presidents—Roosevelt, Taft and Wilson—had sought to preserve for the benefit of the oil burning ships of the United States Navy.

That's the principal disclosure thus far, and Mr. Doheny has said he expected to make a hundred million dollars out of the lease.

So far as can be determined, no law was violated in the personal transaction between Mr. Doheny and Mr. Fall, and there is no proof that the close relationship between Mr. Fall and his oil magnate friend influenced the former Secretary of the Interior to make the contract, but the United States Senate is all agog over the incident, and unquestionably the lease given the Doheny interests will be revoked by resolution of the Senate or executive order.

Mr. Doheny has seen the handwriting on the wall and offers to give the lease back if a commission of Government experts decides it was a bad trade for the Government.

President Coolidge came into power after all the leases had been granted, yet he knows he will be held responsible for everything that he does or fails to do now that the facts are coming to the surface. He has ordered the Department of Justice to institute an inquiry. He may have to go further—namely, revoking the lease while the investigation is pursued.

The Democrats, principally Senators Thomas F. Walsh, of Montana and Caraway of Arkansas, have stirred the matter up to the point where party lines will be broken and the Senate will have to act irrespective of the knowledge that Mr. Fall was a prominent Republican member of that body for many years and a factor in the Republican administration which came into power in 1920.

Politically, a scandal is always bad. It casts doubts on the capacity of a party or group to preserve the interests of the people and that's the line of attack the Democrats will pursue. Unless President Coolidge can rise above the political phases of the matter and take a firm stand to clear the whole thing up so far as the present administration is concerned, it will be a source of protracted discussion and will be talked about on the stump from one end of the country to the other, even more than were the Lorimer or Newberry cases in which improper use of funds was alleged.

It's a curious turn of fate that brings Albert Fall and E. L. Doheny into the headlines today. In the past Mr. Fall has been on the offensive, raking his opponents over the coals, casting suspicions in their direction, fighting the Democratic administration's Mexican policy, fighting the League of Nations, fighting Woodrow Wilson himself with bitter personal attacks. It was Senator Fall who started the long investigation of Mexican affairs and it was rumored at the time that he was being influenced by his friend, E. L. Doheny, who was so largely interested in Mexican oil lands.

The Doheny influence in Washington is one of those amazing things which has persisted for several years. He has agents galore and has been quietly exerting an influence here which never has been thoroughly understood until he confessed that he lent Mr. Fall a hundred thousand dollars and sent the bills in a satchel to Washington by his son.

The lease to the oil lands may be revoked, but two things remain which may engage the attention of Congress. How far may officials of the United States Government enter into any transaction with persons who have business matters pending before the Government, and particularly the Government bureaus in which those individuals are charged with authority to make leases, contracts or do other things that relate to the conduct of business outside the Government?

HOOD BANK HAS FOUND LOCATION

The committee appointed to select a site for the new Hood System Industrial Bank has selected the location of the Keystone Harber Shop on Main street. It is expected that possession will be granted about the middle of February.

ANOTHER INQUIRY INTO OIL LEASE

Coolidge Calls on Interior Department to Investigate Whether Leases Protect Government Interests.

Washington, Jan. 26.—While the Senate oil committee was seeking further light on the relations of former Secretary of the Interior Fall and Harry Sinclair, President Coolidge today asked the Department of the Interior to submit to him expert advice as to the wisdom of the policy under which the Sinclair and Doheny interests secured the lease from Fall for oil reserves in Wyoming and California.

The President asked the department to furnish at the earliest possible moment a report on whether the leases protect the interests of the Government.

This inquiry is separate from the instructions given the Department of Justice which is studying the evidence to determine whether there has been proof of fraud, but both actions are directed toward the same end.

COMMUNIST PLOT AGAINST GERMANY

Berlin, Jan. 26.—An alleged communist plot for the overthrow of this government was brought to light today in a debate of the finance committee of Wurtemberg parliament, according to advices from Stuttgart. Large quantities of explosives are said to have been seized.

OLD CIVIL WAR SHELL KILLS A LITTLE BOY

Scotland Neck, January 26.—A Civil War shell exploded in a negro house here yesterday killing a little boy.

FIRE RAGES FOR HOURS

Connersville, Ind., January 26.—Fire originating today from unknown causes in the Green Drug Company spread to the First National Bank block and raged for several hours before being checked with the assistance of the Richmond, Indiana, fire department.

MELLON RECOMMENDATION VOTED DOWN BY COMMITTEE

Washington, January 26.—Secretary Mellon's recommendation that husbands and wives be prohibited from dividing family incomes for purposes of filing tax returns as allowed in eight states was today voted down by the House Ways and Means Committee.

REBELS ADVISE MAY AS WELL BE PREPARED

Tampico, January 26.—A rebel gunboat reappeared off Tampico yesterday and advised military authorities to be prepared for all eventualities.

American ships were withdrawn only yesterday when notice that the blockade would cease was given.

Government business.

The other thing which may develop out of the controversy is an investigation of the influence exerted directly upon Government affairs by paid agents resident here. So far as they act as attorneys or spokesmen, they are within their rights. When they entertain lavishly and give "presents" or lend money to Government officials or otherwise use their funds to curry favor they overstep to that extent what has generally been regarded as the ethics of their position. It may never be proved that Albert Fall did anything illegal but what he did do in accepting a loan from a man he had dealings with on behalf of the Government will undoubtedly be set down as poor judgment, to say the least.

Playmakers Here During February

Bestcity Boy In Cast, Which Make This Event Even More Interesting

The Carolina Playmakers, the well known dramatic organization of the University of North Carolina, on their seventh State tour, will appear here, February 18, at the Alkrama under the auspices of the Rotary Club in three original folk plays of North Carolina life.

The Playmakers are of especial interest here because an Elizabeth City boy, Erskine Duff, talented son of Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Duff, is a member of the cast.

Following a performance in Chapel Hill on February 8 and 9, the Playmakers will include the following towns in their itinerary: Louisburg February 13, Smithfield February 14, Kinston February 15, New Bern February 16, Elizabeth City, February 18, Eden February 19, Scotland Neck February 20, Raleigh February 21.

The plays selected for this tour make a varied and most interesting bill. "The Black Rooster," a comedy of tenant farm life, by Pearl Setzer, was the most popular of the three plays presented on the sixth State tour last fall. "Fixin's" the second play, is a tragedy, by Erma and Paul Green. Paul Green is one of the most distinguished playwrights the organization has yet developed, and his works are now published by the Atlantic Monthly, and other leading periodicals. Miss Erma Green, his sister, came to the University to study playwrighting and production, and wrote "Fixin's" in collaboration with her brother. Gains and Galus, Jr., a farce comedy by Lucy M. Cobb, was a great success when presented on tour last fall, which is the main reason for its revival for this bill. A selection of the best players available has been chosen to present these plays. An unusual amount of versatility is displayed by these young actors in doubling up in two or three parts in the different plays on the same program.

FUNERAL GEORGE DAVIS HELD SUNDAY AFTERNOON

The funeral of George Davis, whose body arrived in this city from New York Friday, will be conducted Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock at Ziegler's Undertaking Establishment by Dr. S. H. Templeman and interment will be made in Hollywood Cemetery.

George Davis was 25 years old and had been away from home, only coming for short visits, for the last ten years. At the time of his death he was a seaman on the British S. S. S. S. Santa. Last Monday, while aloft on the ship he missed his footing and fell to the deck below, fracturing his skull, and died shortly afterwards. His body was turned over to the British Consul, who immediately notified his mother, Mrs. Miles Davis of 107 Dyer street. He is survived by his mother and two sisters, Misses Annie and Leslie Davis, all of this city.

Advertising Has Helped To Make Florida Great

By ROBERT T. SMALL
Copyright, 1921, by The Advance

Miami, Fla., Jan. 26.—Southern Florida, with its net work of amazing cities and home communities, is a living monument to the efficacy of publicity. The great game of "boosting" is common to nearly every American municipality. Even austere and domineering New York recently has fallen for the custom, and resorted to real old down home Main Street methods to win the Democratic National Convention.

It is frankly admitted in the metropolis that New Yorkers wanted the convention in order to show a lot of the supposedly despised "hicks" from the country what a real town New York is, and how hospitable its supposedly cold and bloodless people can be. Down here they have reduced the boosting art to a science; not only a science but a continuing business.

In all the walling and crashing of teeth which has been going up the country over on the subject of taxation, not a murmur has been heard from the property holders of Miami, who, in addition to all their other Federal, state and county assessments, pay annually a city publicity tax. This year the publicity tax will yield more than \$100,000 and every cent of it will be spent in advertising Miami and entertaining the winter visitors to this locality.

Other Florida communities are following the example of Miami in many of her publicity methods and they, too, may soon impose a publicity tax on the residents. It is felt here now that Miami is sufficiently well known to attract tourists and winter home seekers, so an effort is to be made to prolong the "season". The most fashionable folk, it seems, think it would be absolutely "dow-

COOLIDGE WARNS OF TEAPOT DOME SCANDAL

Washington, January 26.—President Coolidge yesterday decided that certain aspects of the Teapot Dome scandal may warrant criminal prosecutions and so informed his cabinet officers.

HIGH SCHOOL DEFEATS ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

In what has been described as the best basket ball game of the season on a local court, the Elizabeth City High School boys Friday night defeated the Elizabeth City Athletic Association by the narrow margin of three points, final score being 33-30.

RETURNED MISSIONARY WILL PREACH SUNDAY

Rev. J. C. Powell, a returned missionary from Oyo Nigeria, Africa arrived in Elizabeth City Friday afternoon and is the guest of Rev. and Mrs. R. F. Hall, 521 North Road street. Mr. Powell is an old college and seminary friend of Mr. Hall, and will preach at Berea Sunday morning at 11 o'clock, and at Corinth Sunday afternoon at 3:15 o'clock. The public is cordially invited to hear him. Mr. Powell will also preach at Shiloh Baptist Church Sunday night at 7:30 o'clock.

FORD TO DISCUSS OFFER NEXT WEEK

Washington, Jan. 26.—Henry Ford will be requested to appear early next week before the House military committee to discuss his offer for Muscle Shoals.

IT'S A DRY YEAR IN CALIFORNIA

But Weather, Not Law Enforcement Is Reason Why Business, From Auto Accessories To Farm Implements, Is Bad

By M. E. EDSBERG
Copyright, 1921, by The Advance

San Francisco, Jan. 26.—The unusually dry year in California is having a depressing effect on wholesale trade in nearly every line. Store men are faced with heavy losses and buying by farmers, it is estimated, has decreased from 25 to 50 per cent under normal. Auto accessory dealers report a decline. Wholesale butchers declare that an early rise in the price of lamb and beef is inevitable. Farmers are abandoning plans for the purchase of new equipment.

NEW YORK POLICE GET A SHAKE UP

New York, Jan. 26.—A sensational shake-up of the New York police force took place yesterday in which more than 400 men were transferred from one section to another and a special division created to handle prohibition violations.

Aydlett To Oppose Ward For Congress

Was Not Quite Ready to Announce Candidacy But Publication of News Item Elicits Admission He's in the Race to Represent This Congressional District

RICH BOOTLEGGER LANDS IN THE PEN

Atlanta, Jan. 26.—George Remus, millionaire bootlegger of the Middle West, and eleven of his associates, arrived at the penitentiary here yesterday to serve long sentences as the result of breaking up the liquor gang in that section of the country.

JAPAN REJOICES AS PRINCE WEDS

First Gala Day in Tokio Since the Terrible Earthquake and Fire Occurring Last September.

Tokio, Jan. 26.—The wedding of Prince Regent Hirohito and Princess Nagako, eldest daughter of Prince Kuni, was celebrated today at the imperial palace with Shinto rites.

Tokio made the most of its first occasion for national rejoicing since the September earthquake and fire disaster.

Tremendous crowds jammed the streets and open spaces around the imperial palace and greeted the prince and his bride as they proceeded by separate routes toward the palace for the ceremony.

A part of the comparatively simple ceremony was the announcement of the event to the imperial spirits enshrined in the Kasuki Bokoro in front of which the pair took their vows.

The wedding is regarded as one of the most popular in the history of the imperial family. It was to have taken place in the fall of 1923, but the earthquake prevented.

CHICKENS CONTINUE GET THEIR OWNERS IN TROUBLE

Five defendants, all colored, were in police court Saturday morning under the ordinance prohibiting chickens from running at large and were taxed with the costs. The defendants were: Ella Corbett, Dred Weeks, Daniel White, Alice Whitehurst, and Charlie Spellman.

Remus Hunter, colored, for operating a motor car with defective muffler, was required to pay a fine of \$5 and costs.

YOUTH JUMPS TO DEATH FROM THE THIRD FLOOR

Tarboro, January, 26.—Roland Allshbrook aged 18, today jumped from the third floor of the Masonic Temple here, breaking his neck. The funeral will be held at Scotland Neck Sunday.

DIGGERS FIND HEADS AS MURDERER DIRECTS

Aurora, Ill., January 26.—Warren Lincoln, who confessed to the police recently that he shot and killed his wife and her brother, Byron Shoup, on January 10, 1923, after disemboweling them, said that they would be found in the city dump heap with a concrete block moulded around them. Under his direction today diggers found the heads.

BROWNE NEW HEAD

Raleigh, Jan. 26.—T. T. Browne, State director of vocational education, was yesterday named as head of State College summer school to succeed Dr. W. A. Winters.

CONVICTS AT LARGE

Ashville, January 26.—Eleven of the eighteen convicts who escaped from camp near here early yesterday still remained at large this morning.

TWO FIRES SATURDAY

At 9:30 Saturday morning the fire company was called to the home of Annie Freshwater, colored, on Lawrence street to a chimney fire. There was no damage. Again at 12:45 p. m. they answered an alarm from box 31 and found a chimney fire, which resulted in little damage, at the home of Wiley Moore, colored, on Harney street.

POTATO DEMAND STRONG

Portland, Oregon, January 26.—Demand for potatoes for carload movement is quite favorable here, with prices for number 1 f. o. b. common terminal at \$1.25 a hundred pounds. Growers are showing more disposition to sell.

FAILED TO ARRIVE

Colonel W. B. Rodman, department commander of the American Legion, failed to arrive in Elizabeth City Friday and the meeting at which he was to speak Friday night had to be called off.

"Well, I didn't authorize it, but I guess it's true," said E. F. Aydlett when questioned about a news item sent out from Ahsokie and appearing in the morning newspapers of Saturday, stating that he would be a candidate for Congress from this district.

Mr. Aydlett went on to explain that he had not known until questioned about it that the item had appeared, and that he had not yet prepared a formal statement announcing his candidacy.

"However, I have fully decided to run and will issue a formal statement announcing my candidacy in a few days," said Mr. Aydlett.

Publication of a report that Congressman Hallet S. Ward would have no opposition in seeking the Democratic nomination for Representative in Congress from the First North Carolina Congressional District some months ago brought out a report that Mr. Aydlett would enter the race.

Mr. Aydlett admitted at that time that he had been approached by friends urging him to run and that he had given the matter serious consideration; but he would not say definitely that he was or that he was not a candidate.

His statement Saturday puts an end to all doubt in the matter. He will enter the race.

Mr. Aydlett has been frequently mentioned prominently as a possible candidate for Governor; but it was only recently that it became generally understood that he was seriously considering offering himself for Congress.

Washington, North Carolina, has had the Congressman from this district now for many years, former Congressman John H. Small as well as Hallet S. Ward, incumbent, having his home in that city.

NO STATE AID FOR AGRICULTURAL FAIRS

Raleigh, January 26.—Attorney General Manning yesterday ruled that the law providing for financial aid for agricultural fairs was defective and that no State funds were to be paid for them.

FOUR ARE KILLED AT GRADE CROSSING

Rayonna, O., Jan. 26.—Two men and two women were instantly killed here today when the west bound Baltimore & Ohio passenger train demolished their automobile at a grade crossing.

ADVENTISTS PLAN FOREIGN CAMPAIGN

Charlotte, January 26.—A campaign for raising \$150,000 for the erection of a publishing house in foreign countries will be staged by Seventh Day Adventists, the convention in session here Friday decided.

DIES AT RICHMOND

Richmond, January 26.—Mrs. James Fox, formerly Miss Minnie Bagley of Raleigh, died at a local hospital today.

COTTON MARKET

New York, January 26.—Spot cotton closed steady this afternoon, advancing ten points. Middling 53.65. Futures closed at the following levels: March 53.21; May 53.47; July 52.22; October 27.85; December 27.50.

New York, Jan. 26.—Cotton futures opened this morning at the following levels: January none; March 53.37; May 53.65; July 52.53; October 28.10; December none.