

Behind Teapot Dome Noise Are Certain Concrete Facts

Richest Oil Field in Wyoming, Set Aside as Reserve for Future Uses of the Navy in 1915, Has Interested Speculators and Government Officials Since That Time

By JOHN J. W. NEVIN.
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Washington, Feb. 20.—The oil scandal, non political in its nature, promises to clog the courts in various guises for many months to come. Behind the charges and counter charges, made and still being made, rest a series of concrete facts that are so buried that only a very few really know what it is all about.

Teapot Dome is the richest oil field in Wyoming. Under the law it was set aside as a reserve for the future uses of the Navy in 1915. Three years previously there had also been withdrawn from settlement two areas in California. From the very outset there was a struggle between the advocates of conservation and development regarding the propriety of the Government's retaining these fields. It was argued that they were being tapped by wells that had been sunk on the boundaries and that the Government was steadily losing as a result.

In June 1920 a law was approved under which the Secretary of the Navy was given exclusive jurisdiction over all of this land and he was empowered to conserve and develop by lease, contract or otherwise, and use, sell or store, or exchange, the oil issuing therefrom or the products thereof.

This situation remained thus for nearly a year when through an executive order secured by then Secretary of the Interior Albert Bacon Fall the administration of these reserves was turned over to the Interior Department.

Action of this character caused a real row in the Navy Department. Many of the officers declared that the department was being crippled in a most vital spot. Secretary Denby, however, failed to agree with them and Mr. Fall assumed jurisdiction.

Doheny Comes In.
Two of the California reserves were turned over to the Edward L. Doheny interests. Then the Teapot Dome area was leased to Harry P. Sinclair on a royalty basis. Just after this took place there was a general attack on the plan from quarters which were assumed to be entirely cognizant of the oil situation. The charge was made that the Government had been robbed and that under the lease the Sinclair interests had been handed "millions on a silver platter."

Officials of the Department of Interior insisted that the Teapot Dome field was being drained by the wells in the Salt Creek fields owned by private individuals. The Government, the statement insisted, had made a good bargain through having the oil promptly pumped out and stored. The question then at issue was simply whether the Government had made a good or a bad bargain.

The Senate authorized an inquiry. Senator Walsh of Montana, an expert on land leases, took charge of the Teapot Dome section of the inquiry, though he is a Democrat. He soon uncovered a number of leads. First it was discovered that the information that the land had been leased was in the possession of many private individuals for some time before it was officially announced by the Government. During that time there was active speculation in the Sinclair stocks.

Former Secretary Fall was called as a witness. He was asked whether any undue influence had been used in connection with the leases. He insisted none had. Immediately thereafter witnesses from his home town at Three Rivers, New Mexico, were called. They recited stories of immense real estate deals by the former Secretary, of costly improvements to his ranch.

Admitting that he had made the improvements reported and that he had purchased property to protect his ranch interests Mr. Fall sent to the committee a statement that he had borrowed the money—\$100,000—from Edward B. McLean, the Washington publisher. Mr. McLean at first confirmed this. But when Senator Walsh went to Florida to inquire the complete facts from Mr. McLean the latter said he had turned over to Mr. Fall checks for \$100,000 but that later they had been returned to him un cashed. Mr. Fall had sworn that "he never approached Mr. Doheny or Mr. Sinclair" on any matters connected with their corporations nor had he "received from either of said parties one cent on account of any oil lease or upon any account whatsoever."

Archie Roosevelt's Story
Late in January Archibald D. Roosevelt, son of the former President and an official of one of the Sinclair Companies, appeared voluntarily and said he had been told by Sinclair's secretary that the oil magnate had made large payments of cash to the foreman of the Fall

ranch. Before the effect of this testimony had died out Edward L. Doheny, appearing as a voluntary witness, told the committee that he had loaned Fall \$100,000 on his unendorsed demand note.

Immediately after Col. J. W. Zevilly, personal attorney for Sinclair, admitted that he had given \$25,000 to Fall in addition to a payment of \$10,000 advanced as expenses for a trip to Russia to investigate Sinclair Oil prospects there.

Fall was brought before the committee to explain his former statements but his lawyer, Levi Cooke, stood upon the former Secretary's constitutional rights. First he questioned the authority of the committee and then he argued that Mr. Fall could not be compelled to answer questions which might incriminate him. The committee upheld this line and Fall was excused.

Then Edward L. Doheny, recalled at the request of Senator Reed of Missouri, told the committee that he had employed a number of former Government officials and among them was William Gibbs McAdoo, former Secretary of the Treasury. This statement created a sensation because of the position of Mr. McAdoo as one of the aspirants for the Democratic Presidential nomination. Later McAdoo appeared and explained that his only connection with the case had been that of a regularly retained lawyer by Doheny and that he never had had anything to do with the oil magnate's affairs in the United States, confining his efforts to matters affecting the Doheny companies' interests in Mexico.

This was followed by the sensational action of the Senate in passing the resolution asking the President to demand resignation of the Navy Edwin Denby's resignation on the ground that he had been derelict in his duties and among other things declaring that the leases "were executed under circumstances indicating fraud and corruption; were entered into without authority on the part of the officers purporting to act in the execution of the same for the United States and in violation of the laws of Congress; and were made in defiance of the settled policy of the Government, adhered to through three successive administrations, to retain in the ground a great reserve supply of oil adequate to the needs of the Navy in any emergency threatening the national security."

The President Involved.
To this the President replied sharply that he had special counsel investigating; that the rights of the people would be properly safeguarded but that the "dismissal of an officer of the Government, such as is involved in this case, other than by impeachment, is exclusively an executive function. I regard this as a vital principle of our Government."

"The President is responsible to the people for his conduct relative to the retention or dismissal of public officials. I assume that responsibility, and the people may be assured that as soon as I can be advised so that I may act with entire justice to all parties concerned and fully protect the public interests, I shall act."

"I do not propose to sacrifice any innocent man for my own welfare, nor do I propose to retain in office any unfit man for my own welfare. I shall try to maintain the functions of the Government unimpaired, to act upon the evidence of the law as I find it, and to deal thoroughly and

WHAT'S THE GOOD WORD?

Say "Check-check-Checkerberry" to the grocer or the druggist or the news-stand man. Get the brand-new gum with the new flavor that's pressed in. Fleec's Checkerberry Chewing Gum.

summarily with every kind of wrong doing."

Incident to these developments there also had been the action of the President in selecting the special counsel to safeguard the interests of the Government and to initiate any prosecutions that might be required. His initial selections were Silas H. Strawn of Chicago, Republican, and Thomas Watt Gregory, Attorney General under the Wilson administration. It soon developed that once Gregory had worked for a Doheny company and his name was eliminated. Then former United States Senator Atlee Pomerene of Ohio was chosen. Later Strawn was eliminated and Owen J. Roberts was selected. There has been the continued revelations from day to day of the connection of various people with the scandal in one way or another and a growing determination among officials who have risen above partisanship that before the matter finally is dismissed guilt will have been definitely fixed.

In this latter connection the position of the Administration was outlined by President Coolidge in his Lincoln Day address in New York when he said:

"At the revelation of greed making its subtle approaches to public officers, of the prostitution of high place to private profit, we are filled with scorn and indignation.

"There will be immediate, adequate unshrinking prosecution, criminal and civil, to punish the guilty and to protect every national interest. There will be no politics, no partisanship.

"I cannot shield anyone because he is a Republican; I cannot on that account (because I am a Republican) prosecute anyone because he is a Democrat."

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PURE SUGAR CANDY
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To-NIGHT Tomorrow Alright
BILIOUSNESS—SICK HEADACHE, call for an NR Tablet, (a vegetable aperient) to tone and strengthen the organs of digestion and elimination. Improves Appetite, Relieves Constipation.
Used for over 30 Years
Get a 25¢ Box
Chips off the Old Block
NR JUNIORS—Little NRs
One-third the regular dose. Made of same ingredients, they candy coated. For children and adults.
SOLD BY YOUR DRUGGIST
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SAYS RED PEPPER HEAT STOPS PAIN IN FEW MINUTES

Rheumatism, lumbago, neuritis, backache, stiff neck, sore muscles, strains, sprains, aching joints. When you are suffering so you can hardly get around, just try Red Pepper Rub. Nothing has such concentrated, penetrating heat as red peppers, and when heat penetrates right down into pain and congestion relief comes at once. Just as soon as you apply Red Pepper Rub you feel the tingling heat. In three minutes the sore spot is warmed through and through and the torture is gone. Rowles Red Pepper Rub, made from red peppers, costs little at any drug store. Get a jar at once. Be sure to get the genuine, with the name Rowles on every package.

If Rheumatic Eat No Sweets

Says Glass of Salts Helps to Overcome Rheumatism Acid.

Rheumatism is easier to avoid than to cure, states a well-known authority. We are advised to dress warmly, keep the feet dry, avoid exposure, and above all, drink plenty of good water and avoid eating sweets of all kind. Rheumatism is caused by body waste and acids resulting from food fermentation. It is the function of the kidneys to filter this poison from the blood and cast it out in the urine; the pores of the skin are also a means of freeing the blood of this impurity. In damp and chilly cold weather the skin pores are closed, thus forcing the kidneys to do double work; they become weak and sluggish and fail to eliminate this waste and acids, which keeps accumulating and circulating through the system, eventually settling in the joints and muscles, causing stiffness, soreness and pain, called rheumatism.

At the first twinge of rheumatism get from any pharmacy about four ounces of Jad Salts; put a tablespoonful in a glass of water and drink before breakfast each morning for a week. This is helpful to neutralize acidity, remove waste matter, also to stimulate the kidneys, thus often ridding the blood of rheumatic poison.

Jad Salts is inexpensive, and is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and is used with excellent results by thousands of folks who are subject to rheumatism.

FRECKLES AND HIS FRIENDS

A Dark Secret

BY BLOSSER



A BUSINESS MOTIVE POWER

The time must come when all business will consider the advisability of advertising in the same spirit that a manufacturer ponders over the advisability of adopting a new machine. One does not install a piece of labor-saving mechanism because it suits his fancy; but because the efficiency of the business requires it.

He expects the new machine to reduce his cost to operate—perhaps to make a better product—and thus aid him in meeting competition and making larger profits.

Advertising is exactly similar. The man who refuses to consider it as a possible expedient, simply shuts his eyes on one of the problems of his business. He might as well ignore the bank as sources of credit when he has need to borrow capital.

On the other hand, the man who looks to advertising to checkmate all weaknesses and shortcomings of his business and to carry it along to victory despite these, has a childlike faith in the miraculous.

Advertising will not make his product or his service any better than they are; but it will bring him the full benefits of their merits. It will not eliminate wastefulness in his factory or his store; but it will reduce his cost to operate. It will not make illogical selling methods successful; but it will assist good selling methods, and often point the way for improving them.

Advertising is the most inexpensive motive power that the manufacturer or merchant can buy today. It is a form of stimulus that brings excellent returns on the investment.

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