

U. S. AND JAPAN SAID TO BE ON GOOD TERMS

Siberian Differences Are Declared to Be Only Minor.

EXPLANATIONS ARE ISSUED

Reports Tell of How Japanese Desired Yanks to Help in Attack, But Request Was Refused.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—Acting Secretary of State Polk today authorized the statement that no serious questions were pending between the United States and Japan and that the indications were that minor issues arising from the situation in Siberia and the recent trouble at Tien Tsin as well as peace conference problems soon would be amicably settled without in any way straining the relations between the two countries.

Mr. Polk said there had been many sensational reports recently that were unjustified.

This statement followed closely one by Acting Secretary Crowell at the war department specifically denying a published report that Major-General W. S. Graves, commanding the United States forces in Siberia, had reported the failure of American troops to aid the Japanese in a recent engagement.

U. S. Troops Not Near.

It was learned authoritatively today that there were no American troops in the vicinity when a Japanese unit in Siberia was wiped out recently by Russians.

Reports that Americans refused to aid the Japanese have arisen, it was explained, because Major-General W. S. Graves, acting in accordance with his instructions, declined to join in an attack upon a force of Russians whom he did not regard as bolsheviki or enemies. General Graves' position was made known when the Japanese commander applied for co-operation in advance. The Japanese, nevertheless, undertook the expedition alone.

Formal denial was made today by Acting Secretary Crowell of a published report that General Graves had reported to the war department that American troops did not participate in the engagement at Habarovsk on February 25 because the Japanese had shot down women and children.

Japanese Are Wiped Out.

It was disclosed that the engagement in question, which has been the subject of various dispatches from Vladivostok and Tokyo, was fought at Habarovsk, February 25, by a Japanese unit against revolutionists against General Horvath, a Siberian military commander with whom the allies have co-operated and that no American troops were in the vicinity. The Japanese force literally was wiped out.

Some unofficial dispatches have created the impression that Americans stood by, refusing to go to the aid of outnumbered allies. It was officially explained today that, as a matter of fact, the Japanese commander asked for co-operation in advance and ordered the expedition unaided after being informed Americans could not participate in an attack upon people not recognized as enemies or bolsheviki.

General Graves' report said the revolt against General Horvath was caused by alleged atrocities, such as the killing of women and children. The trouble appeared to have been local, however, and officials of both the state and war department's regard the attitude of General Graves as entirely proper.

The policies of the United States and Japan as to the conduct of operations in Siberia, and the reasons for the presence of allied troops at Vladivostok, it was officially stated, are the same, although there is a difference of opinion as to the extent which the troops should be used. An understanding on this point is expected, but it was pointed out that in the meantime the local situation might result in questions arising that would have to be settled either through conference of the military commanders on the ground or by diplomatic agencies.

TIE MAKERS HEARTENED

PURCHASING DIRECTOR IS ON WAY TO PORTLAND.

Conference to Be Held Over Grievances Caused by Cancellation of Contracts.

A bit of heartening news came yesterday to tie manufacturers in a telegram from Senator McNary, stating that H. B. Spencer, director of the purchasing division of the railroad administration, left Washington Tuesday night to come direct to Portland for conference over the tie situation.

For some time it has been an unusual day that did not record the closing down of a tiemaking plant. Officers of the Western Oregon Tie and Lumber association stated the first of the week that 40 mills were closed and that an equal number would suspend operations in the next few weeks if the situation failed to improve.

Cancellation of contracts for ties already held by Oregon and Washington firms and practices of railroad purchasing agents, which the manufacturers term "high-handed," have caused the trouble and gloom in this district. The season of year for maximum production of ties is at hand, but instead of encouragement the mills have found chances of sales dwindling to the vanishing point.

The hope is expressed that the visit of the head of the purchasing division of the railroad administration may serve to clear up the situation, get the mills running again and the 250 idle employees back at work.



"HER BOY"

"My star in my flag, put there for my boy. Love him? Yes, more than I love my own life! Miss him? Why, my heart seems empty save for the ache in it. He finished his great fight—his fight to make his mother safe and to make other mothers of the world safe for all time.

"Yes, my star in my flag, my boy who fought for me. He rests now under the poppies of Flanders' fields, but God give me strength to look at this gold star and say: 'Not my will, but thine, O God, be done.'"

And you fathers and older brothers and other mothers, all the money you have in the world cannot equal the life blood those thousands gave over there. It is your obligation to the dead, that they may not have died in vain, and to the living that they may finish the work they have undertaken, to do your duty by an overwhelming subscription to the Victory Liberty Loan.

Portland Victory Loan Executive Committee

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