

AMERICAN "OIL INTERVENTION"

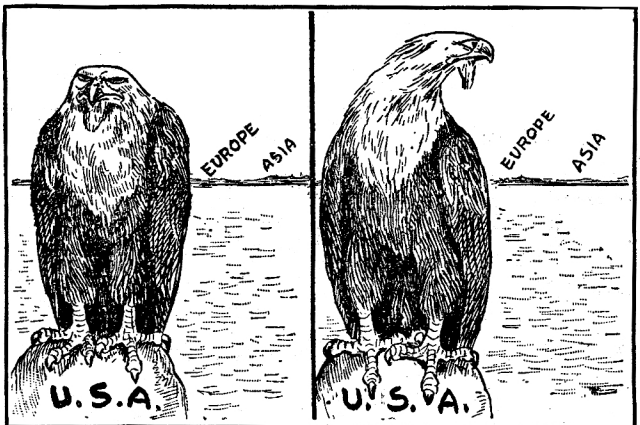
"**A LOOFNESS FOREVER**" is the spread-eagle cry in America when there is any hint of entangling alliance in a mandate, say sarcastic British critics, but if there is any trace of oil wherever another nation has accepted the responsibilities and charges of a mandate, then the cry is changed to "Oil forever for mine!" Less caustic observers among the British are willing to admit that America has a right to feel suspicious of the Entente because the San Remo agreement between Great Britain and the tripartite arrangement between Great Britain, France, and Italy "certainly seemed to leave American oil interests out in the cold." But a quasi-official defense of Britain appears in an address to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, delivered by Sir John Cadman, consulting petroleum adviser to the British Government. He states that the world production of oil in 1912 was roughly one-half of what it is to-day, and out of a total production of 97,000,000 tons in 1920 about 4 per cent. only was under British control, and in that 4 per cent. the Persian yield was included. As reported in the *Manchester Guardian*, Sir John Cadman charges that in spite of these figures Great Britain is accused by the American press of pursuing "a policy of grab" and of closing the door to those who are not British. But he contends that the policy of Great Britain has not changed, and offers in evidence the case of the island of Trinidad, an oil-field in process of development. The policy of the Trinidad Government was that it should be worked by British companies under British control, yet one of the large companies in Trinidad to-day is "an exception to that policy." Again in the case of Canada he pointed out that the concern developing the new Fort Norman enterprise there is the Imperial Oil Company, which is American. Great Britain, he contends, has no desire to keep other people out if it can get their money to develop its resources. Its policy has been frank and open in these matters, whereas, on the other hand, the Americans have a law excluding foreigners from the Philippines, and Sir John remarks: "I am not a politician. My interest in the whole subject is that of a scientist." At the same time one can not help feeling that the whole of the story is not being told." The *Manchester Guardian* relates further:

"With regard to Mesopotamia, Sir John said that he did not think the Government's policy was the policy of the closed door. British nationals had certain rights before the war—rights that were given them by Turkey. Presumably those rights would be examined, and if they were found to be substantial would be maintained. He did not think it was reasonable to suggest that because Great Britain took the mandate for the country—a very grave responsibility—she should put aside her own nationals, who had rights there before she took the mandate.

“Great Britain was producing about a ton of crude-oil per day and about 250,000 tons a year from shale. As he had pointed out, the proportion of the world’s output under British control was very small, yet the British Empire had great need for this fuel. There was some prospect of that proportion’s being largely increased. About 60 per cent. of the world’s land surface was covered by rocks belonging to one or other of the two great geological periods during which petroleum was laid down, and a good deal of that 60 per cent. came within British territory. It was, therefore, quite within the bounds of possibility that unknown fields had still to be tapped in the British Empire.”

An assuaging tone marks an article in *The Fortnightly Review* (London, March) by Mr. Sydney Brooks on “Oil as an Anglo-American Irritant,” for tho he believes that Great Britain and the United States have “only to work together to make the peace of the world too strong to be broken,” he confesses that it is foolish to encourage the idea that cooperation between them will be “easy,” for really it is going to be “extremely difficult.” Mr. Brooks also predicts that under the Republican administration and “dollar diplomacy,” the British will realize more “the possibilities of oil as an Anglo-American irritant,” and he adds:

“It is as certain as anything can be that, unless the Americans are convinced of the groundlessness of their suspicion that we are trying to bar their access to the remaining oil reserves, they will endeavor to hit back; and the regions they will choose for retaliatory action will be the oil-fields of Central and South America, where British hopes and interests are largely involved. I have not the least relish, and I doubt whether any sensible Englishman or American has, in the prospect of British and American oil groups, warmly backed by London and Washington, intriguing against one another, checkmating and circumventing one another, in the hunt for petroleum concessions round the Caribbean. Yet it is a prospect but too likely to be fulfilled unless the two Governments take counsel together, lay their cards on the table, and by a timely discussion and the widest publication of their oil policies and requirements do something to moderate feeling and to restore perspective.”



WHO SAID “OIL”?

Mandates? Search me!

Who said “Oil”?

—*The Westminster Gazette* (London).