

# WAR OR PEACE IS PUT UP TO MEXICAN CHIEF

Carranza Is Severely Castigated  
in Note by President Wilson.

## WARNS OF DRASTIC ACTION

"Gravest Consequences Will Follow"  
If First Chief Carries Out His  
Threat to Attack—Troops will  
Stay in Mexico.

Washington.—Imputing bad faith, broken promises and failure to discharge the obligations of sovereignty implied when this government recognized the de facto government of Mexico, President Wilson in his reply to Carranza puts the question of war or peace with Mexico.

In effect the document charges Carranza with protecting rather than seeking to punish the bandits who have murdered American citizens on American and Mexican soil and concludes with the warning that if the Carranza threat to have "recourse to arms" if the American troops are not withdrawn from Mexico is carried out, it "will lead to the gravest consequences."

### Is It Backdown or War?

It is the opinion of the highest officials of this government that the effect of the note to Carranza will be either to cause a complete backdown by the de facto government of Mexico or to precipitate hostilities at an early date. This government is prepared for either alternative, but optimism prevails that hostilities will be avoided.

The indictment against the Carranza government in the note contains the following counts:

The Mexican note of May 22 demanding the immediate withdrawal of American troops was "discourteous in tone and temper."

The government of the United States has viewed with deep concern and increasing disappointment the progress of the revolution in Mexico.

American capital and enterprise have been destroyed or rendered non-productive, the lives of Americans and other aliens have been sacrificed; bandits have been permitted to roam at will, and robbery and murder have gone unpunished.

### Says Murderers Are Protected.

Incursions have been made into American territory, depredations and murders have taken place on American soil, American garrisons have been attacked at night and American soldiers killed and their property and horses stolen. American ranches have been raided and American trains wrecked and plundered, murders "characterized by ruthless brutality and uncivilized acts of mutilation" have been perpetrated. Representations have been made to stop these outrages to no effect. Towns in northern Mexico have not only harbored the perpetrators, but "so far as the indifference of the de facto government goes that some of these leaders have received not only the protection of the Mexican government, but encouragement and aid as well."

The note enumerates nine raids last September as typical, recites in detail the successive steps taken to prevent the attack on the Cusi mining property which culminated in the "Santa Ysabel massacre" and the subsequent pursuit of the bandits which, to date, has resulted in the capture of only one bandit by the Mexican government.

### Allowed Villa to Escape.

Taking up the operations of Villa, the note charges that Villa was permitted to remain for days in the vicinity of Cusi unattacked, that his progress toward the American border was unimpeded by a single Carranza soldier, culminating in the attack on Columbus. The note charges that no effort was made by Carranza to stop Villa's flight, although, in his retreat he passed within sight of the Carranza garrison at Casas Grandes.

Declaring that this government had no recourse but to run Villa down, the note charges that the "co-operation or assistance in the field" which General Carranza promised the punitive expedition has never been forthcoming. It charges that the Carranza soldiers, in an attack on United States troops at Parral, "arrayed themselves on the side of outlawry and became in effect the protectors of Villa and his bandits."

The next indictment of Carranza lies in the charge that his attempt to block the American expedition by negotiation was directed "to the form and nature of the agreement rather than the practical object," that his sole endeavor was "to impede the progress of the American troops rather than to place obstacles in the way of the escape of the outlaws."

Mr. Lansing charges that nowhere in the memorandum drawn by General Obregon and General Scott will the Mexican government find justification for its charge that General Scott promised the withdrawal of American troops except upon conditions not yet fulfilled; that nowhere did General Funston promise that no more punitive expeditions would invade Mexico,

## HOT JABS FROM NOTE OF U. S. TO CARRANZA

In these attacks (on specified American towns) on American territory Carranzista adherents, and even Carranzista soldiers, took part in the looting, burning and killing.

Since these attacks leaders of the bandits, well known to both the Mexican civil and military authorities, as well as to American officers, have been enjoying with impunity the liberty of the towns of northern Mexico.

On January 10 a train was stopped by Villa bandits and 18 of the American party were stripped of their clothing and shot in cold blood, in what is now known as the "Santa Ysabel massacre."

Within a month after this barbarous slaughter of inoffensive Americans it was notorious that Villa was operating within twenty miles of Cusiuhuirachi, and publicly stated that his purpose was to destroy American lives and property.

After murdering, burning and plundering, Villa and his bandits, fleeing south, passed within sight of the Carranzista military post at Casas Grandes, and no effort was made to stop him by the officers and garrison of the de facto government stationed there.

While this government would deeply regret such a result, it cannot recede from its settled determination to maintain its national rights and to perform its full duty in preventing further invasions of the territory of the United States and in removing the peril which Americans along the international boundary have borne so long with patience and forbearance.

I am reluctant to be forced to the conclusion which might be drawn from the circumstances, that the de facto government, in spite of the crimes committed and the sinister designs of Villa and his followers, did not and does not now intend or desire that these outlaws should be captured, destroyed or dispersed by American troops or, at the request of this government, by Mexican troops.

If a denial is needed that this government has had ulterior and improper motives in its diplomatic representations, or has countenanced the activities of American sympathizers and the American press opposed to the de facto government, I am glad most emphatically to deny it. It is, however, a matter of common knowledge that the Mexican press has been more active than the press in the United States in endeavoring to inflame the two peoples against each other and to force the two countries into hostilities.

and this count concludes with the charge that the Mexican government itself refused to ratify the agreement reached, thereby inferentially proving its own charges unfounded.

The promises of Carranza to redistribute his troops and to pursue bandits have been so badly kept that this government has been forced to the "reluctant conclusion that the de facto government did not, and does not now, intend or desire that these outlaws should be captured, destroyed or dispersed by American troops, or, at the request of this government, by Mexican troops."

The note accepts the statement of Carranza that he gave orders to General Obregon to notify this government that no further punitive expeditions would be permitted to enter Mexico unopposed, but denies that Obregon ever delivered the ultimatum.

Carranza's charge that this government has not acted in good faith toward the de facto government in Mexico, but has hindered it in a restoration of order in Mexico is not only denied, but evidence is offered in support of a countercharge of absolute bad faith by the de facto government in all its recent dealings with this government. The announcement is made that until subordinate commanders of the Mexican government cease to "menace American troops" at their commands and co-operate with them in good faith this government "will not permit munitions of war or machinery for their manufacture to be exported from this country to Mexico."

Admitting that the punitive expedition crossed into Mexico "without notice to or the consent of" the Mexican government, this government reiterates its good faith in the promises made in connection with that expedition, cites at length numerous instances of bad faith on the part of Mexico in actions and negotiations since the arrival of the expedition and the simultaneous growth of anarchy throughout Chihuahua, and asserts that it will neither withdraw the army nor "prevent its entry again" into Mexico "to protect American lives and homes—safeguards which General Carranza though internationally obligated to supply, is manifestly unable or unwilling to give."

The charge is conveyed to Carranza that by reason of his attitude toward bandits he is not discharging Mexico's duty toward the protection of life and property, "and governments neglecting or failing to perform it are not worthy of the name." It also asserts that if reasonable excuse exists for Mexico's failure to discharge this obligation, it thereby "makes stronger the duty of the United States."

In conclusion the note declines the Mexican invitation to withdraw American troops for the reasons given, invites Mexico to assume and exercise the responsibility which this government now feels compelled to assume, but adds that if Mexico persists in ignoring this obligation or undertakes to repel or hinder the American punitive expedition by attacks, only "the gravest consequences" will ensue.

## GOSSIP FROM STATE HOUSE

Contracts have been awarded by the board of control for the new laundry building to be erected at the Milford soldiers' home.

Five southwestern Nebraska towns, united into a circuit, have made application for the 1917 University Week shows. They are Holdrege, Minden, Oxford, McCook and Beaver City.

The state veterinarian's office has received word that a horse belonging to C. W. Brown, of Clark, has died of "pernicious anemia," an extremely rare disease in this state among animals.

Attorney General Reed has ruled that when county boards grant permission under the law to play baseball within the county limits such boards have power to say where the games shall be played.

Nebraska university will offer a course leading to the degree of bachelor of fine arts in music, commencing next fall, according to an announcement by Prof. P. H. Grummann, head of the school of fine arts.

According to notice received by Game Warden Rutenbeck, the federal game law has been altered to an extent that will permit of duck and goose hunting for one month in the spring—from February 9 to March 10, inclusive.

Attorney General Reed has given an opinion holding that an electric light company can refuse to furnish current to a building defectively wired and that the state fire warden may declare such a building to be a nuisance.

The quartermaster general of the army is ready to receive bids for horses and mules for use in national guard equipment and Nebraska dealers may bid, according to a telegram received from Washington, at the adjutant general's office.

Three defeated candidates in the recent state primaries became members of Acting Governor James Pearson's personal staff when he announced appointments to his personal staff. They were Walter Kiechel of Johnson, Theodore R. Nordgren of Aurora and W. B. Banning of Union.

Dr. B. F. Williams, superintendent of the state hospital for the insane, has requested the state board of control to conduct a personal and complete investigation into the causes leading up to the death, a few days ago, of Adolph Chaloud, a patient from Howard county, the state hospital.

State Superintendent Thomas and other members of a committee appointed to plan for a rural school conference in Lincoln during state fair week have asked county superintendents to see that delegates are appointed to represent school districts who failed to choose delegates at the annual meeting.

Railway Commissioner Hall, accompanied by U. G. Powell and Mr. Boyer of the commission's accounting department, has gone to Falls City to inspect records of the Missouri Pacific road for information to be used in defending the state two-cent fare law which the Missouri Pacific and the Rock Island railroads have attacked in the federal court.

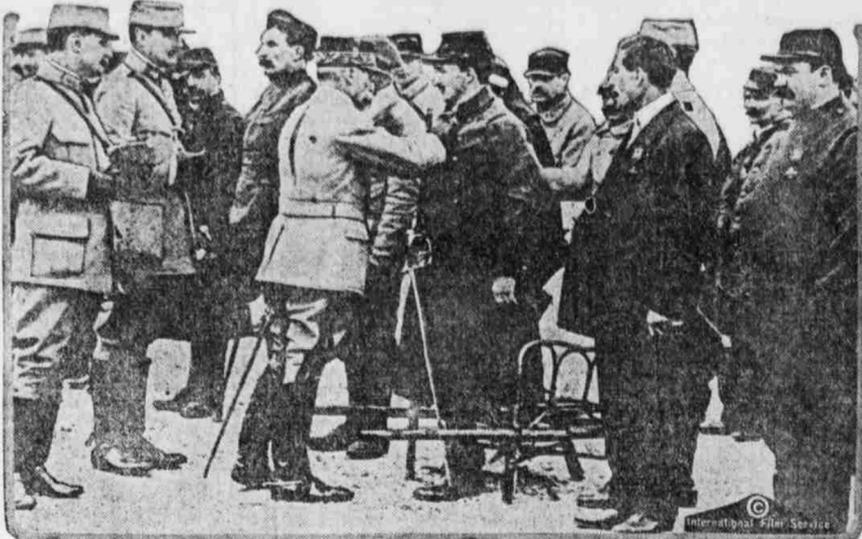
Attorney General Reed has handed down an opinion holding that the 1915 law relative to fire escapes applies to school buildings in cities the size of Grand Island. The question was raised by Attorney T. O. C. Harrison of Grand Island in a letter to Mr. Reed. Mr. Reed holds that the labor commissioner may compel the installation of any number of fire escapes on school buildings more than two stories in height he deems necessary.

Nebraska militiamen are not required to go into Mexican territory under their present oaths. This was announced at the office of the adjutant general, where a large supply of federal standard oaths which require them to serve "wherever the president or governor direct," is on hand. It was thought by the adjutant general's office that the old oaths required such service, but federal officers advised they did not do so. Therefore, under the present oaths the militiamen, if sent south, can refuse to go farther than the border.

On behalf of the U. C. T. and the T. P. A., two well known organizations of traveling men, C. W. Hinzle of Omaha has lodged a complaint with the state railway commission demanding that the Union Pacific railroad be made to change its handling of passenger trains so that people may get on and off them without crossing tracks on which other trains or locomotives may be running. Hinzle says the Union Pacific requires its patrons to cross tracks in front of depots in order to board or leave a good many of the trains.

Miss Theodosia Trehearn of Beaver City, who lacked entrance requirements at the University of Nebraska law school and was not eligible for a diploma for that reason, although finishing the course with credit, was one of twenty-seven successful applicants who passed examination at the hands of the Nebraska bar commission, and has been formally admitted to practice by the state supreme court. Another woman law student, Miss Florence E. Maple of Fremont, who has been studying in the office of a law firm at that place, was among the number.

## DECORATING WOUNDED FRENCH HEROES



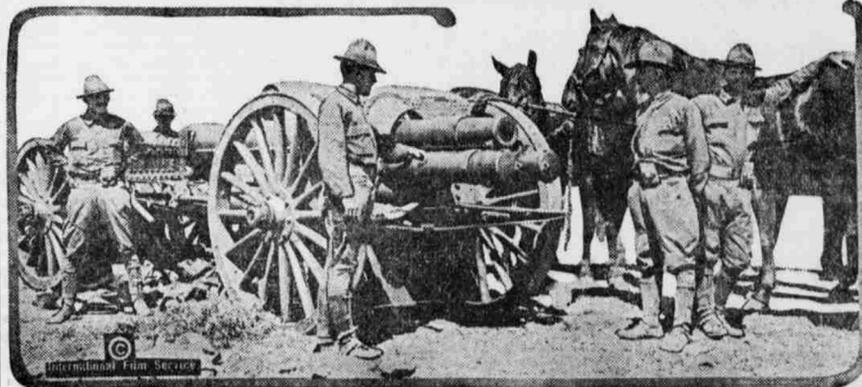
General Cousins decorating wounded French soldiers at the Invalides in Paris.

## AUTOMOBILE CONVOY EN ROUTE TO VERDUN



Long line of automobiles used in conveying French troops to the Verdun section.

## BIG AMERICAN GUNS IN MEXICO



One of the 4.7 inch guns of the Fifth United States artillery on the other side of the Rio Grande.

## OBSERVATION TOWER IN USE



This photograph, taken in Mexico, shows one of the observation towers of the United States army in use.

## TINY JAPS HELP SWELL WAR FUND



Takato Takamine and Masa Raiph Takamine, dressed in their native costumes, were active workers at the great allied bazaar held in New York. They are the children of Dr. F. C. Takamine of Brooklyn and did their small share towards helping raise the \$1,000,000 war fund.