

SAY VILLA IS DEAD

DISPATCHES TELL OF BANDIT'S DEATH—BODY FOUND, MEXICANS AVER.

RUMOR UNVERIFIED; DOUBTED

U. S. Skeptical of Report.—Wound and Blood Disease Fatal to Guerrilla Chief, El Paso Doctor Believes.—Villa's Death to Signal Recall of U. S. Troops.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

El Paso, Tex., April 16.—Francisco Villa is dead and his body, disinterred some days after his burial, is in possession of the Carranza troops, according to a series of telegraphic messages received in Juarez today by the Mexican officials.

For more than a week reports that Villa has died from wounds have been current both here and in Juarez. Today's accounts were the most circumstantial and apparently reliable yet received. They were accepted with reserve by American officials, including Gen. Bell, but the Mexican officials expressed confidence in their reliability.

Apart from the telegrams here there are some known facts which have been pointed out by Mexican officials as lending strong support to the truth of the report that the bandit chief's career has been closed by death.

These facts are: Villa has been suffering more than a year from a virulent form of blood poisoning.

He was treated for this disease while in Juarez by Dr. W. L. Brown, one of the best known physicians in El Paso.

Dr. Brown states that the condition of the bandit was such that even a minor wound would be fatal in ten days unless treated promptly and with the best skill and care. Even under the most favorable conditions such a wound would be of the gravest character.

It is certain that if Villa was wounded he could not have commanded anything but the most primitive treatment.

According to the dispatches thus far received, Villa's death was due to the amputation of one of his legs, made necessary by wounds received by him in the fighting around Guerrero. After being desperately wounded he was carried by his followers to the town of Temoschic, where the amputation was performed by a village doctor.

Washington, D. C., April 16.—American troops will be withdrawn from Mexico immediately if Francisco Villa is dead.

Administration officials made this unqualified statement tonight, commenting on reports from Mexican sources that the bandit's body had been discovered and was being taken to Chihuahua city by special train.

CARRANZA MEN ATTACK U. S.

Carranza Forces Engaged American Cavalry at Parral.

San Antonio, Tex.—It was a force of Carranza soldiers which engaged the little detachment of American cavalry at Parral in a regularly organized action, according to a detailed report written by Maj. Frank Tompkins and forwarded to Gen. Pershing.

Forty of the Mexican soldiers, including one major and one civilian were killed by the retreating Americans. The American casualties were two killed and six wounded, including Maj. Tompkins. His wound was slight.

Maj. Tompkins' account of the action was received at Gen. Funston's headquarters and served to clarify Gen. Pershing's report, in which the identity of the attacking force was unstated.

Famous White Slave Cases.

Washington, D. C.—Attorney General Gregory asked the supreme court for an early joint hearing on the Diggs and Caminetti white slave cases which are up for review on writs of certiorari. F. Drew Caminetti and Maurice Diggs, both of California, are under convictions for violations of the white slave laws. Their trials attracted wide attention.

Big Buyer in U. S.

Washington.—Italy's growing importance as a buyer of American products is indicated in figures assembled in the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce, which show that the country took \$165,000,000 worth of goods in the first seven months of the fiscal year, 1915-16. Only England, France and Canada were heavier purchasers of American goods.

Panama Canal Reopens.

Panama.—The Panama canal was reopened to traffic April 15 with the passage of sixteen ships, seven northbound and nine southbound, including the transport Buford.

Gasoline Agitation.

Washington, D. C.—Department of justice officials decline to discuss whether the investigation into the rise of gasoline prices had reached a stage where original indictments were being considered.

Army Officer Dismissed.

Washington.—Capt. James M. Fulton, of the coast artillery at Fort Grant, Panama, has been dismissed from the army for violating an absence plea. President Wilson approved the court martial sentence.

WORLD'S EVENTS IN SHORT FORM

BEST OF THE NEWS BOILED DOWN TO LIMIT.

ARRANGED FOR BUSY PEOPLE

Notes Covering Most Important Happenings of the World Compiled in Briefest and Most Succinct Form for Quick Consumption.

Mexican Revolt

A situation of extreme tension, involving, among other things, the possibility of an armed clash with the de facto government of Mexico—or the withdrawal of American troops from Mexican territory—faces the president and the American people. This situation has been produced by a battle which took place at Parral between an American force and Mexicans and a note, presented by direction of General Carranza asking the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico.

General Carranza published a lengthy proclamation at Mexico City advising the Mexican people to be calm, to restrain their indignation, and to await developments.

Three victories gained over Yaqui Indians in Sonora, Mex., within five days were reported to Gen. P. Elias Calles.

Secretary of War Baker at Washington has telegraphed General Funston to take all necessary measures to protect the American forces in Mexico and to avert further trouble. Funston has been given unlimited authority to re-enforce the Pershing expedition and make its operations effective.

Scores of Americans on the west coast of Mexico are in grave peril, according to a report to the navy department at Washington from Rear Admiral Winslow, commanding the Pacific fleet.

Details of a five-hour battle between the Carranza garrison at Pasaje, Durango, and an attacking force composed of bandits were brought to Torreon, Mex. The outlaws died after losing seventy killed.

A band of Villistas, numbering several hundred and possibly 1,000, sacked Sierra Mojada, five miles across the Coahuila line and 20 miles east of Jimenez, destroying many thousands of dollars worth of American property and looting the town of everything of value.

Several Americans have been killed or wounded in bandit raids in the vicinity of Guaymas, Sonora, according to a naval radio message received at San Diego, Cal. The message was forwarded to the navy department at Washington and resulted in an order to the cruiser Denver to steam for the Sonora seaport and investigate.

Francisco Villa has left the main body of his command and is hiding, almost unattended, in the Sierra mountains of Chihuahua, according to information given out at the war department at Mexico City.

Apache man hunters have reached the advanced field base of General Pershing, "somewhere in Mexico," and will soon be in action.

A report reached headquarters south of Namiquipa that Troops K and M of the Seventh cavalry were in a fight with Villistas. A number of Villistas were killed and 35 captured. Eight of the captured men confess to having taken part in the raid at Columbus.

Gen. Gabriel Gavira, Carranza commander at Juarez, announced that the forces of the de facto government were in a position to take immediate control of the Villa situation if the American troops withdrew.

Domestic

Suit for divorce was filed at St. Louis against Harry Kendall Thaw by Mrs. Christina Thaw of St. Louis, who asked maintenance and the custody of their child, Lady Gwendolin Clemmens, twelve years old. Who the petitioner could not be learned from her attorney.

American torpedo-boat destroyers are patrolling the Philippine coasts, inquiring the identity and all information regarding coastwise and other vessels under way. War vessels of the allies are also watching these waters.

All mail from the United States entering Canada was opened in the Windsor, Canada, post office, read and then ressealed with a small sticker bearing the printed word "censored." The post office is tracking a spy.

A verdict in favor of the defendants in the Youmans' \$255,000 damage suit against Governor Hanna, other state officials, and several local bankers, was directed by Judge Keneshaw in the district court at Minot, N. D.

Washington

President Wilson has approved an indictment of the German government in relation to its submarine operations, which was prepared by Secretary Lansing. It was read at the cabinet meeting at Washington and received the indorsement of every member present.

Champions of a government hydro-electric plant to produce nitrate for the manufacture of war munitions and fertilizer won their fight in the senate at Washington by inserting an amendment proposing an appropriation of \$15,000,000 for that purpose into the Chamberlain army increase bill. The vote was 43 to 22.

Tables prepared in the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce at Washington shows United States exports to South America valued at \$97,000,000 for the last seven months.

Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston wrote Adjutant General Scott at Washington denouncing as false statements contained in Senator Fall's letter to Senator Gallinger in which he severely criticized the conduct of American troops during the raid at Columbus.

The hard-fought bill incorporating the American Academy of Arts and Letters and numbering President Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt and forty-eight others among its charter members, was passed by the house at Washington and now goes to the president for approval.

President Wilson, speaking at a Jefferson day banquet of Democrats at Washington, prayed that the United States would not be drawn into a quarrel not of its own choosing, but asked whether the people were ready to go in where the interests of America were coincident with the interests of humanity, and have the courage to withdraw when the interest of humanity had been conserved. He was interrupted by cheers and shouts of "Yes."

The senate at Washington passed its substitute for the house free sugar repeal resolution, extending the present duty of one cent a pound on sugar until May, 1920. The vote was 40 to 32.

The rivers and harbors appropriation bill, carrying \$40,000, was passed by the house at Washington by a vote of 210 to 133. The bill now goes to the senate.

The senate immigration committee at Washington decided to recommend passage of the Burnett immigration bill without amendment as passed by the house.

Great Britain contends in her note to Washington that the removal of 38 Germans, Austrians and Turks from the American steamship China by the British cruiser Laurentic in Chinese water on February 18, was legal because those persons were engaged in plotting against the British government.

The senate at Washington amended the Clayton antitrust law to permit interlocking directorates in non-competing banks.

European War News

South of the Tigris river, in Mesopotamia, the Turks have been driven back three miles, it was announced by the British war office in London.

The Danish steamship Elizabeth, bound for British ports, and an unidentified Swedish ship have been captured in the Cattagat by a German battleship.

The German submarine which torpedoed the Channel steamer Sussex was sunk on April 5, it was officially announced at Paris. The U-boat's commander and crew are understood to be prisoners.

A London Daily News dispatch from Paris states that the French Bulletin des Armees says the British army in France, which numbered 60,000 in August, 1914, now numbers 2,500,000.

A British Mesopotamia force was repulsed by Turkish troops in a sanguinary battle near Felabie on April 9, according to a Turkish report to Berlin. Three thousand British were killed.

The steamships Englishman, Eagle Point, Manchester Engineer and Berdwale were destroyed by German submarines, according to admission in the German reply to the American note concerning the damaging or sinking of five steamships. Evidence is presented to show that these vessels were torpedoed legally in accordance with the rules of war. In regard to the Sussex, the note says that only one German submarine was in the vicinity and that it torpedoed one steamship.

A dispatch from Holland says the Danish steamer Dorothea has been blown up by a mine. The crew was saved.

Another German spy was executed in the Tower of London. He was the twelfth put to death since the war began.

The Spanish steamer Santanderino has been sunk by a torpedo with the loss of four lives. Thirty-six survivors, several of them women, have been landed.

NEWS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

The county commissioners of Hand county have arranged for a "county road" from Miller to Orient.

James Taggart, a well known resident of Kingsbury county, was thrown from his wagon and sustained injuries which resulted in his death within a short time.

Garretson lovers of the game of tennis have organized a tennis club. Fine courts will be fitted up and the season's play is looked forward to with interest.

The city council has sold at a good premium bonds in the sum of \$21,000, which were authorized for refunding the outstanding warrant indebtedness of the city of Faulkton.

John Metcalf, a former resident of Jerauld county, recently reported as killed in action in France, has written his South Dakota friends assuring them that he is not dead.

Special arrangements have been completed at the University of South Dakota for the second annual summer session of six weeks' duration, beginning June 19, and closing July 29.

The automobile owners of Douglas county as the result of a meeting held at Armour, have perfected the organization of what will be known as the Douglas County Auto association.

Ernest Wilkes, a former Sioux Falls boy, is making good in the theatrical world. He has become a leading producer and manager and is conducting stock companies in leading extreme western cities.

Langford baseball fans have organized an association and arranged to have a team in the field during the coming season. The business men have contributed liberally to the fund for the maintenance of the club.

J. E. Pratt of Clark, secretary of the state association of bankers, has issued the schedule of dates for the group meetings preliminary to the 1916 convention, which will meet in Sisseton Falls on June 28 and 29.

As the result of action taken at a mass meeting of Naples residents, a petition has been circulated asking the board of education to call a special election and submit the question of issuing bonds for the erection of a new school building.

The program is being prepared for the annual meeting in Redfield on May 12 of the bankers of Group No. 9, which comprises the counties of Kingsbury, Beadle, Miner and Spink. L. F. Altshuler of DeSmet is president of the group, and A. M. Haskell of Carhage secretary.

Col. C. R. Hanson of Bridgewater is one of South Dakota's good roads boosters and is a firm believer in the idea that every township should have an emergency man whose duty should be to look after the roads in his township as a section man looks after the roadbed of a railway.

Herbert Stier, aged 18, who resided on a farm near Madison, died from blood poisoning, resulting from stepping on a rusty nail. The wound had almost healed and serious complications were not anticipated until a few days before his death, when blood poison set in and developed rapidly.

While Siles Shoup was assisting County Treasurer W. H. Thompson at Aberdeen to hitch three horses to a plow one of the animals kicked him, breaking three ribs loose from the spinal column and driving them through his lung. He died twenty minutes later as a doctor reached him.

The track on State college athletic field at Brookings is receiving its final application of cinders around the entire course. When completed, with a 220-dash straight-away, state will have the speediest sprinting track in South Dakota. The track will be in prime condition for the official state high school meet on May 19.

C. T. Charuck, secretary of the organization of county commissioners of the state perfected at Mitchell last winter, has received word that the legislative committee of the organization will meet in Sioux Falls Tuesday, April 25, and may remain in session for two or three days to discuss legislation regarding good roads and bridges.

William Powers, a former mayor of Yankton, S. D., and a resident of Sioux City for the last two years, died last week at his home in Sioux City. He was 71 years old. He underwent an operation some time ago, and to that is attributed his death. Mr. Powers lived for a number of years in South Dakota and was widely known throughout the state in a business and political way.

Major Leo P. Foster, U. S. A., retired, who recently returned to his old home at Yankton to reside, after being promoted to the rank of major, and then being retired for physical disability, has gone to Sheridan, Wyo., to take up quartermaster duties at Fort McKenzie. Major Foster supposed his military service, begun at the time of the Spanish war, was over, but the government is after experienced men, and he is again in the service.

The club women of Watertown have decided that they want a woman member on the board of education and at a recent meeting named Mrs. Pearl Pope and Mrs. C. W. Sherfy. All the women's clubs were represented at the meeting, an enthusiastic one.

Jesse Kiel of Artesian, S. D., passed the examinations at the United States regular army recruiting station in Aberdeen and made the eleventh man to get through and receive his papers of application for enlistment which he will present at the Jefferson barracks at St. Louis.

LIQUOR ACT INVALID

DAKOTA HIGH COURT HANDS DOWN SALOON RULING—DECISION IN APPEAL CASE.

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

From the Capital City, the Various State Institutions and from Many Different Parts of the Sunshine State.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Pierre.—In the case of the state ex rel Gable vs. Young, on appeal from the circuit court of Beadle county, the court held that the statute prohibiting the sale of liquor within five miles of an incorporated town is unconstitutional on account of insufficiency of the title of the act, but that the legislature has the constitutional right to enact such legislation.

The next legislature will be called upon to cure the defect in the law prohibiting the licensing of saloons within five miles of an incorporated town, which act is void under the decision of the supreme court handed down by Justice Whiting. The attempt to attack the constitutionality of the legislative right to enact such legislation has been turned down, but the present act is declared to be void on account of insufficiency of title.

Want State Aid.

At a meeting of the Boosters and Builders, held at Huron the first part of March, a resolution was passed which pledged the boosters and builders of the state to support the amendment to the state constitution which will be submitted to the people this fall, relative to state aid in building roads and state aid in a rural credit system. This work was left with the various commercial clubs throughout the state who are planning on conducting an extensive campaign in behalf of this amendment. Congress is at the present time contemplating a bill which will make federal aid in road building a possibility. However, this federal aid will not be given to any state unless they contribute an equal amount towards the improvement. It so happens that South Dakota's constitution prohibits the use of state funds in internal improvement. The recent special state legislature, seeing the possibility of the passage of this national bill, and knowing that South Dakota would not be able to receive any benefit therefrom until our constitution was amended, have submitted an amendment to the state constitution, which provides that "the construction and maintenance of good roads and the supplying of coal to the people of the state from the lands belonging to the state are works of necessity and importance in which the state may engage, but no expenditure of money for the same may be made, except by a vote of a two-thirds majority of the legislature," and further provides for a system of rural credits.

Surface Dirt in Gravel.

"Watch out for the surface dirt in gravel pits," suggests Prof. Robertson Cook of the State college engineering department at Brookings. "To get an idea of the amount of dirt in gravel fill a quart Mason jar three and a half inches deep with the material to be tested, throwing out the large stones. Fill the jar nearly full of water and screw cover on tight, using a rubber to insure tight joint. Then shake jar vigorously for two minutes, then let stand for five minutes. Measure the thickness of the layer of dirt which will be plainly seen on top of the coarser material. If this layer is more than three-eighths of an inch thick, the material is probably unfit for use without first being washed. Even less amounts of dirt than this sometimes greatly weaken concrete. This statement that clean, coarse, hard gravel is necessary to make good concrete cannot be too strongly emphasized."

Rhodes Scholar Chosen.

Harold D. Natestad, a graduate of the Sioux Falls high school and former student of the University of South Dakota, has been appointed Rhodes scholar for South Dakota for 1916. The appointment was made at the University of South Dakota at a meeting of President Seaman of Dakota Wesleyan, Warren of Yankton, Gage of Huron and Slagle of the university. Mr. Natestad entered the University of South Dakota in 1911 and after spending two years and a half here finished his course at the University of Chicago. He took the Rhodes scholarship examination in 1914. The appointment gives Mr. Natestad the opportunity for four years study at Oxford or Cambridge together with travel in Europe in the summer.

Primary Rehearing Denied.

Attorney General Caldwell has been advised that the United States supreme court denied a rehearing in the Richards primary case. This is the final disposition of that case, as no other avenue of litigation is open.

Wants to Boost Fares.

The South Dakota Central Railway company has filed with the state railway commission an application for permission to increase its passenger fares to 3 cents a mile.

Rules Out Gundersen Petition.

Judge E. G. Smith of Yankton, president of the supreme court, who has fled his petition for renomination, will be the only candidate in the field, because the petition of C. J. Gunderson of Vermillion, presented to the secretary of state Monday, to be filed as candidate also for this position, has been refused filing, because it lacked about 300 names of having sufficient signatures. The filing of the petitions of judges is under a special nonpartisan act, passed at the 1915 session, and is not under the usual procedure of petitions.

Big Sale of School Lands.

At the annual sale of school lands in Brookings county 2,006 acres were disposed of for an aggregate of \$117,980. The prices paid per acre ranged from \$37.50, the appraised value, to \$32 for choice fortyes. This makes the average price per acre very fair considering the fact that most of the best lands in the county have already been sold. Of the remaining 2,400 acres of unsold lands, 1,800 were leased at prices ranging from 60 cents to \$2.95 per acre. The sale was well attended and at times the bidding was lively. Three were no bids on some of the high-priced lands.

Cummins' Name Filed.

National Committeeman C. H. Burke and A. W. Ewert, manager of the Cummins campaign in this state, April 12 filed with the secretary of state the names of Cummins for president, and E. J. Burkett of Nebraska for vice president as Republican nominees under the state primary act. They also presented the list of delegates to the national convention, which was decided upon at the Mitchell conference.

25,000,000 Pike Eggs.

A shipment of 25,000,000 pike eggs from the federal game department is expected in a short time at Watertown for Lake Kompeska. The eggs will be placed in the state fish hatchery there. The hatchery at Lake Kompeska, which is the first South Dakota's game department has established, is finished. The first spawn from pike in the lake will be secured for this year's hatch.

Better Stallion Day.

South Dakota's "better stallion day" will be observed at 90 points in 44 counties on Saturday, June 3. This feature will be under the direction of the State college extension department, and has for its purpose the stimulation of a desire for better horses. It will be an annual event on the first Saturday in June.

Faculty and Student Replies.

Conforming to a plan carried out in many of the schools and universities of the country, a list of questions dealing with the subject of preparedness, along the same line as the recent University of Minnesota questionnaire, was submitted to the faculty and students of the Northern Normal and Industrial school. Following the plan of the Granger Business School, three questions relating to the licensing of the saloon in Aberdeen (now dry) were also submitted. About 400 students voluntarily answered some or all of the questions.

Thirty-one members of the faculty answered some of the questions as follows: Six favored establishment of compulsory military training in the United States while twenty-five opposed the idea.

Twenty-one think army and navy should be increased; six do not; one favors stronger army; two favor strengthened navy.

Twenty-three favor early action by congress in interests of national defense; seven opposed to such action; one non-committal.

Ten favor larger army than provided in Hay bill; eighteen are opposed to an army larger than 140,000.

Three think this nation is in immediate danger of attack; Japan is the only nation mentioned in this connection; twenty-seven believe this nation to be safe from immediate danger of attack.

Thirty-one voted in favor of a dry Aberdeen.

Of the students 117 favored establishment of compulsory military training in United States; 263 opposed same.

Three hundred and eight believe United States army and navy should be increased; 58 do not believe in the increase. Four think navy alone should be strengthened; one thinks only the army should be built up.

Two hundred and eighty-five favor early action by congress in the interests of national defense; 75 are opposed to such action.

One hundred and ninety-three believe that the United States should have larger standing army than 140,000; 135 are opposed to an army larger than 140,000.

Sixty-six students think this nation is in immediate danger of attack; 29 of these fear Mexico; 15 Japan; 15 Germany; 3 European countries; 2 England; 1 the Allies.

Two hundred and eighty believe there is no immediate danger of attack.

Interest in Good Roads.

With the soft roads of spring the "good roads" problem is receiving a great deal of attention in this state and one township in the eastern part of the state has started right on road improvement by voting bonds in sufficient amount to put the main roads of the township in first class shape for travel at all seasons. The policy of most sections of the state appears to be toward centralizing as much as local conditions will permit upon main highways to market and county seat towns.