THIS kind of weather gives the taxpayers an opportunity to see where the "good roads" money has—or has not—been expended.

The Topeka State Journal.

THE Villa capture movement will furnish valuable maneuvers for the army—and will really test its efficiency.

HOME EDITION | TOPEKA, KANSAS, MONDAY EVENING, MARCH 13, 1916—TEN PAGES | THIS EDITION 2 CENTS

RAILROADS LACK CARS TO CARRY TROOPERS

U. S. Soldiers Are Rushed to Front in Box Cars.

Funston Calls Out All Army but Six Regiments.

AERO SQUADRON DISPATCHED

Carranza Offers 40,000 Pesos for Villa's Body.

Kansas General Says He May Summons Militia.

San Antonio, Tex., March 13.—Shortage of rolling stock, Gen. Frederick Funston today said, was hindering the concentration of cavalry at the base of operations and this was one reason why a movement today was unlikely. The fault, he said, lay with the railroads west of El Paso.

"We have even had to transport men in box cars," he declared.

"If this had been merely an infantry expedition we would have been into Mexico on Villa's very heels," he continued. "But this is largely a cavalry movement and that is why there has been delay."

Light was thrown on the size of the expeditionary forces by the general, who said:

"When this movement is completed there will be only six or eight regiments left in the United States other than those troops stationed along the border for patrol duty."

There is little likelihood of militia being called on to aid the regular army unless there should be a turn in events that would necessitate a more important expedition into Mexico than the punitive expedition planned.

Would Call Out Entire Army.

"Of course," said the general, "if the Carranza government were unable to control the situation and there should be general opposition in Mexico to the entrance of American soldiers, the entire regular army would have to be employed in the movement and part of the militia, too.

"Patrol duty along the border would be delegated to the militia."

It was made clear that this eventuality tas not expected. There will be no infantry or cavalry movement from Fort Sam Houston for the present, it was announced today.

The first aero squadron, Capt. Benjamin D. Foulois commanding, went forward to El Paso this morning. The developments in the Mexican situation will not affect the citizens' training camp to be held here from June 12 to July 8. At army headquarters it was reported that the turn of affairs had stimulated interest in the camp, and that applications for registration were pouring in daily. Plans for the affair are going ahead.

Not Cross Border Today.

No movement of the expeditionary force which will search for Francisco Villa is probable today, Major General Funston announced. The general said, however, that preparations for the expedition were going right ahead despite General Carranza's notification to the Washington government that he would not consent to American troops entering Mexico unless Carranza troops were allowed to enter the United States.

It was announced that Brigadier General John J. Pershing will command the expeditionary forces. General Funston said that he had received no notification from Washington to hold back the expedition while negotiations were completed with General Carranza. It was not believed though that General Carranza's statement would have great bearing on the situ-

(Continued on Page 2.)

BEG SEPARATE PEACE

Asia Minor People Petition Turk Throne to Conclude War.

London, March 13.—An Athens dispatch says according to information received there from Constantinople the population of Brussa and other cities of Asia Minor have addressed memorials to Prince Vahid Eddine, the Turkish heir apparent, begging him to urge upon the sultan the necessity of changing the present government in order to prepare the way for the conclusion of a separate peace for Turkey.

Osborn Jury Finished.

White Plains, N. Y., March 13.—The selection of a jury to try Thomas Mott Osborn, former warden of Sing Sing prison, on a charge of perjury found against him in connection with the recent investigation into the administration of the prison, was completed today.

CHICAGO SOCIETY WOMEN READY TO BECOME NURSES

Chicago, Ill., March 13.—More than a score of Chicago society women have taken a course for war nurses at a local hospital and are in readiness to go to the Mexican front in the case war is declared, it was learned today. They have passed the government examination for war nurses and have already volunteered their services.

Baby's Prattle a Sidelight On Tragedy of War

London, March 13.—The following sidelight on war was seen on a London street today. A British officer, carrying his arm in a sling, was preparing to step off a street car when a young woman, dressed in deep mourning, a baby in her arms, stepped on the platform. The child cried "Daddy" with embarrassing enthusiasm on seeing the officer. The passengers giggled, the officer blushed but tears rushed into the eyes of the young widow. In an instant the tragedy of war was revealed to everybody. The wounded officer drew himself up stiffly and saluted the baby. This tribute to the dead father froze any further merriment and the incident was closed.

SARGENT IS DEAD

Well Known Topekan Stricken While Standing Near Auto.

Was Prominent in Building Circles Over Country.

Just before stepping into his automobile Sunday morning, preparatory to going to church, John Sargent, head of the Sargent cut stone works,

John Sargent, prominent contractor who died Sunday.

was stricken suddenly with apoplexy and died within a few minutes. Mrs. Sargent was with him at the time and summoned aid, but Mr. Sargent was dead before neighbors reached his side. He was 67 years old.

Surviving him are his wife, and one son, John R. Sargent, who was associated with him in the Sargent Stone company and one brother, William H. Sargent of Owen, Wis.

John Sargent was born at Barnstaple, North Devonshire, England, August 28, 1849. He was educated in the public schools of that country

(Continued on Page 2.)

ITS PEACE PLAN

Germany's Demands Divulged Through Col. House.

No Indemnities on Either Side; Restore Belgium.

Washington, March 13.—President Wilson, it is understood on good authority, has in hand without any definite use to make of them, the peace terms that are likely to be heard from Germany if the crown prince takes Verdun.

Colonel House, shortly after his return from Germany, it is said, laid before the president, Germany's tentative proposals as modified by recent months of warfare. Colonel House did not go to Berlin to discuss possible terms of peace, but it is said he did receive an outline of the German view of a proper settlement following the end of the war.

Get Back Colonies.

The terms Germany would consider, confirmed by high German authority here, provide:

German colonies taken by the entente allies be returned to Germany.

That no indemnities be demanded by either side.

That Montenegro, Serbia and Albania be divided between Austria, Bulgaria and Greece.

That an autonomous government be established in Poland.

That Turkey be entirely freed of British influence.

That Germany return Belgium and those parts of France now in possession of the kaiser's armies.

That England remain as she now is, neither giving nor receiving anything.

A high German official said that both sides "ought to pretty thoroughly understand by this time that there should be no demand for indemnity."

SMELTERS FROM MEXICO

Americans Arrive in Laredo, Texas, From Monterey and Matehula.

New York, March 13.—All American employees of the American Smelting & Refining company, have been withdrawn from Mexico it was announced by the company today. The men arrived at Laredo, Texas, yesterday from smelting plants at Monterey and Matehula.

Elect Williams Captain.

Columbia, Mo., March 13.—Fred Williams of Kansas City today was chosen captain of the 1917 basketball team of the University of Missouri. He has been one of the Tiger stars this season.

CARRANZA OFFER IS ACCEPTED

Reach Reciprocal Agreement to Cross Border.

President Sends De Facto Chief Word This P. M.

REMOVES STUBBORN OBSTACLE

Mexico Considered It U. S. Evidence of Good Faith.

Now Either Army Can Cross in Chase of Villa.

Washington, March 13.—The United States this afternoon accepted General Carranza's proposal for a reciprocal agreement by which either his troops or American troops may pursue bandits on either side of the border. A note of acceptance was sent forward to General Carranza at Queretaro.

No Hostile Intentions.

Army officials who studied the Carranza manifesto were convinced that it was not intended as a communication to the United States in a hostile sense. The head of the defacto government, they pointed out, was in a delicate political position, forced to satisfy conflicting elements among his own adherents in whatever course he pursues. It was admitted, however, that if Carranza enforced the sentiments expressed in his manifesto the pursuit of Villa might be hampered seriously.

Wilson's Message Waits.

One question confronting President Wilson is that of reaching a decision as to whether or not it would be wise to lay the Mexican situation before congress at this time. The president himself is understood to have been inclined to do so immediately after the cabinet meeting last Friday, when it was decided to send troops in pursuit of Villa. Some of his advisers, however, have felt that the action might be misconstrued in Mexico and the expedition to pursue the bandits be magnified into the advance guard of a movement to police all northern Mexico. Great stress had been laid by all administration officials on the purely punitive character of the expedition that is to be sent over the border.

General Funston was assembling his forces somewhere on the border today, and three regiments of cavalry and one of infantry were rushing to his support from widely scattered points in the United States. The cavalry was ordered out at his request Saturday night, some from the Pacific coast, some from the middle west and some from the south. The infantry regiment, the Twenty-third, now at Galveston, has been under orders to be in readiness for several days. It will go to El Paso and then be assigned by General Funston to border duty.

Fear More Bandit Raids.

Secretary Baker explained the movement of the Twenty-third by saying great apprehension was felt in many border towns that the Columbus raid might be repeated. It is proposed to give General Funston ample force, both for expedition and to protect the border residents. While strictest secrecy was maintained by the war department as to the force General Funston had designated to pursue Villa, information from the border pointed to a force of cavalry, mountain artillery and engineers which would total between 5,000 and 6,000 men.

Would Swap Privilege.

Mexico City, March 13.—General Carranza last night issued a declaration that under no circumstances would Mexico grant the right to the United States to send in armed forces to capture Villa without consent and the reciprocal privilege being first obtained. Orders were sent to the confidential agent of the Mexican government in Washington to make immediate representations to this effect.

The news of the attack on Columbus by Villa and his followers was first made public here yesterday, when the official organ, El Democrata, published the text of the note of the Mexican government, asking the government at Washington to permit the passage of Mexican soldiers into American territory, if such became necessary in the pursuit of Villa and at the same time granting to the United States the reciprocal privilege of entering Mexican territory for the same purpose.

The text of the note to General Carranza will be made public later today, acmompanied by a statement which, it is understood, will set forth that the United States is not intervening in Mexican affairs but is acting to obviate the necessity of doing so.

Endorse Agreement.

Senator Borah, Republican, of the foreign relations committee who has been one of the strongest opponents of the administratino's Mexican policy, said he saw no reason why General Carranza's reciprocal proposition should not be accepted. Senator Fall, Republican, of New Mexico, although opposed to the agreement, said he would do nothing to prevent it being carried out or to stay the United States army in striking against Mexican outlaws.

Senator Borah gave President Wilson's determination to send troops across the border to capture outlaws his full endorsement, but declared it would be the height of folly for the congress to press preparations for war when no one could tell what the present military action might lead to. All Central America, he said, was apprehensive over the movement of American troops south of the Rio Grande.

REAL PROTEST BY REEL MEN IN FILM REALM

Kansas Movie Producers Are Up Against Censorship.

Pay Fees Under Protest and Then File Their Suit.

TRY TO UPSET PRESENT LAW

Follow Out Course of Oil Inspection Row.

Another State Revenue Producer Is in Danger.

Kansas is now preparing to say good-bye to moving picture censorship fees. Under an agreement by producers in all sections of the country, fees are now being paid to the state under protest and not one dollar from the inspection department can be turned into the general revenue fund of the state. Following the state wide meeting of the movie men in Wichita March 20, it is probable that suit will be filed in an effort to establish the unconstitutionality of the fee provision of the censorship law.

Action will be taken by the movie men in accordance with the program of the oil producers. Recently the Kansas supreme court said the fee provision in the oil inspection law was unconstitutional because it produced a revenue of $120,000 a year from the inspection of 1,200,000 barrels of oil and gasoline. Now the movie producers will attack the law as a revenue measure because the state earned a profit of $11,385.29 from the inspection of 4,840 films.

There will be no love and friendship spirit when the movie producers and the state censorship department enter the courts. If the state loses its case, the movie men will not make a contribution to Kansas—in addition to the policies of the oil men—but will say things about Superintendent Ross and the Rev. Festus Foster that no newspaper will quote in full.

Producers Are Holding Out.

Following the plan of attack on the fee provision of the state movie censorship act, the producers are now withholding from Kansas some of their better feature attractions. None of the really big films are now coming to Kansas. The really high class attractions on the screen in this state are old productions and news has been sent to Topeka that Kansas movie fans will take such offerings as producers care to send and may make the most of it. A number of film stars have vigorously protested against the action of Kansas censors and one report has been sent to the effect that several stars have stipulated in their contracts that their films shall not be shown in this state if deleted by censors.

Kansas movie men will hold their state convention in Wichita March 20. At that time they will talk over the troubles that have occasioned distress and sorrow and anger. They will also take action concerning a suit to upset the present state law. Without fees, there is no money available with which to maintain the inspection department, unless revenues already derived can be made available. In the oil inspection case, the department was supported by a direct legislative appropriation. The picture film department, though, must earn its own way.

ON FOURTH WEEK

Verdun Battle Centers at Vaux and Bethincourt.

Germans Now Admit They Don't Hold Ft. Vaux.

BY CHARLES P. STEWART.

London, March 13.—The battle of Verdun entered its fourth week today with intense artillery battling around Forts Douaumont and Vaux and at Bethincourt, on the left bank of the Meuse, evidently in preparation for heavy infantry fighting.

The Germans searched out the French front all day Sunday with a terrific hail of steel projectiles. The French accepted the cannonading as the forerunner of renewed attacks against Fort Vaux and positions northwest of Verdun and made ready to meet the assault.

Berlin's First Admission.

Dispatches from Berlin today contained the first admission from German sources that the Teutons no longer held Fort Vaux. An official statement two days ago admitted that the French, by counter attacks, had gained a foothold in the fort. Major Moraht, military critic of the Berlin Tageblaat, reports that the Posen reservists who occupied Fort Vaux were driven out but expresses the hope that their repulse is only temporary.

Paris dispatches brought a detailed account of the fighting for Fort Vaux. They credited the Germans with great bravery but repeated the official claim that no German soldier entered the fort.

"INVITED" INTO WAR

Portugal Accepted Great Britain's Bid on Strength of Old Treaty.

Washington, March 13.—Portugal entered the war, the Portuguese legation announced today, because Great Britain requested her to do so in fulfilment of treaty obligations dating back to 1373. Portugal did not enter the war before, the Portuguese minister announced, because Great Britain had not called on her to do so.

KANSAS BANKS BREAK RECORD FOR DEPOSITS

Increase of More Than $6,300,000 Over Last Year.

967 State, 219 National Banks Show Total of $232,978,254.

GAIN IN LOAN AND DISCOUNTS

Corresponding Demand for Cash With Increase.

"Taking Money From One Pocket, and Into Another."

Kansas state and national banks on December 31, 1915, broke all records for deposits, according to a combined statement prepared today by W. W. Bowman, secretary of the Kansas Bankers' association. The report covering 967 state and 219 national banks, shows $232,978,254.98 in deposits—an increase of more than $6,300,000 over the combined report of June 23, 1915, the previous high record for Kansas.

Both state and national banks made big gains in deposits during the six months' period. State bank deposits jumped from $129,918,798.31 to $134,673,656.74. Deposits in national banks in June amounted to $96,747,365.48, as against a December showing of $98,304,598.24. The combined showing was $226,666,163.79 as against $232,978,254.98 in December. Total assets of the 1,168 banks increased from $293,492,869.90 in June to $305,732,085.90 in December.

Jump in Loans and Discounts.

Loans and discounts took a tremendous jump in the period from June to December, indicating that the big increase in deposits, there was at all times a corresponding demand for cash and that the banks were in a most prosperous condition.

The report for June showed loans and discounts of $184,724,969.30. In December the loans and discounts of the state and national banks had increased to $204,462,612.85. This reduction in the reserve of the banks was in no manner a weakening of the financial condition of the banks, as the reserve is yet strong and above the legal requirements. "The showing is merely the taking of money from one pocket and putting it in another," explained Bowman.

Showing in Figures.

The showing of the Kansas banks, both state and national, was as follows:

Resources.

	State.	National.	Total.
Loans and discounts	$123,159,590.45	$ 81,303,412.41	$204,462,612.86
Overdrafts	318,393.96	152,691.05	471,085.01
Bank Bldg. furniture and fixtures	4,199,697.97	2,779,116.51	6,978,814.48
Other real estate	1,298,095.08	728,378.33	2,026,473.41
United States bonds	.....	11,014,900.00	11,014,900.00
Other bonds and warrants	4,638,421.52	5,610,980.33	10,249,401.85
Stocks—other than federal reserve bank	.....	192,862.58	192,862.58
Guaranty fund with state treas.	459,788.18	.....	459,788.18
Subscriptions to stock in federal reserve bank	.....	575,300.00	575,300.00
Cash and sight exchange	37,287,422.37	30,644,284.92	67,931,707.29
Five per cent redemption fund	.....	512,157.73	512,157.73
Liability under acceptances and letters of credit	.....	13,428.54	13,428.54
Other resources	831,851.65	11,610.52	843,462.17
Totals	$172,193,070.98	$133,539,012.92	$305,732,083.90

Liabilities.

	State.	National.	Total.
Capital stock	$ 20,372,000.00	$ 12,671,341.95	$ 33,023,341.95
Surplus	8,991,750.08	6,641,168.83	15,632,919.51
Undivided profits	3,427,060.27	2,964,231.83	6,391,391.10
Deposits	134,673,656.74	98,304,598.24	232,978,254.98
Dividends unpaid	143,885.00	234,755.71	378,618.71
Letters of credit	.....	5,940.00	5,940.00
Bills rediscounted, bills payable	3,665,170.29	2,423,190.35	6,088,860.64
Bonds borrowed	.....	172,210.00	172,210.00
Stockholders reserve	675,978.35	.....	675,978.35
Circulation	.....	10,118,795.00	10,118,795.00
Other liabilities	263,052.65	2,721.01	265,773.66
Totals	$172,193,070.98	$133,539,012.92	$305,732,083.90

PLOT ON COAST?

Monterey Presidio Is Destroyed by Big Blaze.

Water Supply Cut—Troops Left 6 Hours Before.

Monterey, Cal., March 13.—The presidio was totally destroyed by fire early today about six hours after being vacated by troops of the First cavalry who left for the Mexican border.

Firemen attempting to extinguish the flames found that the water supply had been cut.

An investigation was started immediately. Monterey was the Spanish and Mexican capital of California and the presidio occupies the site of the ancient military headquarters. The post consisted of ld wooden barracks sufficient to accommodate a regiment. These were of the type common at the presidio of San Francisco where several persons, including the wife and three daughters of Brigadier General John J. Pershing were burend to death.

The headquarters safe and the contents of the postoffice were saved; all other records were destroyed. Major James G. Harboard in charge of the post refused to discuss the origin of the fire until he had made his own investigation. Much weight was given by military authorities to the fact that the fire started in the headquarters building.

IS HELD FOR RANSOM

El Paso Cattlemen Kidnaped by Bandits Who Demand $1,500.

El Paso, March 13.—A report that Juan Bilboa, an American cattleman of El Paso, is being held for $1,500 ransom in northern Mexico, was received here today. Business associates of Bilboa have gone to the Big Bend country in Texas, about 200 miles east of here to investigate. The place of the alleged kidnaping was a few miles across the Mexican border from the Big Bend section.

National Bank Call.

Washington, March 13.—National bank call for Tuesday March 7 was made today.

SECOND IN COMMAND ON THE BORDER

Brigadier General J. J. Pershing.

Brigadier General J. J. Pershing, in command of the army headquarters at El Paso, is second in power to General Funston on the Mexican border. He saw service in the Spanish-American war and in the Philippines during the insurrection.

2000 MEX NEARBY

Reinforcements Augment De Facto Armed Camp.

Just Across Border From 1,100 American Soldiers.

Columbus, March 13.—Actual concentration of United States troops for an expedition into Mexico to try to capture Francisco Villa, was begun today.

From the very troop movements to Columbus it would seem, according to officers on station here, that this point is to be made a base of operations.

It was believed here that John J. Pershing, brigadier general commanding the Eighth brigade, would be designated to take charge of expeditionary forces and would make Columbus his headquarters. The force of General Pablo Bertani, commanding the Carranza garrison at Palomas on the Mexican side of the border south of here, was increased today by the arrival of 800 men, bringing his forces to a total 2,000. By tonight or tomorrow it is expected that the American garrison here of 1,100 men will be augmented by the arrival of two regiments of infantry, a signal company, a hospital detachment and some more men from Fort Bliss and a battery of the Sixth field artillery from Nogales. Two squadrons of the Twelfth cavalry from Fort Robinson, Neb., are expected later.

More Artillery Arrives.

A battery of the Sixth field artillery consisting of 132 men equipped with four 3-inch fields guns and twelve caissons arrived today from Nogales, Ariz. Large stores of supplies for field service also were received. The second section of the Fourth field artillery from Fort Bliss with 400 men under command of Col. L. G. Berry, with the six mountain guns, also arrived.

Hospital Corps to Border.

Fort Riley, Kan., March 13.—Major William R. Eastman and Captain Larry B. McAfee of the medical corps, with a detachment of men of the Fort Riley hospital corps, left Sunday for Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Tex., to report for duty on the border.

EMBARGO ON ARMS

United States Puts Lid on at San Francisco.

Big Shipments Recently From New York to Carranza.

San Francisco, March 13.—An embargo on shipment of war munitions from this port to Mexican points was declared today by John O. Davis, collector of the port, in accordance with instructions from Washington.

New York, March 13.—Large quantities of small arms ammunition have been recently shipped from this port to Mexico. The Esperanza, which left here for Vera Cruz last Thursday, carried 500,000 rounds of rifle ammunition for the Caranza government officials of the line said today. The steamer touched at Havana today and is due at Vera Cruz Thursday. Steamship officials said they had received no orders from the United States government relative to the shipment of arms or ammunition.

Washington, March 13.—The arms embargo orders affect only San Francisco, Nogales and Los Angeles, the gateways to Chihuahua, Sonora and Lower California. No general embargo on arms to Mexico has been ordered.

Borah Spurs Senate.

Washington, March 13.—Senator Borah, Republican urged the senate today to drop all other legislation and immediately consider the national preparedness program in view of consequences that might arise from the decision to pursue General Villa in Mexico.

TOUCH OF SUMMER

The Mercury Climbed to 78 Degrees This Afternoon.

A reversion to March weather is the outlook today, following a short period of midsummer weather. All high temperature records for this early in the year were shattered Sunday and this morning was still warm. Tonight the mercury is expected to go near the freezing point at Topeka.

The forecast calls for partly cloudy and colder weather tonight and Tuesday; probably unsettled Tuesday. Temperatures of 26 to 30 degrees for 36-hour shipments north and west are promised by the shippers' forecast. Temperatures east and south will be above freezing.

Sunday afternoon the mercury climbed to 87 degrees, although the morning was cold. At no time since the records have been kept here has the temperature reached so high a point at this time of the year. At 6 o'clock this morning the minimum reading of the twenty-four hours was reached. The temperature at that time was 40 degrees. The mercury climbed rapidly after that, and by 10 o'clock had reached 51 degrees. Tomorrow the temperature probably will not go above 50.

The mercury this afternoon reached 77 degrees at 2 o'clock, breaking the high temperature record for this date. This reading is only 10 degrees below the high mark of Sunday which broke all records for this time of the year.

Temperatures today averaged 19 degrees above normal. The wind blew at the rate of 12 miles an hour from the northwest. Following are hourly temperature readings for the day furnished by the weather bureau:

7 o'clock	42	11 o'clock	62
8 o'clock	43	12 o'clock	66
9 o'clock	50	1 o'clock	76
10 o'clock	59	2 o'clock	77
		3 o'clock	78

SOLDIERS MOBILIZE TODAY AT COLUMBUS

Pursuit of Villa Launched From Massacre Scene.

Fifty-Seven Cars of Artillery, 1,100 Men, Arrive.

BORDER ALIVE WITH TROOPS

Not Puzzled at Carranza Tactics, Say Officers.

De Facto Claim To Be Drawing Net About Bandits.

El Paso, March 13.—Daylight revealed the beginning today of the expeditionary force which the United States army is gathering along the border west of here for the pursuit of Francisco Villa. Sixty machine guns unloaded during the night were ready at Columbus, the scene of Villa's raid and the first armed camp to develop evidences that it has been selected as one of the starting points for a pursuit column.

Fifty-seven carloads of battery mules and transport animals, also arrivals of the night, gave out evidence that more guns were coming. Eleven hundred men were in the Columbus camp this morning.

Along the border, troops were reported as passing during the night at various points. Several troops of cavalry were reported in readiness for action. A column entering Mexico from the Arizona border points would have a fairly direct route to the mountain passes in Sonora, throng which it has been expected Villa might escape.

Nogales reported a few cannon had been discovered in the Mexican territory facing the American border near here. But elsewhere along the line where the American troops were gathering no signs of disquieting activity along the Mexican side were reported.

Two Thousand Carranzistas Near.

Reports here that army officers at Columbus were puzzled at the attitude of Carranza troops a few miles across the boundary were flatly denied upon investigation. The army information

(Continued on Page 2.)

KEEP NATION AT PEACE

President Wilson Tells Delegation of His Greatest Wish.

Washington, March 13.—President Wilson told a delegation of Scandinavians today that nothing was nearer his heart than keeping the United States out of war. To was assured by leaders of the delegation that his effort in behalf of peace had been strongly approved throughout the country. In reply the president said:

"This is a particularly courteous and gracious thing for you to do—to come to see me and bring me this cheering message of approval and support. I can assure you that nothing is nearer my heart than keeping this country out of war and doing anything that the United States can do to show its preference for peace and for justice, and for the things that make it impossible that nations should fight one another, real understandings and friendship and fair dealing.

"You may rest assured that it cheers me very much that you should come and utter this word of encouragement."

OUT WITH PETITIONS

Commercial Club Will Canvass City Thursday and Friday.

Members of the Commercial club will canvass the entire city either Thursday or Friday afternoon to obtain signatures to the fireproof auditorium and new city jail petitions. Meantime, others will circulate the petitions in the business districts.

The petitions are now prepared and several hundred names were obtained this morning and afternoon. Both the auditorium and city jail projects are embodied in the petition. The city jail will take $22,500 of the $100,000 bond issue and the fireproof auditorium $77,500.

If the election carries it is probable that the issue will be floated for thirty years. In this event it will cost each $1,000 property owner 10 cents a year for thirty years to retire the bonds.

"Dry" Leader Dies at 86.

Carrollton, Mo., March 13.—William S. Crouch, prominent as a temperance worker and at one time the Prohibition nominee for lieutenant governor of Missouri, died here, aged 86 years.

Weather Forecast for Kansas.

Partly cloudy and colder tonight and Tuesday; probably unsettled Tuesday.

PARIS SAYS ENEMY LOST 200,000 IN THREE WEEKS

Paris, March 13.—German losses in the first three weeks of the Verdun offensive were estimated at 200,000 in an official statement issued by the French war office today.