

CITES JAP PERIL

Swiss Army Head Hands U. S. Military Advice.

Must Have Larger Navy Than Japan.

ACT QUICK IN MEX TROUBLE

Give Commanders on Border Power to Act.

Eliminate Red Tape—Recommends Swiss System.

BY WILLIAM G. SHEPHERD. Bern, Switzerland, March 19.—To handle the Mexican problem, the United States needs border commanders with the power to act on their own initiative in crises such as the Villa raid, Colonel Sprecher, chief of the Swiss general staff, told this correspondent. To meet other more serious international situations, he may arise at any hour, the United States needs a stronger navy than Japan, a large standing army to guard her coast and borders, and military training for her youth, he added.

The Swiss military leader is one of the most expert military men of Europe. He shows evidence of having made the closest study of American military problems. An earnest advocate of the "Swiss system" for his own republic, he believes the system should be modified if introduced into the United States.

About Columbus Raid. I asked Colonel Sprecher how the Swiss military system would have helped America in the Mexican crisis. It would not have prevented Villa's raid on Columbus, he said.

"But wouldn't the citizens of Columbus have been soldiers with a commander to call them to service?" he was asked.

"No," he said. "The district commander would have been obliged to get orders from the government of his canton before acting. Switzerland is small. Our troops move quickly. You would be obliged to modify the system to suit your size. For example, you need commanders along the border with power to act on their own initiative in such a situation as the Villa incident."

Under Swiss System. "Under the Swiss system, wouldn't all citizen soldiers in the border states have been called to arms first, in case of actual war with Mexico and forced to fight in behalf of the remainder of the Americans?" he was asked.

"Yes, the border troops would meet the brunt of battle in the border states, but it would be the duty of the government to see that troops elsewhere rushed to the scene to reinforce them and relieve the border contingents."

"But suppose the New Yorkers and the citizen soldiers of Illinois felt that the Texans should take care of themselves and did not want to go?"

"There is no unwillingness in a real army," said Colonel Sprecher, "but the question you raise naturally grows out of the immensity of America. The Swiss feel that what happens to one part of the country concerns all."

Must Excel Japan's Navy. "The Swiss system if introduced in America needs a huge change, but the first thing is to get military training started. Other questions can be settled as you go along."

"In America you will always need a large standing army to guard your coasts and borders. To this you must add a stronger navy than Japan's to keep you safe."

You ought to have immense military supplies along your coasts and borders, but not close enough to allow enemy landing forces to capture them. They ought to be back a good ways, surrounded by strong entrenchments. A large force ought to guard the Panama canal, and you ought to be able to augment your ten thousand or more troops in the Philippines at a moment's notice."

VANGIL HEADS GIDEONS

Topeka Man Is President of the State Organization.

C. A. Vancil of Topeka was elected president of the Kansas Gideon's annual convention here Saturday and Sunday. C. J. Allen of Hutchinson was chosen first vice president; C. J. Smith, Wichita, second vice president; John Hess, Chanute, third vice president; Henry Huntminger, Parsons, fourth vice president; John S. Wylie, Topeka, secretary and treasurer, and J. C. Ellis of Norton, chaplain.

A banquet was held at the Young Men's Christian association Saturday night followed by an evening of addresses. Mr. Vancil acted as toastmaster. On Sunday morning they all

Soon Be Gone Those Wonderful Illinois Watches at the low price of only \$12.50 (17 Jewel, 25 year Gold Case.)

TWO BRYAN TREATS

Commoner May Have to Occupy Y. M. C. A. Room.

William Jennings Bryan will favor Topeka with two oratorical treats.

As the guest of honor at a "grape juice banquet" given by the Current Topic club of the Y. M. C. A. Bryan will give forth the utterances on unpreparedness that he hasn't time to include in his regular lecture at the high school auditorium Tuesday evening.

Admission to the banquet will be by invitation to club members and a few guests only, as the seating and eating facilities of the Central Y. M. C. A. will not accommodate more than 150 people.

There is a chance that the lecturer may occupy a room at the Y. M. C. A. as members of the Republican state convention have pre-empted most of the available hotel accommodations.

The local manager of the chautauqua course under the auspices of which Bryan will address Topeka has asked that a room be saved for him. The regular date of the weekly dinner given by the Current Topic club is Tuesday evening for the occasion.

RUMANIA TO KICK IN

If It Joins Allies, Greece's Predicament Is More Vexatious.

Athens, March 19.—The impression prevails in high political circles at Athens that Roumania will shortly abandon her policy of neutrality in favor of the entente allies.

Should Roumania enter the war Greek officials would be placed in an embarrassing position, the force of which already is felt. Military representatives of the entente allies do not discuss the fact that at present they have no need for Greece and do not desire to assume responsibility for maintenance and equipment of the Greek army unless they are assured definitely of co-operation in the event of an allied offensive in Macedonia.

The course of the fighting at Verdun has produced a marked impression on even the most determined non-interventionists, and the royalist press is changing its tone in regard to the participation of Greece in the war.

The feeling of allied diplomatists seems to be that if Greece desires to do so on her own initiative and with no conditions with respect to territorial compensation.

CONVICTS GET DRUGS

Investigating Supply, U. S. Detectives Seize Large Supply in Mo. "Pen."

Jefferson City, March 19.—Three government investigators have been here for several days working on the charges that morphine and heroin tablets have been sold in large quantities to convicts in the Missouri state prison here. The charges will be taken up by federal court in St. Louis today, and persons in St. Louis and Detroit probably will be involved.

Within the past week, government agents have seized 3,309 heroin tablets at the prison.

Weekly Bank Clearings. New York, March 20.—Bank clearings in the United States for the week ending March 18 as reported to Bradstreet's aggregate \$4,634,420,000, against \$4,532,054,000 the previous week and \$3,934,968,000 in the corresponding week last year.

Table with columns: City, Amount, Inc. Per. Cities include New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, London, Kansas City, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, Minneapolis, Los Angeles, Omaha, New Orleans, Milwaukee, Louisville, Atlanta, St. Paul, Seattle, Portland, Ore., Buffalo, Richmond, Denver, Houston, Indianapolis, Toledo, Des Moines, Wichita, Sioux City, Oklahoma, Little Rock, Lincoln, TOPEKA.

RUINED BY VILLA

Outlook in Chihuahua Was Bright Before the Raid.

Conditions in Chihuahua, Mexico, were beginning to assume a more aspect just before Villa staged the little raid that sent this government into Mexico after him, according to a letter received by Frank Dickerson of Topeka, from his father, W. P. Dickerson, who has a candy factory in Chihuahua.

Prospect for fairly regular train service looked good, according to Mr. Dickerson, and residents in and about Chihuahua believed that the government would soon be able to drive the bandits out of the country. All trains between the city and El Paso were accompanied by military escorts, but it was generally believed that safe traveling would be possible within a month, Mr. Dickerson said.

While industry was practically at a standstill, preparations were being made to reopen a number of plants. The electric plant was operating with only occasional breaks for lack of fuel. Steps also were taken to operate street cars and the ice plants again, he said.

The American consul had just returned to Chihuahua when Mr. Dickerson wrote his letter and Americans were beginning to straggle into the city. Few automobiles are seen in the city now, according to Dickerson. New government officials were far less extravagant than the old regime, he says, and practically all Mexican citizens who owned automobiles are now out of the country.

Notice. To whom it may concern: This is to notify the merchants of the city of Topeka and elsewhere that from this time on we will not be responsible for any bills or accounts contracted by my wife, Zura Elizabeth Wright. LINLEY A. WRIGHT. (Adv.)

QUIT VILLA CHASE

If Bandit Reaches Lair U. S. Troops May Be Withdrawn.

Mexican Unrest Likely to Cause Change of Policy.

LONG OCCUPATION DANGEROUS

Washington Hears First Intimation of Retraction.

War Secretary Modifies Statement Made by Wilson.

Washington, March 19.—The statement made in high official quarters today that unless Villa is caught before he reaches a place of hiding in his mountain strongholds, the American troops may be withdrawn without capturing the bandit chief.

This was the first intimation given that there is any alternative considered short of fulfilling what has been accepted as a primary object of the campaign—to "take Villa dead or alive."

To retire from Mexico without capturing Villa would be a blow to American pride, officials admit and would be discouraging to the army, especially to the officers on the border engaged in the Villa pursuit. For this reason the administration is using its utmost efforts to speed up the campaign against Villa. The determination to catch Villa before he can retire into the mountain fastnesses inspired the orders sent to General Funston to hurry the punitive expedition.

President's Statement. In the first announcement of the expedition into Mexico, President Wilson said:

An adequate force will be sent at once in pursuit of Villa with the single object of capturing him and putting a stop to his forays."

Secretary of War Baker later modified this by issuing a statement that troops would be sent in "to locate and disperse or capture the band or bands that attacked Columbus, Mo."

Mr. Baker added that "so soon as the forces of the de facto government can take control of the situation, any forces of the United States then remaining in Mexico will of course be withdrawn."

At the outset, army officers understood the orders to mean that, once in Mexico, the troops would not be withdrawn until Villa had been taken. There was considerable surprise therefore at intimations today that the expedition may be permitted to retire without accomplishing its primary object.

The menacing situation in interior Mexico has brought administration officials to realize that serious danger would be faced if the American troops remain long in Mexico. Reports that Villa forces had routed Carranza troops in a three-day battle near Torreon, and the news of desertions from the battlefield and of defections to Carranzistas to join Villa had a discouraging effect.

Reports from General Funston giving an encouragement to hopes of the early capture of Villa was discouraging.

It was in discussion of the probability that Villa might reach the mountain fastnesses before his pursuers overtake him that the first intimations were given today that the Villa chase may not be pushed to the end.

The statement was then made by the chief of police of Wichita that Funston's orders were to disperse Villa. It was pointed out that Villa has spent most of his life in the mountains of northern Mexico and knows every foot of ground and every cavern and hiding place in those mountains.

It was recalled that Diaz, while president had ruerules in pursuit of Villa for twenty years without capturing him when Villa was wanted for murders and bandit raids.

Army staff officers are pinning their faith in the ability of the American cavalrymen to capture Villa before he can reach a place of safety. They expressed the greatest confidence in the ability of General Pershing to push his campaign at a speed that will reach Villa off his feet.

"Black Jack Pershing is the greatest man killer in the army," a staff officer said today. "I say this entirely in a complimentary sense. When he is in the field he has not the slightest regard for human flesh. He will drive his forces to the utmost in the pursuit of Villa."

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One hundred and twenty-five persons were present.

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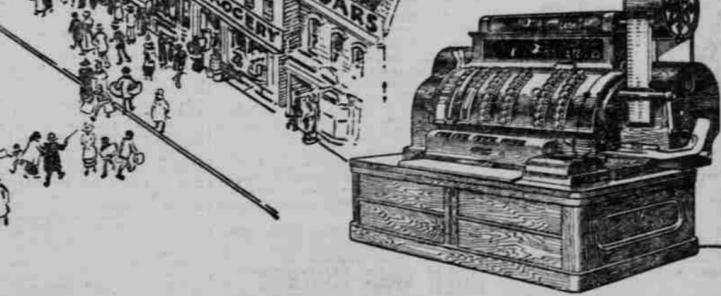
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