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"SINISTER INFLUENCES" ARE NOW AT WORK

Wilson Issues Warning Against Machinations of Unscrupulous Coterie.

URGES CARE AND HONESTY

President Points Out That Wild or Malicious Stories May Force America and Mexico Near to War.

President Wilson to-night issued warning that "sinister and unscrupulous influences" are spreading alarmist reports about the Mexican situation with the object of forcing intervention by the United States "in the interest of certain American owners of Mexican properties."

Washington, March 25.—In a formal statement the president told the people to be on their guard and not to credit such stories. He called attention again to the government's announcement that the sole object of the punitive expedition was to punish Villa and his followers.

The news services had been asked, the president said, to assist in keeping this view constantly before the Mexican and American people. The warning was issued after careful consideration of many official reports from throughout the United States and Mexico saying that alarmist stories of the intentions of the Washington government were having an undesirable effect upon the Mexican people and the American residents in Mexico.

The possibility that Gen. Carranza's hand might be weakened to a perilous extent should the Mexican public misunderstand the American expedition has been a prevailing factor in the entire operations against Villa.

Drastic steps may be taken if the warning is not heeded.

The president's statement follows:
Only One Purpose

"As has already been announced, the expedition into Mexico was ordered under an agreement with the de facto government of Mexico for the single purpose of taking the bandit Villa, whose forces had actually invaded the territory of the United States, and it is in no sense intended as an invasion of that republic or as an infringement of its sovereignty. I have therefore asked the several news services to be good enough to assist the administration in keeping this view of the expedition constantly before both the people of this country and the distressed and sensitive people of Mexico, who are very susceptible indeed to impressions received from the American press not only but also ready to believe that those impressions proceed from the views and objects of our government itself. Such conclusions, it must be said, are not unnatural because the main if not the only source of information for the people on both sides of the border is the public press of the United States.

"In order to avoid the creation of erroneous and dangerous impressions in this way, I have called upon the several news agencies to use the utmost care not to give news stories regarding this expedition the color of war, to withhold stories of troop movements and military preparations which might be given that interpretation, and to refrain from publishing unverified rumors of unrest in Mexico.

Should Show Clean Hands

"I feel that it is most desirable to impress upon both our own people and the people of Mexico the fact that the expedition is simply a necessary punitive measure, aimed solely at the elimination of the marauders who raided Columbus and who infest an unprotected district near the border which they use as a base in making attack upon the lives and property of our citizens within our own territory. It is the purpose of our commanders to co-operate in every possible way with the forces of Gen. Carranza in removing this cause of irritation to both governments and to retire from Mexican territory as soon as that object is accomplished.

"It is my duty to warn the people of the United States that there are

SHIFTS HIS BASE TO PUSH PURSUIT

Pershing Adopts New Headquarters for Chase

NEARER BANDIT HAUNT

American Cavalry, in Its Dash Through Mexico, Has Shown High Quality.

Field Headquarters, American Expeditionary Force, Colonia, Durban, Mexico, March 26 (by Aeroplane to Columbus, N. M., March 27).—Gen. J. J. Pershing announced last night the establishment of a new base in the pursuit of Villa. The second base is much nearer the location where the bandit is reported in retreat than the old one at field headquarters.

The headquarters, it is presumed, will be maintained as an important link in the supply station system, the chain of bases forming a strong military line, readily defensible, reaching a distance into the interior of Mexico.

Success thus far has been attained by the ability of the American cavalry to travel fast and far in light rations, accustoming itself as it travels, not only to a semi-native diet, but also to difficult climatic conditions.

Several cavalry organizations have been out for considerably more than a week after a start made on a little beef, salt, coffee and rice or beans. Not a word of complaint has come back from these troopers.

Not a sign has been received at headquarters that they have anywhere faltered. Reports give good cause for belief that thus far the American troopers have proven themselves the superiors in speed and endurance of the Villa bandits.

There is confidence here that the cavalry will continue its good work for at least two or three weeks by which time it is possible that new organizations can be thrown into the chase. The headquarters officers are all the most proud of the cavalry's record because it entered the most recent phase of the chase after one of the longest and hardest rides an American cavalry division ever made.

American troops still in camp express growing impatience to mount and start southward into the altitudes where they know the cold is bitter and the shelter on campaign duty is anything but comfortable.

ROCK HILL FIRE

The plant of the Rock Hill Fertilizer company, four or five negro shanties, and two box cars were destroyed by fire of unknown origin in Rock Hill yesterday morning, the blaze being discovered at about 4 o'clock. The plant and contents of the fertilizer company were valued at \$45,000, and insurance was carried to the extent of \$25,000. A considerable amount of phosphate was saved, and it is said that this fertilizer has increased in price so rapidly of late that it will almost pay the insurance loss. It is understood that the plant, which is owned by the Virginia-Carolina Chemical company, will be rebuilt in a different location within a few months.—York News.

persons all along the border who are actively engaged in originating and giving as wide currency as they can to rumors of the most sensational and disturbing sort which are wholly unjustified by the facts. The object of this traffic in falsehood is obvious. It is to create intolerable friction between the government of the United States and the de facto government of Mexico for the purpose of bringing about intervention in the interest of certain American owners of Mexican properties. This object can not be attained so long as sane and honorable men are in control of this government, but very serious conditions may be created, unnecessary bloodshed may result and the relations between the two republics may be very much embarrassed.

"The people of the United States should know the sinister and unscrupulous influences that are afoot and should be on their guard against crediting any story coming from the border, and those who disseminate the news should make it a matter of patriotism and of conscience to test the source and authenticity of every report they receive from that quarter.

(Signed) "Woodrow Wilson."

MANY DEAD FROM SUSSEX DISASTER

Wireless Injured When Explosion Occurred—102 Missing—Including Five Americans.

COULD NOT CALL HELP

Casualties Occurred First by Explosion and Second When Two Life Boats Capsized, Officers State.

London, March 26.—Although there is still some uncertainty as to the loss of life in the disaster to the cross-channel steamer *Sussex* last Friday, there no longer is any doubt that the death list is much larger than the early advices indicated. The latest figures compiled in London show as many as 192 persons missing, including five Americans.

The *Sussex* had 436 persons aboard, of which the following have been accounted for: Landed at Dover, 72; landed at Boulogne, 259; dead at Boulogne, 9; dead at Dover, 3.

The list of missing may be slightly diminished by the fact that some of the passengers who landed continued their journey without reporting their safety.

The casualties occurred in two ways: first, in the explosion, when the ship was struck, and second, by drowning, when two life boats capsized.

Capt. Moffett, together with several of the officers and a number of the passengers assert that the ship was undoubtedly torpedoed. Most of these witnesses declare they saw the torpedo when it was a distance of about 100 yards. Unfortunately they say there was not time enough to avoid it, although the captain made an attempt to save his vessel by a quick manoeuvre.

Prevented Calls for Help

The explosion killed or wounded several men in the engine room and some of the occupants of the saloon directly above it. Injury to the wireless apparatus prevented calls for help and it was several hours before assistance arrived.

The *Sussex* now lies in shallow water in Boulogne harbor. She will not be a total loss. Most of the damage is above the water line. The main shock of the explosion was spent in blocking off the fore part of the ship.

The disaster is graphically described by a rescued passenger, I. N. Lipsart, who says he jotted down the facts in regular sequence in his diary. The diary reads:

Describes Disaster.

"Friday, 1:30 p. m., left Folkestone; 3 p. m. torpedo boats launched, wireless broken; 3:15 p. m. wireless restored, smoke of steamer seen sailing ship on horizon; 5:30 p. m., rain falling, life boats, 300 yards away; 6 p. m., life boats returning; 8 p. m., vessel remaining afloat, many passengers asleep, all calm; 11:30 p. m., French trawler arrived from Boulogne, women taken off, torpedo boats arrived. Saturday 1:30 a. m., wounded and officers taken aboard destroyer."

The main facts of the disaster were given by M. Lipsart as follows:

"Torpedo shattered the forepart of the vessel, although she was traveling very fast on an unusual course between Folkestone and Leppa. There was some loss of life at the moment of the explosion. During the launching of the boats a further loss followed and nearly three hours later three boats capsized with more casualties. The remaining boats were recalled and the passengers taken back on the ship, from which the first persons were removed by a French trawler half an hour before midnight."

SHOWER FOR DR. PRYOR

Chester, March 26.—A tribute of sympathy on the part of the women of Chester was that of yesterday afternoon when they showered Pryor hospital's president, Dr. S. W. Pryor, at his home on Saluda street. The shower was a linen one to replenish the great closet of linen that was destroyed in the hospital's fire on Monday morning. This came as a surprise to Dr. Pryor, who is an extremely modest man, and touched him deeply.

LEXINGTON PARTLY SWEEPED BY FIRE

Causes Loss of About \$100,000—Only Three Business Buildings Left Standing.

MANY BUILDINGS BURNED

Timely Arrival of Motor Fire Engine From Columbia Quenched Incipient Blazes in Nearby Structures.

Lexington, March 28.—Twenty buildings in the heart of Lexington, mostly business structures, were destroyed with their contents to-night within two hours by a fire which broke out shortly after 11 o'clock, inflicting a loss estimated by Mayor Charles E. Taylor at \$100,000, less than half covered by insurance.

Driving southward before a smart breeze, the flames at 1 o'clock were sweeping both sides of the main street and were checked only by a sudden shift of the wind, which came simultaneously with the arrival of a motor fire engine company from Columbia, 12 miles away. Ten minutes afterward it was apparent that the fire area had reached its extreme extent, though brisk work was still required to quench incipient blazes in nearby structures.

Lexington's water supply is from wells only and the town is without even a volunteer fire department. Bucket brigades did what they could but were hampered by an early developed scarcity of water and pails and of ladders, pike poles and axes. Household goods were removed in time from most of the dwellings, but practically nothing was saved from the mercantile establishments. Some of the merchants retrieved portions of their stock, only to have them consumed as they lay piled in the street.

Early this morning but three business buildings in the town are standing. These are the large two-story brick building occupied by Caughman & Kaufinger, general merchandise; the Kaufman building, occupied by the Harman Drug company, and the structure which houses the drug store of Meetze & Sons. The fire area on the principal street is defined at one end by the Caughman-Kaufinger building and at the other by the county court house and the county jail, which face each other. The Kaufman building lies within these bounds and though considerably damaged is the only structure of any sort in the fire area which escaped utter destruction.

MACHINE GUNS SENT TO LOUISIANA AT VERA CRUZ

Norfolk, Va., March 27.—Having on board several machine guns, consigned to the battleship *Louisiana* which is now at Vera Cruz, the United States Naval collier *Jupiter* has sailed from Hampton Roads for Vera Cruz. The guns were taken on board the *Jupiter* at the local navy yard, but those in authority held that the consignments to the *Louisiana* had no special significance at this time.

MILL MEN GET GERMAN DYES

Shipment Worth \$20,000 Reaches Charlotte.

Charlotte, N. C., March 27.—A shipment of cotton mill dyes representing \$20,000 was received by a local concern here to-day. This shipment was detoured via Shanghai, China, from Germany. The supply house here made the announcement that they have found a source whereby they will be able to meet the demands of Southern mill men.

LITERACY TEST STANDS

Immigration Bill Likely to Pass House To-day.

Washington, March 27.—The immigration bill, with its literacy test provision intact, will pass the House probably by to-morrow night.

The literacy test, barring with a few exceptions all aliens over 15 years old physically capable of reading who can not read the English language or dialect, was approved to-day by the House, working as a committee of the whole, by a vote of 225 to 82. This presaged the passage of the bill by an overwhelming majority despite the record of precedential vetoes of several similar measures on account of the literacy test.

CHINESE REBELS TAKE BOLD STEP

Call for Retirement of Yuan Shi Kai

ROYAL IDEA DROPPED

Parliament Officially Admits Its Mistake and Withdraws Legislation Tending to Monarchy.

San Francisco, March 27.—An ultimatum demanding the resignation and exile of Yuan Shi Kai and the execution of twelve of his advisers has been handed to the Yuan Shi Kai government by the military governor of the revolting provinces, according to cable advices to the Chinese Republic association here.

ROCK HILL CATTLE SALE

Will Be Held at That Place on Wednesday

The big cattle sale, as arranged by the Chamber of Commerce in Rock Hill will take place on Wednesday, March 29th.

The following committees will look after the sale:

Reception of visitors: J. W. O'Neal, Ira B. Dunlap, T. L. Johnston, Peide Ratterree, J. B. Johnson, Alex Long, C. L. Cobb, J. S. White and John T. Roddey.

Committee to look after feed, water, etc.: A. H. Bynum, W. W. Gill, J. J. Dunlap, Jr., Albert Friedhelm, W. J. Neely, Alex Williford and D. P. Steele.

To look after weighing, checking and paying for cattle: A. A. McKeown, D. L. McDonald, John R. Williams, Prof. Sampson, J. M. Whisman, George Beach, M. F. Cobb, Jno. R. London and Jennings White.

Management of Sale.

The general supervision of the fat cattle sale will be under the Clemson college extension forces. It has been deemed advisable by the Clemson college extension forces and the cattle feeders to employ an expert cattle salesman to handle the selling of the cattle. Mr. C. Driver, of the Union Stock yards, of Baltimore, has been employed for the purpose. It is the consensus of opinion that the commission charged by this expert will by far more than offset the increase in price secured by him for the cattle. Mr. Driver is one of the largest and most reliable commission men of the eastern markets, and on account of being in constant touch with the large cattle markets is in a position to know exactly what the cattle should bring.

Mr. W. W. Long, state agent, has been able to secure the service of Mr. Driver at the reasonable figure of \$1 per head. A yardage fee of 50 cents per head will be charged by the local authorities to assist in bearing the expenses of the up-to-date stock yard which has been recently built by public spirited citizens of Rock Hill. Every modern convenience is available, including office room, feed room, running water and feeding troughs in every pen, scales and loading scutes.

All cattle must be in the yards by the night of March 28th. The sale will start at 7:30 o'clock the morning of the 29th.

AFTER A NEW COUNTY

Meeting Held at Fort Mill, S. C., and Advocates Get Busy.

Fort Mill, S. C., March 27.—There was a meeting held here to-day in the rooms of the Savings Bank of the citizens of the town in conference with a committee from Rock Hill consisting of Ira B. Dunlap, C. L. Cobb, W. B. Wilson, Jr., and J. W. Marshall with reference to the formation of a new county of which Rock Hill will probably be the county seat if the proposition goes through. The new county will take in parts of York, Chester and Lancaster counties, included in which are 13 cotton mills, the two plants of the Southern Power company, and a large number of other manufacturing industries. Petition blanks were left with W. B. Meacham, president of the Savings Bank, and that the proposition is receiving support is evidenced by the manner in which they are being freely signed.

VILLA HAS SLIPPED THROUGH MEXICANS

No Reason to Believe He Had Any Particular Trouble in Licking Carranza Troops.

ON WAY TO GUERRERO

Once in Mountains There Pursuit Will Be More Difficult—It's Far From Easy Now.

Francisco Villa has escaped from the Mexican troops that had checked him near Namiquipa and three columns of American cavalry are pursuing him. They are almost 250 miles from the border and unless the Mexicans bring him to a stand, the distance will be greater by the close of the week.

San Antonio, Tex., March 26.—Villa's success in extricating himself from the dangerous position into which he had been driven by the American punitive force was related in a detailed report by General Pershing that reached General Funston here to-day.

General Funston forwarded the report to Washington without making public any but the essential features.

Colonel Dadd is commanding the advanced columns that are riding hard after Villa and his men and General Pershing has divided his forces so as to provide supporting columns along the thinly stretched lines of communication from his front. From El Valle another line is being maintained back to Casas Grandes from where communication with the border is maintained. General Pershing himself is somewhat south of Casas Grandes directing the work of holding together his forces and directing so far as possible the operations of Colonel Dadd. Cavalry is being used along the lines communicating with El Valle where a detachment of infantry is stationed.

Aeroplanes for Scouting

Three aeroplanes are at El Valle and will be used in scouting as soon as the high winds that have been sweeping that part of Mexico for almost a week subside. These winds, according to General Pershing, have made effective assistance by the aeroplanes impossible. Of the eight machines that went into Mexico two are still out of commission.

Details of the operations about Namiquipa that concluded with the escape of Villa were not revealed, but there is little reason to believe that he was badly whipped or even weakened by the fighting directed against him by the de facto government troops. Reports last week from Mexican sources indicated that he had been severely defeated by the Carranza forces and a few reports started that American troops had participated in the action. It now appears that no Americans were actually engaged and the fact that Villa made his way through what was described as an encircling line of Mexican troops, was taken to indicate that he was the victor.

Unless fresh Mexican forces are sent to meet Villa, there appears no reason why he should not make his way uninterrupted into the mountains of the Guerrero district towards which he appears to be moving.

Once there it is conceded his capture will be difficult, and should he choose to pass through the district on into the south there are trails over which he might move his little army until a juncture is made with one or more of his roving organizations in southern Chihuahua or northern Durango.

If Villa moves into the districts further south more troops will be necessary to capture him and their provisioning by way of country roads will become practically an impossibility.

Fifty-four more auto-trucks went into service to-day along the line between Columbus and Casas Grandes and 27 more were reported to be on their way from the factory, but bad weather and heavy roads make uncertain the possibility of getting supplies to the front. The escape of Villa and his renewed fight towards the south, officers say, make the use of at least one of the railroads and possibly both, from Juarez to Chihuahua, almost essential to the success of the chase.