

TORREON RESISTS REBELS IN DESPERATE LAST STAND

General Villa Still Hammering Away at the City But is Not Having an Easy Time.

THE TIDE OF BATTLE

Constitutionalists Take Suburbs but Find Them Hard to Hold On To.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
Chronology of Villa's Campaign Against Torreon.

March 16.—Federal outposts under General Ricardo Pena attack Escalon. Repulsed. General Villa went to front from Chihuahua.

March 17.—Rebel General Thomas Urbina repulsed federal attempt to turn Villa's right wing and reach Jimenez in his rear.

March 18.—General Eugenio Benavides's Zaragoza brigade of rebels drove federal back to Yermo, sixty-five miles north of Torreon.

March 19.—Battle in desert between Yermo and Mapimi between federal outposts and main rebel column.

March 20.—Rebels captured Mapimi, thirty-five miles north of Torreon.

March 21.—Rebels captured successively Bermujillo, Santa Clara and Brittingham Junction, suburbs of Torreon.

March 22.—Fighting everywhere about Torreon all day. Rebels captured El Verjel.

March 23.—Rebels captured Lerdo and opened assault of Gomez Palacio. These are principal suburbs of Torreon.

March 24.—Rebels occupied Gomez Palacio after forty hours battle. Federal, after retreating, renewed attack.

March 25.—Fighting in Gomez Palacio.

Torreon Holding Out.

EL PASO, Texas, March 25.—Torreon has not yet fallen, according to the belief expressed here by careful observers of the situation around that stronghold of Huerta in northern Mexico.

Gen. Francisco Villa did not take lunch at noon yesterday with Gen. Eugenio Benavides of his staff in a Torreon cafe, as he had promised; nor did he dine there. At an early hour today it was doubtful whether he would get into the city today at all.

"Hammering away in Torreon," was the only information that could be obtained in constitutionalist circles in Juarez. Not a word of news has come from the seat of war since Tuesday morning when a staff correspondent of an El Paso newspaper sent a long dispatch from Gomez Palacio that that suburb had been occupied by the constitutionalists and that the federal defenders had been driven out after forty hours of desperate fighting.

This was the only news received during the day except a brief official dispatch from Chihuahua at 5 p. m. stating that fighting was still in progress at Gomez Palacio. The same dispatch said that the rebels had occupied the railroad roundhouse and were

holding it against a fierce federal attack. Inasmuch as the railroad roundhouse is in the northern part of Gomez Palacio it was believed that having once occupied that railroad center, General Villa's troops had encountered unexpected resistance and had been driven back. Whether this check was merely temporary or a serious reverse could not on the other hand be ascertained. The roundhouse is a stone building, furnishing an excellent bulwark for troops forced to fight desperately.

The fact that Villa, after taking Gomez Palacio, was not able to proceed to Torreon itself, has caused Huerta sympathizers to suggest perhaps the retreat of the federal reported in staff dispatches yesterday, was merely a feint by General Refugio Velasco, federal commander, to draw Villa into a trap. This is on the other hand, mere speculation based on the fact that the rebels had to fight desperately in Gomez Palacio after apparently taking that place. Although the telegraph wires between Juarez and the south were working all night, it was asserted by rebel officers not a line of news regarding the battle was coming excepting that the fighting is still in progress.

During Tuesday afternoon a report was circulated here and in Juarez that Torreon had surrendered to Villa but this has not been confirmed. General Manuel Chao, military governor of Chihuahua state telegraphed Villa and other officers on the battlefield for information but he received no reply.

Rebels Using New Shell.

MEXICO CITY, March 25.—The Mexican war office did not conceal its concern for the fate of Torreon today when it was officially learned that General Villa's rebels were using a new and unfamiliar shell of the most deadly variety in the attack upon the city. The report came from General Velasco, commanding the besieged federal troops. The rebels have displayed excellent marksmanship, Velasco declared, and their new shells have created havoc in his ranks. President Huerta will receive a loan of approximately \$33,000,000 or 100,000,000 pesos as a result of a plan agreed upon by bankers today. Fifty million pesos are to be furnished at once and the balance as required. The loan was forced by General Huerta who threatened the establishment of a federal bank and a heavy tax on corporations and individuals.

Mrs. Guinness Found Again.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
LA PORTE, Ind., March 25.—Carrying an unsigned warrant calling for the arrest of Mrs. Belle Guinness, on a charge of murder, Clinton Cochran, former LaPorte marshal, left today for Neville, Sask., Canada, to investigate a report that Mrs. Guinness of "murder farm" fame is alive and living at Neville.

Neither Cochran nor the county authorities believe the Canadian woman to be the alleged arch murderer, but to remove all doubt, Cochran is making the trip. A man who says he knew Mrs. Guinness well, told the Canadian mounted police that she was homesteading a ranch at Neville.

High School Burned.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
KOKOMO, Ind., March 25.—The high school building here burned today early, a total loss. Gas escaping in the basement, ignited. The loss is estimated at \$80,000 on books, building and equipment.

FIRST BATTLE OVER PANAMA

Two Sides Are Lined Up, Ready to Fire Opening Gun Tomorrow.

AIMED AT PRESIDENT

Wilson's Stand on Tolls Repeal Will be Subject to a Bitter Attack.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
WASHINGTON, March 25.—Battle lines were drawn today in the house in preparation for the opening skirmish tomorrow on the Panama tolls exemption repeal resolution. Both the rivers and harbors appropriations and tolls measure were by the house rules shelved today because of "calendar Wednesday." The house will meet tomorrow at 11 o'clock, an hour earlier than usual, expecting to pass the rivers and harbors measure by noon and then immediately take up the rule under which the Sims repeal resolution is made "privileged business." A session was held last night on the rivers and harbors bill to insure launching of the repeal measure tomorrow.

Friends and foes of the repeal plan spent today in canvassing for votes. Both made new polls. The president's supporters predicted a majority in the house of between 75 and 100. Democratic Leader Underwood agreed to the plan of his attitude. He said he would speak and vote against the repeal but would not use the strength of his position as party leader actively to seek votes against the president.

Speaker Clark was the pivotal figure in the tolls fight today. He refused to state whether or not he would come out openly against the president. He voted for free tolls before and opponents of repeal expect him to vote with them. Whether he would make a formal statement or a speech in the house against the repeal was causing the advocates of the repeal resolution much concern. It is believed certain today that Clark would make a statement by Friday, but might not openly break with the president on the house floor. Strong pressure is being brought upon Clark to come out against the president. It was believed the showing of the sixteen votes of the Missouri delegation making a differing on roll call, possibly would be enough to endanger the passage of the Sims resolution. With Underwood, Clark, Fitzsimmons and Doremouth, aligned against the president, the white house has the support of Chairman Adamson of the interstate commerce committee, Representatives Sherley of Kentucky, Covington of Maryland, A. Mitchell Palmer of Pennsylvania, Chairman Henry of the rules committee and other democratic leaders of almost equal prominence.

Yeggmen Are Cornered.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
STUBENVILLE, Ohio, March 25.—Yeggmen early today blew the safe in the postoffice at Kilgore, stole \$500 in cash and destroyed a large number of stamps. A citizens posse followed the robbers and exchanged shots with them but the robbers escaped.

James Benedict, a member of the posse, was badly wounded. He was shot by another member of the posse as it circled around the yeggs who escaped into the woods near Kilgore. The men are believed to be cornered in the woods and a big armed force took up the search.

Picking Out Her Trousseau.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
NEW YORK, March 25.—Miss Eleanor Wilson, daughter of the president who is soon to marry Secretary of Treasury McAdoo, was in New York today but in seclusion. It was reported Miss Wilson will be here for several days during which time she would select her trousseau. None of the intimate friends of Miss Wilson would acknowledge that the president's daughter was a guest in their homes and Miss Wilson was not registered at the Waldorf where she usually stops when in New York.

Reported Dead Again.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
CONSTANTINOPLE, March 25.—Abdul Hamid, deposed sultan, is again reported dead. For several days, reports were circulated that the former sultan was in a serious condition and little hope was held out for his recovery.

BAYONETS IN CONTROL

Strikers Are Driven Away From Factory Gates and Unable to Emerge.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
BUFFALO, N. Y., March 25.—Bayonets of state militia which are in control at the town of Depew, near here, dispersed a crowd of the Gould Coupler Co. strikers when a work train bearing strike breakers from Buffalo, pulled into the town. For a few moments trouble seemed certain but the stern stand of the soldiers quelled all opposition and the crowd melted away.

Three hundred more troops, the third battalion of the Seventy-fourth regiment, arrived early today at Depew to aid in controlling the situation and to maintain a constant patrol for a mile about the factories.

All through the night there was occasional shooting in the neighborhood of the Gould plant. At 2 a. m. a volley of bullets crashed through the east gate of the factory and just before daylight a similar volley sang past the heads of the soldiers on guard at the west entrance. No one was hit and it was too dark for the troops to see who fired the shots in either case. The International Foundrymen's association and the Amalgamated Association of Street Railway Employees are likely to become involved in the trouble here. James Corfs of the former body, arrived here today and will meet representatives of strikers with the probability that the foundrymen's funds will be used to back the men up in their fight.

President W. D. Mahon, of the Street Railway Employees, is expected here today from Detroit, Mich. He will investigate the trouble which arose when conductors and motormen of the International Railway here refused to operate special cars carrying soldiers to Depew. These conductors and motormen were dismissed, but were reinstated today pending Mahon's investigation.

P. J. Downey and James McManus, state mediators, arrived today from Albany and will offer their aid toward any move for peace. All saloons in Depew were closed today and the streets were deserted, the troops insisting that no crowds should gather.

Elevator Men Strike.

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 25.—Refusing to work overtime, 200 elevator men are on strike here today and twelve large elevators in Buffalo harbor are idle. The situation involves considerable danger, as the huge quantities of grain in the elevators, if not turned daily during this season of the year, is liable to cause combustion.

GAME OF WAR FOR GUARDSMEN

Four Regiments from Iowa and Two from Nebraska to Hold Camp.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
DES MOINES, Iowa, March 25.—While the orders have not been issued by the war department, it is understood here that four regiments of the Iowa National Guards and two from Nebraska will hold a ten day encampment at Camp Dodge, north of the city this summer.

Iowa has one brigade and one unassigned regiment and Nebraska has two regiments. This would make two full brigades of infantry which would be organized into a provisional division, under the command of some regular army officer, probably a brigadier general. It is proposed to put these six regiments of nearly four thousand men into camp under the same conditions as though they were in active service, hold practice marches and maneuvers and schools of instruction.

Adjutant General Logan says he has no official information on the subject and that no orders have been issued but admits the question has been discussed.

Poisoned Candy.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
JERSEYVILLE, Ill., March 25.—Thelma Utt, 3 and Miss Della Heffner, 20, are believed to be dying, and two other persons are seriously ill from eating candy made at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Utt. Physicians said nuts or cherries in the candy probably poisoned the four victims.

Mrs. Potter Sinking.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
CHICAGO, March 25.—Mrs. Potter, noted suffragist author, was much weakened today and physicians said she had but a few hours to live. Members of her family are at her bedside.

SOCIALISTS ARE BOASTING TODAY

Best Record They Ever Made in the Primaries in Milwaukee Yesterday.

SEIDEL LEADS TICKET

Senator Crawford of South Dakota Bringing up the Rear in the Race for Senatorship.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
MILWAUKEE, Wis., March 25.—Socialists here today boasted of the best record they ever made in an election. At the primaries yesterday every one of the candidates was named for a place on the ballot at the regular election. Also the socialist candidate nominated for mayor, Emil Seidel, led the entire field with a vote of 21,054. The other candidates ran: G. A. Bading, 20,022; David S. Rose, 17,511; Theobald Otjen, 2,875.

Crawford in the Rear.

PIERRE, S. D., March 25.—Late reports from over the state on yesterday's state wide primaries indicate that Charles H. Burke is leading U. S. Senator C. I. Crawford in the fight for the senatorial toga. Despite the fact that Crawford claimed to have secured a foothold in Burke's strongholds, it is evident from the reports that Burke swept all the counties west of the river. Returns also indicate that Governor Byrne has been renominated. Burke received big majorities in the cities of Sioux Falls, Pierre, Lead, Rapid City and Aberdeen.

Voting in Arkansas.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., March 25.—Spring weather brought out a good vote throughout the state today in the democratic primaries nomination in which it is conceded to be equal election. On the state ticket, Governor George W. Hays is not opposed. Interest centered in the United States senatorial race, Senator Clarke being coming for renomination by Judge W. F. Kirby, associate justice of the state supreme court. All congressmen were confident of renomination.

THE WEATHER

For Keokuk and vicinity: Mostly cloudy and unsettled tonight and Thursday. Colder. Brisk shifting winds.

For Illinois: Fair tonight and probably Thursday. Colder. Brisk shifting winds.

For Iowa: Mostly cloudy and unsettled tonight and Thursday. Colder. Brisk shifting winds.

For Missouri: Fair tonight and becoming unsettled again Thursday. Colder. Moderate to brisk shifting winds.

Weather Conditions.

The movement of the depression from Colorado to Minnesota since yesterday, was attended by much warmer weather, followed by showers, in the Missouri and the Mississippi valleys, and a field of high pressure, from the north is moving down into Montana, causing much colder weather, with snow in the northern mountain and plains regions, the temperature falling to 2 above zero at Havre, Mont., last night. Another depression is central in Utah this morning, with unsettled weather in the southern mountain and plains.

Daily River Bulletin.

Stage, Height, Change, Weather.

St. Paul	14	1.7	x0.2	Cl'dy
La Crosse	12	2.2	0.0	Cl'dy
Dubuque	18	3.0	0.0	Clear
Davenport	15	3.0	0.0	Cl'dy
Keokuk	14	2.3	-1.6	Clear
St. Louis	30	8.6	-0.5	Clear

River Forecast.

The river will remain nearly stationary from Davenport to Keokuk during the next forty-eight hours.

Local Observations.

Bar Ther. Wind Weather.

March 24 7 p. m.	29.73	59	SE	Cl'dy
25 7 a. m.	29.75	51	SW	Clear

Rainfall for the past 24 hours, 2 hundredths.

River above low water of 1864 2 feet, 8 tenths.

Change in 24 hours, fall 1 foot, 6 tenths.

Mean temperature, March 24, 45.

Highest temperature, 64.

Lowest temperature, 32.

Lowest temperature last night, 59.

FRED Z. GOSEWISCH, Observer.

ASQUITH CABINET IS ABOUT TO COLLAPSE

Minister of War Seely Has Already Resigned and Churchill Loses His Head.

COMMONS IN UPROAR

Prediction That the Country Would be Ablaze by Saturday, Seems to be Coming True.

[By Ed L. Keen, staff correspondent of the United Press.]

LONDON, March 25.—Amidst the wildest confusion in the house of commons during which Winston Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, completely lost his composure and was rebuked by the speaker, the Asquith cabinet today fought for its life.

The resignation of Colonel J. B. Seely as minister for war, was announced on the floor. Premier Asquith declared that the resignation had not yet been accepted. Colonel Seely heatedly declared suggestions that King George had interfered in any way in the situation growing out of refusal of army officers to serve in Ulster, were without the slightest foundation. Premier Asquith placed the blame for the entire crisis on Seely and the war secretary publicly accepted full responsibility.

Churchill admitted when questioned that a squadron of battleships had been ordered to the Irish coast because of possible disturbances but was later recalled. The chamber was then thrown into an uproar when L. S. Amery asked Churchill if he had not hoped that his "precautionary measures would lead to bloodshed."

"I repudiate this hellish insinuation," shouted Churchill, as he advanced toward Amery.

Churchill was sternly rebuked for what the speaker termed his "unparliamentary language."

Members were on their feet shaking their fists and rallying to the support of Amery or Churchill before order was restored. He declared he had inadvertently misled the cabinet with honest intent by adding the army instructions to the cabinet document without knowing it was final.

Premier Asquith indicated that he had chosen to have the entire cabinet stand or fall together in the crisis when he announced late today that he would not accept Colonel Seely's resignation.

Asked to explain the statement of General Paget last week that the "country would be ablaze by Saturday," Colonel Seely said it meant the press would be ablaze. He went into detail in explaining the dramatic conference with General Gough and the other officers. The officers, he said, did not know that the only intention was to support the civil authorities and he explained there was no intention of shooting down the "Caterpillars."

Then General Gough said: "Since there has been a misunderstanding we had better have the true situation in writing."

Seely said he wrote and drew up the statement which has only added

to the tenseness of the feeling between aristocratic and democratic factions in the kingdom. The war minister in further explaining the war office document, pleaded that he did not have a memorandum of oral instructions which were sent to General Paget. He declared that in view of attempts to subvert discipline, General Ewart had requested that special steps be taken to ensure prompt obedience to orders. Instructions to officers resigning did not come up until the Gough incident, although fourteen officers had asked permission to qualify their services. This was refused. General Gough and others were then summoned to London when they deliberately defied orders of General Paget.

Called School Boys.

BELFAST, Ireland, March 25.—"Ulster is entirely indifferent as to the resignation of War Secretary Seely or whether any other member of the discredited Asquith government resigns," said Sir Edward Carson, leader of Ulstermen, here today. "The actions of the government have proved that any half dozen school boys picked at random could make a better show at running the country."

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
LONDON, March 25.—The government must retain and use all its force in Ireland and maintain law and order but there is no intention to take advantage of this right to crush opposition to home rule in Ireland. This statement was made by Brigadier General Gough and other officers who resigned commands rather than enforce home rule.

War Secretary Seely today made public the documents relating to the army's revolt against the coercion of Ulster. He revealed completely the negotiations which have aroused labor and radical leaders to demand a settlement once and for all as to whether the king and the army, or parliament is to make the laws. Indications are that even the liberal ranks are divided in the fight which is laid down on strictly aristocratic and democratic lines. The documents as made public by Colonel Seely show that on December 16 the war office informed all general officers that they would be held individually responsible if any conduct in their demands was subservient to discipline and that if any officer undertook to choose what orders he should obey, War Secretary Seely would recommend his removal to the king. On March 14 an order was sent General Paget commanding the forces in Ireland to take special precautions to safeguard the government depots in Ulster. This was followed by receipt of a telegram from General Paget at the war office in which Paget declared:

"I regret to report that the brigadier and fifty-seven officers of the Third cavalry have resigned."

General Paget declared he preferred dismissal if ordered north as he feared the men would refuse to move.

This was the real beginning of the struggle between the army and the government which has thrown the entire country into political turmoil. Colonel Seely replied to General Paget's letter ordering the recalcitrant officers to the war office.

"You have the authority to direct General Gough and the commanding officers of the Fifth and Sixteenth Lancers to report to the war office."

(Continued on page 2.)

TWO MASKED MEN ROUTED BY REVOLVER OF BANKER

Was Shot Twice in Head and Thinks He Wounded One of His Assailants.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]
SUPERIOR, Neb., March 25.—Captain C. E. Adams of this city, was shot and wounded here last night in a fight with two masked men. Captain Adams received two wounds back of the left ear. They are not believed to be fatal. Whether the masked men were injured is not known. Captain Adams fired three shots at his assailants at close quarters.

tional bank of Superior, of which he was president, he has been carrying a revolver. Captain Adams was passing an alley near Seventh and Central streets on his way home from town. Two masked men rushed him and a tussle ensued. Captain Adams lost nothing although the intent of the men may have been robbery.

The wounds show an upward trend of the bullets and are believed to have been inflicted in the first grapple. Blood stains on the unidentified revolver and on a miss found in the alley are taken to indicate that one of the men was hurt seriously.

C. E. Adams has been a resident of Nebraska for thirty-five years, moving here from his native city, Monroe, Wisconsin. He served in the Fifth Wisconsin battery of light artillery in the civil war.

The First National bank of which he was president, failed on the morning of January 9, this year.