

FLURRY ON THE MEXICAN BORDER

FOUR SOLDIERS DROWNED IN THE RIO GRANDE RIVER

Were Swimming Across the Stream to Rescue Two of Their Comrades, Captured by Mexican Band.

COULD NOT FIND THE PRISONERS

Officers Who Led Their Men Across the Border, Have Been Placed Under Arrest by Funston.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BROWNSVILLE, Texas, Jan. 27.—Mexican and American military officials were making every effort today to prevent open clashes between United States and Carranzista troops as the result of four American soldiers losing their lives late yesterday in an attempt to rescue two others who had been captured by Mexicans. The soldiers were drowned while trying to swim the Rio Grande.

The dead are: SERGEANT OWEN L. CLEMENTS. CORPORAL MICHAEL F. KING. PRIVATE HARRY A. RHODE. PRIVATE CHARLES D. WILTON-BEST.

Four soldiers of a detachment of the fourth field artillery, stationed at Progreso, twenty-seven miles above here, were bathing in the river late yesterday when a band of Mexicans appeared on the opposite bank and ordered them to cross over. Two obeyed, leaving their clothes on this side. The other two dived and escaped. A relief party was organized by four men. They swam the Rio Grande under a cross fire by Mexicans and Americans, but none was injured. They searched two houses on the Mexican side, but found no traces of the prisoners, William C. Wheeler and Biago Pederson, the men captured by the Mexicans. On their return they were again fired on by Mexicans.

Major General Funston last night ordered Lieutenants Mort, Peyton and Waldron of battery D, fourth field artillery, placed under arrest because of their alleged participation in the invasion of Mexican soil.

Colonel Quintanilla, Carranza commandant at Matamoras, in the absence of General Ricaut, on receipt of a report from Funston, immediately telegraphed the Carranza commandant at Rio Bravo, nine miles south of Progreso, to send a detachment of troops to Wheeler's and Pederson's rescue. Funston is reported to have said that the responsibility for the incident apparently rested on the American side as he had given strict orders for no soldier to cross the boundary under any circumstances.

The Official Report. WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—Secretary of War Garrison today gave out the following dispatch from General Funston at Brownsville:

"We have received the following report from Major Anderson, Twelfth cavalry, from Sub-District Mercedes, timed 8 p. m.:

"Four men, battery D, fourth field artillery, swam across the Rio Grande while stripped in bathing in the river

at Progreso, about 3:30 p. m. today. Two were made prisoners by three Mexicans with rifles, and taken back into the interior from the river. Other two men from battery swam back; some two or three shots fired at them while returning. Lieutenant J. E. Mort, commanding battery, with Lieutenants Peyton and Waldron, with about fourteen men of the battery and one man of the twelfth cavalry, crossed the river about three-quarters of an hour later, went about three-quarters of a mile back into the interior from river, searched two houses but did not find comrades. They were fired upon ten or twelve times by men in brush. They remained on the other side about an hour. When they returned, the crossing was covered by our men on the bank of this side who fired some two hundred shots. None of our men killed or wounded.

"The following men were drowned while swimming to the other side: Sergeant Owen Clements, Corporal Michael F. King, Private Harry Rhode; these three men are of battery D, fourth field artillery.

"Private Charles D. Wilton-Best, troop A, twelfth cavalry. "All bodies were carried away by swift muddy current and not yet recovered. Search being made. "The following men still in the hands of Mexicans on the other side: "Private William C. Wheeler, Private Biago Pederson, battery D, fourth field artillery.

"Colonel Blockson has ordered Lieutenants Mort, Peyton and Waldron to be placed under arrest and Captain McBroom, twenty-eighth infantry, has been placed in command of the camp. I have directed Colonel Plummer, Twenty-eighth infantry, to send one of his field officers to investigate. Mr. Garza, Mexican consul, has been informed of exact contents of Major Anderson's telegram and of the arrest of the three officers concerned. He has gone to Matamoras to inform the commanding general there and to ask that immediate search be made for Privates Wheeler and Pederson. The Mexicans on the other side were not in uniform."

Funston Makes Report. WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The war department today received a dispatch from General Funston on the border tending to confirm the report that American soldiers were captured by armed Mexicans and four others drowned in the Rio Grande when they were fired upon while swimming. Secretary Garrison said he would give out the text of the message later.

Press reports of the incident, official.

(Continued on page 2.)

WOMAN BURGLAR SHOT TO DEATH BY NEIGHBOR

Set a Trap for Robber After House Had Been Entered Three Times.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 27.—Mrs. Jennie Thornburg was still in a cell early today, following the shooting of Mrs. Margaret McWilliams, her next door neighbor, who was killed last night as she climbed through a window of the Thornburg home on the south side. Mrs. Thornburg said she shot the intruder after setting a trap to catch a burglar who thrice had robbed the home. She is held for the coroner.

The police today were attempting to connect the dead woman with numerous burglaries in the neighborhood of the Thornburg flat.

A month ago the Thornburg home was broken into and clothing stolen. It has been looted twice since, the robber taking clothing in each case.

ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] LONDON, Jan. 27.—A joint note signed by all the powers, answering the latest protests of the United States and Sweden setting forth the allies' position toward neutral trade for the period of the war is in contemplation, it was learned today.

By unity of the entente powers in a single declaration of policy, the allied powers plan to make an impression of course and purpose that will influence all action by neutrals. The first official hint of such a program was dropped by Sir Edward Grey in his speech on the proposed blockade yesterday.

The English press today unanimously applauded the plain intimation from the government that it intends to deal firmly with the United States in answering the latest protest against British trade regulations. The newspaper at the same time pointed out that the British foreign minister gave assurance that interests of neutrals are not being ignored by the allies in prosecuting the war. They supported Grey's contention that England could not yield to the United States without jeopardizing the success of the allies.

On the question of blockade, however, editorial utterances were widely divergent. Those newspapers supporting the demand for a blockade, fiercely attacked the government in editorial comment today and declared their intention of continuing the campaign for more effective measures despite Grey's announcement that the ministry intends to "stand pat" for the present.

The government's supporters on the other hand, led by the Daily News and the Daily Chronicle, warmly applauded the decision of the government to the effect of a course that might involve Great Britain with the United States and other neutrals.

"The foreign minister's statement is a final and crushing reply to the wild incendiaries who with shameful levity are playing with the peril of bringing the whole world to arms against Great Britain," said the News.

OPPOSE CONSCRIPTION. BRISTOL, England, Jan. 27.—Resolutions opposing conscription in any form were adopted by an overwhelming majority at today's session of the national labor conference of delegates, representing more than 2,000,000 workers.

The resolutions declared "compulsory military service to be contrary to the spirit of British democracy and full of danger to the liberties of the British people."

EXPECTING AIR RAIDS. LONDON, Jan. 27.—Raids by Zeppelins and the new giant Fokker aeroplanes, are expected by the London authorities in the near future, it was indicated today by a statement published in the newspapers. The municipal authorities at the same time served notice that London is better prepared to meet attacks from the sky than it was several months ago when Zeppelins visited the city and made their escape unharmed.

"The increase in offensive protec-

(Continued on page 2.)

BOY BANDITS ROBBED BANK

Made Escape in Automobile With Several Thousand Dollars in Cash.

IN CHICAGO, OF COURSE

Wave of Banditry Has Swept That City for Months and Police Seem Unable to Prevent It.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CHICAGO, Jan. 27.—Four boy bandits stuck up the cashier and thirty other persons, including Jake Stahl, former baseball star, in the Washington Park National bank today and escaped with between \$12,000 and \$13,000 in cash. Stahl is vice president of the bank.

The bandits, none of whom appeared to be over 20 years old, drove up to the bank in a small automobile, shortly before 9 o'clock. They warned the six or seven customers who were outside the railing, to stand back, forced all the employees to hold up their hands and directed the paying teller and cashier to open the safe.

Stahl was in his office and was forced to stand in line with the rest of the bank officers and customers while the bandits collected the money. None of the persons in the bank, including the employees, were robbed personally.

The former baseball star held his hands over his head willingly. "I was taking no chances," he said. "I just went out with the rest of the help and held up my hands. It was a regular wild and woolly western hold up."

Municipal Judge Fry was one of the customers in the bank at the time. His hands were promptly elevated. The bandits warned those inside the bank to remain quiet while they ran to their car and fled down the street. A. W. McCauley, one of the tellers, jumped in a machine that was outside the bank and chased the small car for a mile, but it disappeared in a mass of traffic.

The bandits all wore masks, which they donned in the street just as the car reached the bank. The automobile had no license number.

The bank at 760 East Sixty-third street, is in one of the most populous sections of the south side, and has been known for several years as "Jake Stahl's bank." The robbery came as another incident in the wave of banditry that has swept Chicago for months. Policemen have been shot down in busy streets, hundreds of pedestrians robbed and stores and banks as well as private residences plundered in broad day light.

(Continued on page 2.)

GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BERLIN, Jan. 27.—Kaiser Wilhelm celebrated his fifty-seventh birthday today in the field with his troops. Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg, who left Berlin late last night, is en route to army headquarters to join the emperor.

At the Kaiser's special request, the elaborate celebrations of the years preceding the war were not duplicated today. Flags were hung out in Berlin and other cities of the empire, but the usual parades and street demonstrations were lacking. In Berlin, several entertainments were given, the proceeds going to a fund for Red Cross work and for the children of the soldiers at the front. The Kaiser has now completely recovered from his recent illness, according to reports received here and spends the greater part of the daylight hours in the field.

STORMED THE FRENCH.

BERLIN, Jan. 27. (Via wireless to Sayville).—German troops after successful blasting operations, stormed French positions on a front of from 500 to 600 yards in the Atois, the war office announced this afternoon.

TURKEY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] BERLIN, Jan. 27. (Via wireless to Sayville).—Twenty thousand British troops defending the Arabian seaport of Aden, are under heavy attack by combined Arab and Turkish forces and in a dangerous position, according to reports received here today.

The Cologne Volks Zeitung received a report from Cairo, dated December 30, declaring that the British have lost 15,000 killed and 20,000 wounded in fighting around Aden since the beginning of the war. A wounded British major is given as authority for the statement that Arabian sheiks have gone over to the Turks and that nearly 100,000 square miles of Arabian territory, formerly controlled by the British, has been lost to them. The Arabians, it was stated, are using arms given them by the British.

Aden is strongly fortified and known as the Gibraltar of the east.

AUSTRIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] ROME, Jan. 27.—Reports received by diplomats here today said that Emperor Franz Josef of Austria suffered two strokes of apoplexy and that his condition is critical.

It was rumored this afternoon that the vatican has received a report that the Austrian emperor is sinking rapidly.

Ford's Peace Plan Failed Through Lack of Faith

[By Chas. P. Stewart, United Press Staff Correspondent.] THE HAGUE, Jan. 15. (By mail).—Henry Ford's peace mission failed for lack of "faith." According to his own statement, faith was Ford's sole stock when he started. He had not enough and those who accompanied him, with a few exceptions appear to have had but little.

Those of the party who really wished the expedition well, were so bitter-lipped that an effort was made to maroon a number of them at the first European port touched. Ford's plan, as nearly as it is possible to put so intangible a thing on paper, was to give the warring nations mental science treatment. Ford himself at the outset had unbounded faith in his ability. Despite the statement attributed to him that he intended to "get the boys out of the trenches by Christmas," he did not count on immediately ending the war.

What Ford did believe was that he could "make a dent" by gathering about him a whole ship's company, uniting the members' minds on one "big thought of peace" and continually adding to the volume and intensity of this thought as he and his crusaders traveled from neutral country to neutral country, on the edge of the zone of war, or even in the zone itself.

Whether this plan would have succeeded under favorable circumstances can't be stated, because the peace delegates failed to concentrate on thoughts of peace. The Oscar II's voyage from New York to Christiania was horrible, not so much because of incessant quarreling as on account of the atmosphere of suspicion and malice after the first day or two out.

Ford speedily took to his cabin and for more than half the trip was hard-pressed by an ill, his closest advisors. He was ill, it was stated. The nature of the illness never was made clear. Several of the correspondents whom the expedition's managing committee was trying to separate from the party did see the patient for a few minutes the night before the Oscar II's arrival at Christiania. It is true that he looked like a sick man then, but his malady seemed rather of the spirit than the body.

Ford met and spoke like a person in a semi-trance. He seemed almost completely broken. Early in the voyage he declared that squabbling among the peace delegates was a small matter, that disagreements were to be expected in any community, and that when the party landed at Christiania these troubles would quickly disappear. On this night, however, his manner suggested that he realized the fundamental weakness of his organization—that he had lost hope.

While Ford admitted that he based his early hopes only on faith, Mme. Kosika Schimmer declared she had written assurances from officials of all the neutral European governments that they would welcome such an effort as the one undertaken by Ford and from men in high positions at the chancelleries of certain of the warring nations "on both sides" that they were at least not unfriendly to the plan.

The second day of the party's stay in Christiania Premier Knudsen of Norway denied the truth of her statement. Numerous cables received in Christiania from Mme. Schimmer addressed to peace organizations and discussing arrangements for the Ford

party's reception and for co-operation in peace work, still lay in the Christendom office, because there were no such organizations to deliver them to. Those who opposed Mme. Schimmer assert that she had tried to deceive Ford concerning the strength of peace sentiment in Scandinavia.

Mme. Schimmer boasted that she had a "dossier" of every person on the ship and that not a word was said which she did not know or almost immediately. There were many indications that this was no idle boast. In throwing the expedition upon the newspaper correspondents' mercy at Stockholm, the Rev. Dr. Charles F. Aked admitted that the press representatives had many legitimate grievances, but insisted his own grounds for complaint were even better than theirs. He had made heavy financial sacrifices to accompany the expedition, he said, and had been assured he was to have considerable voice in directing its policies. He had never, he declared, seen Ford for more than ten minutes at a time and had had practically no influence.

Herman Bernstein, the New York Jewish editor, gave up his peace delegateship at Christiania and continued the journey merely as a chronicler, at his own expense. Mrs. Inez Milholland Dolossevain resigned from the party at Stockholm because she felt, she said, all attempts at democratic control of the party had been abandoned. Governor Hanna of North Dakota, though professing to have left the expedition at Christiania for personal

(Continued on page 2.)

CALLS U. S. AN EASY MARK FOR FIRST CLASS FIGHTER

General Wood Says Our Navy Would Not Last Sixty Days and Then Country Would be Invaded.

PAINTS VERY DARK WAR PICTURE

We are Living in an Era of War, Accumulating Gold and Ill-will, So Should be Prepared for Storms.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—The United States navy would be at the bottom of the sea in less than sixty days, perhaps sooner, if this country were attacked by a first class power, General Leonard Wood told the house committee on military affairs today.

Sea control lost, the present mobile force could not stop an invading force which would capture New York and the north Atlantic coast states, exact tribute and drive the American people into the interior where they would be left defenseless without ammunition and powder plants, said Wood. Control of several eastern states would give an invader eighty per cent of the gun and powder plants and the United States' store of gold.

"We are living in an era of war, accumulating most of the gold and with it a proportionate amount of ill-will, and I believe we should be prepared for storms," said Wood. "We are molested on all sides and God alone can tell who our next enemy will be. He will do so some day. This I know, our next war will be with a first class power." England, he said was not a possible antagonist of the future. The assault on the United States, he said would be aimed at the Atlantic coast line between Boston and Washington and to repel it, an army of 1,500,000 men would be required. He said popular opinion that difficulty would be encountered by an enemy in moving troops across the sea, was ridiculous and that as a matter of fact, movement by sea was the easiest in the world.

The continental army is simply a stop-gap or make-shift for what we must eventually come to in this country, universal military discipline along the Swiss and Australian line," said General Wood. "Manhood suffrage should be coupled with military service. The idea that any man can buy a substitute when his country is at stake, is damnable."

"Our policy in Mexico has earned us the contempt of the world; has greatly influenced warring nations of Europe in their present attitude toward us," said Humphrey. "The president's policy is characterized by weakness, uncertainty, vacillation and uncontrollable desire to intermeddle. He has not the courage to go into Mexico nor the courage to stay out."

"We make a tremendous bluster about the killing of American citizens upon the high seas, and fill the air with the tumult of many typewriters. But we have looked with quantity undisturbed while hundreds of Americans have been purposefully murdered in Mexico. The whole policy of the president has been one of meddling between factions, of secret and private special agents representing the president personally, a modified plan followed by the Caesars and emperors of China.

"If we are too proud to fight, we should be too proud to quarrel; I would not choose between murderers, but practice pitiless publicity as well as preach it."

armed intervention in Mexico must mean, rather than stirring scenes of conquest.

Suffragettes Get Busy. NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—President Wilson got no relief from the business of note writing when he came to New York for three speeches today.

One hundred suffragettes appeared at the Waldorf, trailing the president for an audience and sent him a note. Presently President Wilson delivered a reply, explaining that he was too busy preparing his speeches.

This reply was unsatisfactory to the suffragettes. They caucused and then addressed a rejoinder to the presidential suite. The president sent down a second reply, refusing to accede to their demands.

At this juncture the diplomatic crisis was ended by the intervention of Oscar, the maitre d'hotel. Oscar weighs 240 pounds and moves with difficulty and much perspiration. He refused to carry any more notes.

The suffragists, however, did not give up hope. Their numbers swelled to 250. Unable to see the president, suffrage leaders mounted vantage posts in the Waldorf lobby and hurled votes for women arguments at war munitions drummers. They announced they would make another attempt to reach the president when he left at noon to address a body of clergymen.

Smoked Him Out. NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—President Wilson today told 250 New York suffragists that he has not changed his views that the suffrage question should be decided by the state legislatures and not by congress.

The president was mainly "smoked out" by the suffragists after they had laid siege to the presidential suite for

Words said the Pacific coast was even less secure against attack than the Atlantic.

Our Mexican Policy Attacked. WASHINGTON, Jan. 27.—In one of the most violent attacks on the administration's Mexican policy, President Wilson and former Secretary Bryan were personally criticized today in a speech by Representative Humphrey of Washington. The president was pictured as "scholar, dreamer and theorist." Bryan was referred to as "a great preacher of chautauqua peace at most any price."

The administration's discouraging and humiliating policy in Mexico, was declared responsible for the recent murder of Americans.

"Our policy in Mexico has earned us the contempt of the world; has greatly influenced warring nations of Europe in their present attitude toward us," said Humphrey. "The president's policy is characterized by weakness, uncertainty, vacillation and uncontrollable desire to intermeddle. He has not the courage to go into Mexico nor the courage to stay out."

"We make a tremendous bluster about the killing of American citizens upon the high seas, and fill the air with the tumult of many typewriters. But we have looked with quantity undisturbed while hundreds of Americans have been purposefully murdered in Mexico. The whole policy of the president has been one of meddling between factions, of secret and private special agents representing the president personally, a modified plan followed by the Caesars and emperors of China.

"If we are too proud to fight, we should be too proud to quarrel; I would not choose between murderers, but practice pitiless publicity as well as preach it."

armed intervention in Mexico must mean, rather than stirring scenes of conquest.

Suffragettes Get Busy. NEW YORK, Jan. 17.—President Wilson got no relief from the business of note writing when he came to New York for three speeches today.

One hundred suffragettes appeared at the Waldorf, trailing the president for an audience and sent him a note. Presently President Wilson delivered a reply, explaining that he was too busy preparing his speeches.

This reply was unsatisfactory to the suffragettes. They caucused and then addressed a rejoinder to the presidential suite. The president sent down a second reply, refusing to accede to their demands.

At this juncture the diplomatic crisis was ended by the intervention of Oscar, the maitre d'hotel. Oscar weighs 240 pounds and moves with difficulty and much perspiration. He refused to carry any more notes.

The suffragists, however, did not give up hope. Their numbers swelled to 250. Unable to see the president, suffrage leaders mounted vantage posts in the Waldorf lobby and hurled votes for women arguments at war munitions drummers. They announced they would make another attempt to reach the president when he left at noon to address a body of clergymen.

Smoked Him Out. NEW YORK, Jan. 26.—President Wilson today told 250 New York suffragists that he has not changed his views that the suffrage question should be decided by the state legislatures and not by congress.

The president was mainly "smoked out" by the suffragists after they had laid siege to the presidential suite for

(Continued on page 2.)