

MEXICAN OUTLOOK IS BRIGHTER

VILLA LOSES SOME OF HIS GANG IN BATTLE WITH HIS PURSUERS

Several Mexicans Killed and Hundred Horses Captured in Clash With the Forces of Carranza.

THINK BANDIT IS SURROUNDED TODAY

Mexican Uprising Against United States has not Taken Place and Herrera has not Revolted.

[By E. T. Conkle, United Press Staff Correspondent]

EL PASO, Texas, March 24.—Villa is surrounded and may be engaged by American troops today.

According to a message from Colonel Francisco Bertani after his column had routed Villa's force just east of Namiquipa in the Santa Clara canyon, the Villistas were surrounded by Bertani's and United States soldiers under Brigadier General Pershing.

Carranza Consul Garcia, who made public Bertani's report, stated that there was no possible chance of Villa's escape and that his capture was momentarily expected.

Those familiar with Villa's tactics and his hatred for Americans, believe he will never be taken alive and that his entire command may be wiped out in the predicted fight.

Garcia said Villa might try to escape by a surprise attack during the night. Bertani reported that in the preliminary engagement the Villistas retreated to El Oro, five miles south of Namiquipa, after losing several killed and about 100 horses captured. The American troops in touch with the Carranzistas surrounding Villa, were believed to be either Colonel Dadd's cavalry column or Pershing's men, who got behind Villa by a railroad trip from Casas Grandes southward.

This report of Villa's whereabouts did not exactly fit with the story brought by Garcia Flores, a reputable Spanish business man of Chihuahua City who declared on his arrival in El Paso that Villa held up a Mexican National train at Moctezuma, nearly one hundred miles east of Namiquipa on Wednesday. Villa and 2,000 followers were seeking American passengers to kill, said Flores. He was positive that it was Villa in person who went through the coaches. It was hardly considered possible that the outlaw's large force could have covered the difficult country to Namiquipa within a day.

Flores reported Villa said that General Luis Herrera had revolted from Carranza and joined him. But the correspondence of evidence today was that Herrera was still loyal to the defacto government.

Other arrivals from Chihuahua City reported seeing Herrera there Tuesday. Telegrams given out by Consul Garcia, purporting to come from Herrera himself, as well as the principal officials in Chihuahua City, emphatically denied Herrera's defection.

Other reports declared that Herrera recently announced he would no longer be dictated to by the defacto government. He was said to have been

CITY WOULD BE AT MERCY OF 3,000 ARMED MEXICANS

Douglas, Arizona Fears Invasion at Night Like the Columbus Raid.

[United Press Leased Wire Service]

WASHINGTON, March 24.—With a Mexican army of three thousand cavalry and forty pieces of artillery camped within ten blocks of the center of Douglas, Ariz., and with American forces ordered not to prepare for active defense for fear of offending the Mexicans, the Arizona city is in grave danger of imminent attack, according to a telegram received today by Senator Ashurst from D. A. Richards, an attorney.

"Do all you can for us before it is too late," said the telegram.

Ashurst was undetermined whether to present the telegram to the senate or to the war department. In both quarters, he declared, his pleas for aid have been received rather lightly.

The telegram to Ashurst read: "Mexican general has forty pieces of artillery and 3,000 cavalry stationed

ten blocks from center of Douglas.

Seven thousand cavalry stationed six miles south of Douglas. We have only 1,800 infantry; 300 cavalry and four pieces of artillery. Our troops stationed two miles east of Douglas. Am reliably informed it would require one hour for our troops to reach Douglas in case of night attack. Our army forbidden by administration from making any active defense preparations for fear Mexicans might misconstrue such preparations. Mexicans have entrenched against the United States side and have barred wire entanglements. We have no entrenchments. Mexican troops could easily repeat the Columbus massacre in Douglas on much larger scale and return to Mexico with similar loss. All of these statements can be verified by our army officers here. Help us if you can, before it is too late."

In response to queries the state department had today from its consuls in Mexico, word that there is no massing of Carranzista troops along the border. Other reports, however, have indicated that there is border uneasiness lest such massing should occur.

Information of any engagement between Pershing's troops and Villa.

The army's wireless is now in good working order, Sample said, but early today he had received no information of Villa closely surrounded by American and Carranzista troops.

Confirmation of reports that General Pershing obtained permission to use the Mexican railway line south of Casas Grandes, was brought to El Paso today by Americans arriving from Casas Grandes. Pershing sent two troop trains to Aguaje, Chihuahua, in an effort to cut off Villa's flight southward. Aguaje is north of the destroyed Cumbres tunnel. As the troop movement was made Sunday, it is believed the troops have had sufficient time to reach a point south of Namiquipa.

When the passengers left Casas Grandes yesterday for El Paso, nothing had been heard of Villa's exact whereabouts. However, reports frequently reached the expedition headquarters at Dublin, just north of Casas Grandes, that Villa was murdering Mexicans and continuing his outlawry.

The passengers renewed the charges against the Carranza garrison at Casas Grandes who are said to have offered no opposition to Villa when he passed within half a mile of Casas Grandes on his retreat from the Columbus raid. The garrison has not joined with the American expedition in the pursuit of Villa.

General Pershing was not at the Dublin camp yesterday and the passengers on the train believed he had accompanied the troop train southward. The location of Dadd's advance column was unknown to the Mexicans between the expeditionary forces and the Mexicans in the Casas Grandes district were said to be satisfactory.

Battle is Not Reported.

[By E. T. Conkle, United Press Staff Correspondent]

EL PASO, Texas, March 24.—Doubt that American troops have surrounded Villa or were about to engage him in battle south of Namiquipa was expressed today in statements by army officers here and in Columbus. Brig. Gen. Geo. Bell, Jr., commander at Fort Bliss, said:

"I do not believe such a battle is in progress."

Carranza authorities in Juarez said they had not received any information since announcement last night that General Bertani's Carranzas column and a detachment of American troops had surrounded Villa. Consul Garcia then expected the battle to open today. Camp Columbus is also without information of an engagement between Pershing and Villa's forces.

Mexican Soldiers Are Afraid.

DOUGLAS, Ariz., March 24.—The fear that the bandit Villa has driven into the hearts of the underfed, half-clad Carranzista soldiers, has made the campaign of the first chief against the bandit a mockery, Villa sympathizers said today.

Former Villista generals, self-exiled across the border, point with contempt at the Carranza troops.

"Why haven't the Carranzistas captured Pancho?" one of the exiled "generals" was asked today.

He pointed across the border toward Agua Prieta.

"Go there," he said. "Ask to be

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RUSSIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service] PETROGRAD, March 24.—Savage fighting is going on at Jacobstadt, eighty miles southeast of Riga, where the Russians, using liquid fire and gas bombs, are battering in the German salient.

At the same time the Slavs are attacking vigorously at Friedland, west of Jacobstadt, and at Iluxt to the south. General Kuropatkin's aim apparently is to squeeze Von Hindenburg out of this important salient by threats of envelopment, forcing the retirement of the whole German line from Riga to Dvinsk, on a front of 100 miles.

The success of this offensive will remove the German threat against Riga and Dvinsk and handicap Von Hindenburg in any aggressive campaign he may undertake on the Russian front.

Despite optimistic statements from some sources, best informed critics here do not consider Kuropatkin's attacks the beginning of a great Russian offensive.

South of Dvinsk the Germans are counter-attacking vigorously. The onrush of the Russian troops has temporarily been halted by the enemy's onslaughts. Both sides are battling for the possession of strategic railways of great importance in the expected spring offensives.

Russian artillery is tuning up along the whole 800 mile front.

In the extreme southeast, General Ivanoff is meeting with no serious resistance in his campaign to clear Austrian troops from the north bank of the Dniester.

ENGLAND

[United Press Leased Wire Service]

AMSTERDAM, March 24.—Fleeting correspondents of Amsterdam newspapers today reported sounds of heavy firing in the channel from the direction of Ostend and Westende.

Incoming skippers reported that the flashes of gunfire were visible on the horizon during the night. They said they believed an important naval fight was going on.

TWO STEAMERS SUNK.

LONDON, March 24.—The British steamer Fulmar, 1,270 tons, and the Danish steamer Christiansunda, 1,017 tons, have been sunk. Eighteen of the Fulmar's crew were saved. The crew of the Danish steamer numbering twenty-two men was also picked up.

A Foot of Snow.

[United Press Leased Wire Service] EL PASO, Texas, March 24.—Suffering among the American troops was predicted, following the arrival of unusual cold weather and a snow storm here today after a long spell of unseasonable heat. A foot of snow was reported at Leesburg, New Mexico. The soldiers who left Columbus in pursuit of Villa were not equipped for cold weather.

Volunteer as Nurses.

[United Press Leased Wire Service] DENVER, Colo., March 24.—Six Denver society maids—turkey trotters—all have volunteered to act as nurse Mexicans too. They're such a nurse Mexicans too? They're such dirty creatures, those Mexican soldiers, aren't they? But of course we couldn't let the poor creatures suffer."

GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service] BERLIN, March 24.—Continuing in advance to force the evacuation of French positions northwest of Verdun, the Germans have captured two more trenches in the Haucourt region, the war office announced this afternoon.

Violent Russian attacks continued throughout yesterday and last night southeast of Riga and in the region of Dvinsk. All the Russian assaults, however, broke under German fire.

The Germans pressed forward south of Malancourt, against the southwest side of the French salient. The advance further imperiled French positions at Malancourt and Bethincourt. In the fighting in this region French prisoners now total 921.

Artillery duels occurred last night in the Champagne, the Argonne and west of the Meuse.

FOURTH WAR LOAN.

BERLIN, March 24.—The fourth German war loan has been a brilliant success, Financial Secretary Helfferich reported to the reichstag today. The subscriptions totaled more than \$2,000,000,000. This figure, Dr. Helfferich said, does not include subscription abroad and at home.

"The total of Germany's war loans now reach more than \$7,000,000,000," he said. "The British have raised less than \$4,000,000,000 and only a little more than \$2,000,000,000 by war loans."

FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service]

PARIS, March 24.—French artillery kept up a heavy bombardment of German positions in the woods south of Malancourt last night, but the Germans made no infantry attacks, the war office reported here this afternoon.

On the west of the front northwest of Verdun the night was calm. On the west bank of the Meuse, an intermittent bombardment occurred around Douaumont and Damloup. In the Woerwe region the artillery fire was most violent near Moulinville and Eparges.

French troops occupied a mine crater near Hill 285 in the Argonne. Elsewhere there were no important actions during the night.

RESUME ATTACKS.

LONDON, March 24.—German troops have resumed heavy attacks against the French front northwest of Verdun, according to Paris dispatches today.

Following a twenty-four hour lull, the German batteries turned a terrific fire on the French positions south of Malancourt and around Dead Man hill. French guns roared in reply all day yesterday. It is believed in Paris that the decisive battle on this sector has begun.

By battering through the French lines in Avocourt wood, the crown prince bent the French front in the shape of a dangerous loop.

From Berlin today declared the French were in an extremely precarious position.

Shackleton Is Back.

LONDON, March 24.—Lieutenant Ernest Shackleton, noted Antarctic explorer, has returned from his latest dash toward the south pole, according to dispatches from Sydney, New South Wales. The results of the exploration have not yet been announced.

With the United States Army on the March Through Mexico

[By H. D. Jacobs, United Press Staff Correspondent with the American Army]

PALOMAS, Mexico, March 16.—[By courier to Columbus, 23—Delayed.]—Four khaki clad troopers of the Thirtieth United States Cavalry rode through a gap in a barbed wire fence two miles south of Columbus, N. M., yesterday morning and the actual invasion of Mexico was under way. They were the "point" of the punitive expedition. The "point" consisted of the sergeant, "Pike" Hennessey, New York, and Troopers Shermanfield of Pennsylvania, Woodridge of West Virginia, and another called Sam.

They went across abreast. The Carranzistas customs house was deserted.

"Points" were flung to each side of the advance to guard against surprise attacks from lurking Villistas. The first camp was made about four miles south of Palomas. The populace both came down to meet us.

Headquarters was located south of a small, alkali-tainted creek. The cavalry and artillery also camped on the south side while the infantry established itself on the north.

Guards were thrown out along the creek and no one permitted to replenish his canteen until the medical experts had ascertained whether the water was poisoned. xxx(Censored) out of an adobe hut and plunged into the creek for a bath before they could be stopped. Sentinels were also posted around all buildings and mesquite brush corrals with orders to prevent anyone approaching them. This was a precaution against the festive tastes of louse.

The first move by the troops after breaking ranks was to yank off their socks and shoes and bathe their feet. It may be that the army used to march on its stomach, but now it marches on its feet literally and figuratively.

Shortly after nightfall the signal corps arrived with its wireless, ran up a tall mast, cranked the gasoline engine for power and began communication with Columbus.

xxx(Censored)xxx The Thirtieth left at daybreak, as an advance guard. It was announced the remainder of the expedition would follow in two or three days. An aeroplane flew out from Columbus this morning, caught up with the cavalry and turned back.

It kept a height of about 1,500 feet and it was impossible to ascertain how many men it carried.

Motor cycle orderlies chugged between headquarters and Columbus all night. The first mail out of Mexico was carried by Orderly William Payne of Saginaw, Mich. Trooper Collin of "Missouri" Tenth colored cavalry detailed as headquarters escort was discussing the expedition with Trooper Green.

"Can you all talk Spanish?" asked Collin. "Yassa, I can talk just ninety words," responded Green, tapping his ammunition belt containing ninety rounds, "and they are all alike. They are all killed-a-Mexican—zing killed-a-Mexican—zing killed-a-Mexican."

From officer to officer's servant the greatest kindness was shown the correspondents with the expedition who were nearly inviolated by the first few hours of journeying in saddles. The newspapermen joined the column on such short notice they were forced to beg mess kits off orderlies attached to headquarters. The coffee, hard tack, bacon and potatoes served in the correspondents' mess would have tasted good without any kit.

CALL FOR NATIONAL GUARDS IS NOT BEING CONSIDERED

Citizen Soldiery of Iowa and Other States is not Needed and May not be Used Later.

SITUATION LOOKS VERY OPTIMISTIC

While Affairs are in a Critical Condition, Most of the Alarming Talk Comes From Sinister Forces.

[By Robert J. Bender, United Press Staff Correspondent]

WASHINGTON, March 24.—There will be no mobilization of the national guard on the Mexican border at the present time. In the light of reports received from American consuls in Mexico and from army officials in charge of the punitive expedition, President Wilson and his cabinet today decided there is no need at present either for a call for volunteers or for use of the militia.

The question of calling out the militia for patrol duty was gone into in detail. Members of congress from states on the border had impressed upon the president and his cabinet the need of additional troops on the line.

It is possible that additional regulars will be sent to the border although Secretary of War Baker would not say today whether such orders are contemplated. He said merely he had as yet given no such orders.

It is the belief in administration circles that were the United States to mobilize the militia on the border at the present time it would seriously embarrass Carranza and make more difficult his task of convincing the Mexican people that the United States does not intend to make a campaign against the entire country.

So far as Mexican conditions are concerned, great optimism was voiced after the cabinet meeting. One official said that in the light of the official report submitted to the cabinet, it was evident a vast amount of misinformation had been sent out regarding true conditions across the border.

Jingoism Is Rampant.

WASHINGTON, March 24.—Charges that sinister forces are seeking to inflame Americans and Mexicans into war, were hurled by Senator Stone, administration spokesman in the senate today, following the reading of telegrams into the record telling of serious conditions along the Texas and Arizona borders.

"Every man with sense enough to come in out of the wet," said Stone, "knows the situation in Mexico is critical—that an effort is being made by numerous sinister influences in and outside of Mexico to excite and inflame Mexicans; to tell them the United States contemplates an aggression against their whole government and people."

"The president has sought to impress Mexicans of his friendliness and the senate has endorsed this stand."

"But there are influences at work and we know it, working to create a situation, the end of which we could not know."

"Will senators make present critical conditions worse?"

Stone and Borah clashed when

Borah and Sheppard of Texas had telegrams read from Douglas, Ariz., citizens asking help in fear of a new Mexican massacre and invasion there.

A stormy debate followed the reading of the telegram and the introduction by Senator Lewis of a resolution proposing that any person who furnishes Villa aid be declared a traitor.

Referring to the telegram presented by Borah, Stone said:

"It would have been better if all such comment should have been delivered to the war department. I confess myself unable to understand any senator's desire at this crucial point to present such matters and thereby give them official dignity."

"I have no apologies to make," injected Borah. Stone retorted that Borah might have acted with "greater propriety."

"When a man becomes obsessed with the idea that he is running for president," continued Stone, ironically, "he ought to act unflinchingly by one delusion in exploiting another delusion."

"Of course a senator may do as he pleases. He may offer anything he wishes; just what public good is accomplished, surpasses intelligent understanding."

Replying to Stone's criticism of his resolution to call for fifty thousand volunteers, Senator Sherman asked for Stone's own opinion.

"I get my information from the president and others upon whom we must rely," Stone retorted. "If needed, they would not hesitate to inform the congress."

"My offer was to tender friendly help to the administration if it is needed," said Sherman.

Turning to the republicans, Stone said:

"If you wish to encourage the administration to have war with Mexico, have the courage to say so, like men—do it openly and boldly, if that is what you want; don't do it surreptitiously."

"Is helping protect the forces already in Mexico provocative of war?" asked Sherman.

Stone declared Sherman's resolution was introduced for the purpose of waging war on "others than Villa." Sherman hotly denied this and pointed to the terms of his resolution.

"Oh, I didn't expect the senator to express terms, to admit such a motive," said Stone.

Clapp criticized Stone for being "too prone to assign political motives" to the republicans; He declared all senators were acting patriotically, including Sherman.

"I am sure there was not an attempt to embarrass the president,"

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CABINET MEETING TODAY WILL DISCUSS MEXICO

Consideration of the Request That More Troops be Sent to the Border

[By Robert J. Bender, United Press Staff Correspondent]

WASHINGTON, March 24.—President Wilson and the cabinet will consider sending more troops to reinforce General Pershing in the Mexican campaign today.

The situation growing out of the pursuit of Villa and his bandits will receive practically the entire attention of the president and his advisors at the cabinet meeting. In addition to the question of field reinforcements, the cabinet will consider the problem of strengthening the border patrol and the protocol being arranged with Carranza for use of the Northern Mexican railways.

Regarding the reported defection of General Luis Herrera and 2,000 men from Carranza's to Villa's standard, until Pershing's forces get in touch, friendly or hostile, with Herrera's outposts in Chihuahua, many believe the mystery will remain unsolved. Reports from General Bell indicating belief in the rumors of Herrera's revolt, were to be laid before the cabinet.

Through state department agents in Mexico as well as army sources and Mexican spies, the government centered its attention today on securing accurate information as to the extent of the defections from Carranza and anti-American sentiment.

The cabinet was agreed upon the protocol plan covering joint operations against Villa. Delay in its formal ratification was reported due to two causes, desire of this government to include all possible circumstances which may arise from the presence of American troops in Mexico and desire of Carranza for concessions which will prevent popular criticism.