

RUMORS OF MEXICAN PARLEY BECAUSE INSURGENTS GATHER WHERE LIMANTOUR IS.

The Parley Did Not Materialize—Mexican Ambassador Back for Over Sunday and Gomez and Hopkins for the Revolutionists Come From Washington.

There was such a convergence upon the hotel district of New York late yesterday afternoon of Mexicans of both sides of the rival camps that rumors arose that a conference in which Señor Limantour, Mexican Minister of Finance, and Ambassador de la Barra on the one side and Dr. Gomez, head of the insurgents, and Dr. Gomez, brother of the leader of the insurgents, on the other would participate was about to begin here in the city. The object of settling upon Señor Limantour as the successor of President Diaz and thereby ending the Mexican troubles.

Ambassador de la Barra and Dr. Gomez both did come from Washington on the same train, but they were in different cars and held no communication with each other. Last night at the Plaza Ambassador de la Barra said he had come to town—his third visit here this week—merely "to dine with James Speyer on Monday night and then go to the opera with Mr. Speyer." He did not expect to see Dr. Gomez while here, the Ambassador said.

Señor Madero as the Astor, on the other hand, said at about the same time that a meeting between Dr. Gomez and the Mexican Ambassador is "possible" while the two are in the city. Señor Madero discussed the visit of Dr. Gomez with much mystery.

When Señor Limantour was told last night that both parties had settled upon him to end the insurrection by becoming the choice of both sides for the Presidency he replied with a word and a shrug.

"Stupid!" was the word.

Ambassador de la Barra reached town with his wife at 2 o'clock and after registering at the Astor sought Señor Limantour at the Plaza. Señor Madero is also at the Astor, but he did not meet the Mexican Ambassador. Dr. Gomez decided to stay at the Imperial. Before going to the Imperial, however, Dr. Gomez, who succeeded Señor Madero as head of the Washington junta, had a talk with Señor Madero. After the conference Señor Madero had this to say about the candidacy of Señor Limantour: "The insurgents have great personal respect for Señor Limantour, but they would not accept him as President of Mexico under the present circumstances. Señor Limantour stands for the Diaz principle of Government. It would require a decided stand on the part of Señor Limantour against things as they are in Mexico to cause us to consider him for our ruler. With his present ideas his succession merely would mean a continuation of Diaz government."

Ambassador de la Barra went into conference with Señor Limantour at 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon and the two were closeted for more than three hours. Then the Ambassador came out to talk to the reporters. He was told of reports from Washington to the effect that Señor Limantour was to be the next President and so bringing about settled conditions.

"It is not true," the Ambassador replied. "The report is ridiculous."

"Do you expect to confer with Dr. Gomez while in New York?"

"No, I do not expect to see him while here," was the answer. "I merely came over for social reasons, to dine and go to the opera with James Speyer on Monday night. I shall probably return to Washington on Tuesday morning."

"It is also said," it was suggested to the Ambassador, "that your Government has declared martial law throughout Mexico."

"That cannot be true," replied Ambassador de la Barra. "I have just received this telegram, forwarded to me from Washington," taking a message from his pocket. "It is from Señor Creel, Minister of Foreign Relations, and there is no information in the telegram about martial law being established, nor have I had any other information on the subject."

"The telegram from Minister Creel, however, does authorize me to deny categorically the late stories published here about Japan and Mexico. The message tells me to make a denial that Japan ever made a suggestion to Mexico to give Japan a coaling station on the Pacific coast of my country, nor did Japan ever suggest anything that savored of a wish on the part of the Japanese to gain control of the Tehuantepec Railroad, as has been reported."

Señor Madero later was asked whether Ambassador de la Barra and Dr. Gomez had come here by arrangement or whether Dr. Gomez had come with the expectation of conferring with officials of the Diaz Government who are here.

"I cannot talk about these things," Señor Madero answered mysteriously. "It is possible that Dr. Gomez and Señor Limantour will meet. But if I talk about Dr. Gomez's plans just now I may upset important things now under way."

As to the reported establishment of martial law in Mexico Señor Madero said that Mexico has in effect been under martial law for three years and that any new order of the kind issued now by the Diaz Ministry would not change conditions that have long been prevailing.

"President Diaz does as he pleases at all times," said Señor Madero. "Martial law is the martial law."

Señor Madero showed a telegram from his brother, the Provisional President of Mexico, which he received last night by way of El Paso, in which Gen. Madero confirmed the report that he had defeated the Federal troops under Gen. Cuellar and had captured Casas Grandes.

In the morning Señor Limantour issued a statement saying:

"The Government could not consider presentation for a moment. I think the United States has no idea of intervening in a character to indicate that intervention has been contemplated by any other foreign Power having interests in Mexico. Naturally any country desires that the United States shall prevent the insurgents in northwestern Mexico from snatching arms, ammunition and

OIL FIRE ON RIVER FRONT TUG ENGINEER STUCK TO POST AND LOST HIS LIFE.

Many Craft Threatened by the Flood of Blazing Oil—Homegoing Crew Halted by the Popping of Oil Cans—Accident to O'Keefe's Auto Going to Fire.

The Pratt Oil Works in Williamsburg had a fire yesterday afternoon at sundown which destroyed its canning and packing plant and burned out a pier loaded with cans awaiting shipment to the East. Flaming oil spilled from the pier to the surface of the East River and set fire to nearby shipping. The Standard Oil tug Protector, moored closely inshore, couldn't pull out in time to avoid the blazing sea of oil and was destroyed. Her engineer, Edward Brown, who stuck to his post too long, was burned to death.

The fire started a few minutes before 6 o'clock, just as the Williamsburg Bridge, a few blocks away, was carrying its biggest burden of homegoing workers. They paused at the first show of fire and watched the flames as they swept through the canning factory and out upon the pier and the heavy burden of smoke drifting out over the river and the city.

As nearly as could be learned, the fire got its start in the canning and packing plant, a structure which extended 200 feet from North Twelfth to North Thirtieth street and was 120 feet wide. It was at a fire which started in the building on this site that Battalion Chief George Graham was killed two years ago.

As soon as the first flicker of flame was seen the fire brigade of the works got to work and did what it could to stop a stop to the spread of the flames. But it wasn't able to make much head against it. Somebody pulled a fire box, and as soon as the firemen got an idea of the probable extent of the fire they sent in a second and a third alarm and later a fourth. This brought, in addition to the usual complement of engines, three fireboats.

The fireboats had to bear the brunt of the work, for the flames, streaking through the canning factory, reached the cause on the pier and began licking them up. The cans couldn't withstand the heat. They began to pop, and the oil flowed out on the floor of the pier and into the slip.

There were fourteen tugs, mostly belonging to the Standard Oil Company, lying alongside the pier, with their crews getting ready to knock off work for over Sunday. There were many lighters there too and a car float with forty freight cars aboard. When the burning current first began to flow it looked as though most of them would be destroyed.

But the tugs, getting to work at the lighters, hauled them out into the stream so that the fireboats could get at them from both sides. Some of them were burning fiercely, but the heavy streams from the fireboats' pumps got them off with a little charring.

The Protector, however, couldn't seem to get under way and the other tugs couldn't help her. She was further in and caught the first onset of the burning oil. Capt. Andy Bull, seeing that there was no hope of saving her, yelled to his men to jump ashore. Stephen Bray, the fireman, and Sam Simonson, the cook, heard his order and obeyed.

They got out, with a scare but with no burns to speak of. Edward Brown, the engineer, trying perhaps to get up steam so that the Protector could save herself, stuck to his post too long. He came out of the deck house just at the moment when a black smother of smoke swept down upon the boat. Later, when the fireboats had had a chance at the tug, they found Brown's body lying alongside the rail. Brown was 62 years old. He lived in First place, near Court street, in Brooklyn.

For a time it looked as though the big oil tanks would go too. Their contents were drawn off through the pipes leading to the refineries in Greenpoint and Long Island City. But the firemen kept the fire from reaching them. The pier and the canning plant were destroyed at a loss, so the police figured, of upward of \$100,000.

The canning factory has been burned four or five times before. The building and the pier shed were sheathed with corrugated iron and were reasonably safe from fires starting elsewhere. The pier ran out into the East River about 400 feet.

The fourth alarm brought Chief Croker from Manhattan, Deputy Fire Commissioner O'Keefe of Brooklyn, Deputy Police Commissioner Reynolds of Brooklyn and Deputy Commissioner Driscoll of Manhattan. Commissioner O'Keefe's automobile went with him on the way, an axle snapped and he and his chauffeur, George Mundy, were badly shaken up, but not much hurt. Deputy Commissioner Reynolds caught a spark in his eye, but he didn't need immediate help from a doctor.

Chief Lally and three of his men had a tight squeeze when they were busy washing down the ruins after the worst of the fire was done for. A thirty gallon can of naphtha blew up and they were swept by the force of the explosion. Chief Lally's clothes started to smoulder, and the others—Owen Savage, foreman of 121 Engine, George O'Connor of 112 Engine and Henry Krebs of 151 Engine—were singed and slightly cut. Other firemen working near by threw streams over the burning and an ambulance surgeon fixed them up so that they could go back to work.

BURGLAR UP DUMBWAITER.

Gets Jewelry Belonging to Dr. Franklin D. Lawson.

A burglar crawled into a dumbwaiter in the Cromwell apartment house at 602 West 127th street yesterday afternoon and ascended to the apartment of Dr. Franklin D. Lawson, who practices medicine at 1 East Forty-second street and is also a choir and oratorio singer.

There being nobody at home to stop him the burglar went through the flat and picked up two pairs of opera glasses, two suits of the doctor's clothes, a diamond stickpin, a pearl pendant set with diamonds and belonged to Mrs. Lawson and a gold watch.

The rest of Mrs. Lawson's jewelry she had in a chamois bag which she had carried with her to a matinee.

MRS. DRUMMOND'S AMBITION. Desires to Spend \$1,000,000. It is Said. Over the English Coronation.

CHICAGO, March 11.—Mrs. Maudwin Drummond, former wife of the late Marshall Field, Jr., who came to Chicago last week with her English husband to negotiate with the trustees of Marshall Field's estate, is still pleading with the guardians of the estate for an increased personal allowance. Last night Mrs. Drummond need at least \$1,000,000 for the entertainment of British nobility and foreign potentates at the coronation ceremonies of King George in June, she asserts.

Mrs. Drummond's visit to Chicago, which she said was "for business reasons only," and which has been marked by no social entertainments, has not yet been crowned with the success she anticipated. Believing that King George and Queen Mary are prejudiced against Americans, Mrs. Drummond and her sister, Mrs. David Beattie, who was formerly Ethel Field, and who wed an officer in the British navy after her divorce from Arthur Lambert Tree, are planning coronation entertainments on a scale so sumptuous that they are expected to win the gratitude of the royal family and to gain entrance to the inner circle of British society that the two women have been stonewalling the Field wealth.

For the great dinners, the balls, house parties, hunts, country houses and retinue of servants \$1,000,000 will have to be expended by each hostess, it is estimated, in the present year. To secure this money the Drummonds have made the trip to America. That has already cost Mrs. Drummond \$100,000 worth of jewels that she planned to wear during the coronation season. They were stolen on the steamer coming over.

OLIVE MARRIED MONTHS AGO.

Sails From Here as the Bride of Alton Gaspari, Tenor.

St. Paul for Southampton it was announced that she had been married a year and a half ago to Alton Gaspari, an Italian tenor.

The two came to the Plaza a week ago to-day and registered separately. It was not known at the hotel that they were married.

They refused to be interviewed and it was not until yesterday at the pier that friends of theirs admitted that the couple had been married. Signor Gaspari himself was not inclined to talk much and his wife had nothing to say. Their names were not to be found on the preliminary sailing list, for it was not until very late that they were booked passage. In the final list they were booked as Mrs. Olive and Signor Gaspari, occupying separate suites. At the Plaza it was said that they left there Friday night to go on board the ship.

Nahan Franko, who is the musical director at the Plaza and who is an intimate friend of Mrs. Olive, said that he had known of the marriage a year and a half ago, but had been asked not to say anything about it for Mrs. Olive wished to avoid publicity. They were married quietly in Marseilles in the presence of only a few friends.

Some time was spent in London and at Montpellier in southern France, where Mme. Olive has an estate. Then she started on a tour to the East. It was their plan to return by way of Manchuria, but the plague there forced them to come by way of this country.

Mme. Olive and her husband are going direct to London. She will give concerts there and then start on a concert tour through Great Britain. Afterward they will go to southern France. Mme. Olive says she is coming over here next season, probably to sing in concert.

PLOT TO RESTORE MANUEL.

Royalist Says Portugal Will Welcome Him—Restore Dictator Too.

LONDON, March 11.—The Pall Mall Gazette following up to-day its story of a republican plot against the monarchist government of Portugal says the royalists hope that the end of this year will see King Manuel again enthroned in that country.

Senator Nord, a leading monarchist, now living in this city, in an interview with a representative of the Gazette deprecated the idea that the overthrow of the Portuguese republic would be accomplished by the assassination of the present Ministers. There was no intention of that sort, he declared. There was plenty of time for the coup d'etat.

The King is young and the country must undergo some preparation before the moment is considered ripe for another change. Senator Nord said he believed that when the time came the country would be glad to welcome back its King.

A little colony of royalists, the Gazette says, has grown up around King Manuel at Richmond. All have taken houses on short leases as though they intended to make only a temporary stay. Emigrants of the Portuguese republic are unobtrusively watching their movements and everything they do in London to-day will be known in Lisbon to-morrow.

One of the intentions of the royalists is to reinstate Senator Franco, the one time dictator, who is now in exile at Biarritz.

KILLED GETTING OUT.

Bookkeeper, Locked In, Falls With Fire—Escape Ladder He's Released.

Alfred Teller, a bookkeeper of 52 East 131st street, found all the doors locked when he attempted at 7 o'clock last night to leave the building at 43 Leonard street in which he was employed. He called on Police Headquarters, which had the Leonard street station send Policemen Van Horn and Bostwick around.

The policemen found the bookkeeper on the second floor fire escape. They directed him from the street how to release the ladder from its hooks. He did as directed and attempted to allow the ladder to slip through his hands to the street.

It was topheavy. It toppled toward the street and the policeman yelled to him to let go.

For some reason Teller held on and as the ladder swung over toward the street he fell with it. The policeman tried to catch it but it went clean through their hands.

The bookkeeper was taken to the Hudson street hospital with a fractured skull and died there half an hour later. He lived with his two sisters.

FLORIDA-ATLANTA-BIRMINGHAM.

Southern Southern Limited. Dining, Parlor and Stateroom sleeping cars. Third class service. N. Y. Office, 405 Third Ave. 1911.

ARREST BOSTON BROKER HERE

ROBERT S. BROWN ACCUSED OF FORGERY.

Indorsement of "George Otis Draper" on Note for \$5,000 Not Genuine—The Prisoner Had Been Stopping at Waldorf Here—Did Not Resist Arrest.

Robert S. Brown of Brookline, Mass., was arrested yesterday by Central Office Detectives David and William Brown at Thirty-fourth street and Broadway on a charge of forging the name of George Otis Draper to a note for \$5,000.

The forgery was made on September 19, 1910. Brown's arrest was asked for by Chief of Police Watts of Boston, who called up Inspector Russell at the detective bureau yesterday by long distance telephone.

The detectives were given the description telephoned by Chief Watts and after three hours search they found Brown. He had been staying at the Waldorf.

Brown admitted his identity and made no objection to going to Police Headquarters. He was locked up to await the arrival of more detailed information regarding the case.

This information, Chief Watts said, he would forward by special delivery letter so that it would reach New York last evening. Brown refused to talk about the case.

Boston, March 11.—Robert S. Brown, of the firm of Robert S. Brown & Co., which formerly had offices in the financial district, is wanted here on the charge of having forged the signature of George Otis Draper, son of the late Gen. William F. Draper, to a note for \$5,000.

News of the alleged forgeries became known when suits for notes amounting to \$10,000 were filed by Charles H. Worster, a Boston note broker, against several persons, among them George Otis Draper, whose name appeared on the notes as an indorser.

This particular note purported to be made by the Southern Maine Steamship Company by Robert S. Brown, treasurer, payable to Robert S. Brown & Co. Apparently it was indorsed by the latter firm to Draper, from whom it passed to Robert S. Brown and finally came into the hands of Mr. Worster. It is claimed that other notes, two for \$3,000 and a third for \$5,000, also bear the forged indorsement of Mr. Draper.

The Boston police say that Brown has worked the forged signature game with such success that when his affairs are fully investigated it will be found that he has had fraudulent notes discounted to the extent of about \$60,000.

They say that Brown has been in the habit of making out these business notes, and by forging the signature of a person as well known as Mr. Draper he has had little difficulty in getting the notes discounted.

Brown's residence is on Winthrop road near the former home of Robert F. Davis, the boy broker under arrest in Brazil. For the last two months Brown has been living at the Waldorf-Astoria, so the police say.

Draper is now living in New York and is said to have admitted knowing Brown.

In connection with the affair it appears that young Draper's \$10,000 share of the estate of his father has vanished, so far as attorneys for the plaintiff in the suits against him have been able to discover.

Clarence F. Eldridge, attorney for Worster, has been notified by Clare H. Draper and Oliver H. Lane, executors of the will of Gen. Draper, that George O. Draper has no interest in his father's estate at this time. Mr. Eldridge has been unable to find any tangible property belonging to young Draper that can be attached.

Attorneys representing Draper say that his name on the back of all the notes involved is forged.

The alleged forgeries were made several months ago and came to light when the indorsers of some of the notes refused to pay them, asserting that their signatures on them were not genuine. The hope that the man who uttered the notes would keep his promise to settle has heretofore restrained the wronged parties from taking either criminal or civil action.

The dozen or more men who assert that their indorsements of the notes are forgeries include persons very prominent in business circles throughout New England.

DIED AND HELD UP TRAFFIC.

Chauffeur of Express Van Couldn't Go Ahead After Fifth Avenue.

A big American Express automobile was held up on Forty-second street and came to Fifth avenue, where the traffic was heaviest. On the seat was William Peck, who operated the van, and Next to him sat his helper, William Malone. The line of vehicles moved east on Forty-second street, and it was the turn of the express van to go through.

But instead of moving ahead the van stopped short, the emergency brake on power shaft off. The traffic policeman still held back the waiting automobiles that panted to go on their way and motioned for the express van to hurry.

There was no movement, and Malone turned to the chauffeur beside him. The chauffeur was dead.

Malone could not run the machine and hurried to the nearest telephone, where he called up the New York Hospital and the express company's office at 209 East Forty-second street. The hospital responded by sending Dr. Pardee and an ambulance, while Hugh J. Conway, a chauffeur, was sent on from the stables.

The physician said death had come from heart failure and he wondered at the man's failure of mind in using his last moment to stop the machine. Peck was 25 years old and lived at 632 Third avenue. He had been married only a few months.

WOMAN HERRSHTER SENTENCED.

Mrs. Edna Henry Mann, 31 years old, who testified that she was hypnotized by Sidney Denning and made to steal horses and who was convicted of grand larceny, was sentenced yesterday by Judge Humphrey in Long Island City to not less than four years and not more than nine years in Auburn prison.

AIKEN-AUGUSTA-FLORIDA.

Southern Southern Limited. Dining, Parlor and Stateroom sleeping cars. Third class service. N. Y. Office, 405 Third Ave. 1911.

TO SEE THE MAINE SOON.

Col. Black Says the Hull Can Be Fully Exposed to View in Six Weeks.

HAVANA, March 11.—Col. William M. Black, in charge of the operations in connection with the raising of the battleship Maine, announced to-day that the work had so far advanced that it would be possible within six weeks to pump out the coffer dam and expose the hull to view.

SAVED BY HER HAREM SKIRT.

It Proved to Be a Good Thing for a Woman Caught by an Automobile Door.

NEW ROCHELLE, March 11.—A big limousine automobile stopped this afternoon in front of a jewelry store in Main street and a woman wearing a harem skirt alighted. She wore diamonds and costly furs. As she closed the door of the car her skirt was caught between it and the casing. The chauffeur had received orders to go ahead, and as he started the machine the woman was drawn along. He had the collar of his fur coat about his ears and did not hear her call for him to stop.

President Carson of the Mercantile Exchange saw the woman's plight, leaped on the step of the auto, lifted the woman from the ground to the machine and had the chauffeur bring it to a stop. Her harem skirt had enabled her to keep pace with the auto until assistance came. She did not tell who she was.

WIG LATE OF THE SVIG.

The Moldgaard Now Eloquent Travels With That Commander.

Brave Capt. Wig has come to port but not upon the Svig, because, as in these pages told, the Svig gave up the rig upon the reefs of Runtan some several years ago, and much put out, without command, Wig wandered to and fro until the Munson line found out they'd like him to command the Viking steamship Moldgaard, just in from Cuxaband.

The Moldgaard is quite a ship she'd make four of the Svig, for Wig is worth his berth, he knows, no matter if she's big. Here's to him may be long inspire the licensed ship news board, and may be live forever on the freighter Moldgaard.

LITTLE GIRLS PURPLE PEARLS.

She Did Not Declare Them and a Wonderful Time Followed.

Marion Whiteley, a seventeen-year-old girl of Gary, Ind., who has been attending school in Paris, arrived yesterday by the French liner La Provence chartered by Mrs. W. Kozminski, Western capitalist of the French Luce. She declared \$95 worth of personal wearing apparel.

She was met at the pier by her guardian, former Judge Priestly of St. Louis, who had presented to her in Paris a pair of purple pearl sleeve buttons surrounded with small diamonds and worth in Paris about \$150. Her aunt had told her that inasmuch as the buttons were bought in an American store in Paris she would not have to declare them. Her chaperon advised her to declare them and now she wishes she had. She also wore a new purple gown and hat, bought in Paris, and which she thought it unnecessary to declare.

She admitted tearfully to acting Deputy Surveyor John P. O'Connor that the hat and gown were new and that she had the pearl buttons. He took her down to Surveyor Henry with ex-Judge Priestly and there she cried again, declaring that she had no intention of cheating Uncle Sam.

The Surveyor considered her youth and decided to let her have her gown and hat, but seized the sleeve buttons. She may get them by paying penal duties that will bring their cost to her or her guardian up to about \$350.

NEW POLITICS FOR CUBA.

Conservative Party Would Assimilate System to the French.

HAVANA, March 11.—Within a very short time the Conservatives will hold a convention to adopt a party platform. It is probable that they will come out in favor of a change from a popular to a parliamentary form of government for the island.

They will advocate the election of a President by the Congress for a term of seven years, as is the custom in France. It is likely that the name of the party will be changed to that of Republicans.

The newspapers almost without a single exception ridicule the Spanish proposal for a status quo pending the negotiation of the proposed trade treaty.

THIRTY BURIED IN AVALANCHE.

Track Layers Covered by Earth Loosened by a Thaw—Five Men Escape.

DULUTH, Minn., March 11.—Thirty men were buried in an avalanche of earth and rock at the Norman mine on the Mesaba Range late this afternoon and twenty-five of them are believed to be dead. Five were rescued alive but they are all badly hurt.

The Norman is controlled by the Oliver Iron Mining Company and is situated near Virginia. The men that were buried by the slide were engaged at laying mine track in the property, which is an open pit. The frozen walls of earth had thawed during the day.

A large company of rescuers are hard at work uncovering the buried miners, but there is small chance that any more will be taken out alive. Those that escaped instant death were on the far edge of the slide. The walls of the mine are high and hundreds of tons of earth came down.

It is reported that three men are entombed in one of the drifts of the Elba mine on the Mesaba, a property controlled by Pickands, Mather & Co. of Cleveland, but these men are alive and will be rescued.

SPY SAYS HE'S AN AMERICAN.

Austrian Caught at Bari Buying Plans of Italian Fortifications.

ROME, March 11.—The police of Bari have arrested a student named Giuseppe Conti on a charge of attempting to obtain copies of the plans of the fortifications, which he intended to sell to an Austrian spy named Bau.

The latter was arrested and plans and compromising documents were found in his house. He says he is a naturalized American and that his name is Dean.

The American Embassy denies his story.

AFTER THE GRIPPE.

Dr. J. P. Dewey's Pills and Pills Co. R. T. DEWEY & CO. 100 Fulton St. N. Y.

TRAMP OF TROOPS IN SAN ANTONIO

5,000 Regulars on the Ground and All the Rest Are Expected To-day.

NO CONFUSION IN THE CAMP
Gen. Carter and Staff Arrive and Methodist Work Begins—Hangars Are Set Up.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 11.—Before retreat was sounded to-night there were 5,000 men out at Fort Sam Houston, and down under the glare of searchlights strikers and male wranglers were pulling at a tangle of passenger and stock cars trying to get another couple of thousand into camp before the dark came. Before midnight to-morrow there will be between 14,000 and 15,000 men of the United States army at this place, and enough more at San Diego, El Paso and Galveston to bring the number of troops within touch of the border up to 20,000. All this will be done within five days of the dissemination of the order of mobilization.

A circumstance tending, in the opinion of army folks, to throw light on the real purpose of the present mobilization did not develop until to-night, when 250 recruits arrived in company with one of the infantry regiments to fill the numbers of the Seventeenth Infantry. This brings the Seventeenth up nearly to a war footing.

It was learned to-night following the arrival of these recruits that the other regiments on the ground or in transit will soon be recruited up to the full number of 1,300. At present every infantry regiment in camp has the peace footing of 900 men. One infantry officer said that it was pretty generally known that before a week had passed every infantry regiment at the fort would be on war footing.

Altogether 4,000,000 rounds of ball cartridges, ninety in the belt of each soldier and 110 a man in the ammunition trains, are converging this minute on the thousand acre windy lot out back of this town which is part of Fort Sam Houston. That windy lot is less than 150 miles from the border of Mexico. The men who are carrying these rounds of ball and the officers who are directing them are not stopping to wonder the why and wherefore of it. They are just coming by the heavy trainloads and settling down.

Why is all this? Well, an officer who wears pretty fancy shoulder straps was standing by the flap of his tent out at the new camping grounds this afternoon and his eyes, squinting against the strong sunlight, were turned to the south. He said this:

"If somebody should die off down there we wouldn't stay here very long. Maybe if somebody shouldn't die we won't stay here very long anyway. Now of course I don't know anything," which was this officer's way of evading committing himself, "but if you should ask me directly how long we are going to stay here I would say, no doubt about four months, and maybe a year."

"What would happen if something over the border should take place, some little irregularity?"

The officer squinted his eyes and smiled a little.

"Well all I can say is if that should come about I keep your eyes on the cavalry the first thing, and then see something else move."

Col. John L. Clem, chief quartermaster of the Department of Texas, whose headquarters are Fort Sam Houston, has been ordered to provide supplies for 10,000 men for four months. Here is another fact which stands up along with other straws pointing the wind: this afternoon a long pontoon train, part of the equipment of the corps of engineers stationed at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., swung into the tangle of yards near the camp. An officer of the corps of engineers was asked if it were the usual thing to take pontoon trains to maneuvers. He replied, without smiling, that it depended where the maneuvers were to take place. The Rio Grande River does not lie between San Antonio and Galveston, announced in the official statement of impending maneuvers as the object of the theoretical attack. That river lies between San Antonio and Mexico and it is the only river bigger than an irrigation ditch that is so disposed on the map.

Although the first of the troops under mobilization arrived at the big camping grounds of Fort Sam Houston yesterday was Col. Van Orsdale's Seventeenth Regiment from Fort McPherson in Georgia, the arrival at 6:45 o'clock this morning of Major Gen. William H. Carter, who is the commander of the entire division now being massed along the border, and his staff gave official life to the movement out around the big wind swept army post. Gen. Carter got in over the Iron Mountain from St. Louis and was met by Brig. Gen. J. W. Duncan, commander of the Department of Texas, and his staff officers.

Gen. Carter went at once to the effort and there this afternoon a detail of men was busy putting up the divisional headquarters on a knoll which overlooks the whole thousand acres. Gen. Carter visited himself to all visitors during the afternoon and no word could be had from him as to the ultimate destination of the 20,000 troops being massed under his command or the length of time that the present massing of the forces would continue.

With the arrival of the commanding officer of all the border army came also some of his brigade commanders. Gen. F. A. Smith, commanding the First Brigade of Infantry, and Gen. M. P. Mans