

REPORT OF VILLA'S DEATH NOT CONFIRMED

LT LINE ISSUE MAY BE ADJUSTED

Contract Offers Ordinance Embodiment Acceptable to Railroad and City Attorney.

WOULD HASTEN IMPROVEMENT

Proposed Agreement Leaves the Question of City's Liability for Future Determination.

Ordinance introduced in the Board of Aldermen last night by Alderman ...

BOARD PASSES ORDINANCE CONCERNING 15-FOOT STRIP

Aldermen Approve Measure Dedicating Property Needed for Enlargement of Post-Office.

PROVIDE CENSOR FOR MOVIES

Adams Introduces Ordinance Making Superintendent of Schools Mentor of Film Exhibitions, With Extra Salary of \$500 a Year.

WILL DEDICATE EASEMENT FOR MONUMENT AVENUE

Only the contract proposed by the ...

RAINAGE CONDITIONS COULD BE MET FOR ABOUT \$5,500

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In the meeting of the Street Committee ...

WAIVER WILL MATERIALLY AFFECT EXEMPTION QUESTION

The other main question under the ...

HOME ECONOMICS

Buy-Right Hints for the Thrifty Housewife

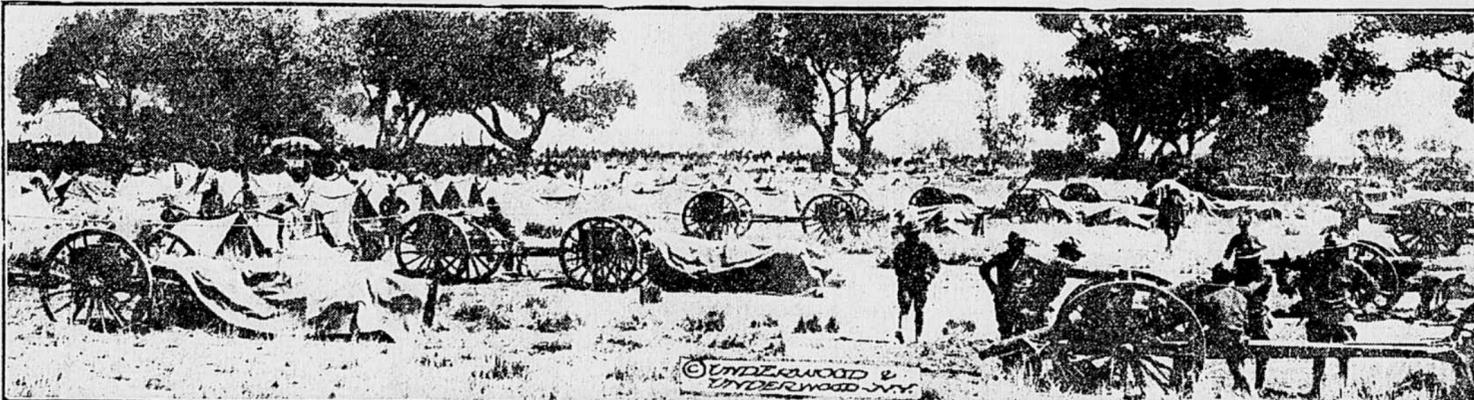
"There is a time for everything."

Spring has been reserved for house cleaning.

At the gray, grimy months of winter, with shut-inness and soot, we rejoice in the return of an opportunity to throw open sash and doors for the wholesome inpouring of sunshine and floods of fresh air; and resignedly submit to the periodical discomfit of household disarrangement during the process of Spring cleaning. The House-

furnishing Stores of Richmond, the Hardware, Paint, Furniture, Drug and Grocery Stores are all staunch allies of the annual "clean up," ready to supply you with everything of service, utility and replenishment, from soap to step ladders. The representative merchants in these various lines are regular advertisers in The Times-Dispatch; and you'll find invariably that the prices quoted in their advertising are always the lowest.

NOTE—The Times-Dispatch guarantees a marked saving on every purchase made in Richmond stores that advertise their lowest prices in these pages.



BATTERY "B" AND "C" OF THE SIXTH FIELD ARTILLERY AT FIELD HEADQUARTERS, "SOMEWHERE IN MEXICO."

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Crown Prince Throws Men in Large Numbers at French Trenches

Invaders Capture Advanced Sections, but Are Driven Out in Vigorous Counterattack.

The armies of the German Crown Prince around Verdun still are vigorously on the offensive against the French.

Having delivered an attack along the line from Le Mort Homme to Cumiers which netted them a few small portions of French trenches on the east of Le Mort Homme, the German commanders rested their infantry here, but in the region of Douaumont-Vaux, northeast of Verdun, threw their men in large numbers against the French trenches.

Here they met with short-lived success, for the French in a counterattack drove the invaders from advanced sections of trenches they had captured, and in the operations took about 100 German prisoners.

While the Douaumont-Vaux conflict was in progress the Germans had not overlooked the line between Le Mort Homme and Cumiers, and covered the entire region with an intense artillery fire, probably preparing for another attack by infantry.

Along the remainder of the front in France and Belgium there were only slight bombardments. In one of these north of the Aisne—the French guns caused serious loss to a strong German column on the march.

Big Guns of Both Sides Busy at Various Points

In the Russian theater an attempt by the Germans to take the offensive in the region of the Ikskull bridgehead was stopped by the Russians. The big guns of both sides have been busy at various points elsewhere along the front.

Petrograd reports Russian gains against the Turks in the region of Erzerum. Unofficial advice is to the effect that the Turks have regrouped their forces and now are resisting stubbornly the three Russian main lines of advance into their territory.

The Austrians have brought into the Sautna Valley's have brought into the campaign artillery described by Rome as new and very powerful. The Italian guns, however, have replied effectively to their fire. No infantry attacks are reported in this theater of the war.

Germany and Roumania have entered into a compact for the free exportation from one country to the other of home products for their needs. War material is expected from agreement.

Germany, according to a semi-official dispatch from Berlin, has refused a demand from the entire allies to allow them to bring troops from Cerfa to Saloniki, asserting that cholera is prevalent in that region.

GERMANS REPULSED IN COUNTERATTACK

PARIS, April 11.—There was a cessation of the German infantry assaults to the west of Meuse to-day, although the bombardment of the French lines between Le Mort Homme and Cumiers continued, according to the official communication issued by the War Office to-night.

A terrific attack, however, was delivered against the French trenches between Douaumont and Vaux, east of the Meuse. The Germans at this point succeeded in gaining a foothold in some of the advanced trenches, but were driven out by a counterattack.

The midnight official report was as follows: "North of the Aisne our artillery bombarded a strong German column which was moving along the Dames road. Our well-directed fire inflicted serious losses.

"In the Argonne there was great activity by our artillery on the entire front.

"West of the Meuse there was a bombardment of considerable intensity against our front from Mort Homme to Cumiers. No infantry action followed.

AGREE ON POLICY FOR U. S. IN SUBMARINE DISPUTE

Question in All Its Phases Discussed by President and Cabinet.

GERARD HAS GERMAN REPLY

Next Communication to Berlin Will Be Designed to Preclude Possibility of Further Draw-Out Diplomatic Exchanges.

WASHINGTON, April 11.—The submarine issue between Germany and the United States was discussed in all its phases to-day at a meeting of President Wilson and his Cabinet.

A general line of the future course of the American government is understood to have been agreed upon, although final decision was postponed pending receipt of the German note now on its way regarding the Sussex and other merchant ships which recently have met disaster, and additional evidence in the same cases collected by American diplomats and due here on Thursday.

It is known through confidential advice from Ambassador Gerard that the note will deny that any German submarine torpedoed the Sussex, and disclaim blame in connection with other attacks about which the ambassador has inquired. Consequently, in spite of the convincing evidence in the hands of the State Department, another reply that probably will be sent, will not deal exclusively with one case or group of cases.

If such a communication as is now contemplated is sent to Germany, it will be designed to preclude the possibility of further draw-out diplomatic exchanges, and to make it plain that reiterated assurances and promises that international law will be respected cannot protect the friendly relations between the two countries if illegal attacks upon peaceful merchantmen carrying Americans are continued.

It probably will include a resume of all the many vessels attacked from the time of the Lusitania down to the present.

TO COVER WHOLE HISTORY OF SUBMARINE OPERATIONS

The State Department has begun to collect evidence covering the whole history of Germany's submarine operations. A question discussed at length by Cabinet members to-day was whether the United States should include in its list of vessels attacked neutral ships carrying no Americans.

An argument against doing this was that such vessels carried the flags of sovereign nations able to speak for themselves, but the preponderating view was that they should be included on the ground that many were going to or coming from American ports, and on the broad ground of humanity.

Colonel E. M. House, the President's close adviser, came to the White House to-day for the fourth time since he returned from Europe as the emissary of the President to investigate the submarine and other foreign questions. He was in conference during the day with the President and other officials. His return at a time when admittedly the policy of the American government was about to be determined was considered significant.

It is considered that the United States still has much evidence to gather before a decisive step is taken. While the general tenor of the German note has been anticipated by advice from Ambassador Gerard, officials realize that its text may have an important bearing on the American policy. The note is understood to refer, not only to the Sussex, the most important of recent cases, but to the Englishman, Manchester Engineer, Eagle Point and Berwindvale.

ENTIRE TIME DEVOTED TO SUBMARINE ISSUE

The Cabinet remained in session more than two hours to-day, and practically the entire time was devoted to discussion of the submarine issue. Later it was said that the members stood as a unit in believing that the recent accumulation of attacks on merchant vessels without warning, coming after a period of comparative lull in submarine activity, could not be overlooked.

Because much of the evidence under consideration had come from statements made by citizens of nations at war with Germany, it is being very carefully examined. It is realized, too,

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

REPORTS AMONG NATIVES THAT VILLA IS DEAD

American Aviators Return From Flight 330 Miles South of Border.

TO MAKE SEARCH FOR GRAVE

Military Authorities at Columbus, While Recognizing That Rumors May Be Another Ruse, Show No Tendency to Belittle Reports.

COLUMBUS, N. M., April 11.—Lieutenants H. A. Dargue and E. S. Correll, of the aero corps, returning here to-day from a flight to San Antonio, Chihuahua, 30 miles south of the border, said that reports were current among the natives in the vicinity of Santa Ana that Villa was dead of blood poisoning, caused by his wounds.

Santa Ana is seventy miles southwest of Chihuahua City. Other reports indicated that Villa was in flight closely followed by American troops south of Parral and near the Durango border.

Military authorities recognize that reports of the chief's death may be another ruse to throw the Americans off what has been termed "a hot trail," but no tendency is manifested to belittle the report, the aviators said.

"There seems no doubt that Villa was wounded," said Lieutenant Dargue, "conversations with natives and with persons having convinced me that he was shot through both legs, one of them being broken by a bullet, while another shot lodged in his stomach. A man in that condition, with medical attention, could scarcely live long."

TO SEND AN AVIATOR TO SEARCH FOR GRAVE

The aero corps planned to send another aviator to-day to scout over the region in which the natives have reported Villa was buried in an attempt to find the grave.

Information brought by Dargue and Correll indicate that American Cavalry have entirely surrounded the detachment which is reported to have been carrying Villa on a litter. The advanced cavalry detachments, they said, are about 400 miles south of the border below Parral, and near the Durango border, while several columns are operating south of Satevo, where General Pershing to-day was establishing his new headquarters.

The flight was one of the most spectacular of the campaign in Mexico. Lieutenants Dargue and Correll, using the same plane, made their way from San Antonio, 320 miles south of the border, with but one stop, at Casas Grandes. Their flying time was four hours and ten minutes.

MARKS RESUMPTION OF AERO DISPATCH LINE

The arrival of the fliers marked the resumption of the army aero dispatch line, interrupted for about ten days by the demand for the air scouts at the front.

Lieutenant Dargue, who, with Captain Foulis, of the aero corps, made a flight to Chihuahua City several days ago, carrying dispatches, said that in making the landing in the town his plane was struck when fired upon by the Carranza garrison. The shooting was done, he said, before the soldiers realized his identity, and as soon as the military authorities learned of the arrival of the American aviators they sent a special guard to watch their machines. Before the arrival of the guards, however, he said, both he and Captain Foulis were annoyed by crowds of small boys who threw rocks at the machines, and called them "gringos."

The aviator explained that this report was not manifested by any but the lowest classes, and that afterward they were shown every courtesy, the Carranza chief of staff inviting them to his home and purchasing candies and tobacco for them to carry back to the American troops. The local daily paper, a copy of which was brought here to-day, also spoke favorably of the expedition and urged the people of the city to show every hospitality to the American air scouts.

Word was received at military headquarters here to-day that Lieutenant Colonel Rivers, who had been dangerously ill at Casas Grandes, with pneumonia, is on the road to recovery.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

RUMORS CURRENT AMONG NATIVES LACKING PROOF

Meanwhile Hunt Is Proceeding With Renewed Vigor.

PERSHING PROBABLY ALREADY AT SATEVO

Village of Santa Rosalia Is Attacked and Sacked by Bandits.

AVIATORS BACK FROM FRONT

Three Leaders of Diaz Plot to Seize Juarez Are Executed by Firing Squad.

Firmly Convinced That Villa Is Dead

COLUMBUS, April 11.—Natives of Columbus, who are strong Carranzan partisans and friendly to the Americans, are firmly convinced that the report of Villa's death is true. They said that they knew he was suffering from blood poisoning several days ago, and that he refused medical attention. One native told Lieutenant Dargue, of the Aero Corps, that the bandit leader had sent for bandages, which he himself bound to his body.

QUERETARO, MEXICO, April 11.—The War Department announced to-day it had reason to believe Francisco Villa had been killed in action, and that searching parties had been sent out to find his body.

RENEWED REPORTS RECEIVED THAT VILLA IS DEAD

GENERAL PERSHING'S HEADQUARTERS AT THE FRONT, April 10 (via Mexican telegraph to Juarez, April 11).—Renewed reports have been received here by General Pershing that Francisco Villa is dead and buried. These reports are under investigation. Meanwhile, the hunt for Villa bandits is proceeding with renewed vigor with the arrival at the front of General Pershing.

Mexicans who had seen Villa on his flight south said that the bandit looked thin and emaciated a week ago. Reports, however, are conflicting. One fairly good authority stated that Villa was able to walk the first day after he received his wound, which indicated that no bones were broken.

Aeroplanes to-day covered several hundred square miles of territory scouting over a country heretofore unexplored by planes.

The Mexicans in this section are well disposed toward the Americans, and many of them are bitter against Villa. It is again reported that Pablo Lopez, the Villa lieutenant who murdered seventeen Americans last January at Santa Isabel, is not dead, but is seriously wounded.

Reports of friendly co-operation of the Carranza troops continue.

PERSHING ALREADY AT SATEVO, IS BELIEVED

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., April 11.—General Pershing is expected to reach Satevo, forty miles south of Chihuahua, to-night, according to a report brought to General Funston to-day by Lieutenants Dargue and Correll, who arrived by aeroplane at Columbus to-day.

ATTACKED AND SACKED BY VILLA BANDITS

COLUMBUS, N. M., April 11.—The village of Santa Rosalia, about sixty miles northeast of Parral, was attacked and sacked by about 100 Villa bandits two days ago, according to reports received by General Pershing and brought here to-day by aeroplane by Lieutenants H. A. Dargue and E. S. Correll.

Carranza forces and Villa bandits clashed about fifty miles south of Chihuahua City last Friday, the Villa forces being defeated.

LEADERS OF DIAZ PLOT EXECUTED BY FIRING SQUAD

EL PASO, TEXAS, April 11.—The three leaders of the Diaz plot to seize Juarez and overthrow the Carranza garrison there on last Sunday, were executed by the firing squad in Juarez early to-day. They were Nicholas Chavazarrin, Jose Inez Bernal and Florencio Hernandez.

The condemned confessed the plot before they were executed. Other Mexicans were implicated.

GREAT PROGRESS IN FURNISHING SUPPLIES TO PERSHING

WASHINGTON, April 11.—Marked progress towards the problem of supplying General Pershing's commands, and further evidence of co-operation by Carranza soldiers in the pursuit of Villa, were received in to-day's official reports from the border.

Reports from Mexican sources that Villa had died of blood poisoning, and press dispatches from Queretaro telling of an announcement of the de facto government's War Department that it had reason to believe the bandit chief had been killed in action were credited in some quarters. Army