LOOK FOR THE PLANOGRAVURE SECTION

The Sunday Star.

WEATHER.
Overcast and colder today, probably preceded by rain in early morning. Tomorrow threatening, probably rain; moderate winds. Temperature for twenty-four hours ending 8 p.m. Highest, 73; lowest, 44.
Full report on page 3.

No. 575.—No. 20,276. WASHINGTON, D. C., SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 2, 1916. FIVE CENTS.

GERMANIC ARMIES GRADUALLY CLOSE IN UPON VERDUN

Gain Vaux, But Are Checked Between That Point and Douaumont.

FURTHER MALANCOURT ATTACKS EXPECTED

Teutons Continue Their Tremendous Bombardment in This Region.

FRENCH IN BRAVE FIGHT

Single Battalion Holds Back Twenty Times Its Number, Then Withdraws—Crown Prince Gains Vast Booty.

LONDON, April 1.—The Germans gradually are closing in on Verdun, drawing their lines a little closer northeast of the fortress, where by massed attacks from two directions they have secured a footing in the village of Vaux.

The Germans carried out a heavy bombardment to the east of the Meuse. This was followed by a German attack between Douaumont and Vaux, which, according to the communication of the French war office, was completely checked.

Further Attacks Expected.

The German infantry has not moved from its trenches west of the Meuse since the capture of Malancourt village, followed shortly by the unsuccessful drive at the French positions northeast of Hill No. 295 in the region of Dead Man's hill. The artillery, however, continues active in the Malancourt region, and further attempts by the Germans to continue their drive on the French left flank are considered probable to occur without much delay. The German official statement refers only incidentally to the fighting about Verdun, mentioning only artillery duels there and in the Argonne, with other activity by the big guns on the Aisne front and further north on the line. A British hand grenade attack near St. Eloi, where the Germans recently lost some ground, was repulsed.

The aviators of both sides on the Franco-Belgian front have been busy. Four French machines fell victims to German battle aircraft in various engagements.

French Statement.

The text of tonight's French official statement reads:

"In Belgium our artillery bombarded the enemy cantonments at Langemarck, northeast of Ypres.

"In the Argonne our batteries were active against the German organizations north of La Harazee and La File Mort and against the enemy camps in the northern part of the Cheppy wood.

"West of the Meuse the bombardment has been intense against our positions between Avocourt and Malancourt.

"To the east of the Meuse a quite violent bombardment was followed in the course of the German attack on the ravine between Fort Douaumont and the village of Vaux. The attack was completely stopped by our curtain of fire.

"In the Woevre the artillery activity has been less marked. On the rest of the front there is nothing to report."

The Belgian official communication reads: "Artillery action on both sides have occurred in the Pervyse and Costakerke districts and south of Dixmude."

German Official Report.

The official German statement of today from general headquarters is as follows:

"Near St. Eloi an attack with hand grenades by the British was repulsed. There was fighting with mines between La Bassee canal and Neuville.

"Northeast of Roye the fire of the French artillery was very spirited. German artillery effectively shelled positions of the enemy on the Aisne front.

"There were violent artillery duels in the Argonne and in the sector of the Meuse.

"German battle air craft shot down four French aeroplanes. Of these one fell within our lines near Laon and another near Mogeville, in the Woevre. Two fell behind the enemy's lines, one near Ville-Aux-Bois and the other south of Haucourt. The French aerodrome at Rosnay, west of Rheims, was attacked with many bombs."

French Greatly Outnumbered.

A single battalion of French infantry held the salient comprising the village of Malancourt in the Verdun region west of the Meuse against forces twenty times their number in the attack of Thursday night until, surrounded on three sides, they were compelled to choose between retirement and capture.

Three German brigades attacked just after dark. The column attacking in front met with such sustained fire that it was thrown back before reaching a house of the village. The assaults were renewed repeatedly at intervals of a few minutes, the German ranks growing thinner with each rush.

At about 11 o'clock the Germans brought up a fresh brigade and attacked furiously on all sides, but were again thrown back by rifle fire and bayonets.

Another Charge Made.

At 1 o'clock another charge was made. It was directed principally against the flank, and the column operating on the left, after being repulsed several times, succeeded in making a breach in the defensive line of the French. Being reinforced with more fresh troops the Germans were able to hold the ground.

The French battalion still held out and fought from house to house until dawn. Then the ever-increasing German reinforcements overwhelmed what remained of the defending force. By that time nothing was left of the village but a pile of smoking ruins.

The Germans remained quiet along that part of the line during the day, but made heavy attacks against the advanced French positions in the region of Dead Man's hill. After preparation with a veritable storm of shells, German infantry attacked in massed formation and penetrated the first line of the French trenches at some points. French infantry counter attacked with the bayonet and drove back the Germans in disorder.

German View of Advance.

BERLIN, via Copenhagen to London, April 1.—The main headquarters correspondent of the Vossische Zeitung sends the following report on the advance of the Germans at Malancourt:

"The thunderous work of the artillery again furnished the prelude to a successful resumption of infantry activity west of the Meuse. Continuous artillery fire suddenly increased to gigantic violence, and like an immense thunderstorm the explosions rattled unceasingly across the rolling countryside. They sounded as if a huge depot of ammunition had exploded, detonating thousands of shells in apparently endless series. After several hours the terrible melody suddenly ceased and the assault was made successfully, with but slight loss to the Germans.

German Position Bettered.

"The German position west of Verdun was improved by this advance at Malancourt. The Germans were able to press into the village itself, and to reach the first row of houses on the northern side, which were the most strongly fortified.

"I had an opportunity today to inspect the booty so far taken in the Verdun battle. The quantities of weapons, munitions, uniforms and supplies of all sorts which are accumulating here are incalculable.

"Slightly wounded men who had been fighting west of the Meuse declare that the struggle was severe. They seemed surprisingly fresh and were in jocular humor, although they showed plain traces of the extreme exertions through which they had just passed."

TRACTION MERGER HEARING GRANTED

Citizens' Federation Gets Right to Appear Before Public Utilities Commission.

The Federation of Citizens' Associations, which has actively undertaken to bring about consolidation of Washington's street railway lines, was informed at its meeting last night that it will be permitted to discuss this matter with the public utilities commission Thursday.

It will be represented at the conference by its public utilities committee, of which William McK. Clayton is chairman. Universal transfers and other questions related to street railway service will be considered.

At a meeting two weeks ago the federation took cognizance of an opinion rendered by Corporation Counsel Syme, which it considered to establish a precedent under which the public utilities commission could authorize amalgamation of local street railway lines, the impression hitherto having existed that authority to amalgamate could be granted only by Congress.

Through its utilities committee the commission was approached in regard to the matter, with the result that Thursday's conference was arranged.

To Determine Attitude.

Some of the questions which will be brought up at that time were discussed at last night's meeting. The paramount feature, of course is to determine exactly what the commission's attitude is in regard to amalgamation. Effort will be made to ascertain what plans it has for disposing of the universal transfer agitation.

In addition, such questions as abolishing fire stops in the interest of speeding up schedules; half rate for school children; ventilation in cars; dust prevention methods, extensions and kindred subjects will be discussed.

That the conference will be an epochal one is generally believed. The utilities commission is drawing to a close its work of valuing the properties of Washington's public service corporations and soon will be in a position to act upon some of the practical questions of public service in the District. Because many persons have not known that the valuation must be the basis of any rate orders or other requirements involving large expenditures of money, the delay of the commission in disposing of matters that have been the subject of popular agitation has not been generally understood. Thursday's conference is expected to clarify the atmosphere considerably.

In Session Three Hours.

The federation was in session at the Chamber of Commerce for nearly three hours last night, during which time it referred a number of matters to committees and disposed of other business. Delegate Garret of the Pinehurst association sought to get through a resolution favoring practically unrestricted speed between street crossings for the Emergency Hospital ambulances, but Dr. Bryant, delegate from Chevy Chase, sided with the position taken by the police department in the matter, and the motion did not come to a vote because of failure of Mr. Garret to get unanimous consent for its consideration.

W. E. Fowler of Chillum Castle Heights spoke on the necessity of obtaining a federal appropriation for improving the wharves along Washington's water front. This suggestion will be taken up by the committee on highways, parks and waterways, which will submit a report at the next meeting on plans for interesting Congress in this improvement.

Resolutions Referred.

Resolutions referred to committees were submitted by the Brightwood association for placing the Botanic Gorden in Rock Creek Park, near Military road (committee on highways, parks and waterways); Brightwood Park association indorsing Commissioners' bill to amalgamate street crossing policemen with members of metropolitan force (committee on police and fire protection), and Brightwood Park association, indorsing Tinkham bill for extending the civil service to District government positions (committee on finance and legislation).

The federation admitted to membership the North Capitol and Eckington Citizens' Association, which will be represented by William G. Henderson. It appointed a committee on membership extension consisting of Herman A. Phillips, William McK. Clayton and William E. Shannon.

'BILLY' SUNDAY MAY LEAD REVIVAL HERE

Washingtonians, on Baltimore Visit, Find January, 1918, Is Nearest Open Date.

CAPITAL ASKED TO TAKE YEAR FOR PREPARATION

Evangelist Thinks Well of Campaign Here and May Decide Question Tomorrow.

Evangelist "Billy" Sunday may be engaged in a big revival campaign here in January, 1918.

This seems to be the nearest date that he could come to Washington and not slight other cities which have a prior claim on him by reason of previous invitations and acceptances. This was learned last night by Washingtonians who attended Sunday's meeting in Baltimore.

George Sunday, who is in close touch with his father, and one of his managers, indicateed that if his father accepts the invitation to this city he cannot come before the date mentioned. Washington would need at least one year to prepare for the meetings, it was stated.

The question as to whether the evangelist will say "yes" to the invitation of the delegation of clergy and laity representing the evangelical churches of the city, in Foundry Church tomorrow morning, when he comes here to address the Baltimore annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was not disclosed by the Sunday organization in Baltimore last evening. In fact, the organization leaders declare they have their program already arranged up to the opening of 1918, and any other date could hardly be discussed.

September May Be Available.

One date, "September, 1916," might be gotten if Washington could be made ready for it, for it is understood that though this month has been assigned to Detroit, there is a disposition in the Sunday organization to substitute another city.

"We are due at Kansas City, Mo., at Easter," said George Sunday last evening, "and we will conclude there June 19. Then, after the summer vacation, we will be in Boston beginning October 1. There a long campaign is planned and may last until Christmas. From there we go to New York city for a campaign from January to Easter in 1917. Buffalo is next on the list from Easter until the close of our season. We plan to begin a campaign in Chicago early in October. This last campaign, it is believed, will easily last until Christmas of 1917.

Evangelist Sunday, it is known, thinks well of a campaign here, and many are of the opinion that he will say "yes" Monday.

Many of these who are of the opinion that he will give a favorable answer to Washington went to Baltimore yesterday in the Presbyterian delegation, which had more than 500 returning from the meetings on the late train last evening.

Dr. Davidson a Leader.

Rev. Dr. R. A. Davidson, pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Falls Church, Va., and moderator of the Presbyterian Synod of Baltimore, was one of the leaders in the party, which included many clergy and leading laity of the church here. They occupied seats in the northwest section of the tabernacle, and when Choir Leader Rodeheaver asked "Where is the Washington delegation?" it showed up practically the largest of a number in attendance.

"Which hymn do you want sung?" Mr. Rodeheaver next questioned and without hesitation the call came back, "We want 'Sail On,'" and this was sung by the choir of 2,000 with the audience of 16,000 joining in the chorus.

Included in the Washington delegation were Rev. James T. Marshall, pastor of West Street Church; Rev. T. E. Davis, pastor of Westminster Church; Rev. A. E. Barrows, pastor of Eastern Church; Charles S. Bradley, Irwin B. Linton, Rev. Samuel A. Bower of Northminster Church; Rev. Edward N. Kirby of Ballston, Va., Presbyterian Church; Charles A. Baker and Rev. Harry B. Angus, pastor of Peck Chapel, who led Elmer Sailor of 2816 Pennsylvania avenue, a ten-year-old boy, in his way up the "trail" as the first "trail-hitter" from Washington.

Over 500 Hit the Trail.

Over 500 hit the trail when Evangelist Sunday called for those who wanted to live "the better life," and came up the sawdust trail to shake the evangelist by the hand.

The committee that has extended the invitation in Washington is headed by the Rev. Clarence A. Vincent, pastor of Mount Pleasant Congregational Church. Dr. Vincent and his associates will meet Sunday when he arrives in Washington at 9:50 o'clock tomorrow morning. He will be escorted to Foundry Methodist Episcopal Church, in one of the parlors of which the Washington invitation will be again extended.

Although Monday is the evangelist's day of rest, his program for the day is a very full one. He is to leave Baltimore at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, in a private car furnished by the Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis electric railway. "Ma" Sunday and some of the members of the evangelist's party will accompany him.

Mr. Sunday and those who are with him will leave Washington at 2 p.m. for Annapolis. At 5 o'clock he will speak to the students of the Naval Academy in Bancroft Hall.

BULGARIA HONORS AMERICAN DOCTOR

SOFIA, April 1.—Dr. Harry Platz of Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, now with the Bulgarian sanitary troops, has received a medal, without swords, for bravery, the distinction being the highest one possible to award a Bulgarian army surgeon.

The medal was bestowed for Dr. Platz's services in aiding in the stamping out of typhoid in Serbia and Bulgaria. He has laboratories at Uskup.

INTERNED SERBIANS MAY RETURN TO HOMES

BERLIN, April 1 (by wireless to Sayville).—In conformity with a recommendation made by the governor general of Serbia, it has been decided to permit Serbians interned in Austria and Hungary to return to their homes. They will be forwarded in groups of 500.

JEALOUSY.

RUSS LOSSES IN DRIVE ON EASTERN LINE ARE PLACED AT 140,000

Mowed Down Like Grain Before Scythes, According to German Accounts.

Slav Storming Attacks, Many in Water, Are Declared to Have Been Checked. Austrians Report Successes.

BERLIN, April 1.—It appears that the Russian storming attacks directed against the very wide sector of the army group of Field Marshal von Hindenburg and carried out with thirty divisions, totaling more than 500,000 men, and with an unprecedented amount of munitions such as never before has been used on theeastern front, and which lasted from the 18th to the 28th of March, now have ceased. Thanks to the bravery and stubborn resistance of our troops, the enemy achieved no success whatever.

Order to Russians.

The great object which it was intended should be attained by this attack is apparent from the following order issued by the high commander to the armies on the western front under date of March 17 and bearing the number 537:

"Russians on the Western Front: For the past six months, greatly weakened, with only a small number of arms and ammunition, you held up the advance of the enemy, and, after having held him back in the vicinity of a break in the line near Molodechna, you took up your present position.

"His majesty and the country now await from you another heroic deed—the ejection of the enemy from within the frontiers of the country. When tomorrow you undertake this glorious task, I have faith in your courage and your deep devotion to the czar and your warm love for your native country, and am thereby convinced you will fulfill your sacred duty by freeing your brothers from the yoke. God aid us in our sacred endeavors.

(Signed.) "EWERT,
"Adjutant General."

Surprise at Undertaking.

"To any one who knows the circumstances, it is certainly astounding that such an undertaking should have been commenced at such a time of the year, seeing that its accomplishment presented such critical difficulties from one day to another, owing to the thawing of the snow. The choice of the time decided upon was due much less to the will of the Russian command than to the enforced requirements of a needy ally. If the present cessation of attacks is attributed by Russia officially to the sudden change in the weather, that is only a half truth.

The losses suffered in the severe repulses have been carefully calculated and are estimated at 140,000 men. The enemy would be more correct if it said that the great offensive up to now was not only stifled in the swamps, but in swamps and blood.

Fight in Water.

In making their attacks the Russians were compelled to advance over fields knee-deep in water, where it was impossible to intrench and their losses are declared to have been frightful. One German officer reported that as a result of one attack two Germans among his force were killed, while the Germans counted 1,800 dead Russians before the trenches.

Russian officers taken prisoner, the correspondents say, describe the destructiveness of the German machine guns, which operate in astonishing numbers and mow down the Russians like scythes.

The fighting of the Russians is now growing weaker, the correspondents say.

Austrians Claim Success.

The official Austrian statement of today says:

"Near Olika Austro-Hungarian detachments captured an advanced position of the enemy, filled the trenches, destroyed the defense works and returned to their main positions. Attempts by the enemy to advance southeast of Sienkowce were frustrated by our artillery and by counter attacks."

The Overseas News Agency quotes the following report from the Frankfurter Zeitung concerning the battle at Narocz lake:

"The immense forests which favored the Russian attacks greatly during the winter now have become a serious obstacle, owing to the fact that the whole district now is converted into a swamp. German patrols waded in water which reached up to their chests.

"The German troops offered heroic resistance to the Russian attacks of the last few days at this place. A headquarters report mentioned the bravery of Saarbruecken troops. The commanding general expressed his especial approbation to a Silesian territorial, who jumped upon a parapet when the Russians attacked in masses and hurled about forty hand grenades into their ranks. This man by himself stopped the attack at this place."

Russians Claim Check on German Attack on Ikskull Position

PETROGRAD, April 1, via London, April 2, 1:22 a.m.—The official statement issued today by the Russian war office says:

"Western (Russian) front: The Germans continued to bombard the bridgehead at Ikskull and began an attack thereon, but were repulsed by our fire. In the same region, rising floods compelled the enemy to emerge on his parapets, but our artillery forced him to return to his trenches.

"One of our batteries brought down a German aeroplane which was flying over our positions south of Lievenhof. The machine was damaged only slightly and the airman was captured. There were artillery duels and rifle fire in the Dvinsk region. The ice has begun to break up in the Dvina.

"South of the Dvinsk region our artillery successfully shelled an enemy train at the station of Tourmont, and also enemy detachments which held an outpost near the village of Mechkele, north of Vidzy. The Germans fled.

"On the Vidzy front and around Lake Narocz there was lively cannonading at several places. In the region to the southeast of Kolki, the enemy abandoned first line trenches and retired to the second line. South of the village of Olyka the enemy captured momentarily a hill which was immediately retaken by our troops.

"During one of the attacks repulsed yesterday in the middle Stripa region, we captured seventy-one prisoners and many rifles."

DR. WAITE ALLEGED TO HAVE CONFESSED

New York World Prints Letter Purporting to Be Admission He Killed Peck.

SAYS CHARGE IS JUST AND HE EXPECTS TO DIE

His Attorney Said to Have Sanctioned the Publication—Statement of Reasons.

NEW YORK, April 2. (Sunday).—What purports to be a formal confession by Dr. Arthur Warren Waite that he murdered his father-in-law, John E. Peck of Grand Rapids, is printed this morning by the New York World. The confession is said to have been contained in a letter sent to the newspaper by Waite. Accompanying it is another letter signed by Walter Rogers Deuel, Waite's counsel, in which he is quoted as saying Waite desired to make his statement "To unburden his soul somewhat from the heavy load upon it as the only thing he could do in atonement."

Extract From Waite's Letter.

The letter said to have been signed by Waite follows, in part:

"I have been informed that I have been indicted for the crime of murder in the first degree. I know the punishment is death.

"The indictment is just and the penalty is one that I deserve, for I have killed John E. Peck.

"I have thought and thought while lying in my bed here in the hospital. I have gone over all the incidents of the past few months of my life, and I have made my peace with my creator. I now desire to make atonement for the wrong that I have done.

"It is a terrible grief to me that I should have brought obliquity and shame upon my wife and upon the name of my good parents and made my brothers to suffer as they do.

"I am relieved to make this, my confession."

Statement by Attorney Deuel.

Mr. Deuel is quoted as having said he did not advise against the publication of Waite's letter. He is declared by the World to have authorized the statement that Waite had confessed to him that his murder plan included "the killing of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Peck, his wife (Mrs. Arthur Warren Waite) and any one else who should happen to stand between him and the Peck millions."

Doesn't Realiez What He Did.

"It is only just to Dr. Waite to state," Mr. Deuel is quoted as saying, "that he does not now have any real realization of what he has done, in my opinion and in the opinion of others who have visited him since he was taken to Bellevue Hospital. I have said that no defense would be made on the facts—that the defense conceded the murder of Mr. Peck. Therefore, as his counsel, I have permitted him to make the statement he did."

Virginia Progressives to Meet.

ROANOKE, Va., April 1.—State Chairman Percy S. Stephenson of Norfolk has issued a call for a meeting of the executive committtee of the Virginia progressives in Richmond April 8 to select a time and place for holding a state convention. This information was received here today in a letter addressed by Mr. Stephenson to John R. St. Clair, member of the committee from the sixth congressional district.

FOUR HUNDRED MEN RIDING AT TOP SPEED TO OVERTAKE VILLA

Col. Dodd and His Troopers Are Close on Trail of Mexican Peon Brigand.

SO RELENTLESS IS CHASE OF BANDIT PERSHING HAS NO TIME TO REPORT

In Absence of News From San Geronimo, Army Men Along Border Admit the Possibility That American Soldiers Have Captured Outlaw.

COLUMBUS, N. M., April 1.—Riding mercilessly, 400 American troopers under Col. George A. Dodd are making desperate efforts to capture or wipe out the survivors of Francisco Villa's largest command, which they defeated at San Geronimo ranch several days ago, according to meager reports seeping across the border today.

The speed and the relentlessness with which the pursuit is being made are indicated, according to army men here, by the fact that Gen. Pershing, who, last reports said, was speeding from Namiquipa across desert trails and through mountain passes to the scene of action, has not even taken time to make a detailed report of the engagement. Nor was any word received from Col. Dodd, although service at the army wireless station here, interrupted by climatic conditions, was resumed today.

ONLY ROUTINE NEWS RECEIVED.

Military headquarters here made this statement:

"No details of the engagement have been received. The only messages received from the south were of purely routine nature and in none of them was the engagement mentioned."

Other information received indicated, however, that there is still much doubt at the American field headquarters as to whether the bandit chieftain was with his forces during the engagement. One report, given much credence, was that Villa sustained the wounds which broke his leg and shattered his hip bone in the attack made on the Carranza garrison at the town of Guerrero March 27, and that the leader was carried away by a few chosen followers in a jolting wagon to a secret hiding place in the wilderness around Guerrero.

Col. Dodd's Difficult Task.

Although the pursuit by the Americans is a new experience for Villa, one he has never met in all his years of guerrilla warfare, army men here are not inclined to minimize the task before Col. Dodd.

The Guerrero district in which Villa, with a price on his head, was able for eight years to escape capture by Porfirio Diaz's rurales, abounding, as it does, in caves, canyons and almost impassable mountain trails, all screened from the eyes of air scouts by heavy growths of mountain pines, is admittedly one of the most isolated regions in Mexico, and the one in which the bandit has the largest number of friends.

From the moment the news of the battle was announced the greatest excitement has prevailed in Columbus, the town which Villa attacked less than three weeks ago, and in which he murdered eight civilians and seven American cavalrymen.

Scores of persons, civilians and soldiers gathered around the army wireless station expecting momentarily the news would be flashed through the air that he had been captured and was being brought to Columbus. Some suggested that even if Villa is captured it would be unwise to bring him across the border because of the feeling of the people.

Sorry Plight of Captured Horses.

Something of this sentiment was expressed at a sale of thirty-four Villa mounts captured by American troopers after the raid on Columbus. Men gazed at the pitiful wrecks of what once were stout cow ponies, the bones of which even three weeks of American grain had been unable to conceal, and at the flanks, which had been cut into strips by cruelly roweled spurs, and cursed the bandits who had owned the animals. The jibes of the auctioneer, who pointed to one sorry animal and said: "He must have been a good one, see, he looks like they'd all taken turns at riding him," aroused no response. The prices obtained for the animals ranged from $4.50 to $20, and this despite the fact that these were the best horses captured, the others being in such condition that it was necessary to kill them.

"I wouldn't have one of those ponies about my place," said a rancher as he watched the sale. "The poor beast would always remind me of my friends killed at Columbus." At the quartermaster's department here there was no information that the chase for Villa is nearing an end. In fact, three truck trains, carrying supplies and equipment of a nature such as would indicate at least the end of the chase not clearly to be in sight, left for the front.

Lieut. Col. Frick, in charge of the hospital here, said tonight he had received no information concerning the four American troopers wounded in the San Geronimo engagement.

Confidence of Gen. Funston's Staff.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., April 1.—Absence of news from the district about Guerrero did not diminish the belief at Gen. Funston's headquarters that possibly Villa himself had been captured.

A written report from Gen. Pershing sent two days before the fight at Guerrero was received. This dealt only with the details of the troops' disposition since crossing the border, and the difficulties had encountered in getting his supplies and in maintaining communications. He reported that the engineering forces were working on the road north of Casas Grandes and on that part extending southward toward Namiquipa. The roads south of Casas Grandes were reported in better condition than those to the north. He also called attention to the fact that the aeroplanes are equipped with engines of too low power.

Press dispatches telling of a report from Chihuahua that Villa had been captured at Minaca, only a few miles south of Guerrero, were unconfirmed by official reports, but there was no disposition to belittle it. Gen. Funston was convinced of the truth of the report that Villa was badly wounded prior to the fight at Guerrero, and it was believed that his escape was now highly improbable.

VILLA LOST SIXTY MEN

Gen. Pershing Tells, in Report, of Finding Bodies of Bandits After Battle.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., April 1.—Villa's loss in dead at the battle with Americans at Guerrero Wednesday was placed at sixty by Gen. Pershing today in a report to Gen. Funston.

The bodies were found in houses in Guerrero and scattered in the underbrush for miles along the routes taken by the fleeing Mexicans. Villa himself was believed to be northeast of Guerrero, but Gen. Pershing expressed the opinion that there was little chance of his escape.

Detachments from four regiments of cavalry had been disposed in such manner that the district where he had been reported was practically surrounded, and every point of escape carefully guarded, acording to the report.

Gen. Pershing's report was dated "March 31-April 1," causing army officers here to believe it was written yesterday, but not filed until today.

Additional details of the fighting about Guerrero were not given by Gen. Pershing, but he said yesterday that a snowstorm sweeping over the San Geronimo ranch, a region of high elevation, had made the operations of the troops more difficult and exceedingly uncomfortable for the soldiers.

From Customs Collector Cobb at El Paso Gen. Funston received a communication saying that an American from Mexico had reported to him that Villa's men had killed a German named Blankenship and two Americans whose names he did not know on March 27 at Minaca, a few miles from Guerrero.

SCHILLER HELD IN PLOT

German Who Seized Ship Accused of Attempt to Place Dynamite on Cunard Liner.

NEW YORK, April 1.—Charged with attempting to place dynamite on the Cunard line steamship Pannonia, Clarence Hudson, also known as Ernest Schiller, the German stowaway, who took possession of the British steamer Matoppo at sea last Wednesday night, was locked up tonight at police headquarters. According to the police, Hudson and three other men planned to blow up the Pannonia on the night of March 3 while she was moored in the North river.

Trunk Confiscated.

Hudson admitted he had used a motor boat in which dynamite was stored, but refused to state where the launch or the explosive could be found. A trunk belonging to him was confiscated at the boarding house in Hoboken where he lived, but information as to its contents was refused.

The plot to destroy the steamship was abandoned, Hudson said, because two of the three men he had engaged as confederates backed out at the final conference, and he decided the task was too big for two men to tackle.