

IMMEDIATE BREAK AVERTED, PRISONERS RELEASED

Commercial Hotel Partially Destroyed By Very Stubborn Blaze

TWO HOUR FIRE IN CENTER OF BUSINESS DISTRICT OFFERS A THRILLING TRIAL FOR FIREMEN

Fire of undetermined cause, but known to have originated in a court near the street level, gutted the Commercial Hotel, one of the largest and oldest establishments in the city last night.

The largest and certainly the most trying conflagration the downtown district has had since it began to be called "built up," occurred the day before Phoenix's modern fire fighting equipment was completed by the turning over of its newest apparatus, which, however, was used in fighting the blaze.

The alarm was turned in at 8:55. The blaze lasted two hours and five minutes, during which time there was the most energetic fire fighting ever witnessed in Phoenix—and the largest crowd, easily 10,000, to witness it.

At 10:30, when the fire first showed signs of the effects of the water, the entire front and south sections of the building had been drenched.

At this time, the fire broke out with renewed vigor in the northeast corner of the structure, having followed a bond in a hall on the second floor.

Eating its way through the ceilings, it reached the roof, where it gave itself away by casting a brilliant light on the entire surroundings.

The water was then concentrated on this part of the building, and at precisely 11 o'clock, after it had been burning 2 hours and five minutes, the fire was officially declared out.

There was not a casualty. Fortunately, it was not necessary to seek anyone in the rooms, for the halls soon became filled with noxious gases.

No accidents, even of a slight nature, were reported. Considering that in the basement of the Talbot-Hubbard warehouse, there was an entire carload of cartridges, beside a great store of linseed and other oils, this is little short of amazing.

The fire was discovered by a party of players in the card room back of the Old Commercial bar, Guy Alsar, who had rooms in the hotel for the week, was the first to notice the flames spreading in the court. He dashed into the hotel office and

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LUHRS SAYS HOTEL IS WELL INSURED

George H. N. Luhrs, proprietor of the hotel, stated to The Republican last night that he could not estimate the damage, but that the insurance on the building, exclusive of that on the furniture, would total \$50,000.

Most of the other stocks were insured, the only one on which there was a total loss, being that of the barber shop.

Conservatively figuring on statements made by the proprietors of establishments suffering in the fire, The Republican estimates the total or gross loss at not less than \$100,000.

FIRST "FIRE-TEST" OF NEW FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

The first test of the complete new fire equipment demonstrated its ability to hurl immense quantities of water. Within two minutes after the alarm had been sounded, water was being directed into the building, which to many, seemed doomed.

Through the crowds of spectators, who gathered before the trucks from the outlying stations had arrived, these monsters came swinging into the fray.

Each of the four corners of the block in which the Commercial is located, became a station. Three engines, including the new gasoline driven pump, were used, each throwing two streams.

Not since Phoenix began to build comparatively high buildings, has there been a fire needing high water pressure until that of last night. It was early seen that it would be impossible to make headway by directing hose on the lower floors, and lines were carried up the fire escapes and fire ladders to the windows giving into the second and third floor halls.

From the tops of the National Bank of Arizona and Ellison buildings, adjoining the hotel on the other side of the alley, streams were thrown 200 feet reaching the court, where the fire was hottest.

First "Fire Lines" Street car and automobile traffic was halted all through the central part of the city. For the first time in the history of down-town fires, the police and aids, established fire lines. When the building became well saturated, the downpour made them unnecessary.

ITALIANS GAIN FROM AUSTRIANS AND FRENCH FROM GERMAN FORCES

Gains of additional ground by the Italians from the Austrians, by the French from the Germans northeast of Verdun and by the Germans from the Russians in Volhynia are shorted in the latest official communication issued by the Italian, French and Austrian war offices.

In addition, it is stated that the Austrians are still holding back the drive of the Russian army which is endeavoring to drive past Kutv, Bukovina, with Kolomena as its objective.

In the Trentino region, Italians continue to force back the Austrians along almost the entire front, having made progress at various points in the region between the Adige and Piave rivers, in the Lagarina and Arca valleys between Posina and Asiago rivers, and along the upper Butte river.

Northeast of Verdun, the Germans carried out a heavy bombardment against the Avocourt and Chantecourt sectors, but were prevented from launching an infantry attack from the east of Hill 304 by the fierceness of the French artillery fire.

Northeast of Verdun the French have recaptured more ground from the Germans north of Hill 321 and around the "Tombant" works.

On the British front the expected big offensive by King George's men apparently has not yet begun but the British are carrying out at various points successful raids on German positions and bombarding heavily from the region of La Bassée canal to the mouth of the Somme.

In the latter region, small British attacks were put down by the Germans according to Berlin.

Continuing their counter offensive against the Russians in Volhynia, the Germans have captured the village of Linowka to the west of Sokul and also have taken positions to the south of the village. Vienna reports that further Russian attacks near Kutv in Bukovina have been repulsed by the Austrian forces.

Between the Vardar river and Lake Doirra on the Greek-Serbian border artillery duels are taking place.

A day filled with sensational incidents at the trial of Sir Roger Casement for treason was brought to a sudden and dramatic close this afternoon when Sergeant Sullivan, Sir Roger's leading attorney, collapsed in the midst of an impassioned summation.

Mr. Sullivan, who is himself an Irishman, was painting a picture of the wrongs he declared were suffered by Ireland and maintaining that the prisoner had committed no treason when he attempted to raise an Irish brigade in Germany for the purpose of protecting the rights of the people of Ireland against "unlawful tyranny."

It was during one of his most heated outbursts that the speaker suddenly passed, away heavily against the bench and then collapsed into a seat.

The justices early in session today, overruled the action of the defense to quash the indictment on the ground that the statute under which it was drawn did not provide for the trial of a man who committed treason outside the realm.

The effort to establish this was admittedly the prisoner's main defense. It was announced that no witness must be secured in Germany and this was not permitted.

With the failure of this move, Sir Roger himself was called upon to make a statement to the jury. This statement, which was not given under oath, and consequently permitted of no cross examination from flat denials that Knight had worked in the interests of Germany or that he had accepted German gold as bribe.

In Berlin Dr. Karl Liebknecht, the Socialist leader, was sentenced today to thirty months penal servitude and dismissal from the army for attempted high treason, gross insubordination and resistance to the authorities.

The court decided that Dr. Liebknecht was guilty by political fanaticism and not by unpatriotic feeling and therefore, imposed the sentence on him. Dr. Liebknecht is entitled to appeal from the sentence. The charge against Dr. Liebknecht was attempted treason, during war time and resistance of the authorities.

The trial was held behind closed doors. It was ordered also that newspaper should print no reports of the trial except the verdict which would be made public.

The first contingent of eastern state troops which have been mustered into the federal service for Mexican duty, arrived here tonight over the Nickelplate line en route to the border.

The vanguard was composed of the Fourteenth New York infantry regiment which arrived in three trains. They are scheduled to arrive on the border Saturday morning.

Leave Camp Dunne SPRINGFIELD, Ill., June 28.—The first infantry regiment of the Illinois National Guard, 1200 strong, and fairly well equipped for field service, left Camp Dunne tonight for service on the Mexican border.

This contingent will be followed tomorrow by the second infantry and tomorrow night by the third and the complete staff of the first brigade comprised of these three regiments. The first cavalry, the first battalion of

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FUNSTON FIXES DESTINATION OF VARIOUS STATE TROOPS

NEW YORK, June 28.—A telegram from Major General Funston fixing the destinations of troops from states in the department of the east was transmitted through the war department to Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood late today. The message said:

"Request the following militia organizations be sent to the points indicated:

"All of Maryland, to Eagle Pass, Texas; all of Florida to Del Rio, Texas; all of Maine and all of New Hampshire to Laredo, Texas. Information as to the destination of the Vermont National Guard will be sent later."

General Wood announced, however, that he would not be able immediately to carry out General Funston's directions.

General Wood expected to receive word tonight that a brigade of Pennsylvania infantry had started for the border. With departure of the Pennsylvania brigade the number of troops on their way to the border will be increased to approximately 20,000.

Illinois Boys Start CHICAGO, June 28.—The quartermaster's department, central department, said that the first Illinois infantry which entrained at Springfield for San Antonio tonight was scheduled to arrive at its destination Saturday night.

MEXICO CITY, June 28.—The body of General Felix Gomez, who was in command of the Mexicans in the battle with the Americans near Carrizal, was received with honors at Saltillo, a public manifestation of regret being held. Interment was at Gomez Farias, his birthplace.

El Centro Mexicano, a self-styled "Americanist International association" commemorated today the nineteenth anniversary of the constitution of the Pan-Americanist congress convened by Simon Bolivar in June, 1826.

A certain importance is attached to this celebration in view of the present Mexico-American crisis. Gen. Marcelo Caraveo has arrived at Chihuahua from the United States. Notwithstanding that he is antagonistic to the present government he has availed himself of the law of amnesty recently proclaimed by Carranza and has offered his services to the country.

Railroad traffic between Mexico City and Torreon, it is stated, will be re-established at an early date.

FUNSTON HEARS OF RELEASE OF TWENTY-THREE AMERICAN PRISONERS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] SAN ANTONIO, June 28.—General Funston received tonight a report from Brigadier General George Bell, Jr., at El Paso, which stated General Bell had been notified by Mexican Consul Garcia that the American prisoners taken at Carrizal, now are on their way north to Juarez and probably would arrive there tomorrow morning.

According to the report, Consul Garcia had received word from General Jacinto Trevino that the American prisoners with their arms and accoutrements, were to be delivered at once to the American authorities.

The report was forwarded at once to Washington by General Funston.

PRISONERS ARE BEING ESCORTED TO THE BORDER

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] EL PASO, June 28.—President Wilson's peremptory demand on General Carranza for the release of the American prisoners held in Chihuahua penitentiary today met with compliance.

Late this afternoon it was announced from the commandancia in Juarez that a message had been transmitted over the Mexican telegraph wires which stated that the twenty-three negroes of the Tenth cavalry captured at Carrizal, with Lem H. Spillisbury, mormon scout, had been removed from their prison.

The message added that the men, with their arms and accoutrements, under heavy guard, had been placed on a Mexican Central train bound for Juarez, where they are expected to arrive tomorrow morning.

The telegram conveying this news was addressed to General George Bell, Jr., commander of the El Paso base. It was signed by General Jacinto Trevino, commander of the

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RELIEF CLAUSE OUT

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, June 28.—An agreement under which the army draft resolution will be put through without any provision for relief of dependent families of national guardsmen, drafted into the federal service, was reached late today by house and senate leaders.

A conference report eliminating entirely the relief provision on which the conferees had split was approved by the house without opposition just before adjournment tonight, and is expected to be accepted by the senate tomorrow as a separate bill.

As finally agreed to, the resolution authorizes the president to use as federal soldiers, all members of the national guard willing to take the required oath for federal service.

During any negotiations, however, the United States will insist upon freedom of movement of troops in Mexico, and any attempt to interfere with them will be met by such force as

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STILL WAITING FOR REPLY FROM GEN. CARRANZA

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, June 28.—An immediate break between the United States and the de facto government of Mexico has been averted by compliance with the American demand for release of twenty-three troopers captured in the fight at Carrizal.

Whether a state of war has been prevented or merely postponed no one here would attempt to say tonight. Official information as to the attitude of General Carranza was lacking. Until his response to Secretary Lansing's note, dispatched Sunday, making two peremptory and distinct demands, is received, there will be no decision on whether President Wilson shall lay the crisis before congress.

News of the release of the prisoners, received early tonight in press dispatches, brought undisguised relief to high officials. It was accepted as correct, although no announcement had come through official sources.

Moreover, it was assumed that Carranza impressed with the urgency of the situation, had ordered the captured cavalrymen started for the border without waiting for his announcement of the action to reach Washington.

While it generally is conceded that this move lessens tension and makes the crisis less imminent, no one conversant with the grave problem is losing sight of the fact that the all-important question of Carranza's attitude toward the American expedition across the border to protect the territory and citizens of the United States from bandit outrages remains unsettled.

If the de facto government stands upon the orders to Gen. Trevino to attack Pershing's men when they move otherwise than toward the border, the situation actually is just what it was before, except that there is now a possibility of diplomatic negotiation that did not exist while the Americans were held prisoners in Chihuahua.

The preparations of the United States for war will go steadily forward. There will be no interruption of the rush of national guardsmen to the border and General Funston will continue disposition of the forces under his command as though he expected an immediate attack from the Mexicans.

The fact that Carranza has complied with one of the demands is accepted by the more optimistic officials here as an indication that he is striving to prevent a break. Even though he again should attempt to place all blame for the Carrizal fight upon the American officers and insist upon his right to forcibly oppose any except northward movements of American troops, it is thought that possibly he will state his position in such a manner as to make no further discussion necessary.

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Hughes And Roosevelt Are Now In Complete Accord

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] NEW YORK, June 28.—Charles E. Hughes, republican presidential nominee, announced tonight at the end of an interview with Theodore Roosevelt, which lasted for more than two hours and a half, "that he and the former president were in complete accord."

Mr. Hughes issued the following statement: "I was very much pleased with Colonel Roosevelt's letter of endorsement and he has expressed himself in a very kindly way with respect to my telegram to the progressive committee. I wanted to talk with Colonel Roosevelt fully, and asked him to dine with me so that we might have that opportunity. He dined with me tonight and we had a very delightful interview. He talked very fully over all matters and are in complete accord." It is understood that Colonel Roosevelt told Mr. Hughes he would co-operate heartily with him in any of his plans even to the extent of making a speaking tour if Mr. Hughes so desired.

Colonel Roosevelt called on Mr. Hughes at the nominee's invitation and they remained together for more than two and a half hours. A crowd had gathered in the lobby of the hotel where Mr. Hughes is staying when Colonel Roosevelt arrived. The former president lifted his hat and bowed then hurried into an elevator which took him to Mr. Hughes' apartment, the parlor of which had been fitted up as a dining room.

The republican nominee and Colonel Roosevelt dined alone. The waiter who served them was hurried from the room except when summoned by a call button.

NEW YORK, June 28.—That Captain Hans Tauscher, former German army officer on trial here, charged with complicity in the alleged plot to blow up the Welland canal in September, 1914, was made the innocent tool of Captain Franz von Papen, recalled German military attaché in the later's foolish desire to serve his country, was the gist of the defense outlined today by Tauscher's counsel, Herbert C. Smyth.

It is expected Tauscher will go on the witness stand in his own behalf when the trial is resumed tomorrow. Horst Von Der Goltz, the man upon

whose confession Tauscher, Wolf Von Igel and others were indicted, was denounced by Tauscher's lawyer as a "despicable scoundrel."

A number of character witnesses, among them several persons of English birth, testified in Tauscher's behalf. Robert Dorman, a photographer of El Paso, Tex., told of meeting Von Der Goltz at the Mexican border, where the latter was acting as a spy for the Villa forces and was sentenced to be shot.

The witness added that Von Der Goltz "did not have a good reputation for veracity."

MURDERERS OF MAN AND WOMAN NOT CAPTURED

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] COLUMBUS, N. M., June 28.—Military authorities here tonight announced they were convinced that earlier reports that six Mexicans, believed to have been the murderers of Wm. Parker and wife on their ranch southwest of Hachita, had been captured and killed, were erroneous.

Investigation indicated, it was stated, that the report probably was an outgrowth of a fistic encounter between Americans and Mexicans aboard a train between Douglas and Hachita.

Twenty-three Villistas, taken captive by General Pershing's command since it crossed the border, who formerly had been held at Namiquipa, have been removed to a point nearer the border for safe keeping, according to reports from the field. It is possible they may be brought here, where a large stockade of barbed wire has been erected for the detention of prisoners.

Victims Are Buried HACHITA, N. M., June 28.—The bodies of William Parker and his bride of five months, murdered by bandits in a raid upon their ranch, southwest of here, yesterday, were buried in the little cemetery here, today. The mourners were largely women; practically the entire male population of the town being members of the posse searching for trace of the marauders.

SELLS GUNS TO MEXICO [Republican A. P. Leased Wire] EL PASO, Tex., June 28.—The Argentine republic has sold 150 machine guns to the Carrancista government, according to reports received today by the local agent of a Mexico City bank.

History Of The Commercial Hotel; An Old Institution

The Commercial hotel was built in the middle eighties by the present owner, George H. N. Luhrs who for a long time before that had owned the ground on which the hotel stands and most of the rest of the real estate thereabouts. It was the first pretentious hotel in Phoenix. Though it has since been improved and modernized, the last time about five years ago, its outward form has been changed only by the eastern extension on the lower floor of which is occupied by the ware rooms of Talbot & Hubbard.

For many years there were only two hotels in Phoenix, the Commercial