

VERGARA IS REPORTED TO BE LIVING

Federal Commander at Piedras Negras Says He Escaped From Captors and Joined a Band of Constitutionals

Rumor Gained Circulation in the Federal Ranks Several Days Ago, But Authorities Were Reticent on Matter

EAGLE PASS, Texas, Feb. 28.—Clemente Vergara, the American rancher, who is reported to have been kidnapped by Mexican Federals and hanged at Hidalgo, Mexico, is alive, according to General Guarjardo, the Federal commander at Piedras Negras. General Guarjardo said today that Vergara escaped from his captors last Saturday and joined a party of constitutionalists. This statement could not be confirmed.

The rumor that Vergara might be alive first gained circulation among the Mexican Federal troops in Nuevo Laredo two days ago, but efforts to trace it to authoritative source failed. Inquiry at Piedras Negras today elicited vague answers and finally the question was put squarely to General Guarjardo. He briefly indicated that Vergara was alive but when pressed for an explanation refused to go into detail further than to say that Vergara had escaped and joined the constitutionalists. From no other source could anything further regarding Vergara be obtained.

WASHINGTON NOT NOTIFIED.—The state department has had no official notice of the note reported to have been sent by General Carranza, refusing information as to the death of William S. Benton because he was a British subject. Secretary Bryan is not in the city and is not expected until tomorrow.

MAZATLAN FALLING.—Rebels who began an attack on Mazatlan two days ago have gained ground until they are now fighting within the city limits, according to authentic information received tonight. It is reported also that the water supply of Mazatlan is cut off. A squad of six policemen, acting under "superior orders" guarded the American Club here tonight. There is no reason for installing a guard given other than the statement that something unpleasant might occur and the government is disposed to use every means, available, to protect foreigners. The American embassy had no advice of the incident.

STARTLING STATEMENT.—According to information which officials here regard as trustworthy, William Benton, was disarmed and was shot to death in Villa's office; pistol bullets through the stomach ending his life. The statement adds that Benton spent two hours waiting for the interview which ended in his death, walking back and forth in front of the office building in which was Villa's office. The post mortem, it is said, may serve to confirm the character of wounds, despite the probable state of the body in a tropical climate eleven days after death.

LETCHER ACCEPTS SPECIAL CHIHUAHUA, Feb. 28.—Marion Letcher, the American consul here, today accepted Villa's proffer of a special train to bring the Benton investigating committee from Juarez to this city. The commissioners will be allowed to make a close examination of the body, but Villa reiterated his refusal to permit the removal of the body from Mexico.

DINNER TO UNDERWOOD.—WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—As a tribute to the work of Oscar Underwood of Alabama, the Democratic leader of the House, President Wilson will give a dinner at the White House on March 9 for the majority leader. Many members of Congress will be invited.

SENTENCED TO DEATH.—PHOENIX, Feb. 28.—Atha Leonard and John Tomlin were found guilty today of murder in the first degree for killing City Marshall H. Peterson of Mesa. They were sentenced to death.

CALIFORNIA SENDS A WOMAN AS STATE AGENT

SACRAMENTO, Feb. 28.—Women as state agents to bring back criminals from other states on extradition papers appeared for the first time when Maggie R. Anderson, one of the probation officers of Los Angeles, left for Chicago to bring back Helene Young, wanted on a charge of passing worthless checks. The girl is wanted for passing several forged checks while working as a waitress in a hotel in Los Angeles. The first woman agent carries no gun but is equipped with a pair of handcuffs, which, however, she does not believe to have any use.

CHINESE BANDITS SOUGHT.

PEKING, China, Feb. 28.—The railway service between Hankow and Peking was stopped for a short time today while the White Wolf bandits, who were defeated on the Honan-Anhui border yesterday, crossed the line going westward. The army of General Tuan Chihui, the minister of war, now estimated to number more than forty thousand, has failed to throw a cordon around the brigands, who are now making for the hills of Western Honan.

GAMBLING RAMPANT IN MEXICO CITY; HIGH STAKES PLAYED FOR

Lavish Patronage of Houses Protected by Government Indicates Abundant Supply of Money in the Capital

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 28.—Gambling houses are now wide open in Mexico City. General Huerta's assertion that there is plenty of money in the capital appears to be well borne out in the high stakes. At one house a Yucatecan recently lost 5,000 pesos in ten minutes, yawned and bought another stack of hundred peso chips. A certain government employee's losses on the same wheel are reported to have been 50,000 pesos in three nights. In the clearing, the gambling house took both the man's house and his furniture.

The gambling institutions are under the protection of the government, which has granted to one concern the exclusive right to the gambling privileges in the federal district for the consideration of 50,000 pesos a month. This proprietor is privileged to get as much as he can out of sub-contractors and under such arrangements scores of houses have been fitted up in a luxurious manner.

Government detective inspect most of the houses, however, looking for enemies of the existing administration and agents of certain bond companies and also to check off the players in search of those who financial integrity their houses have guaranteed. A number of vacant positions in certain houses of the city already have been created and filled with new men because of the reports which those agents have made.

Policemen can no longer be recognized as such in the streets of Mexico City so thorough has been the reorganization of the force upon a military basis at orders of the Republic's president. The policemen are dressed like soldiers and armed like soldiers. The men have been divided into regiments and companies and police stations have taken on the appearance of barracks. A policeman soldier walks up and down in front of the entrance a rifle across his shoulder. Sitting inside are others with rifles in their hands and strung across their breasts are belts filled with cartridges.

MILITANTS ALIVE AGAIN

LONDON Feb. 28.—Whenever King George and Queen Mary attend public entertainments a suffragette disturbance is invariably an unwelcome addition to the program. At a charity concert in Albert Hall tonight, where King George and the Queen were present, a suffragette, seated opposite the Royal box started haranguing King George, demanding why he did not make his ministers stop torturing the women. Attendants seized the woman a few moments after she began speaking and ejected her from the ball. The audience, meanwhile, hissing her vigorously.

EARL MINTO DIES

LONDON, Feb. 28.—Earl Minto, former governor general of Canada, former viceroy of India, died at Hawick at 4 o'clock this morning.

BANDIT CASTILLO DENIES GUILT Cumbre Disaster Not His Handiwork he Declares

Prisoner in Fort Bliss Lays Blame on Nomadic Band for the Holocaust

EL PASO, Texas, Feb. 28.—(Special) —Maximo Castillo, Mexican bandit, who is now being detained at Fort Bliss, and who is charged with the Cumbre tunnel disaster, insists that he is an innocent man.

"I see in all the papers that the United States authorities will hand me over to Villa, to be shot without trial," he said in an interview here. "Not that I am afraid, but I just want to know if it is true. I don't think it is possible that any civilized nation would send a man to certain death without a hearing.

"I am not responsible for the Cumbre tunnel disaster. I was not there at the time, and I can prove it by American Citizens—Walter Cohen of Alamo Hueco, the American administrator of San Pedro; L. A. Ross of Corralitos, and many others of my American friends.

"Since before Christmas I have not been out of a territory roughly bounded by Palomas, Ascension, Corralitos and San Pedro. I have spent most of my time between Palomas and Ascension. I did not even hear of the Cumbre disaster until twelve days ago, when word was brought to me from the American side, at the same time that Villa's soldiers began to press my men hard.

Shocked by Disaster. "I was shocked and horrified—I who could not kill a living thing, to be accused of such an act!

"Who did it? Perhaps it was some of my own men. I do not know. "About the first of January two of my trusted lieutenants, Tomas Peres and Manuel Gutierrez, deserted me with fifty men. I hear Villa has just caught Gutierrez. There is, besides, a band of forty men under Jesus Manuel Caraveo at Colonia Chichupa, near the Cumbre. They have camped there for two months, are not allied to any party, hate Americans and have no principles. And I will also tell you a secret. Pascual Orozco, with seven hundred men, is in the mountains about sixty miles south, between Hachita and Columbus. Ask Charley White, who lives near Alamo Hueco, thirty miles south of here. He



Maximo Castillo.

has been down there and seen Orozco. "I never have killed any Americans. I never have executed a prisoner, and my men will tell you of the quarrels I used to get into with Salazar and Rojas on that account when I was with them."

Here the little group of ragged refugees—six men and one woman—nodded eagerly. "The only time I remember to have killed a human being was when two of my men shot a peacock. I had them executed; that is all.

Does Not Accuse Villa. "Do I accuse Villa of the Cumbre tragedy? Of course not. This is ridiculous. I have made no statements about the Cumbre tunnel to anybody in the world until now, except to Captain White, who commands the United States soldiers here."

General Castillo shook his head with a whimsical smile. "Why do the newspapers of the border want to make a holiday so all El Paso can come to see me shot? I knew Villa well once. At the call to arms of the Madero revolution I enlisted under him. I never fought him. I never fought him. I never turned against him.

He turned against me and he deserted the magnificent plan of the great Madero—the plan of San Luis Potosi—to follow Carranza and the other reformers. I never wished to join Villa. He has been a bitter disappointment to all patriotic Mexicans.

"I believe in nothing but the partition of land among the people that was promised to us by Madero. I am not a Socialist. I know nothing about it. I am one of the few independent farmers left in the state of Chihuahua. I own a little ranch at San Nicholas de Carretas, which my father owned before me and his father before him. That happy life is all I want in this world. But I could not sit still and see my comrades robbed under Porfirio Diaz' criminal land sales, their homes taken away, themselves turned naked into the streets by federal soldiers, so that their miserable little holdings might go to swell the great estates of Don Luis Terrazas."

Maximo Castillo is a spare, wrinkled, shrunken figure, with mustache and a touch of beard almost white. He is well educated, extraordinarily well read for a Mexican farmer and has gentle and courteous manners.

GENERAL CARRANZA REFUSES TO GIVE OPINION TO CONSUL SIMPICH ON THE KILLING OF BENTON BUT HE PROMISES TO INVESTIGATE BAUGH CASE

After Three Days of Negotiations Consul Simpich Finally Secures More or Less of a Definite Statement From the Leader of the Constitutionalist Cause; Army Surgeons For Investigation Are Appointed by General Scott; Perceval Will Name Men Soon Who Will Act as British Representatives in the Investigation Which Is Soon to Be

NOGALES, Feb. 28.—General Carranza declined to furnish information to the State department at Washington regarding the killing of William S. Benton, the British subject. At the same time he gave assurances to Bryan that he would investigate the disappearance near Juarez of Gustav Baugh, the American citizen. This is the strongly defined stand which came after three days of negotiating between the American secretary of state, and constitutionalist commander in chief through Frederick Simpich, American consul at Nogales, and Yaldro Fabela, acting secretary of foreign relations in Carranza's provisional cabinet.

Until this afternoon Carranza remained silent regarding his stand upon the request of Bryan three days ago for information of Benton's death. Carranza replied to both queries of Bryan, those regarding Benton and Baugh. At the same time the stand is taken by the revolutionary leader that the death of Benton should be taken up through the diplomatic channels of his country.

This occasioned much speculation among those familiar with the situation. Carranza, in reference to the Benton case, pointedly remarked that Bryan's original message had been the first official mention of the matter brought to his attention as directing head of the revolution. In a written message to Bryan, Carranza did not say that the investigation of the Benton case was being made on his part, but Secretary Fabela issued the an-

nouncement that the matter is being investigated for the satisfaction of the constitutionalist party. This, it is pointed out, put England in a position of either virtually recognizing the constitutionalist party, in spite of the previous recognition of Huerta, or would be unable to secure information regarding the welfare of its subjects in the territory controlled by the insurgents.

Fabela said Carranza informed Washington that he could only attend to the representations in the Benton case if presented through the duly authorized representative of the British government.

ARMY SURGEONS APPOINTED.—EL PASO, Feb. 28.—The army surgeons who are to be members of the commission which will examine the body of William S. Benton to ascertain whether he died from the bullets of a formal firing squad or was murdered, was appointed today by General Hugh L. Scott, who was instructed to make the appointments.

Mr. Perceval has not selected the men and is believed to be waiting for the Americans to act before doing so.

AMERICAN RECRUITS REFUSED.—JUAREZ, Feb. 28.—The American recruits who were refused by General Villa arrived here tonight from Chihuahua. Each was given twenty-five dollars in gold by the general. They gave their names and addresses as follows: N. O. Bard, Chicago; William Stein Haer, Fresno, Cal.; Martin McQuinn, Boston; P. J. Darcy, Colby, Wis.; Henry Rogers, Boston; Charles Rideaway, Point Marion, Pa.; William Kessel, Detroit; Charles T. Bowens, Watts, Cal. An American who gave his name as A. L. Toshi and declined to give his address, was also in the party. The rebel aeroplane was given a successful test today.

CARRANZA'S SAFETY ASSURED.—DOUGLAS, Feb. 28.—No stone has been left unturned in assuring General Carranza's safety in his journey to Agua Prieta, local constitutionalists say. A strict border patrol has been established from Agua Prieta west, a cordon of sentries is maintained around the town by day and doubled at night. Similar precautions have been taken at Naco, it is declared. This alertness follows the recent reports that Federal sympathizers have been crossing the border from the United States, gathering in the mountains west of Naco, threatening to oppose Carranza's eastward march.

RAMPOLLA WILL STILL CAUSING GREAT AGITATION

ROME, Feb. 28.—The case involving the disappearance of the last testament of the late cardinal Rampolla was further complicated today by Judge of Police, receiving denunciation in which it was asserted that the will was stolen by a brother of Giuseppe Caretti, the dead prelate's valet, for the purpose of blackmailing Baron Rampolla Pezzana by the suppression of the testament which the baron regains through his wife, who is a sister of the cardinal and the police say, openly accuse Rampolla Pezzana of being an accomplice in the suppression of the will.

HAITI'S WAR GOES ON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The Zamora government forces are hot on the trail of Davilmar Theodore in Haiti, according to a cablegram received today at the navy department from Commander Boerer of the gunboat Wheeling at Cape Haitien. He reports also that the government warship, Nord Alexis, left that port yesterday for Port Liberté with General Zamora and fifty men bound for Valiere, where fighting has been reported.

BIBLE TORN IN BITS WHILE MINISTER IS LAYING CORNERSTONE

Well Dressed Man Appears on Scene and Tears Book to Pieces; Dr. Aked's Views Are Said to Be the Cause

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—A tall, well dressed man made his way through the crowd today, attending the laying of the corner stone of the First Congregational church and tore in pieces the marked Bible, throwing the torn leaves at the feet of the pastor, Rev. Dr. Charles F. Aked. The Bible's cover was tossed on the corner stone. Before observers realized what had happened, the man quietly disappeared.

The cover was tagged with scripture texts referring to the followers of new doctrines and inside was marked; "Property of San Francisco Church Federation." Dr. Aked is president of that organization. One of the cards with which the cover was tagged, read, "Tekel." This word was printed in large red letters. Its meaning, as translated in the book of Daniel is "Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting."

Dr. Aked recently became prominent because in his pulpit utterances he declared that he did not adhere to the orthodox doctrine of the virgin birth of Christ. It is believed the corner stone interruption came from some one who took that means of voicing his disapproval of the pastor's course.

UNION HOSPITAL AT FRISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 28.—This city is the first among the large cities of the country to have a labor hospital. The Union Labor Hospital and Training School Association closed a lease whereby they take over the McNutt hospital for ten years at a total rental of \$105,000. The labor men will take possession tomorrow. Jesse P. McAfee, superintendent of the Eureka Union Labor hospital, will take charge of the McNutt institution. Dr. H. M. Marshall, house surgeon, of the Eureka hospital, will come to San Francisco to assume a similar post. General patients will be treated at the hospital, but special arrangements will be made for union men.

SENTENCE HELD UP

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—On the ground that the trial court erred in admitting as evidence a newspaper editorial attacking the candidacy of William Willett, Jr. when he ran for supreme court justice on the Democratic ticket, Supreme Court Justice Blackmar granted today a certificate of reasonable doubt which postponed the execution of sentence. Willett received after being convicted of buying his nomination. Willett, a former congressman, is under sentence of a year and a half in prison. The editorial in question was headed, "Tammany's tainted touch on judiciary ticket."

Louisville & Nashville Railroad has been fined \$402.90 and enjoined from doing intra-state business in Mississippi for failure to obey orders of Mississippi railroad commission to effect that trains should stop at Bay St. Louis.

FIRST TICKET IS NAMED FOR CITY CONTEST

Progressives Put Their Slate Through; Say That It Does Not Preclude Changes Being Made in the Primary Voting

Woman Named as Candidate for City Clerk; Ticket Commented Upon as Very Strong One; Take Up Collection

The meeting of Progressives of the city last night was featured by the naming of a complete ticket for the spring election, announcement that no assessment will be levied against any candidate, and the taking up of a collection for the purpose of meeting expenses. The only woman in attendance at the close, Mrs. Cornish, participated in contributions which were volunteered to the hat and there by encouraged the belief that the women are likely to be a substantial source of campaign munitions as well as votes.

The ticket for the city election was presented by a committee appointed for the purpose at the last meeting. This report was featured with the naming of a woman for the office of city clerk, and will give Bisbee the distinction of having the first woman to be nominated on a regular ticket in the state for a municipal office. The ticket in full follows:

WM. TONKIN for mayor. SAM VERRAN for marshal. MRS. WASSICK for city clerk. G. W. BUNKER, street superintendent.

For council, first ward, Charles Holz, Baptist Carretto, Second ward, W. J. Arndt, Leonard Warmington, Third ward, Griff Williams, O. P. McRea.

The slate as presented to the meeting went through with but one snag hole. Charley Jones was down for council from the first ward, but the name of Warmington was voted when it was announced from the floor that he had said that he would make the race for return to the office he now holds if Progressives wished him to run. Warmington heretofore has been classed as a Republican. He was elected to the council as such two years ago. The defection probably looked good.

Mrs. Wassick is the widow of a well known miner, her husband having been fatally hurt about a year ago at the Cels shaft. She is the mother of five young children and has resided in the city ten years. It was stated in the meeting last night by several speakers that she was well qualified by a bookkeeping education to fill the office of city clerk.

All the other candidates are well known and in talk about town last night, when the results of the meeting were heard in political circles, it was said that the Progressives had made up a strong ticket. As to that word "Progressive," the meeting made plain that it wished press references to the title of its politics to ignore the word Republican. A speaker said that they wanted no association with the old party; that they were paddling their own canoe as Progressives.

Regarding the ticket, Chairman Hicks and Secretary Nolan both took occasion to call the attention of the meeting to the point that it had been made up solely to assure the Progressives of a complete ticket in the primaries and that it did not preclude any Progressive desiring place on the ticket from entering the primaries and making contest. It was said by friends of Mr. Jones after the meeting that they were certainly going to see to it that his name entered the primaries.

A committee of four was named to conduct the work of the organization through the primaries. It is composed of Harry Alken, Tom Monier, Hank Snodgrass and John Carretto. Following the committee appointment, adjournment was taken. At tendance numbered about thirty voters. Four of these were women, three of whom left before the close.

BURKE FACES INDICTMENT.

NEW YORK, Feb. 28.—The federal grand jury to be sworn in Tuesday will inquire into the charges of taking illegal commissions made against John Burke, the manager of the commissary department of the Panama Railroad company, which the government owned, and operated. All the papers in the case have arrived from the canal zone.