

U. S. SOLDIERS THOUGHT NOW NEAR CASAS GRANDES

Gavira Receives Word That American Couriers Reach Town in Western Chihuahua. Orders Given.

COLUMN PROBABLY THAT OF DODD

Great Activity is Had in Columbus, Which is the Expeditionary Base and Changed into a Big Community.

EL PASO, March 17.—American troops will reach Casas Grandes at midnight, according to General Gavira, of Juarez, late today. Casas Grandes is a little more than sixty miles from the point where Colonel Dodd's column entered Mexico, so the Americans have been moving more than thirty miles a day.

General Gavira announced he had a telegram that a courier from the Americans had already reached Casas Grandes, announcing that American troops could be expected about midnight. The general said he had wired Colonel Davila, commanding the Constitutionalist garrison at Casas Grandes, not to permit the American troops to occupy that city.

His instructions from General Carranza, said Gavira, would not give him authority to let American troops occupy the city. It would be contrary to orders. They could pass the city and camp outside but they must not occupy or march through.

ACTIVITY AT COLUMBUS COLUMBUS, March 17.—Two and a half squadrons of cavalry left the expeditionary main base here striking in a westerly direction. It is unknown whether they are intended to reinforce the punitive column. One report indicated they are going to help protect the line of communications and a portion of the expedition under Colonel Dodd, which Wednesday circled westward about 50 miles from here and entered Mexico about the same time as the main expedition.

Troop trains, overnight, swelled Columbus camp to what is said to be nearly the size of the original expedition. Heavy construction work of many varieties is under way. The new city is rising to become a homelike and permanent base which is to be established here.

Reports that several men out on post duty with the expedition were wounded by snipers is unconfirmed. It is significant the soldiers about the camp, who come with communication returning relays of transport drivers received the information which leads them to believe the march has been quiet thus far.

Reliable reports indicate the large ranching and cattle interests on the Mexican side have offered a reward of \$50,000 for the capture of Villa, dead or alive. Officers here said they had reason to believe the immense offer had caused commotion among the peons who heard of it in Northern Mexico.

With the exception of occasional gossip and secret dispatches over the wire, the men of the expedition now somewhere in northern Chihuahua, are completely out of communication of any sort even with their comrades at the base.

The body of First Lieutenant Zell, Eleventh Cavalry, who killed himself yesterday, was sent to Baltimore. One of the chauffeurs, an intimate friend of Zell's, said Lieut. Zell was worried, fearing his troops were not up to discipline. Both officers said Zell's troops were among the best. When Zell alighted from the train at Columbus he gazed over the dry desert and exclaimed, "Great God! Is this Columbus?" His fellow officers did not heed the remark. A few minutes later they heard a shot and found Zell dead with a wound in his head.

Life at the military base is animated and picturesque. The roar of aeroplanes is matched by the rattle of pounding hoofs as the mountain batteries and cavalry troops speed over the hard and rocky soil of the nearby hills on practice marches designed to

SOUTH OF GUZMAN.

GUZMAN, Mex., March 17.—American troops are already south of this point, a twenty-five miles east of the line of Ascension and Janos. The American column is not moving on the route via Guzman, which is about 30 miles due south of Columbus, but evidently relying on the garrison at Guzman to control the points eastward. The Carranza garrison occupies this city and their commander has every confidence of his ability to preserve order.

NO FIGHTING HAD YET IN MEXICO

Reports to the War Department in Washington Give Information that Force Has Not Met with Villa Bandits.

SOME OFFICERS DO NOT EXPECT TROUBLE

Mexico, Generally, is Quiet, Though There Are Signs of Trouble at Tampico and at Torreon.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—The main expeditionary force in Mexico late this afternoon had not encountered any Villa bands, according to reports received at the War Department. Officials interpret this as clearly indicating that Villa is fleeing. It is extremely doubtful if they will attempt to make a stand.

Opinions prevail among army officers that the campaign will develop quickly into guerrilla warfare, if there is any opposition. The Senate concurrent resolution of Senator Lofollette, declaring that Congress approved the use of the army to pursue Villa, and giving further assurances that the sovereignty will not be encroached, was unanimously adopted without debate.

Reports to the State and War Departments indicate that conditions, generally, in the interior of Mexico were fairly quiet, with the exception of Tampico and Torreon. At Tampico and the adjacent oil fields the Americans are reported as uneasy although no disorders have developed. The attitude of the military forces in the district is said to be unfavorable to Americans. It is believed that when the attitude of the de facto government toward the foreign action against Villa becomes known, there will be no further cause for apprehension. The situation at Tampico is not new and it is not the direct result of the determination of the United States to capture Villa.

Torreon, for some time, has been the seat of disorders. Consul Williams, who left the Torreon consulate in charge of the British vice consul, and returned to the border with a party of Americans, reported he quit his post because of unbearable conditions.

SPANISH WAR VETS READY.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Representative Dyer, of Missouri, who telegraphed the State Commanders of the Spanish War Veterans asking how many were ready to volunteer in Mexico, announced he had received 20 replies indicating that at least 45,000 veterans were immediately available. The War Department, however, made it plain there was no present intention of asking for the service of any volunteers.

It was not learned the shot which killed Colonel Lopez, Villa's first chief during the raid, was fired by American troopers at 1200 yards. Lopez fell on the first shot. Much other shooting during the fight was done at a distance of from 600 to 800 yards. This is remarkably good marksmanship, according to American officers.

MEXICAN BANDITS, ASSEMBLED AT VILLA'S CALL, PREPARING TO GO INTO BATTLE



This picture, taken during Villa's war with Carranza, shows the bandit followers of the outlaw chief assembling behind a convenient stone wall in preparation for a battle with the forces of the First Chief. The picture is typical of what probably may be seen at many points in Mexico today. Villa no doubt is raising many such bands of patriotic Mexicans to drive the hated "gringos" out of the country. His chief difficulty will be in the lack of ammunition and other war supplies.

SOLDIERS FIND OLD CAVALRY HORSES

Mounds which Villa Drove Off in Raid, Emaciated and Saddle Galled, Are Killed After Being Brought to Camp.

EL PASO, March 17.—Forty-four limping, emaciated and saddle sore horses were led into the base camp of the army of occupation today, swelling the list of Villa victims by that number. They were the beloved cavalry horses of the fighting Thirtieth who were driven off by Villa in the raid on Columbus. They were found by the Mormon scouts of the advance column "somewhere in Mexico."

Their plight was pitiful. From the well fed, carefully groomed pets of the cavalry troopers, they were lame, tired and spurred until their hides were ripped in many places. They were brought into camp, given a farewell feed of oats, petted by the troopers, then led out to the "plains of death," where so many Villa dead lie unburied and were shot as a humane act of their masters.

Over the military telegraph line in the quartel general in Juarez this evening a message ticked off the first definite information about the movements of the American column since it swung across the line at Palomas and disappeared into Mexico. The scouts which General Gabriel Gavira has out watching for the presence of Villistas, reported that they had seen a great cloud of alkali dust moving across the foothills to the north and east of Guzman. On investigation they found it was the American army of occupation. The cavalry scouts were riding in open order and making observations from every sandhill as the Mormon guides pointed out the familiar locations of the desert country. Behind the scouts about one half mile, the Carranza couriers said they saw the main body of United States troops plodding across the deep sand, with the wagon trains and pack trains bringing up the rear.

At Columbus a field hospital is being fitted up with tents, cots and operating tables in preparation for the wounded, who are expected to come out of Mexico with the first conflict with Villa's forces. In El Paso the Red Cross, with its humane instincts, is wrapping bandages and preparing cots for the wounded Mexicans who may be sent to the border for treatment. They will receive the same treatment as the American soldiers who are wounded but on recovery will be turned over to the Carranza authorities to be shot.

A Mormon rancher at Las Cruces, Chihuahua, arrived here today and reported that Villa had passed his home in the night making forced marches and driving his men on toward Santa Ana and the Buena Ventura district, where they expect to make their last stand. He was carrying his wounded (Continued on page 7)

URGES COAST SHIPYARD.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Rear Admiral Benson, chief of the Bureau of Operations, told the House Naval Committee, that San Francisco Bay should have a navy yard "adequate to build as many battleships as might be necessary for the Pacific Coast." He said, a first class plant there would be more valuable than one on Puget Sound. He did not favor the \$2,000,000 appropriation passed by the senate yesterday for improvements of the Puget Sound yard.

TENSION EXISTS IN PLENTY AT JUAREZ

Anti-American Feeling Very Strong in Border Mexican Town. Carranza Consul Died Trying to Save Lady.

EL PASO, March 17.—Tension between the two nations at this point of the border is noticeably sharper, so far as Juarez is concerned. General Gavira coupled the announcement of the whereabouts of the American troops with the statement that he would no longer receive American newspaper correspondents. This latter announcement was later denied by Gavira.

Few Americans visited Juarez and those few returned with word of a decidedly hostile attitude shown by the Mexicans. The children threw mud at the Americans and shouted insults. Customs officials said they heard scattered shots in Juarez in the last two nights but were unable to ascertain the cause.

PEREYRA SAVED WOMEN.

EL PASO, March 17.—Jose Pereyra, Carranza consul at Columbus, who was killed by Villa raiders, met his death trying to save the lives of American women, according to the story of Mrs. W. L. Ritchie, whose husband was killed under her eyes in their hotel at Columbus.

"When the bandits broke into the hotel," she said, "and my daughter and other women, ran into the corridor. We were joined by Pereyra, who stepped in front as the Villistas rushed to the stairs and called 'don't shoot, we are all Mexicans here.' The bandits seized the women and dragged them to the light, one by one, saying to each 'this one is a Mexican.' Pereyra bravely insisted we were, and should not be molested. It was easy for the murderers to see this was not so. The American soldiers were coming up and the bandits fled, dragging Pereyra with them, kicking and abusing him. As his body was found over the border, I suppose they intended to make him prisoner but the pursuit was too hot and they shot him."

RAILROAD BOND CASE ARGUED IN COURT

U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals Hears Appeal of Equitable Trust Company in Western Pacific Foreclosure Suit.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 17.—Arguments in the appeal of the Equitable Trust Company in the Western Pacific foreclosure suit were concluded in the United States Circuit Court of Appeal. The case was taken under advisement. The attorneys for the reorganization committee of the Western Pacific bond holders, denied the allegations of conspiracy on the part of the Denver & Rio Grande and Wall Street bankers. He declared that competing California railroad interests were behind the opposition to an immediate reorganization of the system. Counsel for the Savings Union Trust Company said the guarantees of the Denver & Rio Grande to pay the Western Pacific bond interest were worth \$30,000,000 to the latter on the score that the guarantees constitute an equitable lien upon the property of the Rio Grande. "If it is not an equitable lien or lien not pressed certain bonds for Rio Grande benefit to the extent of thirty million," the attorney said.

The reference was to the refunding adjustment bonds of the Rio Grande, issued several years after the Rio Grande guaranteed the Western Pacific bonds. It is claimed the lien in favor of the Western Pacific bonds will have priority. It was declared the other nine members of the bondholders' committee were asleep with the exception of the representatives of these banking houses and also Judge Van Fleet of the United States District Court, who ordered the Rio Grande to be a defendant in the foreclosure suit, brought by the Equitable Trust Company.

The bondholders of the Western Pacific are those who joined the reorganization plans when they woke up to find Van Fleet had saved them \$30,000,000 and will seek to thank him as an attorney he asserted. It was from an order of Van Fleet, making the Rio Grande a party to the foreclosure suit in order to construe its obligations that the Equitable took one of its present appeals to the Circuit Court. The Equitable contends Van Fleet had no right to do that arbitrarily. Van Fleet also enjoined the Equitable from prosecuting the suit for accounting of the responsibilities of the Rio Grande in the federal court of New York.

"All the so-called parties to this plea for an immediate sale of the Western Pacific are nothing other than Rio Grande," said the attorney inter vener.

STUDENTS "STRIKE".

AMES, Iowa, March 17.—The engineering students of the Iowa State College struck in honor of St. Patrick. They "rushed" the downtown picture theatres. There was no interference from the police and no injuries.

GOMPERS AGAINST INDICTMENT.

YOUNGSTOWN, March 17.—Writing to local labor leaders, President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor declared the recent indictment of Elbert Gary on the charge of conspiring as a trust to fix the price, was a menace to organized labor. Gompers contends the Valentine Trust law of Ohio, under which the indictments were returned is based on the principle that labor is a commodity that can be bought and sold, which is not recognized by the manual labor men of the United States.

FIGHTING NEAR VERDUN GROWS LIGHTER

Contest Near Famous Fort-Has Dwindled Considerably—Only Artillery of Opposing Forces is Active.

LONDON, March 17.—Again the fighting around Verdun has dwindled perceptibly. Only the artillery of the opposing sides is active. Around Le Mort Homme, where furious battles were fought recently, comparative quiet reigns. The bombardments are intermittent, there being also a slackening of the big guns in the Woerth district, southeast of Verdun. Northeast of the fortress, around Douaumont and Dampt, the Germans are hurling shells and the French vigorously countering.

North of Verdun on the right bank of the Meuse, the German ammunition depot was blown up by French guns. There was only one infantry attack on the entire line, north of the Aisne, where the Germans were repulsed.

Constantinople reports the British in Mesopotamia in general retreat in the Felahie region and the Turks in hot pursuit.

Hard fighting with little result, between the Italians and Austrians, especially in the Isonzo region is reported. There is little of importance on the Russian front. Petrograd reports the capture of the town of Mamukhanan from the Turks. Sixty miles west of Erzerum on the Euphrates river.

TAXES A-LA-CARTE.

MEXICO CITY, March 17.—Plans for opening stations for the receipt of popular subscriptions for the liquidation of the interest debt were decided by the committee in charge of raising revenue. Other cities will be called upon to follow a similar plan. The promoters hope to raise eight hundred million pesos by means of special stamp taxes, public entertainments and pledges of weekly donations for four years.

DEFENSE ACTS OCCUPY ALL CONGRESS' HOURS

National Defense Legislation is the Paramount Issue in Both the House and Senate.

PRESIDENT URGES HASTE IN WORK

Proponents Hope to Push Military Measures Ahead of Water Power Bill Which is Now Pending in Senate.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—National Defense legislation overshadowed every legislative issue in both houses of Congress. The fact standing out most sharply in the whole day of debate and discussion was that only one voice was raised against military preparedness as a national policy. It was Meyer London, of New York, the only Socialist member.

The House completed more than half of the set schedule of ten hours debate on the army increase bill. More than forty members expressed their views. A great majority favored the committee bill, the most sweeping military measure considered in this country in peace time. It may be late next week before there will be a final vote. The Senate chairman, Chamberlain, announced he would seek to have the military committee's perfected army bill taken up Monday. The water power bill must be displaced to do this. The President's appeal for haste was thought would lead the power bill advocates to yield without a struggle.

The failure of organized opposition to develop on the floor of the House led Representative Hay, chairman of the House Committee, to abandon the night session provided under the special rules of the bill.

In an attack Representative Gardner of Massachusetts, Republican, said: "It makes a noise like preparedness, but it is not a very noisy noise." In support of his figures Gardner read a letter of Secretary Baker, the new head of the War Department, questioning the accuracy of figures which Hay sought to show that a million, three hundred thousand men would be available for a national army if the House bill was enacted.

Using the same methods of calculation, employed by Hay, he said "we should have available, without legislation, 1,280,000 men who have some military training." He presented facts and figures to show the actual number of military age who had any training was 473,000. The severity of this official arraignment of the House bill astonished many. Secretary Baker said there was no controversy between Hay and himself. The variances are due to different opinions held of the case between the War College and the Adjutant General's office.

MEXICAN LABORERS RECALLED.

MEXICO CITY, March 17.—Mexican laborers in all parts of the United States are called to return to Mexico in a decree issued by Governor Morales of Coahuila, former private secretary of Carranza. The governor says it is the time for all Mexicans to leave the northern republic and aid in the patriotic work of reconstruction of their country. Any number can be taken care of at good wages and under fair living conditions.

NEW CABINET PORTFOLIO

LAREDO, March 17.—General Pablo Gonzalez, commanding the de facto forces in Mexico City, was named minister of communication in the Carranza cabinet, now in process of formation. Carranza is still at Queretaro but expects to leave for Mexico City March 20.

MEXICAN STABS AMERICAN.

BROWNSVILLE, March 17.—John Lighburn, an American, stabbed and probably fatally wounded in an anti-American outbreak at Point Isabel, Texas, thirty-five miles below here on the gulf. He attempted to stop a Mexican making an anti-American speech in Spanish and received the wounds in a resulting fight. One Mexican was arrested.