

## Carranza Wants Protocol to Exist With the United States

### Head of De Facto Government Also Asks for More Information on the Request of America for Use of R. R. AGREEMENT WOULD SOLIDIFY OPINION

### State Department Officials and Senator Arredondo Are Confering on Details Which Treaty Shall Take.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The de facto government of Mexico today proposed to the United States the drafting of a protocol, under which American and Mexican troops may help in running to earth Villa and his bandits, without danger of misunderstanding or conflict. These facts became known at the meeting between Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican ambassador designate, and Acting Secretary Poik of the State Department. Negotiations as to the details will be in progress for several days but the two governments are in agreement on the general principals involved.

The troops of the de facto government are moving with the American forces, according to information received at the War Department and are planning to render even greater assistance. High military officials allowed it to be known that the Carranza government had promised to move a large force of its troops from central Mexico to the north, forming a trap into which the American cavalry, under Gen. Pershing, may chase Villa.

During the day disturbing reports came to the War Department from Gen. Funston regarding conditions at Nogales, Sonora. There, an official despatch said, Mexican I. W. W.'s were engaged in making incendiary, anarchistic speeches to stir the Mexican population to rash acts. The speakers according to the despatch, are said to have crossed the border from the United States.

General Pershing, in a delayed despatch which reached the War Department late today, reported that at Columbus Villa lost 100 men, which includes killed and wounded.

Arredondo is understood to have received instructions from Gen. Carranza to discuss the request with the State Department and to propose the agreement.

While the convention will provide for all matters, such as the use of the Mexican railroads by American troops the specific request for permission to ship supplies from El Paso will be disposed of separately. Gen. Carranza has asked for additional information upon that subject and it will be forwarded to him immediately. State Department officials declined to discuss the nature of the information.

After his conference with Mr. Poik, Mr. Arredondo started to prepare a tentative draft of the agreement which will be submitted to Gen. Carranza as soon as an agreement on the details is reached with the State Department. Every effort will be made to expedite the preparation of the document. As far as the shipment of supplies from El Paso is concerned, the State Department is inclined to regard such an arrangement as being purely a commercial proposition.

Officials fail to see why there should be any objection to such shipments. It is not planned to use the rolling stock of the Mexican road, merely the tracks. Officials hold that the United States asks of the de facto government in the instance really less than the latter asked when permission was asked to carry Carranza troops through American territory. The United States, it is understood, is prepared to make every concession possible to the de facto government, it being felt that as American troops are operating on Mexican soil, the de facto government is entitled to the greatest possible consideration. It is the desire of officials that nothing be

## EARNINGS OF THE RAILROADS INCREASE

### Southern Roads, Particularly, Have Wonderful Growth Over That of the Previous Year.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Business of the eastern railroads of the United States has doubled within 12 months, according to figures made public today by the Interstate Commerce Commission. The southern railroads increased 50 per cent within this period and the western roads added about 15 per cent. These comparisons show that the eastern roads received an average net revenue of \$609 per mile operated, compared with \$307 per mile a year previously. The southern roads made \$420 per mile against \$225 in 1915 and the western roads \$210 per mile against \$187. Experts attribute the wide disparity in the railroads between eastern and western roads largely to the poor showing of railroads in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona.

The railroads' experts are now seeking to learn why southwestern roads have failed to respond proportionately to the general revival of prosperity throughout the country. Today the southern roads are more prosperous than for some time.

### GREECE ANNEXES ATHENS.

ROME, March 20.—Advices received here from Athens that a royal decree has been issued proclaiming the annexation of northern Epirus.

## VERDUN AND RUSSIAN FRONTS ARE STILL SCENES OF GREAT BATTLES

LONDON, March 20.—Heavy battles having been in progress northeast of Verdun and on the northern part of the Russian front, where the Russians are keeping up their strong offensive against the Germans. In all these zones the losses have been large while the changes in positions have been relatively unimportant.

Northwest of Verdun, in the sector of Avocourt-Malancourt, the Germans after a terrible bombardment made a vicious infantry attack against allied fire. The French, however, put down the attack, which they claimed failed.

Berlin reports the repulse also, with heavy losses, of the French who attacked the village of Vaux, northeast of Verdun. Elsewhere around the fortress there have been only intermittent bombardments and a continuation of air raids by French and German aviators. Also Berlin claims that the Germans again have repulsed

## HE SPOILS BRITISH SHIRKERS' PLANS TO ESCAPE WARSERVICE



Sir William Robertson.

Sir William Robertson, Britain's bustling chief of the imperial general staff, is proving an evil genius to the British shirkers. He is rounding them up for war duty, and it is likely they will be shown less consideration at the front than the men who volunteered freely and without compulsion.

### JEROME TROUBLE NIPPED.

PRESCOTT, Arizona, March 20.—As the alleged leaders in a plot to foment a Mexican uprising two men were arrested today at Jerome and placed in the county jail here pending an investigation. The arrests of the alleged ringleaders, Sheriff Young believed, would prevent the trouble. The smelters of the United Verde Company are located at Jerome.

### ARMOR PLATE BILL.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Debate in the Senate on Tillman bill, the government armor plate factory was near a close tonight with the Republicans assailing the project as a menace to the nation's safety and democracy defending it as a precautionary step.

The discussion will continue tomorrow under an agreement. The democratic leaders are confident the bill will pass by a large majority, substantially as reported by the naval committee.

Senators Lodge and Lippitt opened the attack, declaring the bill would drive private armor plate manufacturers out of business and insisted that if war should come the government would need an armor plate plant of its own to supplement the private concerns.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The rival claims of five navy yards to preferment in application for enlargement and equipment of the navy yards were argued today before the House naval committee.

Senator Poindexter and Representative Humphrey of Washington, appearing in favor of the passage of the bill to make appropriation available for immediate use of the naval yard at Puget Sound. Arguments for development of the yards at Norfolk, Charleston and Philadelphia, respectively, were made by Representatives Holland of Virginia, Whaley of South Carolina and Vane of Pennsylvania.

Proponents of the plants said that as more than \$11,000,000 already had been expended there the yards could be put into capital condition for a sum which would be nominal. Representative Holland declared that Norfolk occupies the best strategic position on the Atlantic and in time of war would be the only refuge in which American vessels could repair out of range of hostile guns. Whaley said Charleston offered the best site for a south Atlantic dry dock.

### FOOD VERY SCARCE.

NEUVO LAREDO, Mexico, March 20.—A shortage of flour, which is becoming serious, prevails at Torreon and Durango, according to advices here tonight. Unless conditions are relieved it is stated food riots are feared. Corn especially is needed.

### BOXING LEGALIZED.

TRINIDAD, March 20.—Governor Fielder tonight signed the bill to legalize amateur boxing bouts. Under the law about three years, standing match conduct four round bouts. The boxers may wear gloves of 8 ounces and the bouts must be according to A. A. U. rules.

### DROP SMOKE BOMBS.

PARIS, March 20.—A German aviator has dropped several smoke bombs near a French battery. This is the first time since the war began that such bombs have been used. They are not in themselves dangerous but the bombs give forth an intense smoke that poisons the air a long time and serves as a guide for hostile artillery.

### MURDERERS MUST HANG.

SANTA FE, March 20.—J. Stait was sentenced to hang and C. Schmidt to life imprisonment by Judge L. Medler at Las Cruces today for the murder of Sheriff Dwight B. Stephens at Luna. Francisco Acosta was acquitted on the charge of accessories.

### SCHOOLS OPEN.

MEXICO CITY, March 20.—Two hundred public schools in the City of Mexico opened today, thus completing the educational system crippled last November owing to the epidemic of typhus in the city. Improving, with an average decrease of 75 cases weekly. The street cars in the capital are being used.

The agrarian committee will hold its first meeting here next week in the Federal District.

The general national committee will meet later in the month at capital of Huasteca under the leadership of Minister of Agriculture Pastouroux.

## HAY BILL MAY PASS HOUSE IN FEW DAYS

### National Defense Measure is Being Rushed Through the Lower Branch of Congress for Early Passage.

### LEGISLATORS REFUSE TO INCREASE THE BILL

### Senate Hears Arguments in Favor of and Against Armor Plate Factory for the U. S. Under Tillman's Bill.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—By refusing definitely to increase the regular army Hay Bill, the House today made it apparent that the bill will go to the Senate very soon and as framed and by an overwhelming vote. Chairman Hay of the Military committee would be reached tomorrow.

The Hay bill carried out former Secretary of War Garrison's ideas in regard that it submits the federalization of the national guard for the continental army.

At times during the day the House proposals were made to increase the peace strength of the regular army fixed by the Hill bill, and expandable by legislative action. With this outstanding feature disposed of the consideration of the remainder of the bill will be forwarded rapidly.

The only amendment of the day was offered by Representative Anthony, of Kansas. It would provide for an extension of time service in all branches of the army. Discussion of a proposal for increasing the office staff of the ordnance department was had which was adopted by the House.

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## DE FACTO TROOPS FAIL IN THEIR PART OF PLAN AND VILLA ESCAPES TO HILLS

## TWO THOUSAND VESSELS HAVE BEEN LOST

### Germany Heads the List of Merchant Ships Lost, Captured or Detained Since the European War Started.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The European war has taken from the seas more than 2,000 merchant vessels, according to figures published today. Germany, with six hundred vessels sunk, captured or detained, heads the list of losses.

Two hundred and twenty-five of the five hundred British vessels lost were sunk by submarines. Great Britain's allies lost 167 ships. Austria lost eighty and Turkey 124. The total of neutral losses is put at 763, but most of these were released after being reported captured. Ninety-two neutral vessels have been submerged and ninety-four sunk by mines. Twenty-three have been damaged by submarines and mines.

## SIX AEROPLANES READY FOR USE BY AMERICAN FORCES IN MEXICO

COLUMBUS, March 20.—(By wireless from General Pershing's headquarters in Mexico)—Six biplanes of the first aero squadron under the command of Captain B. D. Foulis, arrived today to scout in the mountains for Villa. Two machines left Columbus last night, on this morning. Four spent the night in the vicinity of La Ascension. The machines were driven by Lieuts. S. C. G. Chapman, J. C. Carberry, H. A. Dorgue, T. S. Brown, R. H. Willis and E. S. Gonnell. W. G. Kilner, in the seventh machine, has not reported.

Additions troops arrived here to take the place of the thousand men sent from temporary base to try and pursue Villa. The advices were passed by the military censor. No location of the temporary camp of the Americans is given in the dispatch but its wireless intimates that General Pershing had established headquarters near Casas Grandes from which point he was sending out columns in pursuit of Villa.

### CAVALRY ARRIVES.

COLUMBUS, March 20.—A large body of American cavalry left here today. The troops which were brought here from Texas border points were preceded by a motor train carrying supplies. Whether the detachment will serve as a separate command is given in the effort to capture Francisco Villa or whether it is to join the punitive expedition force now under General Pershing somewhere in Chihuahua was not indicated by the military authorities here.

Accompanying the troops were a number of American civilian scouts, said to know the mountain trails in Chihuahua, in which Villa is reported to be fleeing, as the city man knows his front yard. Wearing the sombrero of the frontier, heavily roweled spurs, and with little wrinkles at the corners of their eyes, bespeaking lives spent in the open, these scouts form what is said to be the most picturesque group of men in the expeditionary force.

Military men frankly admit that upon their knowledge of the district in which Villa is reported to be fleeing, rests the hope of the capture of the bandit. It is these volunteers, many of whom Villa drove from their homes and property in Mexico, that are leading the American columns to the water holes and to the hiding places in the mountains.

That more Villistas than the seventy-nine already accounted for were killed in the running engagement following the raid on Columbus, was indicated in the discovery of three additional bodies reported here today by H. K. Lemmon, a ranch man. They were found lying just north of the boundary, three miles south of here.

## STRINGENT RULES AGAINST CHINESE ISSUED IN SONORA

### Celestial Residents of the State Prepare to Protest the Regulations Made by Military Governor Calles.

DOUGLAS, March 20.—Chinese merchants of Agua Prieta and Nacozari were notified by an official circular today that their occupation tax had been multiplied six times. No store will be allowed to employ or house more than four persons, all over that number being subject to arrest and a fine of not less than two hundred dollars. Neither will they be allowed to visit one another for longer periods than two days. Heavy fines will be the penalty for infractions.

The Chinese of Agua Prieta are preparing a protest to Gen. P. Elias Calles, military governor of Sonora, asking him to recall this decree which they say will render their lives unbearable and force them to go elsewhere. It is unofficially stated that this decree is in line with the general policy of the Carranza government seeking to oust orientals who have secured a strong footing in Mexico's business world.

### DIES OF TYPHUS.

LAREDO, Texas, March 20.—Dr. Carlos Husk, of Aurora, Illinois, died here late today of typhus fever, contracted in Mexico where he had gone with Dr. Peter Oltzky to combat the disease. Both physicians were brought here recently from the State of Durango, suffering from the fever.

### STILL AT QUERETARO.

QUERETARO, Mex., March 20.—General Venustiano Carranza, first chief of the Mexican de facto government, did not leave today for Mexico City, as has been said. His headquarters are still being maintained and no announcement was made of the first chief's plans.

### OFFICERS OPPOSE PLAN.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—Army officers, it became known tonight, are strongly opposed to the plan to use postmasters as recruiting officers and an effort will be made to eliminate the resolution for this reason. It was recently inserted in the Senate army bill. The War Department favors, instead, of having the postmasters authorized to co-operate with the recruiting stations by notifying the officers of citizens in their districts who would be eligible for soldiers.

## CARRANZA SOLDIERS DO NOT HOLD THEIR PORTION OF THE IRON RING AROUND THE BANDIT AND HE ESCAPES.

### REPORTED FLIGHT NEAR ADVANCE OF TROOPS

### Gavira's Men Said to Have Allowed Rebel to Get Away When They Could Have Impounded Him in Trap.

EL PASO, March 20.—The Carrancistas have failed to hold their end of the net that was closing around Pancho Villa and the bandit chief has reached his mountains near Guerrero, according to reliable information received here today.

At the capital the Associated learned on questionable authority that troops of the de facto government, which had been stationed at Casas Grandes, had been withdrawn and from the same source learned that at least one detachment of Carranza troops refused to fight Villa and had withdrawn on the bandit's approach, letting him free to pass into his favorite mountain fastnesses of Maniquita.

The extraordinary speed with which the American cavalry has pushed into Mexico gave rise to high hopes yesterday that the unexpected had happened; that the bandit was cornered. This seemed inevitable if the Carranza soldiers did their part and if the accounts of the strength of their columns was correct. Those hopes have been completely dashed by the late news.

In the last few days Villa has been variously reported by Gen. Gavira, Carranza commander, at points along a line reaching north and south from Galena to Namiquipa, a distance of about 75 miles. By the same accounts he has not been moving south but roving north and east. The mountainous, canyon-split, roadless country in which he is operating adds many miles to the country he has covered, as compared with the maps.

The reason for the Carranza troops moving to the border remains unexplained. It is impossible even to make a fair estimate of the number of men under Gen. Gavira at Juarez. The large staff at his headquarters and the fact that the new troops are arriving daily indicate that his force has, at a most conservative estimate, near 3,000 and calculations range from that point upward to 8,000.

Every precaution has been taken to prevent the facts being known and most of the men are kept outside the town among the hills. Reports from Agua Prieta tell of Mexican soldiers having been sent to those points also but nothing said of their number. There is serious and growing uneasiness in El Paso over the problem which has arisen over the request of the United States government to the Mexican authorities to use the Mexican railroads. The presence of American soldiers on board might be misunderstood by the Mexicans.

The pressure is intense as most all of the forage for the cavalry horses has to be sent in wagons from the bases. Corn and oats-fed mounts of United States troops could not live on the grass and herbs that support range horses in Mexico. This anxiety has not been lessened by the fact that Carranza has deferred the issue by a request for more information from the Washington government.

### VILLA BATTLING WITH CARRANZA TROOPS?

SAN ANTONIO, March 20.—Francisco Villa may be with the American troops within the next 24 hours if reports coming to Gen. Funston both from Gen. Pershing and from Mexican sources are correct.

(Continued on Page 2)

## REPUBLICAN SUBCOMMITTEE UNABLE TO CHOOSE LEADER

CHICAGO, March 20.—After devoting several hours discussing the qualifications of numerous candidates for temporary chairman of the Republican Convention to be held in Chicago, the subcommittee on arrangement today was unable to reach an agreement and deferred action until tomorrow.

Among the names suggested for temporary chairman were Senator Warren G. Harding, of Ohio; President Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia University; Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania. Senator H. C. Lodge, of Massachusetts, former Gov. Chas. S. Osborn, of Michigan, Senator Geo. Sutherland, of Utah, and W. J. Calhoun, Senator Harding of Ohio, it was said, was regarded with more favor than the others in the primary discussion, the arguments being used that he would be acceptable to both the standpat Republicans and Progressive faction of the party.

The argument was also used in the case of Knox.

The members reported Hughes was strong in many states. Franklin Murphy of New Jersey said he favored Elihu Root. All the members who talked on the subject expressed the opinion that Theodore Roosevelt would not be seriously considered in the convention.

Contracts for tickets and badges were awarded and it was decided that the committee would open its headquarters at Chicago at the Coliseum, May 7.

The committee accepted an offer of Gen. Prince of New York to loan it his oil painting of Abraham Lincoln, painted from life in 1864, for use in decorating the speakers' stand at the convention.

Chairman Hiltes issued a statement calling attention to the confusion which has developed the years of provisions of primary laws in the different states.