



ADVANCE TROOPS EXPECT TO REACH VILLA DISTRICT BEFORE NIGHT

Reasonably Certain That Expedition Is Close to Territory Where Bandit Is Believed to Have Many Sympathizers

ACTUAL FIGHTING AT ANY MOMENT

Advance Squadron Is Closing in; First Column Will Join It Near Mormon Colony; Pursuit Costing U. S. \$40,000 a Day; Congress Holds Wilson

El Paso, Texas, March 17.—Expectation along the border was keyed to its highest pitch to-day by the general belief that before nightfall the advance guard of the American expeditionary force would have entered Villa territory in the mountains of the Casas Grandes region of Mexico.

While the censorship prevented any official news of the whereabouts of the American column, reports brought by Americans arriving from the interior, coupled with the calculations of men thoroughly familiar with the territory over which the expeditionary force is passing, made it reasonably certain that the United States soldiers must be close to the district where Villa is believed to exercise his greatest influence and have the largest number of sympathizers.

Making Fast Time New definite facts about the American expedition to-day stood out with considerable clearness as the result of official published reports brought by Americans who have been in touch with some portion of the American movement.

It seemed certain that of the two columns which were somewhere in Mexico one was constituted for speed, while the other apparently was moving more slowly. The swift-footed column was the auxiliary unit, seemingly mostly cavalry, which went into Mexico fifty miles west of the main army of General Pershing when his forces crossed at Columbus, N. M.

Column Will Meet The secrecy which has surrounded the movements of the main column has been slight compared with the record of this western force. There is reason to believe, from the official announcement, that the western column may have gone into Mexico earlier than the main body. Every report arriving here asserts that the western wing of the expedition is farther.

By these same reports, the two columns will form a junction near the threatened American Mormon colonies, probably in the Casas Grandes region.

Discuss Garrisoning Carranza officials, it was learned to-day, have been discussing with some concern whether American troops, during the Villa pursuit, would have to occupy any Mexican cities and the effect of such occupation upon Mexican public sentiment.

The Carranza officers have frankly expressed the hope that the garrisoning of the cities can be left to their own troops. The American army's choice of the Chihuahua desert as its place of entry precludes for the present such a problem as city garrisoning.

It is estimated here that the cost of the Villa pursuit at present is upward of \$40,000 per day. The possibility that actual fighting with the Villistas might begin at any moment, interest was rekindled in evening intelligence that threw any light on the attitude of the Carranza adherents and more especially on that of the five detachments of Carranza troops who are declared by the officials of the de facto government to be operating against Villa.

No Close Co-operation Andres Garcia, the Carranza consul here, who is recognized as the closest man to the first chief on the border, refused to make any definite statement.

THE WEATHER

For Harrisburg and vicinity: Fair and slightly colder to-night, with lower temperature about 15 degrees; Saturday, fair and warmer.

For Eastern Pennsylvania: Fair and slightly colder to-night; Saturday, fair, warmer, moderate northwest to north winds.

River No important changes will occur in water stages or ice conditions in the Susquehanna river and its branches. A stage of about 4.5 feet is indicated for Harrisburg Saturday morning, with surface nearly covered with floating ice.

General Conditions The storm over the northeastern part of the United States has progressed slowly northeastward with increasing strength during the last twenty-four hours. It has caused more snow in New England, and there have been light falls of snow in the Upper Ohio Valley, along the southeast shores of the Great Lakes and in the interior of New York State.

Temperature: 8 a. m., 18. Sun: Rises, 6:12 a. m.; sets, 6:15 p. m. Moon: Full moon, March 19, 12:27 p. m. River Stage: 4.7 feet above low-water mark.

Yesterday's Weather Highest temperature, 27. Lowest temperature, 13. Mean temperature, 20. Normal temperature, 38.

STARTING IN PURSUIT OF VILLISTA RAIDERS



13th CAVALRY STARTING FROM COLUMBUS IN PURSUIT OF BANDITS.

BILL INCREASING ARMY TO 120,000 SIGNED BY WILSON

Approves Joint Congressional Resolutions Authorizing Increase to Full Strength

Washington, March 17.—President Wilson to-day signed the joint congressional resolution authorizing the increase of the standing army to its full strength of approximately 120,000 men.

Under a rule limiting general debate to ten hours, the House to-day began considering the army bill, the most extensive proposal for increasing the military establishment ever laid before it in peace times. If possible a final vote will be reached to-morrow night.

Forty to Speak

Forty speakers have asked for time. Republicans and Democrats were equally represented on the list and all were expected to favor a wide degree of national preparedness whatever their attitude might be on the committee bill.

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AMERICAN BANKERS TO DEVELOP AFRICAN MINES

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HOLLAND DEEPLY STIRRED

The Hague, March 17.—The loss of one of Holland's finest steamships has stirred the country deeply. The sinking of the Tubantia, valued at \$1,600,000 and insured for \$1,240,000, means loss of valuable cargo space not easily replaceable. The opinion accredited to the captain that the Tubantia was torpedoed adds to the feeling of resentment aroused by the disaster.

FIVE HURT IN EXPLOSION

Kenvil, N. J., March 17.—The explosion of about 1000 pounds of smokeless powder at the plant of the Hercules Powder Company here to-day injured five employes, three of them seriously, and wrecked a building.

HARRISBURG BABIES PRETTY AND HEALTHY AS ANY IN WORLD

Remarkable Showing at Exhibit: Books at Library That Tell How to Keep Baby Well

"Our birth is but a sleeping and a forgetting. The soul that rises with us, our life's star, Hath had elsewhere its setting, And cometh from afar; ... trailing clouds of glory, do we come From God, who is our home; Heaven lies about us in our infancy."

HEADQUARTERS TO DAPP IS STRONG BE OPENED HERE FOR LOCAL OPTION

Governor's Friends Will Start His Campaign—Washington Has a Rumor

Headquarters for the campaign in the interest of election of delegates committed to Governor Martin G. Brumbaugh for President will be opened Monday in the Union Trust building. A publicity bureau will be installed and the petitions in behalf of the Governor will be circulated.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY'S BOOKS ON BABIES

- Belcher—Clean Milk Clock—Our Baby Comstock—Mothercraft Davis—Mother and Child Bennett—Healthy Baby Grunberg—Your Child To-day and To-morrow Kerley—Short Talks With Young Mothers Key—Century of the Child Lippert & Holmes—When to Send For the Doctor MacCarthy—Hygiene For Mother and Child Neughts—Mother and Baby Rosenau—Milk Question Smith—All the Children of All the People Tweddell—How to Take Care of the Baby Wheeler—Before the Baby Comes

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STEELTON STORE TO BE DIVORCED FROM STEEL CO.

General Manager Denies Rumor; Based on Schwab's Attitude in Bethlehem

Persistent rumors that the Steelton Store Company, Limited, one of the largest wholesale and retail establishments in Central Pennsylvania, would be separated from its present connection with the Pennsylvania Steel Company, were declared to be unfounded by W. E. Abercrombie, general manager and one of the incorporators, this morning.

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P. & R. DIVISION ENGINEER MADE SUPERINTENDENT

R. Boone Abbott, President of the Engineers' Society of Pa., Goes Up Ladder

PROMOTION IS RAPID

Got Training by Studying at Night While Draughtsman in Reading Office

R. Boone Abbott, division engineer of Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company, with headquarters in Harrisburg, and president of the Engineers' Society of Pennsylvania, to-day was promoted to the superintendency of the Shamokin division with headquarters at Tamaqua. He went to Tamaqua to-day to take up his new duties. He succeeds J. E. Turk, who was made general superintendent.

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FRENCH REPULSE FIVE SUCCESSIVE GERMAN ATTACKS

Violent Assaults in Vicinity of Vaux Are Broken by Heavy Fire

RUSSIANS ARE ACTIVE

Move Forward Along the Stripa; Counter Drives Stopped by Italians

The German drive at the Verdun defenses has again shifted its direction. Strong assaults were made by the Germans on the lines east of Verdun during the night, five successive assaults in the Vaux region being repulsed by the French, Paris announces to-day.

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NEW YORK STEAMER SINKS AT SEA

NEW YORK, MARCH 17.—NEWS WAS RECEIVED IN THIS CITY TO-DAY THAT THE STEAMSHIP KANAWHA, BOUND FROM NEW YORK FOR RIO JANEIRO BY WAY OF NORFOLK, VA., HAD SUNK AT SEA. A BOATLOAD OF SAILORS FROM THE KANAWHA WAS PICKED UP BY THE STEAMER SANTA MARTA. EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE CREW ARE STILL MISSING.

AMERICANS IN MEXICO UNEASY

El Paso, Texas, March 17.—Rapidly growing uneasiness among Americans throughout Mexico, especially in the north and west was evidenced to-day by reports from various sections that United States citizens were either on their way to the border or were preparing to leave.

U. S. TO INVESTIGATE OUTRAGES

Washington, March 17.—American Consuls in Holland have been instructed to investigate the sinking of the Dutch liner Tubantia with Americans aboard, said to have been torpedoed. Consular agents at Gibraltar and Lisbon have been instructed to investigate the reported unsuccessful attempt to torpedo the French liner Patria.

GOVERNOR MEETS LEADERS

Reading.—Following his address before the State Housing Conference here to-day Governor Brumbaugh had a conference with Republican leaders of Berks county, who assured him of their support for delegates. The Governor declared in his speech that better housing conditions were essential for the health and well being of the people of the State. He also said that better housing means more efficiency and an aid to real Americanism.

R. R. PRESIDENTS APPOINT EMBARGO BODY

New York, March 17.—The presidents of all the eastern railroads met here to-day with Interstate Commerce Commissioner E. E. Clark and appointed a committee with power to disapprove or modify all railroad freight embargoes to the end that the present freight congestion may be relieved.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Harry Kough, Jr., Steelton, and Dora Ethel Smith, city. William Ephraim Duncan, Mills, and Margaret Evelyn Burd, East Rutherford.