

TEUTONS STILL HAMMER ABOUT VERDUN DISTRICT

Heavy Battles in Progress Northwest and Northeast of This Fortress.

GERMANS AND FRENCH HAVE HEAVY LOSSES

Russians Reported on the Offensive Again in the Galicia District.

London, March 20.—Heavy battles have been in progress northwest and 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-Mallencourt, the Germans, after a heavy bombardment, made a vigorous infantry attack in which it used a fire engine against the French front.

A fresh German division brought up participated in the action. The French, however, with their curtain of fire aided by machine guns and infantry, put down the attack with heavy casualties to the assaulting forces, except in the eastern part of the Mallencourt woods, some miles from Verdun, where the Germans made slight progress.

Berlin reports the repulse also with heavy losses of the French, who attacked the village of Maux, northeast of Verdun. Elsewhere around the fortress there have been only intermittent bombardments and a continuation of fighting in the air between French and German aviators.

Another powerful German attack, this time between Avocourt and Mallencourt, west of the Meuse, resulted in heavy losses to the Germans, according to the official communication issued by the French war office tonight. A fresh division brought up from a distant point was used in this operation, which was characterized by the employment of jet liquid flames.

CONGRESSMEN FIGHTING HARD FOR NAVY PORK

Washington, March 20.—The rival claims of five navy yards to preference in the appropriation for enlargement and equipment to be made in connection with the national defense program were argued today before the house naval committee.

Senator Poindexter and Representative Humphrey of Washington appearing in favor of the bill passed by the senate Friday, to make \$2,065,000 available for improvement of the Bremerton yards at Puget Sound, attacked the statement of Rear Admiral Benson, chief of operations, before the committee last week, that the capital plant is located on the Pacific at San Francisco.

Arguments for development of the yards at Norfolk, Charleston and Philadelphia, respectively, were made by Representative Holland of Virginia, Whaley of South Carolina and Vane of Pennsylvania.

Proponents of the Bremerton plant said that as more than \$11,000,000 has been spent there, the yards could be put into capital condition for a sum which would be nominal compared to the cost of improvements. Admiral Benson proposed for San Francisco. Representative Holland declared Norfolk occupied the best strategic position on the Atlantic and in time of war would be the only refuge in which warships could be repaired in time of war.

BRYAN CLASHES WITH TOWNSMAN

Lincoln, March 20.—A wordy dispute between Wm. J. Bryan, former secretary of state, and John G. Maher, a local politician, in which the lie was passed to Mr. Bryan in a hotel lobby, enlivened the informal meeting previous to the prohibition mass meeting here tonight.

The dispute arose over a question of Mr. Maher, as to whether one of the speakers was getting paid for his services. Mr. Bryan interposed the remark that Maher's motives were mercenary. This provoked the retort, and Mr. Maher followed it up with other charges.

Considering Chairman of Convention

National Committeemen Narrowing Choice Down to Harding, Butler and Knox.

Chicago, March 20.—After devoting several hours to discussion of the qualification of numerous candidates for temporary chairman of the Republican National convention to be held in Chicago June 7, the sub-committee on arrangements of the National committee today was unable to reach a decision and deferred action until tomorrow.

Among names suggested for temporary chairman were: Senator Warren G. Harding, of Ohio; President Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia University of New York; Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania; Senator W. E. Borah, of Idaho; Governor Samuel C. McCall, of Massachusetts; Senator Henry C. Lodge, former Governor Chase C. Osborne, of Michigan, and Senator George Sutherland, of Utah. Senator Harding of Ohio, it was said, was regarded with more favor than the others in the preliminary discussion, the argument being used that he would be acceptable to the stalwart and progressive factions of the party.

DR. C. W. HARRIS RESIGNS PASTORATE AFTER TEN YEARS

Resignation to Take Effect After Easter Sunday; Will Go to Bozeman, Montana.

PETITIONED TO REMAIN HERE

Dr. C. W. Harris, who for the last ten years has been pastor of the First Presbyterian church, presented his resignation to his congregation Sunday morning, to accept the pastorate of the Bozeman, Mont., Presbyterian church.

The church was crowded at the morning service; the congregation anxiously waiting for the announcement which he previously had stated he would make. Although it was generally understood he expected to accept the Bozeman call, yet many in his congregation had hoped he would decide to stay, since every inducement was offered him to do so.

A delegation of over half a hundred men of the congregation called at the manse during last week and petitioned him to remain. Many in the congregation, Sunday, were visibly affected by the announcement. Dr. Harris has not only endeared himself to members of his congregation, but to the entire city, and many regrets are heard because of his leaving.

Take Effect After Easter. A meeting of the official board will be held Thursday evening to act on his resignation, which will take effect following Easter Sunday. Dr. Harris' resignation as presented follows: "My Dear Friends: "When after ten years—years of tender memories, bringing no regret—a minister speaks those words to his church which dissolve the pastoral relationship, he undertakes the hardest task that, as a pastor, he has been called upon to perform.

"In giving you my resignation I am not conscious of being actuated by anything else than the desire to do a little more good in the future than I have done in the past. It is not because I have been dissatisfied with my work in your midst; it is not because of any variance or strife within our church, which I thank God has been altogether absent; nor is it because of any material good which I might hope to come to me in any future field of labor. I can best describe my conviction as an inner compulsion. Every man has a message from God. Mine is to preach the gospel. 'Unto me who am the least of all saints is this grace given that I might preach the unsearchable riches of Christ.'

"It surely is conceivable, even to you, who are most reluctant to have me go, that I might feel that I should give this message to others. When the disciples found Jesus in the desert they said 'All men seek thee.' But instead of returning with them to the city he said 'Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also, for therefore came I forth.' When Paul upon his departure for Jerusalem was detained by his friends, who feared for him and for themselves, he replied, 'Why mean ye to weep and to break my heart? And when he would not be persuaded, they said, 'The will of the Lord be done.'

HOUSE REFUSES TO ENDORSE LARGE ARMY

Vote Down Amendments to Increase It to More Than 200,000.

HAY PLAN OF PEACE STRENGTH FAVORED

Places Maximum Number of Enlisted Men at 140,000.

Washington, March 20.—By refusing definitely to increase the regular army provisions of the Hay bill, the house today made it almost certain that the measure will go to the senate virtually as framed and passed by an overwhelming vote.

The net results of the day's debate on the proposed amendment was to sustain the recommendations of the president as to the size of the regular army. The Hay bill carries virtually the program mapped out by former Secretary Garrison in this regard, but substitutes the federalization of the national guard for the continental army. The president has approved the general outline, but stands uncommitted as to details.

Defeated Proposals. Three times during the day the house defeated proposals to increase the peace strength of the regulars fixed by the Hay bill at 140,000, capable of increase to 200,000 by executive order, if war is imminent. The debate centered upon the Kahn amendment to fix the authorized peace strength at 220,000, but the first vote was on a substitute offered by Representative Fuller of Illinois, to make it 250,000.

Substitute Falls. The Fuller substitute was lost without a division. The Kahn amendment was voted down, 183 to 193, after appeals for a large standing army had been made by Representative Mann, republican leader, and other influential members of the minority. Only two democrats supported the Kahn amendment in debate and less than a dozen voted for it. About 40 republicans voted against it.

Representative Crago of the military committee proposed to fix the strength at 200,000, but it was voted down by a substantial majority. With this outstanding feature disposed of, consideration of the remainder of the bill went forward rapidly. About one-third of the measure had been reviewed and approved when adjournment for the day came. The national guard, industrial reserve and nitrate plant section are among those still to be considered.

When the measure reaches the senate, it is possible all but the enacting clause will be stricken out and the senate measure substituted as a short cut through conference.

Debate Tillman Bill. Debates in the senate on the Tillman bill for a \$11,000,000 government armor plate factory near a close tonight with republicans assailing the project as a menace to the nation's safety, and democrats defending it as a precautionary step worth all it would cost, even though the plant never were operated.

The discussion will continue tomorrow under an agreement to bring voting on the amendment at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The democratic leaders are confident the bill will pass by a large majority, substantially as reported by the naval committee.

MURDER CONCEALED FOR ELEVEN YEARS

San Francisco, March 20.—The interest shown by James Marlowe in the prosecution of a woman at Seattle for grand larceny has resulted; police declared here tonight in the discovery of Marlowe's connection with a sensational murder here eleven years ago.

GEN. CARRANZA WANTS PACT WITH UNITED STATES

Great Consideration Is Given De Facto Government by State Department.

DEMANDS ARE THOUGHT EXCESSIVE

Constitutionalists in Mexico Are Preparing Tentative Draft to Protocol.

Washington, March 20.—The de facto government of Mexico has proposed to the United States the drafting of a protocol, under which American and Mexican troops may co-operate in running to earth Francisco Villa and his bandits without danger of misunderstanding or conflict. The terms of such a formal convention would be designed to meet all questions which may arise in the future, setting forth the rights of the American expeditionary forces now in pursuit of the bandit chieftain, and the nature of the cooperation expected from the troops of the Carranza government.

These facts became known today at the conclusion of a conference between Tliao Arredondo, American ambassador designate, and acting Secretary Polk of the state department. Negotiations on the details will be in progress in a few days, but the two governments are in agreement on the general principles involved.

To Render Aid. Meanwhile, the troops of the de facto government are actually co-operating with the American forces, and, according to information received by the war department, are planning to render even greater assistance. High military officers allowing it to become known that Carranza government had promised to move a large force of its troops upon General Pershing in the north, forming a branch into which the American cavalrymen under General Pershing may unite and capture General Villa.

General Pershing in a delayed dispatch which reached the war department late in the day, reported that in the raid on Columbus, N. M., Villa lost 200 men. The losses included men killed and wounded.

Want Complete Understanding. The proposal for the protocol, which it is planned to have remain in force until Villa is captured, came from Mr. Arredondo, and was a direct result of the request of the United States for permission to use the railways between El Paso and Casas Grandes for shipment of supplies to the expeditionary forces. Mr. Arredondo is understood to have received instructions from General Carranza to discuss the request with the state department and to propose the agreement by which a complete understanding will be had by both governments.

Each Point Covered by Agreement. While the convention will provide for all matters such as the use of Mexican railways by American troops, that the specific request for permission to ship supplies from El Paso will be disposed of separately. General Carranza has asked for additional information upon the subject and it will be forwarded to him immediately. State department officials declined to discuss the nature of the information desired, on the ground that, while the negotiations are in progress, they must be held to be confidential.

Preparing Tentative Draft. After his conference with Mr. Polk Mr. Arredondo started to prepare a tentative draft of the agreement which will be submitted to General (Continued on Page Two)

Presidential Primary Today; Be Sure to Vote

North Dakota will voice its presidential preference today. A national committee will be selected and ten delegates to the national convention will be chosen by the republican and democratic parties.

The polls will be open from 8:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m. It is not necessary to register for this election. Any legal voter can exercise his franchise without the formality of a registration. There has been considerable confusion on this point, many voters believing it was necessary to register. Get out and vote. It's your duty.

The following have been designated as polling places in the city of Bismarck for the presidential primaries, Tuesday:

- First Ward—North Ward school house.
- Second Ward—Lambert's barn on Fourth street.
- Third Ward—New high school building.
- Fourth Ward—Western home.
- Fifth Ward—Soo Hotel.
- Sixth Ward—Smith's Blacksmith shop, Seventh and Broadway.

Scouts Scour Mountains for Trace of Villa

Aeroplane Squadron Put in Service as Auxilliary for Troops.

Columbus, March 20.—Aeroplanes from the first aero squadron under command of Capt. D. D. Flowers arrived today, to scout in the mountains for Villa. Two machines left Columbus last night and one this morning. Four spent the night in the vicinity of La Ascension. The machines were driven by Lieutenants F. F. G. Chapman, J. E. Carberry, H. A. Dorgue, T. S. Brown, R. H. Willis, E. S. Connell and W. G. Kilner, in the seventh machine, who has not been reported. Additional troops arrived here to take the place of the thousand men sent from the temporary base to pursue Villa.

The above dispatch was passed by the military censor. The location of the temporary base is given in the dispatch passed by the censor, but yesterday's message intimated that Gen. Pershing had established headquarters near Casa Grandes. Today's dispatch apparently means that only 1,000 men, probably picked cavalry, are actually engaged in the chase after the bandit in the mountain retreat in which he has taken refuge, while the remainder, about 4,000 in all, representing artillery, infantry and cavalry, are held at the Mexican base.

DANGER OF FLOOD TOLD BY FIRE WHISTLE BLASTS

Warnings Will Be Sent to All the People From Hughes Electric Plant.

RIVER MAY GO OVER BANKS TODAY

The ice in the Missouri river at Bismarck broke up yesterday, at 3:30 p. m. The ice broke for a distance about one-half mile above the bridge, and passed through under the bridge and lodged down the river near Sibley Island. Other ice from above moved down and lodged against the piers of the bridge and remained there until we went to press. The stage of the river at the time the ice broke was 15.2, but fell two feet when the ice passed out, rising again slowly until at 10:00 p. m. last night a stage of 13.9 was reached. The Aguard and other bottoms along the river south of town, as well as some of the meadows near the river above town were under water last evening. Reports received from various sources indicate that the Missouri is open in places as follows: Moberg, S. D.; Ft. Yates, Cannon Ball, Bismarck, Stanton, Deapolis, and at all points above Elbowwoods. At the latter point a stage of 13.9 was reached. The other two detachments moved as one to Galena, south and east of Casas Grandes and there separated, one continuing in a more easterly direction toward Carmen, 65 miles from Casas Grandes, and the other south toward La Cruces, which now has become the advance base of the expeditionary forces.

Movements Hidden. Just where General Pershing is not announced, but it is directing the work of the three detachments and by means of scouts is attempting to keep in communication. It was known at headquarters, however, that divergent directions will make this difficult; also the mountainous character of the country will afford elevation that will make more feasible communication by signaling.

From all points to which the three detachments are moving, Villa has been reported in the vicinity. Although it is realized that he could not have been at all points where he was said to have been, the three detachments will be so widely separated by the time they have gone a short distance farther that it was regarded as almost certain that one of them would come in contact with him. The force moving toward La Cruces was only a short distance north of Valley, 28 miles north of La Cruces, this afternoon.

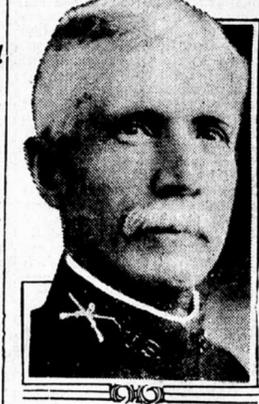
DURUM WHEAT PROFITABLE CROP

Washington, March 20.—Production of durum wheat last season in Minnesota and Dakotas, where 95 per cent of the country's total crop was grown at the time of last census, was about 37,990,000 bushels, compared with 18,019,000 bushels in 1914, and 21,329,000 bushels in 1915. The Bureau of Crop estimates announced today. The average acre yield was 19.3. In February, the price of durum wheat averaged to producers about 107.7 cents per bushel, or 7.4 cents under the price of other spring wheat but the average per acre for durum was \$20.77 against \$20.04 for other spring wheat.

THE WEATHER.

For North Dakota: Unsettled weather Tuesday; warmer in north and east portions; Wednesday partly cloudy and colder.

IMPORTANT FIGURES IN HUNT FOR VILLA



Col. Charles J. Crane, commanding the Ninth U. S. Infantry.

REPORTED VILLA HAS MET DEFEAT IN FIRST CLASH

Said Carranza Troops Will Soon Engage Bandit Chief in Battle.

PUSHING FUGITIVE TOWARD NORTH

San Antonio, March 20.—Francisco Villa may be forced into a fight with the Carranza troops within the next 36 hours, if reports coming to General Pershing's headquarters, both from General Pershing and Mexican sources are correct. General Pershing reported today that Villa had been reported defeated by Mexican government troops near La Cruces, and that he was marching northward on the retreat. General Pershing's report was followed, however, by the unofficial reports that Villa was still fighting at Namiquipa, south of La Cruces.

Must Move Northward. If the Carranza forces win in the fighting that was said to be continuing late today, Villa will have to move northward along a road over which a detachment of American troops is riding southward, or leave the road and head for the San Maria mountains that parallel the road to the east, or to the Oriental range on the west side. This, according to reports, is impracticable, owing to the presence, in the rear, of Mexican troops, who forced him to turn northward from La Cruces.

The detachment that is headed south on the road along which Villa was reported advancing, is one of three subdivisions operating south of Casas Grandes.

Troops Split Up. One column was sent toward Lake Babicora, 70 miles south of Casas Grandes, and somewhat to the west. The other two detachments moved as one to Galena, south and east of Casas Grandes and there separated, one continuing in a more easterly direction toward Carmen, 65 miles from Casas Grandes, and the other south toward La Cruces, which now has become the advance base of the expeditionary forces.

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From all points to which the three detachments are moving, Villa has been reported in the vicinity. Although it is realized that he could not have been at all points where he was said to have been, the three detachments will be so widely separated by the time they have gone a short distance farther that it was regarded as almost certain that one of them would come in contact with him. The force moving toward La Cruces was only a short distance north of Valley, 28 miles north of La Cruces, this afternoon.

FIND A WAY TO BEAT LAFOLLETTE ACT

Amsterdam, March 20.—The Pacific Mail Steamship company of San Francisco has purchased three steamships from the Dutch East Indian Steamship Mail Co. The steamer, Venezuela, which had previously been sold to a Norwegian concern was resold to the Pacific Mail S. S. Co., and has sailed to San Francisco under the American flag and with a Dutch crew.

BRASS BAND PLANS. Tioga, N. D., March 20.—The Tioga Commercial club is laying plans for the re-organization of the Tioga band for the coming year. At a generally attended meeting of the club the proposition was very well received and a goodly sum has been pledged towards the maintenance of the band.

CARRANZA MEN LOOSEN "NET" ABOUT VILLA

Half Hearted Co-Operation Noted on Part of De Facto Government.

ONE DETACHMENT REFUSED TO FIGHT

Movement of Mexican Troops Toward Border Causes General Suspicion.

El Paso, March 20.—The forces of Colonel Cano were engaged in battle at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon with bandits led by Villa in Namiquipa, according to a dispatch received this afternoon by General Gaviara, Carranza commandant at Juarez. The result of the fighting was not decided at the time of the receipt of the dispatch. Namiquipa is in the district of Guerrero, state of Chihuahua.

Colonel Cano is in command of a force of 900 cavalry, which came in contact, two days ago at El Valle, with Villistas who, on his occasion, fled without giving battle.

Fail to Hold Net. In spite of reports that the Carranza forces had engaged Villa's men at Namiquipa, there seems to be a feeling here that the Carranza forces have failed to hold their end of the net, closing about the bandit chief. There were confirmatory reports received today of the news received last week that the Mexican troops were not only failing to co-operate with the American troops but in certain instances, at least, were actually withdrawing from the field of operations.

The Associated Press learned on unquestionable authority that the troops of the de facto government, which had been stationed at Casas Grandes, have been withdrawn, and are now in and about Juarez. Refused to Fight. From the same source it was learned that at least one detachment of Carranza troops had refused to fight Villa and had withdrawn on the bandit's approach, leaving him free to pass.

In the last few days, Villa has been variously reported by General Gaviara, the Carranza commander at Juarez, at points along the line reaching north and south from Galeana to Namiquipa, a distance of about 75 miles. By the same accounts, he has not been moving steadily 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 its distance on the map.

Movement Unexplained. 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 General Gaviara at Juarez. The large staff at his headquarters and the fact that new troops are arriving daily, indicates that his force is a large one. The most conservative estimate places it at 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 and Ojajana tell of Mexican reinforcements reaching those points also, but nothing is known as to their numbers.

There is no question that there is serious and growing uneasiness in El Paso. A large body of American cavalry left Columbus today. The troops which were brought here from the Texas border points were preceded by a motor train, carrying supplies. Whether the detachment will serve as a separate command in the effort to capture Francisco Villa, or whether it is to join the punitive expedition in the field under General Pershing, somewhere in northern Chihuahua, was not indicated by military authorities.

Scouts Know Trails

Accompanying the troops were a number of American scouts, said to know the trails of the Chihuahua mountains as the city man knows his front yard. Wearing the sombrero of the frontier, heavily rolled furs, and with little wrinkles at the corners of their eyes, bespeaking lives spent in the open, the scouts form what is said to be the most picturesque group of men in the expeditionary forces. Military men frankly admit that upon their knowledge of the direction in which Villa is reported resting much of the hope for his capture.

Discover Bodies. That more Villistas than the 79 already accounted for were killed in the running engagements following the raids on Columbus was indicated in the discovery of the two bodies reported here today by H. K. Lenson, a ranchman. Mr. Lenson asserted that one of the bodies is clad in the uniform of a lieutenant and that they were found lying just north of the boundary, three miles south of here.

BREAKS RECORDS

Evansville, Ill., March 20.—White Mason broke two conference indoor records, helping Illinois win the Big Nine meet here tonight.