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VOLUME FORTY-TWO

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NUMBER 70

## TWO-THIRDS OF PARIS, TEXAS, FIRE RUINED

### Nine Thousand People Homeless and Facing Food Famine.

## PROPERTY LOSS TOTALS MILLIONS

Estimate of Mayor Places Loss Between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000—High Winds Carry Flames From Cotton Compress to Business and Residential Sections—Homeless Seek Refuge in Remaining Buildings.

Paris, Tex., March 22.—A conservative estimate of the number of people made homeless in last night's fire in the business district here was 9,000, according to Mayor McCullison. Although the city is without food, there was apparently little suffering.

Rumors, vague but persistent, were that from ten to thirty persons had lost their lives. Confirmation, however, was lacking, and while considering the property damage, it seemed miraculous there should not have been many deaths.

## Caring For Homeless.

Thousands of homeless men, women and children were being cared for as best possible today in private residences, railway stations and the few remaining public buildings. The question of making definite arrangements to care for these unfortunates was taken up today. The food supply is the most serious problem, every hotel, restaurant and grocery in the city having been destroyed.

The wind, which was blowing a gale when the fire started at 5 o'clock yesterday evening, shifted at daylight, and the fire was directed toward the southern residence district of the city, but in a freakish manner, jumping whole blocks in its progress.

## Property Loss \$5,000,000.

A statement issued by Mayor McCullison today placed the damage to last night's fire at between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000.

The survey of a resident committee has been made to permit an announcement definitely of the number of homeless, the statement adds. "The known deaths are three.

Two-thirds of the town has been laid in ruins. The remaining third was the refuge last night and early today of those whose homes had been swept away.

Such as remained of the city's public buildings were crowded with women and children until daylight. Depots, open stores and places where they had been sleeping stations for those whose living routine had been shattered.

Few of the men slept last night. Most of them worked trying to stop the flames. Those who gave up exhausted found places to rest on lawns.

## Clearing City Streets.

Work of clearing the streets by an organized force under the direction of Mayor McCullison was started today. Although the task loomed almost impossible, rich men and laboring men willingly joined in the work which had made good progress in ridding the business section of ashes, charred timbers and crumbled brick walls. A several days' job faced them, but they went at it diligently.

Volunteer workers from other cities were given places in the brigade.

## Food Supplies Short.

The food situation was seriously menaced today by the arrival of hundreds of sightseers from nearby towns, attracted by the bright glow in the heavens last night. Railroad service is unhampered. Trains arriving on four wheels today brought food and clothing, but according to those in charge of relief committees, not enough to supply the thousands of stricken people.

## Thirty Blocks in Ruins.

The fire started in the warehouse of the Long Transportation Company in the southern part of the city and quickly spread to the Paris Cotton compress. Thirty blocks of residences and business buildings are in ruins.

The flames made a clean sweep of the southern portion of the city, burning paths, three and four blocks wide extending to the public square, where a large open square arrested the course of the fire temporarily.

A hurried survey of the business district of Paris at 10:30 Tuesday night showed only fifteen out of more than 100 business buildings still standing, and this far unscathed from the fire, which was still burning at that hour, having passed the public square into the north side residential district.

## Wind Aids Conflagration.

Large residences in the fashionable part of the city, smaller houses in the factory and small districts, and substantial brick buildings were razed by the fire, which was fanned by a brisk south wind.

This section has been without rain for more than fifty days and the frame buildings were quickly consumed. The Paris fire department was powerless to stop the onrushing flames. Scarcity of water was also an impediment.

Just how the fire started is not known. The compress, with hundreds of bales of cotton, was first consumed. The fire then spread to adjacent residential blocks already together, and of light construction.

All Within an Hour.

## Villa's Trail Now Alive With Men and Supplies

On Line of March of American Army, Mexico, March 22, via Courier to Columbus, N. M., March 22.—The trail along which Pancho Villa retreated from Columbus less than two weeks ago is today a broad, well worn highway, visible at some points for miles as it winds over and around the hills in northern Chihuahua. The road is an evidence of the efficiency of the American army, which has in a week's time converted the trail into a military road, the main artery for supplies to General Pershing's punitive column.

The new road is not an ideal highway but it serves the purpose. The big gray auto trucks which carry supplies by the ton have cut ruts so deep in the bottomless sand and gravel that at some places there is no longer clearance for the axles and parallel roads have been laid out alongside the old trails.

Supply Trains Dot Trail. At intervals of a few miles each can be seen what appears to be huge clouds of gray smoke. These mark the positions of moving supply trains, cavalry patrols, squads of signal corps men or military automobiles.

On the individual initiative and skill of the American soldier and his officer depends the success of moving supplies over these Mexican roads.

Motorcycle dispatch riders aid their machines by vigorous use of their legs. As the motorcycles plunge into the ruts, or dip into sand piles, their riders stick out a leg on each side as a prop, choke the engine, and as the machine topples inevitably to one side or the other, they give a kick with whichever foot comes most handy to straighten up the machine and then go roaring ahead again.

The greatest plains and the mountains bordering the roads are mostly devoid of every sign of life. But occasionally on a distant hill a signal flag, wig-wagging, shows where an American lookout is on the watch.

Travel is Difficult. Marching or riding troops find much of the road uncomfortable for travel, because the mountain wind drives sand into the men's faces with a sting as sharp as the winter sleet.

The body of J. H. McKinney, the American ranchman killed by Villa on the Mexican side of the border the night before the Columbus raid, has been found by the American troops. It was near Boca Grande. McKinney had been hanged and his clothing was ripped where he had been repeatedly stabbed.

While the celebrated ride of American cavalrymen, 110 miles in forty-two hours marching time, was heralded about the United States, the work of the infantry was unappreciated. One campaign carried full equipment and packs, 200 miles, for five pounds, marched twenty-five miles in about eight hours. This was over rocky roads, covered with volcanic stone, or else where dust drifted over them like heavy fog.

Flames and laid in ruins in less than an hour.

Sweeping almost due north the fire reached the public square on which large business buildings face. On these are located the exchanges of two telephone companies and one telegraph company. Telephone girls were forced to flee their posts in danger of being swept into the flames.

The chief operator of one telephone company risked her life to go back into the burning exchange to rescue the company's books and records.

On the east side of the public square the Merick hotel was gutted by the flames and the fire was extended to the north side of the square by the burning of this building. North of the hotel are more business buildings of a less substantial character.

Probably the heaviest loss by the disaster in Columbus, Record & Co., a large wholesale concern, which lost a four-story brick building and stock of an estimated value of \$400,000.

## Half Million Fire at McKinney.

McKinney, Tex., March 22.—Fire starting in a residence here Tuesday afternoon caused damage estimated at \$500,000, before it was brought under control.

The plant of the McKinney Cotton Compress Company, with 3,000 bales of cotton was among the buildings destroyed.

## Fire at Hobart, Okla.

Hobart, Okla., March 22.—The Interstate Compress Company's plant here containing 7,000 bales of cotton was destroyed here Tuesday by a fire of unknown origin. The loss being estimated at \$450,000.

## REDUCED PRICES ON ARMOR PLATE

Steel Magnates Promise to Cut Prices From \$425 to \$395 a Ton if Tillman Bill is Defeated—Second Proposal Comes as Surprise.

Washington, March 22.—When the house naval committee today received the Tillman bill for a government armor plate plant, which passed the senate yesterday, it also received a proposal for the Bethlehem Steel Company to cut the price of armor from \$425 a ton to \$395. This offer previously was made to the senate committee and ignored. In the face of threats after the senate committee's refusal to entertain the proposal to raise the price of armor plate, the submission of the offer again created some surprise.

It was stated that if the government erected a plant, private works worth more than \$20,000,000 would be made useless.

Aluminum production in 1915 in this country is estimated by several authorities at about 20,000,000 pounds, a record achievement, comparing with about 15,000,000 pounds in 1914.

Two divisions are being maintained.

## MAY OPEN NEW ROAD TO VILLA

### U. S. and Carranza Fail to Reach Agreement Over Railways.

## QUESTION MAY CAUSE BREAK

Unless Privilege of Shipping Supplies by Rail is Granted Government Will Establish New Highway From Fabens to El Valle—Problem May Bring Real Crisis Between Two Nations—Fate of Two Airmen in Doubt.

El Paso, Tex., March 22.—The Mexican railroad problem again took first place along the border today following a report that military authorities contemplated sending a new column into Mexico from Fabens, a village thirty miles east of here. It was stated that this plan was under consideration as an alternative should General Carranza refuse the request of the Washington government for the use of the Mexican Northwestern railroad to transport supplies. The report of a plan for an entry from Fabens followed a conference between General Bell and an American who is thoroughly familiar with the section of Mexico. General Bell declined to discuss the report.

Water on Road Plentiful. From Guadalupe, across the border from Fabens, one of the best wagon roads in northwestern Mexico leads south and southeast to the lake region about Alameda and El Carrisal. It follows the Rio de Carmen to a spot scarcely fifteen miles from El Valle, the most southerly town to have been reached by the American troops. The road is good as Mexican roads go and it is passing along it would have plenty of water.

That the railroad problem would bring a real crisis in the relations between the de facto government and the Americans is the belief here. Reports continue to seep thru the censorship at Columbus in regard to the difficulties American military authorities are encountering by forwarding supplies by pack horses and auto trucks.

Officers have made admissions which confirm the story that the transportation problem is a serious one.

There is an impression here that General Carranza is playing for time, knowing the grave consequences which may follow should he concede to the United States demands or should he refuse.

The border is not optimistic to any early end to the chase of Villa. Their main interest lies in a possible break between Carranza forces and the Americans, a clash between the two nations along the border.

American Money Tempting. Cash, not paper money of doubtful value, but real American money now at a premium, that is paid by General Pershing's army for supplies will have an invaluable effect in Mexico according to mining and business men in Mexico.

The revolutionary armies of Mexico, said one mining man, are used to paying with orders on their government, while the common soldiers have no regular pay to spend. American soldiers buying for cash at good prices and the purchases by the quartermaster and the commissary departments will give the Mexicans an entirely new opinion of the character of "strangers" and their intentions.

News that communication had been re-established with the American and Carranza forces operating against Villa was being awaited with intense interest today, as was also news of the fate of Lieut. Robert Willis and Lieut. Edgar S. Gorrell, flying men of the First Aero Squadron, who disappeared while attempting a flight from Columbus, N. M., to General Pershing's field base at Casas Grandes.

Early this morning the Columbus wireless station was in communication with the field station at Casas Grandes but the service soon failed.

The severing of telegraphic communication between El Paso and Casas Grandes probably was accomplished by a bandit raid on the Northwestern railroad.

## Bandits Cut Wires.

In some quarters here it is believed that sympathizers of Villa have cut the ground wire communicating with General Pershing. If this is the case there is good reason to fear for the safety of Lieutenants Willis and Gorrell. If they lost their bearings and got out of their scheduled course they may have been compelled to descend and may have fallen into the hands of the wandering bandit squads.

Drivers of motor trucks carrying supplies south from Columbus were instructed to watch for every possible trace of the two flyers. The fact that Willis and Gorrell carried only three days' ration and two small canteens of water added to the anxiety over their mishap.

Auto Trucks Carry Supplies. For the first time in its history the United States army now has a motor truck line operating regularly between a field force and two bases of supplies. Trucks recently purchased by the war department are now in commission. The trains leave daily carrying supplies, forage, ammunition and arms and run on regular schedules. Their progress being watched by dispatchers at the radio station. The express train carries only supplies for which there is an imperative demand direct to General Pershing's force, while the local conveyance supplies to the field base.

## NO WORD FROM PERSHING.

Funston Professes No Anxiety at Lack of Direct News From Mexico.

San Antonio, Tex., March 22.—Although it was sixty hours at noon today since General Pershing filed his last message regarding the disposition of cavalry troops of Casas Grandes, General Funston professed no anxiety as to the welfare of any of the troops. The exact whereabouts of General Pershing was unknown to army headquarters here. It was considered probable he

## Alarmed Senator Wants 50,000 Volunteers

Washington, March 22.—Senator Sherman, of Illinois, today introduced a resolution authorizing and directing the president to at once call 50,000 volunteers for service into Mexico.

"I am apprehensive that congress does not fully appreciate the condition in Mexico," said Senator Sherman. "We have a few thousands of soldiers in Mexico. They will soon be hundreds of miles from our boundary. The railroads are demoralized and tracks and bridges may be easily destroyed. In case of an emergency what military strength can be mobilized promptly and in masses for the country over which the cavalry is operating in unknown territory?"

"I wish to warn those in authority that we are trifling with the lives of men, with the safety of our border states and with our national honor more than some seem to be apprehending. It would be neglected the delay in the crisis will be a blunder, and the kind of blunder that is worse than a crime."

The first extending from here to the field base and the second from there to the camping place of the field force, the Mexican cavalry is operating in a lull. The supplies is being transported by motor. At present only two motor companies are operating the trains but it is said that the organization of two more companies will follow the arrival this week of more trucks.

## Tracing Missing Aviators.

San Antonio, Tex., March 22.—One of the aviators missing who went to join General Pershing's column descended somewhere south of Casas Grandes, it was learned at General Funston's headquarters today.

Both came down some where along the line of communication, between the border and Casas Grandes. Reports today explained that one reached Casas Grandes and was sent south over the country over which the cavalry is operating. No details relative to his disappearance were received.

## WEALTHY RANCHMAN KILLED.

Details of Slaying of Italian Received—To Demand Indemnity.

El Paso, Tex., March 22.—Full details of the murder of Enrico Visconti, wealthy Italian at his ranch the estate of Chihuahua on March 19, have been received by the dead man's brother, Visconti-Venuti.

The latter today wired the Italian minister in Mexico City to present a claim for indemnity to the Carranza government. He also instructed the widow, a resident of Santa Rosalia, to have Carranza soldiers sent to guard the ranch until she and her two sons can take possession.

The story of the murder was contained in a letter from Venecia Garcia, a cattle man of Pregrado, Tex. Garcia obtained the details from an employe, Ramundo Carrasco, who had gone to the Visconti ranch on the day of the murder to buy cattle for Garcia.

According to the letter forty or fifty men, supposed to be Villa bandits, appeared at the ranch about 9:30 on the morning of the 14th. They interrupted the negotiations of Visconti and Carrasco by taking Visconti outside the ranch among demanding that he pay them \$5,000. When he said he could not raise the money they placed him against the wall and shot him. Afterward the bandits looted the house. Carrasco was not molested, he being a Mexican.

Late in the day the bandits made off, after burying the body in a shallow grave. Carrasco then returned to Pregrado with his story of the murder. The Italian colony here is preparing to back Visconti's demands. Visconti is actively an advocate of the Italian ambassador at Washington.

## UNEASINESS AT TAMPICO.

Quiet Prevails But American Residents Fear Trouble.

Galveston, Tex., March 22.—While quiet prevails at Tampico there is uneasiness among American residents according to refugees reaching Galveston today. They report there were several hundred Americans who were anxious to leave Tampico.

The Wild Duck and the Casiana, belonging to the companies operating in the Panuco field, are in readiness to bring refugees should actual trouble develop.

Captain Wetmore, of the off steamer Topina, which arrived today, reports he conveyed the United States battleship to a bandit raid on the Northwestern railroad.

Mrs. Jessie Barbour, one of the arrivals today, says that at a banquet the other night a number of Mexicans proposed "death to all the gringos," but that the proceedings were stopped by Carranza officials.

The party arriving today included three men, five women, wives of oil field operatives, and one girl.

## Instructions For Guard Officers.

Springfield, Ill., March 22.—It was learned today that the companies operating in the Illinois National Guards had been ordered that it would be well for them to report to the United States quartermaster officers' depots at Chicago or St. Louis in the event of the mobilization of the guards.

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## WILSON DENIES PEACE RUMORS

### Resents Publication of Stories That Germany Would End War.

## NO OVERTURES MADE TO GERARD

Postponement of Ambassador's Vacation Said to Have Caused Inference That Diplomat Would Remain in Berlin to Await German Proposals—Prospects For Peace No Brighter Than Six Months Ago.

London, March 22.—The Germans are heavily bombarding the village of Ennes, eight miles northwest of Verdun, but the French are contesting stubbornly and are holding the Germans in check.

Russians and Germans are fighting a lively battle along the Dvina river and in the lake region between Dvinsk and Vils, with the Russians generally on the offensive.

The Russians have pushed their lines several miles further toward Trebizond on the Black sea coast after severe fighting with the Turks.

The Italians and Austrians are still fighting fiercely in the neighborhood of Rovereto.

Washington, March 22.—President Wilson was represented at the White House today as being resentful of the publication of stories that Ambassador Gerard had reported Germany was about to make a move for peace. The published report was based on inferences.

President Wilson, thru Secretary Tumulty, today authorized a denial of a story published in papers, that the purpose of Ambassador Gerard remaining in Berlin, was to await Germany's proposal for peace. There is no justification for that inference being drawn.

Yesterday the state department took notice of the publications by denying that Germany had intimated to the United States that the time was right for the United States to make a request for Germany to renew its friendly offices for peace, or that the United States had been informed that Mr. Gerard had been requested to postpone his vacation because of pending peace negotiations.

Unofficial reports reaching here today said the ambassador actually had postponed his vacation but gave no reason.

The state department today again took cognizance of the report and issued the following statement: "Any statement from Germany that it desired this government to act as peace mediator is absolutely without foundation and the state department has no information that Germany is preparing to make a definite move in the direction of peace."

## Peace on Own Terms.

State department officials declared they were resentful because, they said, if there were any prospect of mediation, it would be damaged, if not destroyed.

It is known that American ambassadors in all belligerent countries have been confidentially reporting on confidential conferences for the information of President Wilson and it is understood that the content of their reports was that there was no prospect

was out with one of his three detachments. Whether Carranza troops succeeded in holding Villa near Namaquipa of whether the detachment of American cavalry riding toward that point encountered him, is not known, but General Funston believed it likely that the Americans and Villa had by this time met. General Funston professed confidence that the smaller force of Americans would be able to more than hold its own.

The most evident worry of General Funston was caused by the news that two of his aviators, Lieutenants Gorrell and Willis, are missing. He was deeply concerned to learn their fate.

Send More Troops Into Mexico. Of the two reports not on their way to the border all but one detachment will be sent into Mexico, increasing General Pershing's force by about 8,000 men.

The cutting of the permanent telegraph wires between Casas Grandes and Piedras Negras, opposite Eagle Pass, were cut today, according to a telegram received here.

Aero Showing Disappointing. General Funston manifested keen disappointment of the start made by the aviators. In the test here the men had displayed almost perfect control over their machines and officers here believe it probable that the uncertain air conditions in Mexico were responsible for the descent of three of the eight machines.

Newspapermen were asked to deny again that Villa's men had captured machine guns at Columbus or anything else either at Columbus or on the march south of the border. Friends of the general had written him expressing their sympathy over the loss of the machines.

## T.R. BULLETIN. NEWS OF THE DAY

The Weather. Sun rises March 23 at 6:15; sets at 6:16. Iowa — Partly cloudy tonight and Thursday; colder tonight.

## STORMS SWEEP THREE STATES

Spring Ushered in by Tornadoes and Near Blizzards.

LOSS OF LIFE AND MUCH DAMAGE

Logansport, Ind., and Villages in Iroquois County, Illinois, Damaged by Wind—Buildings Unroofed and Windows Blown In—Snow, Sleet and Rain Accompany Storm—Lake Shipping Menaced—Several Injured.

Chicago, March 22.—Northwestern sales bearing with them, sleet, hail and snow, accompanied by frequent lightning flashes, swept over eastern Indiana, northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin today. The storm, which was of unusual violence, cost one life, caused many injuries and great property damage. In Logansport buildings were unroofed and the flying wreckage caused the only fatality reported. Several Illinois cities, among them Kankakee and Beersville, suffered severely, while Chicago sustained all the ill effects of a blizzard except low temperature.

Damage in Chicago. Not for twenty years had the waters of Lake Michigan piled so high as today. Waves after wave, driven by the northwestern gale, surged into the harbor and against the piers. Railroad transportation was delayed, street cars held up, windows broken and trees uprooted in various sections of the city.

The steamship Arizona, inbound from Manitowish, Wis., was reported safely headed with the wind toward harbor. The steamer Puritan, which was on the lake when the storm was at its height, reached port in Holland, Mich., in safety.

Before 9 a. m. the storm abated in Chicago, and hundreds of men began removing the snow from the streets.

## MANY BUILDINGS UNROOFED.

Much Damage and One Fatality. Logansport, Ind., March 22.—Reports received early today from the region swept by a tornado last night disclosed one man killed, probably twenty persons injured, some of them seriously, and of many thousand dollars worth of damage done.

The storm, which did not last more than ten minutes, swept across the city in a narrow path. In the business district roofs were torn off and windows broken. Trees falling across telegraph wires, and the wires severed communication by wire.

The roof of the Slider broom factory was blown off and crashed against the side of the home of Benjamin Ricketts, killing W. J. Ricketts and injuring other members of the family. The west end of the old high school building was blown down and the slates from the room was blown across the street, wrecking the windows of a church.

## DAMAGE IN ILLINOIS.

Tornado Hits Villages North of Danville—Beauregard Homes Levelled. Danville, Ill., March 22.—A storm which attained tornado proportions passed over Iroquois county, to the north of here, last night. As near as can be learned from meager telephonic reports the storm seemed to center near Danville, about ten miles northwest of Watseka, where more than a dozen houses were destroyed and a large parochial school in course of construction was completely demolished.

Mrs. Theodore Massey was seriously injured, both her legs being broken, and her small child was also injured. It is reported the storm was severe at Kankakee but the wires are all down. Considerable damage is also reported at Tapineau and South Hooper, where several houses were unroofed.

## Snow General in Iowa.

Des Moines, March 22.—A sudden drop in temperature last night was followed today with a high wind and light snow, which is reported general throughout the state.

Telegraph companies and railroads reported slight delay as a result of the storm but the trouble, it was said, was not serious. The wind here last night reached a velocity of eighty miles an hour.

Reports reaching here from Dubuque said six inches fell at that city, which was on the outer edge of the eastern storm.

## FARMER KILLED BY A BULL.

Farmer's Daughter Killed. Hartford City, Ind., March 22.—Gertrude Alsopack, 4 year old daughter of a farmer living near here, was killed by the tornado which swept the northern section of this county early today. Four other members of the family were seriously injured. The property damage in this county alone is estimated at \$100,000.

Valuable Cattle Herd Killed. Freeport, Ill., March 22.—Sixty head of blooded Holstein cattle, owned by F. J. Karlen, and valued at \$50,000, were burned at Winslow, near here, when the barn in which they were housed was struck by lightning in the storm last night.

Life insurance in Japan has doubled in volume during every decade since it was introduced in 1851.

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