

## VILLA'S BAND HEMMED IN BY ALLIED FORCES

### Bandit Chieftain Forced to Stand at El Oso, Near Namiquipa.

## ROUTED IN FIGHT WITH CARRANZISTAS

### Driven From Retreat in Santa Clara Canyon, Near Santa Gertrudes, After Giving De Facto Forces—Villa Reported to Have Lost Several Killed and 100 Horses Captured—Loss of Horses Blow to Outlaw Leader.

El Paso, Tex., March 24.—No word had come to military headquarters here today to throw light on a report that United States troops and the Carranza army had surrounded Villa and his men and a battle was imminent. The report was received by Mexican Consul Andres Garcia.

The Villa outlaws were said to be hemmed in at El Oso, about five miles south of Namiquipa, where Villa had fled after a conflict with Carranzistas at Santa Gertrudes. Villa, according to a dispatch from General Bertain, Carranza commander in the field of operations, made a stand in the Santa Clara canyon, near Santa Gertrudes, but was driven out with a loss of several men killed and 100 horses captured.

The loss of the horses was a hard blow to Villa, it was said, as he depends on the high class of mounts for his men to make rapid marches.

No Word From Pershing.

In all of Villa's raids he has seized scores of horses and these have been corralled in various sections of the Chihuahua district, so that as the band breaks from one section to another fresh mounts may be supplied.

Information regarding the impending battle at El Oso was expected today by Consul Garcia and General Garcia at Juarez.

Brigadier General Bell, at Fort Bliss, without information regarding Pershing's forces, whose moves have been cloaked in strict silence. For several days General Pershing has made no report of his movements.

Apparently General Pershing is making his own plans of campaign.

El Oso District Fertile.

The El Oso district, where fighting is reported, is considered by Americans of long residence in Mexico, to be the finest pasture and farming country. It is noted especially for its fine potatoes, but it also produces a better quality of wheat and corn and a natural grass that grows knee high in the meadows. Also the farms have suffered much from rains, the crops still persist in their labor, and Villa is sure of food and live stock there, as well as pasture and water.

The valleys are wide and flat, cut off by ranges of hills well wooded. Owing to the high altitude the nights are cold but the days rather hot. If Villa is driven out of this country into the Sierras, he will lack all supplies such as are now obtainable in El Oso.

Doesn't Mean Early Capture.

At Fort Bliss the report that Villa had been definitely located at El Oso was generally credited. It was said, however, that this did not indicate the early capture of the band, as the character of the country would enable him to break up his band and avoid a battle.

NO WORD FROM PERSHING.

Columbus Full of Rumors, All Lacking Verification.

Columbus, Mex., March 24.—No word was received at the military base here today from Gen. J. P. Pershing, either by wire or courier. A motor truck train which was expected to arrive early today failed to report but it is believed to have been delayed by the dust of a northern.

With the interruption of communication, which, it was asserted, was not due to a defection in the wireless, a number of rumors became current here. One said that American troops were engaged in a battle with Villa in the vicinity of (deleted by censor), south of Casas Grandes.

Another had it that the bandit and a small band were surrounded in the same vicinity by cavalrymen who were rapidly closing in on him.

The rumors could neither be confirmed nor denied. Belief was expressed, however, that all was well with the American forces below Casas Grandes.

A dispatch from General Pershing later asserted that dust storms which have been raging have made it impossible for aviators to do scouting duty.

No mention was made of a battle in General Pershing's report.

VILLA'S END BELIEVED NEAR.

American Forces Not Expected to Lose Sight of Band Again.

San Antonio, Tex., March 24.—Reports from Mexican sources that Villa had been defeated by American-Carranza troops at El Oso, near Namiquipa, were accepted today by General Pershing as probably true, although no confirmation from General Pershing had been received.

Improvement in the working of the wireless make it possible that General Pershing would have received the message at El Oso.

## BATTLE IN EAST GROWS INTENSE

### Russian Offensive Move- ment Results in Heavy Losses on Both Sides.

### BERLIN ADMITS ENEMY MADE GAIN

### Russian Report Declares Germans Were Forced to Abandon Three Lines of Trenches in Bayonet Charge —Tentons Appear to Be Confident Von Hindenburg Will Check Ad- vance—No Change Near Verdun.

Berlin, via London, March 24.—The importance of the struggle around Verdun naturally overshadows interest in the fighting on the eastern front, where heavy fighting continues.

The Russian drum fire became intense on the evening of March 19. More than 50,000 shells, chiefly of heavy caliber, fell over a small section of the front near Postavy. German wire entanglements and the front line trenches were damaged by this fire.

By night the Russians attacked in thick waves. The first two waves were mowed down before they reached the entanglements. The third attack pierced the German positions but the assaults were ejected by a counter attack led in person by a regimental commander.

At dawn the Russians made a fourth attack but it was smothered.

### German Losses Heavy.

Four Russian divisions are said to have participated in these movements. The German losses were heavier than on the two preceding days on account of the drum fire but it is stated they were surprisingly small.

Russian attacks at other points on Field Marshal von Hindenburg's front are less marked. Comparative quiet prevailed on March 19 along the sector between Yarniew and Naroc lakes, except for a strong night attack of the Russians which was repulsed.

The losses sustained by the Russians are said to have been very heavy. Motormen and drivers of trucks and other vehicles are in short supply. A correspondent says:

"The people have no anxiety because they know Hindenburg is here."

### Take French Trenches.

Further successes have been won by the Germans at Haucourt, northwest of Verdun, army headquarters announced today, two additional trenches having been occupied.

On the Russian front the vicious attacks on the German line have been continued and the severest fighting of the war office report. East of the river Meuse there were intermittent bombardments.

No Change, Says Paris.

Paris, March 24.—There has been no change in the situation around Verdun since yesterday, according to the war office report. East of the river Meuse there were intermittent bombardments.

### RUSSIANS WIN BAYONET BATTLE

### Drive Germans From Series of Three Trenches Near Lake Naroc.

Petrograd (via London), March 24.—The Russian drive in the vicinity of Lake Naroc, according to reports received here, has carried them thru three lines of German trenches.

The Russians routed the Germans by bayonet fighting, capturing more than 1,000 prisoners and a dozen machine guns.

While admitting that it is not yet clear whether the fighting which is in progress south of Dvinsk signifies a general advance of the Russian troops in that sector or whether it is intended as a demonstration of the Franco-German front, the military critics lay emphasis upon what they allude to as the universal success of the attacks during the last few days, the viciousness of which is pointed to as being sufficient to have made an impression upon the German general staff.

### Operating in Three Groups.

The Russian troops are operating in three groups covering a front of seventy miles, but the severest fighting is reported to have occurred in the vicinity of Lake Naroc, where the Russians drive carried them thru three lines of German trenches heavily protected by wire entanglements.

The Russians resorted to their favorite method, bayonet fighting, routing the Germans in spite of desperate resistance and capturing more than 1,000 men, including seventeen officers, a dozen machine guns and other booty.

The Germans are invariably counter-attacking the Russian attacks by advancing at other sections of the line but from all appearances, according to the military observers, the Teutonic efforts lack co-ordination and it is evident that in spite of the recent concentration of additional troops in this region the Russians anticipated any plan their adversaries may have had for a concerted offensive here.

### German Forces Augmented.

The German staff is reported to be augmenting last autumn to be eight corps of infantry and several cavalry divisions in this region, but these have since been considerably augmented.

An important success is recorded on the Galician front where the Russians captured the crossing of the Dniester at Mikhaltsa.

The Austrian official communication is cited in reference to the victory as it admitted that the Russians were obliged to withdraw their troops following six

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## REVOLT RUMOR FLATLY DENIED

### Official and Other Reports Discredit Persistent Claims.

### HERRERA LOYAL, SAYS U. S. CONSUL

### General Funston in Turn Reports to Washington That Herrera Wires De- nial to General Gavira, Carranza Commander in North Mexico—Wash- ington Relieved by Receipt of Defini- tive News.

Washington, March 24.—American Consul Letcher at Chihuahua today reported there was no truth in the reported revolt of General Herrera and the Carranza garrison at Chihuahua.

Altho General Funston and General Bell have received reports confirming the report of revolt which they believed to be true, the dispatch from Consul Letcher, who is on the ground, is taken by officials here as confirming the statements of Carranza officials that no such revolt has occurred.

Consul Letcher's dispatch reported that General Herrera was in command of the de facto troops there and was "loyal to General Carranza."

His report is regarded as removing one of the most menacing features of the Mexican situation.

General Funston sent this telegram to the war department today:

"General Herrera in a telegram to Gavira strongly denies all reports that he has gone over to Villa. General Gutierrez, governor of Chihuahua, in a letter to General Gavira, also strongly denies that General Herrera has gone over to Villa."

Washington Officials Relieved.

Responses to the telegraphic instructions sent to American consuls at Chihuahua and Durango to report immediately concerning the reported revolt of Luis Herrera and his 2,000 Carranza troops, were awaited with keen interest today by administration officials in the hope that they would clear up the perplexing situation.

Reports from the border saying General Bell had notified General Funston that the report of the Herrera revolt had been confirmed was met by a statement from Secretary Baker that he had not been so advised.

Denial of the Herrera revolt and the satisfactory progress of diplomatic negotiations with the Carranza government lessened anxiety in official circles regarding the safety of the American expedition.

### Ready to Meet Emergencies.

The problem of meeting any request General Funston might make for reinforcements in event of a rebellion of Carranza's army was under consideration, however, if the American forces were seriously attacked it was regarded as likely that all available troops on the border would be rushed into Mexico and these troops would be replaced on the border at once.

Reply from General Carranza to the request that American troops be permitted to use the Mexican Northwest railway was expected today.

Border reports said General Pershing was already using a portion of the line and department officials pointed out it was possible he had reached a limited agreement with local Mexican railroad officials.

Direct word from the Tampico district, where anti-American disturbances have been reported, were anxiously awaited today from the Battle-ships Kentucky and the gunboat Machias, off Tampico.

Quiet in Mexico Towns.

State department dispatches from Durango, San Luis Potosi, Nogales and other points reported quiet. Americans were leaving the Durango region but there was no anti-American outbreak.

American Consular Agent Williams at Torreon, who left his post, was ordered out by the American Rubber Company, which employed him. He is not in the regular consular service.

The navy department had no word from Tampico. The gunboat Machias, at Tampico, failed to respond to radio calls.

### RETURNS FROM ANTARCTIC.

### Lieutenant Shackleton Reaches Aus- tralia From Far South.

Sydney, N. S. W., March 24.—Lieutenant Sir Ernest Shackleton had returned from his Antarctic expedition. News of the achievements of the expedition is withheld for the present.

The adventure of Lieut. Sir Ernest Shackleton, heading the British trans-Arctic expedition, had a three-fold purpose, to navigate Antarctic fields on a meridian; to secure for the British flag the honor of being the first national emblem thus to be taken from sea to sea across this south polar region, and to conduct scientific work relating to meteorology, geography, geology and geodesic survey. The expedition was financed for the most part by large gifts from persons interested in polar exploration. The sum raised amounted to \$100,000.

### Shackleton Not on Board.

London, March 24.—A dispatch from Sydney says that the steamship Aurora, of Lieutenant Shackleton's expedition, had broken from her moorings at the Ross base, leaving most of the party a shore and unable to embark. According to these dispatches, Lieutenant Shackleton and his companions will be compelled to remain another year before it will be possible to rescue them.

Of the workers' production of copper it is estimated that 50 to 75 per cent is used in the electrical industry in normal times.

Sixty cases of rifle cartridges were turned over to the consul of the de facto government and later were de-

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## T-R BULL IN. NEWS OF THE DAY

### The Weather.

Sun rises March 24 at 6:56, sets at 6:17. Iowa—Rain in east, rain or snow and colder in west and central portions tonight; Saturday unsettled and colder, with probably rain or snow in east portion.

### PAGE ONE.

Telegraphic News:  
Villa Hemmed in By Two Armies.  
Defeated in Battle With Mexicans.  
Herrera Denies Revolt Story.  
Wires He Is Loyal to Carranza.  
State Guardsmen Call Considered.  
Battle on Russian Front.  
Slave Pressing Offensive.  
PAGES TWO, THREE AND FOUR.

### Iowa News:

Seeking Reason For Quitting School.  
Cosson Lends in Police Editor's  
Government Report by Special Train.  
Novel School and College Plan.  
Buena Vieta to Gravel Roads.  
Farm News and Notes.  
PAGE FIVE.

### General News:

Troops in Mexico Breaking Records.  
Some Notable Feats Recalled.  
PAGE SIX.

### Editorial:

Speaking of Picture Shows.  
A Question of Strength.  
Those "Saloon Revenues."  
Topics of the Times.  
Lower Opinion and Notes.  
PAGES SEVEN, EIGHT, NINE, TEN, ELEVEN.

### City News:

Community Entertainment Course Assured.  
Big Damage Suit on Trial.  
Government Road Exhibit Saturday.  
Settle Employer's Liability Case.  
Mrs. Aresceta Treadwell Dead.  
Miss Adams, Well-Known Teacher, Dies.  
General and Brict City News.  
PAGE TWELVE.

### Markets and General:

Wheat Goes Still Lower.  
Corn Sharply Lower.  
Cattle Steady.  
Hogs Continue to Advance.

### Delivered to General Calles at Agua Prieta.

Each case contained 1,000 rounds.

The consul stated that he also endeavored to have the American customs authorities lift the ban placed recently against the exportation into Sonora of dynamite, to allow the Dynamite Mining Company, of Cananea, to obtain explosives. One thousand miners will be thrown out of employment unless the company can obtain the dynamite for blasting.

### HOUSE PASSES HAY ARMY BILL.

### Measure Adopted With Only Two Dis- senting Votes.

Washington, March 24.—The House of representatives last night passed the Hay army bill, condemned as inadequate by the leaders of the preparedness movement, but not without giving evidence of willingness to accept a larger army and more effective organization of all land forces in the final shaping of the legislation.

This hopeful prospect was furnished by the roll call on the Kahn amendment providing for an army of 200,000 men, which was defeated by the narrow margin of only two votes, 191 members favoring and 213 opposing it.

This amendment, proposed as a substitute for the Hay bill limiting the army to 140,000 men, was defeated last Monday by a vote of 103 to 183 in the committee of the whole, in which there is no roll call.

Since then the members have been "hearing from home," with the result that a large number experienced a change of conviction and went on record in favor of the large army plan.

The House will reach the Hay bill and pass the Chamberlain bill providing for an army of 178,000 men capable of expansion to 250,000 men. If a dozen of the members who voted against the Kahn amendment yesterday change their votes in the Chamberlain provision. Otherwise the difference between the two measures will be compromised in the conference committee of the houses.

Before passing the Hay bill the house by a vote of 224 to 180 knocked out the Muscle Shoals water power joker, which recently was exposed as a scheme to hand a valuable concession to the water power trust without proper compensation to the government.

The Hay army increase bill, first of the administration's big preparedness measures to receive the approval of either branch of congress, was in the hands of the senate today.

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## U. S. MAY CALL STATE GUARDS

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