

FORMAL CONFESSION MADE BY DR. WAITE

In Order to Unburden His Soul from Heavy Load as an Act of Atonement.

NEW YORK, April 1.—What purports to be a formal confession by Dr. Arthur Warren Waite, that he murdered his father-in-law, John E. Peck, of Grand Rapids, is printed this morning by the New York Herald. The confession is said to have been contained in a letter sent to the newspaper by Waite. Accompanying it is another letter signed by Waite, Rogers Deuel, Waite's counsel, in which he is quoted as saying he advised Waite to make his statement "to unburden his soul somewhat from the heavy load upon it as the only thing he could do in atonement."

The letter said to have been signed by Waite follows in part: "I have been informed that I have been indicted for the crime of murder in the first degree. I know the punishment is death.

"The indictment is just and the penalty is one that I deserve for I have killed John E. Peck.

"I have thought and thought while lying in my bed here in the hospital. I have gone over all the incidents of the last few months of my life and I have made my peace with my creator. I now desire to make atonement for the wrong that I have done.

"It is a terrible grief to me that I should have brought obliquy and shame upon my wife and upon the name of my good parents and made my brothers to suffer as they do.

"I am relieved to make this, my confession."

Mr. Deuel is quoted as having said he did not advise against the publication of Waite's letter. He is declared by the World to have authorized the statement that Waite had confessed to him that his murder plan included "the killing of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Peck, his wife, Mrs. Arthur Warren Waite, and any one else who should happen to stand between him and the Peck millions."

"It is only just to Dr. Waite to state," Mr. Deuel is quoted as saying, "that he does not now have any real realization of what he has done, in my opinion, and in the opinion of others who have visited him since he was taken to Bellevue hospital. I have said that no defense would be made on the facts—that the defense conceded the murder of Mr. Peck. Therefore, as his counsel, I have permitted him to make the statement he did."

HOLLAND

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garded not only without uneasiness, but even with a certain degree of satisfaction in official German circles.

CHASE

(Continued from page 1, first section.)

they defeated the Villa commander at San Geronimo ranch with heavy losses last Wednesday, the American cavalrymen have searched ceaselessly for the bandit leader but up to late today no definite information concerning his whereabouts had reached this camp.

Mysteriously Disappears. Villa has disappeared in a way, which considering the relentlessness of the American pursuit, seems mysterious. The American troops have not encountered any natives who will even admit they have seen Villa.

Every gorge, canyon trail and watering place in the mountainous passes in this vicinity is being watched by American air scouts or searched by cavalrymen in the hope of discovering the bandit's hiding place. The aviators also are keeping the column informed as to the movements of the scattered remnants of the band. Hope is expressed that one of these, at least, may attempt to rejoin their chief and thus lead the American forces to his hiding place.

PERSHING IS DRIVING VILLA'S BANDIT FORCES

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., April 1.—Absence of news today from the district about Guerrero did not diminish the belief at General Pershing's headquarters that General Pershing was driving the scattered and defeated bandits of Villa's forces from the hills and trails in that part of Chihuahua and that possibly Villa himself had been captured.

A written report from General Pershing sent two days before the fight at Guerrero was received, but this dealt only with the details of the troop dispositions since crossing the border, and the difficulties he had encountered in getting his supplies and maintaining communication.

Capture Reports Not Confirmed. Press despatches telling of a report from Chihuahua that Villa had been captured at Minaca, only a few miles south of Guerrero, were unconfirmed by official reports, but there was no disposition to belittle it. Both General Pershing and his staff officers said they would not be surprised that if it were true. They were convinced of the truth of the report that Villa was badly wounded prior to the fight at Guerrero, and it was believed that his escape was now highly improbable.

District Surrounded. Detachments from four regiments of cavalry had been disposed in such manner that the district where he had been reported, was practically surrounded and every point of escape carefully guarded, according to the report.

General Pershing's report was dated "March 31-April 1," causing army officers here to believe it was written yesterday, but not filed until today.

Snowstorm Reported. Additional details of the fighting about Guerrero were not given by General Pershing, but he said yesterday that a snowstorm was sweeping over the San Geronimo Ranch, a region of high elevation, had made the operations of the troops more difficult and exceedingly uncomfortable

for the soldiers. From Customs Collector Cobb at El Paso, General Funston received a communication saying that an American from Mexico had reported to him that Villa's men had killed a German named Blankenship and two Americans whose names he did not know on March 27, at Minaca, a few miles from Guerrero.

WAR DEPARTMENT IS KEEPING NIGHT WATCH

WASHINGTON, April 1.—Although no word came through today from General Pershing's expeditionary force in Mexico, there was a growing confidence here that the expedition was rapidly nearing, if it had not already reached, its climax. Three days have passed since Colonel Dood's cavalry dash at Guerrero scattered Villa's main command and established definitely the presence in that locality of Villa himself; and army officers are certain that the American troops did not allow the trail to grow cold.

Interesting Rumor.

The hope for the early capture of the bandit chief was increased tonight by a rumor reaching General Gavra, Carranza commander at Juarez, that Dood's flying column had netted the fugitive. The war department had no information to confirm the report. Officials pointed out, however, that General Gavra had news of the Guerrero fight hours before General Pershing's account reached General Funston. The Carranza authorities have control of the telegraph lines, and with Carranza troops operating near Guerrero, have facilities for prompt reports on the American operations. A night watch was maintained tonight at the war department in the hope that further despatches from Pershing would be received. Secretary Baker wired General Funston to endeavor to get further details of the Guerrero engagement and inquired especially regarding the condition of the four cavalrymen reported slightly wounded. It was believed their injuries were so trivial that General Pershing refrained from forwarding their names.

Dodd in Remote Part.

Colonel Dodd is far from a point of communication, at the least fifty or seventy-five miles. While he probably halted his troops for a brief respite after their fifty-mile dash, followed by a running fight of five hours, officers here do not believe he tarried long. Difficulty in securing supplies and water at their distance from the main command of General Pershing may have handicapped him, but probably did not delay the chase many hours.

Initiation of the agreement by which the American troops would have temporary use of the Mexican northwestern railway, pending ratification of a more comprehensive protocol, apparently has been halted, through failure of the Carranza authorities at Juarez to receive instructions regarding it. Secretary Baker said today he had not modified his instructions to General Funston to tender supplies for shipment to the railway authorities. The last information from General Funston was that General Gavra was awaiting instructions from General Carranza, who agreed to the arrangement several days ago, to put it into actual effect.

Not to Press Carranza.

State and war department officials reiterated tonight their intention to await results of a fair trial of the tentative arrangement, before pressing Carranza for further concessions to secure shipment of supplies. The question whether General Funston may furnish guards or whether the Carranza government shall supply such protection for supply shipments is considered a possible factor in the delay. Some officials believe the protocol will be arranged before actual shipments are begun.

The possibility that the American troops may contract typhus fever, which is epidemic upon the grand plateau of Mexico, caused the war department to issue a special bulletin today warning the troops to guard against infection. The bulletin says the soldiers should observe the closest attention to their personal cleanliness and under no circumstances occupy native unfumigated houses or use native clothing or bedding.

BANDITS ARE SPREADING IN MANY DIRECTIONS

WASHINGTON, April 1.—General Pershing's despatch, forwarded by General Funston today, was dated yesterday and said:

"The column" was breaking up into small detachments which were spreading in various directions. Department officials thought the reference was to American troops, and took the announcement to mean that they probably were convinced that Villa still was in the neighborhood of Guerrero and were taking quick steps to throw a net about him.

SIXTY OF VILLA'S MEN KILLED IN THE FIGHT

WASHINGTON, April 1.—A report from General Pershing reaching the war department late tonight, said sixty of Villa's followers had been killed in the fight Wednesday with Colonel Dood's cavalry.

Previous reports had placed the killed at about thirty. The despatch made no mention of American casualties and said the number of Villa wounded was unknown.

CAPTURES TWO TITLES.

REVERE, Mass., April 1.—Marion Gibson, of Boston, in capturing two titles at the annual indoor swimming championship meeting of the New England Amateur Athletic Union tonight broke the record for women in the fifty yard and 220 yard events. She covered the fifty yards in thirty-three seconds and the 220 yards in three minutes and forty-five and three-fifths seconds.

OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT OF TRI-STATE

Latest Reports of Operations in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Development work in the eastern fields during the early part of the week was almost featureless and showed no improvement at the close. With no thrills in the way of new discoveries and the market stationary there was less interest than at any time for a number of weeks. Operators are growing impatient to start new work and only the scarcity of producing territory prevents them from starting at once. The advent of spring weather inspires the desire to resume operations and the old districts will be the first to receive attention. The desire for new production is accentuated by the high market for crude and operators will not hesitate to go after a source of new production when the conditions are favorable. New work is starting in the old districts and the preliminaries for more are under way. The year promises to be one of unusual activity. The old fields will be drilled wherever there is a location. Light wells will be the result of this kind of work and frequently the production derived from old wells in the immediate localities.

Owing to the scarcity of new producing territory, producers are holding on to their properties and few are offered for sale. Those who express a willingness to part with their properties have fixed the price so high that a would-be purchaser will not consider it. Very little settled production is offered at less than \$2,000 a barrel and in some localities the asking price is above \$2,000. The value placed on old producing properties is now higher than at any time in the history of the industry. The cause can be attributed to two things, the future of the business was never so bright, owing to the increasing demand for crude and the scarcity of new producing territory. The producer is aware of the fact that he would be at a loss to know where to secure another property and that would presage his retirement. Those who have operated in the eastern fields are not all inclined to try conclusions in the West and that seems to be the most promising section.

In the West Virginia fields the Loudenville Oil Company has completed its initial test well on the B. L. Parsons farm located in Liberty district, Marshall county, and has a twenty-five barrel per day producer from the Gordon sand.

In Elk district, Kanawha county, the South Pen Oil Company is drilling in the sand at its W. A. McCorkle farm No. 8 well and it is showing for better than a 100 barrel producer.

Braxton County Producer. The West Virginia Oil Company has completed its initial test well on the Gerwig farm, in Otter district, Braxton county and has a ten barrel per day producer from the Salt sand.

The Hope Natural Gas Company has completed its third test well on the Harriet Lowther farm, located in Union district, Harrison county, and has a thirty-barrel pumper from the Gordon sand. This well made an initial flow of fifty barrels after striking the pay.

In the same district and county, the Hope Natural Gas Company has completed its second test well on the A. C. Moore farm and has a five barrel pumper in the Gordon sand.

In Central district, Doddridge county, the Hope Natural Gas Company has completed its second test well on the L. M. Pitts farm and has a good gasser from the Big Injun sand. This well is located 900 feet northwest of the same company's initial test on this farm.

Duster in Hancock County. In Grant district, Hancock county, near the old Moscow field, the Hooten Oil Company has completed its initial test well on the Mary M. Aiken farm through the Berea grit and it is a dry hole.

On the waters of Frozen Camp, in Curtis district, Roane county, the United Fuel Gas Company has completed its initial test well on the Stewart McCready farm and has a good gasser.

The Philadelphia Gas Company has completed its well on the Mary M. Sperry farm, located on the waters of Meat House Creek, in Greenbrier district, Doddridge county, and has a fair gasser in the Injun sand.

On Buckeye Fork, in Union district, Harrison county, the Hope Natural Gas Company has completed its well on the J. M. Morris farm and has a Gordon sand gasser.

On Dilans Run, in the same district and county, the Reserve Gas Company has completed a well on the I. S. Pough farm and has a fair gasser in the Fifth sand.

In the Denis Creek development, in Clay district, Ritchie county, the Imperial Oil, Gas and Producing Company's second test on the W. S. Keith lease is still producing at the rate of 170 barrels per day.

Southeastern Ohio. On the Ohio side in the Haydensville field there has been an important addition in the completion of an initial test well by the Ohio Fuel Supply Company on the Elizabeth Stiers farm located in the northwest quarter of section No. 18, Starr township, Hocking county. The well was completed in the Clinton sand and after a shot produced 165 barrels in the ensuing twenty-four hours. It marks a considerable extension of the field toward the east and is of more than ordinary interest to the local oil people as the acreage is largely held by the Ohio Fuel Supply Company and the Preston Oil Company, both corporations having many stockholders here.

In the Mingo pool, in Sross Creek township, Jefferson county, Peters and Company have completed their third test well on the David M. Scott farm and it will not be better than a five barrel per day pumper from the Berea grit. This location is about 1,500 feet northeast of the Carpenter farm pro-

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duction at New Alexandria. In the deep sand territory, in Perry township, Monroe county, Troutman et al have completed their initial test well on the Alex Brownfield farm, and have a five barrel pumper from the Injun sand. This well is located 1,000 feet north of R. G. Gillespie's initial test well on the Elizabeth Martin property.

In the Chester Hill development in Marion township, Morgan county, A. S. Dunnington and Company have completed their No. 5 well on the D. P. Gardner farm through the Cow run sand and it is a duster.

Pennsylvania. In the Ellwood City development the Ridge Oil and Gas Company has completed its well on the Fred Nye farm, near Lillyville, and has a gasser reported good for 650,000 cubic feet a day. This is the third well drilled on this property.

Washington and Greene counties promise to be very active in operations for gas the coming summer. The Manufacturers Light and Heat Company and the Carnegie Gas Company already started drilling operations on a large scale and it is reported that upwards of 150 wells will be drilled during the spring and summer in these counties.

Two miles south of Waynesburg, the Philadelphia Company has completed a gas well on the Hock farm and has a 900,000 cubic feet gasser. The pay was struck twenty-six feet below the Bayard sand, while the Injun sand produced a smaller flow of 200,000 cubic feet. This is the second time that the territory in this vicinity has been drilled over.

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