

GENERAL CARRANZA TO WIN POINT

PERMISSION TO CROSS U. S. LINE AFTER BANDITS MAY BE GRANTED

Indications Are That This Nation Will Agree to Dictator's Demand

OTHERWISE HE WILL OPPOSE EXPEDITION

Difficulty Encountered in Getting Troops Ready for Villa Pursuit

San Antonio, Tex., March 13.—Maj. Gen. Funston announced positively early this afternoon that there will be no movement of troops across the border today.

Washington, D. C., March 13.—The United States this afternoon accepted Gen. Carranza's proposal for a reciprocal arrangement by which either of his troops or American troops may pursue bandits on either side of the border. A note of acceptance was sent forward to Gen. Carranza at Queretaro.

Washington, D. C., March 13.—The United States will reply to Gen. Carranza's request for a reciprocal arrangement for crossings of troops at the Mexican border late today after Secretary Lansing has conferred with President Wilson. It was indicated today that Carranza's proposal would be accepted.

The acceptance probably will be made on the ground that Carranza troops may cross into American territory in pursuit of bandits at any time that American forces are not present in sufficient numbers. It will be pointed out that the inability of the Carranza troops to handle the situation in northern Mexico is the sole ground for entry of American soldiers. In that way American officials expect the situation will be relieved of its chief menacing feature. They expressed the view today that a great deal of unnecessary pessimism exists as to Gen. Carranza's attitude. As to the attitude of the American people themselves, however, there is some concern but it is realized that only the developments of the next few days can clear up that phase of the situation.

CAPITAL IN SUSPENSE.

Washington, D. C., March 13.—The war department was still without advice early today as to whether American troops had crossed into Mexico. Secretary Baker said he had not heard of any crossing and reiterated his promise to make that news public as soon as it reached him. He added that the morning's dispatches contained nothing of importance that could be given out.

There was no indication at the war department that negotiations for reciprocal arrangement had in any way altered the situation on the border. Publication of Carranza's manifesto declaring that armed invasion of Mexico in pursuit of Villa would not be tolerated except on a reciprocal basis apparently has not resulted in any change of Gen. Funston's plans to proceed with the pursuit of Villa in his own way and at such time as he thought best. Gen. Carranza yesterday issued a manifesto declaring that under no circumstances would the Mexican government grant the right to the United States to violate Mexican territory by sending in an armed force in pursuit of Villa without consent and the reciprocal privilege being first obtained and admitted.

May be a Bluff. Army officials who studied the Carranza manifesto were convinced that it was not intended as a communication to the United States in any sense. The head of the de facto government, they pointed out, was in a delicate political position, forced to satisfy conflicting elements among his own adherents in whatever course he pursued. It was admitted, however, that Carranza enforced the sentiments expressed in his manifesto the pursuit of Villa might be hampered seriously. Discussion of the possible attitude of Carranza or of the great mass of the Mexican people is academic so far as war department officials are concerned. That phase of the situation rests wholly with the president and the state department.

PERSHING CHOSEN TO LEAD SOLDIERS AGAINST BANDITS

GEN. FUNSTON ANNOUNCES HE WILL REMAIN ON BORDER TO DIRECT EXPEDITION.

San Antonio, Tex., March 13.—No movement of the expeditionary force which will search for Francisco Villa is probable today, Maj. Gen. Frederick Funston announced this morning. The general said preparations for the expedition were going right ahead, despite Gen. Carranza's notification to the Washington government that he would not consent to American troops entering Mexico unless Carranza troops were allowed to enter the United States.

It was officially announced that Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing will command the expeditionary forces. Gen. Funston said he had received no notification from Washington to hold back the expedition while negotiations were being completed with Gen. Carranza.

Gen. Funston said today that the announcement of the expedition's actual start into Mexico probably would come from Gen. Pershing to whom would be left the decision as to the exact hour for setting the movement afoot.

Shortage of rolling stock, Gen. Funston said, was hindering the concentration of cavalry at the base of operations. The fault, he said, lay with the railroads west of El Paso.

"We have even had to transport men in box cars," he declared.

"When this movement is completed there will be only six or eight regiments left in the United States other than those troops stationed along the border for patrol duty."

There will be no infantry or cavalry movements from Ft. San Houston for the present, it was announced today.

The first aero squadron, Capt. Benjamin D. Foulis commanding, went forward to El Paso this morning.

PERSHING MEETS GAVIRA.

El Paso, Texas, March 13.—Gen. Gabriel Gavira, commanding the Carranza forces at Juarez, came to El Paso this morning to hold a conference with Gen. Pershing, in command of Ft. Bliss.

The conference of Gen. Gavira and Gen. Pershing was the first time that the two commanders had ever met.

They came together in the office of the Mexican consulate with Consul Garcia as a third party. Nothing was given out afterward except of a general nature.

"I have nothing to say except that the meeting was entirely satisfactory," said Gen. Pershing.

Gen. Gavira's comment was to the same effect.

"If there is anything to be given out it must come from Gen. Pershing," said Consul Garcia after his visitors had departed. But when asked whether the discussion was personal and informal or in their capacity as officials of their respective governments, he added that it partook of both.

Altogether it lasted about half an hour.

BIG OFFENSIVE AT VERDUN OVER

Two Days Pass Without the German Infantry Being Used Against Foe

GREAT GUNS STILL KEEPING UP ROAR

Britons Reported to Have Met Severe Defeat at Hands of the Turks

London, March 13.—A pronounced pause has come in the German offensive operations against Verdun, so far as the infantry arm is concerned, according to the official bulletins from Paris.

Sunday passed without infantry advances and the crown prince's troops did not leave their trenches for an attack at any point during last night, the French war office reports. The last infantry assault reported occurred on Saturday, when the Germans entered a small French trench north of Elix. In the fighting around Verdun thus far the Germans claim to have captured 26,472 unwounded French officers and men and 189 guns and 232 machine guns.

There has been no cessation of the artillery play, however, the bombardment continuing along much of the front. It was particularly severe in the Woivre district, where the French guns have been searching out hostile positions, indicating the probability that some move by the Germans to the east or southeast of the fortress on the French flank is anticipated.

A small engagement occurred in Le Preire forest, on the left bank of the Moselle, west of Pont-a-Mousson, to the east of the St. Mihiel salient, where the French report penetrating 200 yards of trenches and withdrawing after destroying the German saps.

French aviators bombarded the railroad station at Conflans, where fires were seen to break out.

Britons Meet Defeat.

T. British Mesopotamian force under Gen. Aylmer suffered casualties of 5,000 in the battle of March 8, when it tried to advance up the Tigris toward Kut-el-Amara and was reported defeated and obliged to retreat, according to the Turkish war office.

In Arabia, according to Constantinople, a British force trying to advance inland from the Gulf of Aden was driven back by the Turks to the protection of the warships in the gulf.

Russians Claim Advance.

In the Dniester region of East Galicia the Russians claim to have captured a number of trenches from the Germans and to have taken the town of Kirind from the Turks in Persia.

A Russian torpedo boat destroyer has been sunk in the Black sea by a submarine of the central powers.

The Italians are still prosecuting a vigorous campaign against the Austro-Hungarians and are extensively bombarding the Isonzo front.

The British fleet auxiliary Fauvette, a vessel of 2,644 tons has been sunk by striking a mine off the east coast of England.

OFFENSIVE AT END?

London, March 13.—An Amsterdam dispatch to the Central News says that on account of the German offensive at Verdun the Dutch-Belgian frontier had been closed for several days. That part of it south of Maastrecht has now been reopened and this fact is commented on in Holland as probably indicating that the Germans consider their offensive near an end. The dispatch adds that eighty-one more hospital trains with wounded Germans from Verdun have passed through Luxemburg.

FIGHTING ABOUT VERDUN CALLED THE WORST EVER

BRAVE EFFORTS OF GERMANS TO STORM FRENCH POSITIONS PROVE COSTLY.

Paris, March 13.—The German losses in the fighting around Ft. Vaux last Friday and Saturday surpass all previous records in this war, according to officers who have returned from Verdun. Time and time again the Germans rushed from their trenches only to melt away under the fire of the French. When the smoke and dust cleared nothing was to be seen but heaps of bodies.

The spur on which the fort is situated is almost perpendicular in certain places. The German lines were forced to halt but many Bavarian reservists climbed up on one another's shoulders and struggled up the slope, clinging to angles of rock and grasping tufts of grass. Again and again these human pyramids collapsed into shapeless gray masses. In the places where the incline was easier and the attacks therefore more concentrated, the ditches below ran red with blood. At the lowest estimate the attackers lost two-thirds of their effectiveness.

The fighting also was desperate in the extreme when regiments from the fifteenth and eighteenth German army corps attacked the village of Vaux on Friday.

It took four distinct assaults before the first column of Germans won the shelter of a small group of houses beyond the church of Vaux. They then organized an assault upon the church and the French, being unable to bring up reinforcements on account of the German curtain of fire, withdrew their advanced elements which were in danger of being surrounded. Five times the north Prussian regiments rushed to attack the church but every time they left the shelter of the ruined houses they were beaten back. In the meantime in their rear a curtain of fire was kept up so that it was impossible for munitions and reinforcements to be brought up for their benefit and the fight died down on Saturday night from sheer exhaustion.

SMELTING FIRM SENDS MEN HOME

New York, March 13.—All American employees of the American Smelting and Refining Co. have been withdrawn from Mexico, it was announced by the company today. The men arrived at Laredo, Tex., yesterday from the smelting plants at Monterey and Matehula. Operations were resumed in these plants about six or eight weeks ago.

MEXICANS SEND AID TO MORMONS

CAVALRY REGIMENT DISPATCHED TO GUARD AMERICANS IN RETURN TO U. S.

El Paso, Tex., March 13.—Cavalry troops have been dispatched from Laguna on the line of the old Mexican Central railway north of Chihuahua City direct to Casas Grandes to aid the 500 members of the Mormon colony concentrated at that point but now cut off from communication with either Chihuahua or Juarez.

Gen. Gavira, commandant at Juarez, received news of the new cavalry movement from Gen. Garza this morning. It followed immediately on the report of a scout train that made a run down the Mexican and Northwestern line in the direction of Casas Grandes but turned back upon seeing smoke ahead at Santa Sofia, which seemed to come from a burning bridge. Villa was last reported in the neighborhood of Corralitos, not far distant. Assuming that Villa's forces were there the train returned.

Some months ago the bridges on the section of the road between Madero and Temosachic, below Casas Grandes were destroyed by Villa. As the telegraph wires to Casas Grandes stopped working suddenly late yesterday, as if cut, the Mormons are now completely isolated. But Gen. Gavira says his forces there are ample against Villa.

TODAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE—Continued discussion of Osage Indian oil land leases. Judiciary committee considered national prohibition amendment but took no action.

HOUSE—Peace advocates appeared before the naval committee.

WADE BEGINS ON EQUITY ACTION

Federal Judge Takes Up the Bartlett & Kling Case for Trial

CRIMINAL WORK IS ABOUT CLEANED UP

Majority of Matters Which Cover Crimes Against U. S. Are Closed

The case of the United States, for the use and benefit of the American Radiator Co., vs. Bartlett and Kling, Noble Brothers, J. F. Dings, receiver, F. L. Root and J. F. Dings, Charles Chilton and the Chicago Portland Cement Co., intervenors, was called for trial at 9:30 this morning in the United States district court by Judge Martin J. Wade.

This is the second week of the session of federal court and the case on trial is expected to consume the greater part of this week's time. It is an action of long standing and involves claims for material used in the construction of the federal building here several years ago.

Most of the criminal work for the term was completed Friday afternoon and Saturday. Ray Grammer, indicted for engaging in the sale of intoxicating liquors without paying the government tax, has given a bond for his appearance.

The case against Henry Spiwak, charged with selling liquor without paying the government tax, was dismissed on the motion of the United States attorney after Spiwak had produced a government stamp. The sentence of thirty days in jail against Kalman Spiwak on a similar charge was suspended. Tom Hammersly and Abe Bobrow were each fined thirty days in jail and \$100 on the same offense.

POLES ARE TAKING MILITARY COURSE

South Bend, Ind., March 13.—Officers from Polish Falcons alliance of America from Indiana, Ohio and Michigan met here today to begin a five weeks' course in military instruction. It is the purpose to prepare themselves for commission in Polish regiments should the United States become involved in war. The sixty-five officers will instruct the various local companies, the combined membership of which is 40,000.

REMEMBERS FACE OF CHECK FORGER

Des Moines, March 13.—Ten years ago Carl Umpleby, now hotel manager at Creston, was a clerk in a local hotel. He cashed a check which was returned and his employers made him make good the amount of the check, \$100. Yesterday Umpleby came to Des Moines on a business trip. He saw W. M. Valentine of New York standing on a street corner and he swore out a warrant charging the New Yorker with the alleged fraud committed a decade ago.

FARMER PLUNGES THROUGH THE ICE

Dubuque, March 13.—Elmer Schute, a farmer near here, today is recovering from the effects of exposure and shock following his narrow escape from death in the Mississippi yesterday. He fought a team at Cassville, Wis., and attempted to drive them across the ice. The ice broke and the horses were drowned. Schute was rescued with difficulty.

BRITAIN SUMMONS AID

Portugal Explains That Old Treaty With England Caused Entry Into European Struggle.

Washington, D. C., March 13.—Portugal entered the war, the Portuguese legation announced today, because Great Britain requested her to do so, in fulfillment of treaty obligations dating back to 1878. Portugal did not enter the war here, the Portuguese minister announced, because Great Britain had not called on her to do so.

PLAN TO RETRENCH.

Springfield, Ill., March 13.—The state board of administration, following out its plan of retrenchment for state institutions, was scrutinizing today the pay rolls and books of the Lincoln state school and colony, and the Elgin state hospital for the insane.

NORSE BARK MAY HAVE BEEN HIT BY AEROPLANE BOMB

STATEMENTS REGARDING DESTRUCTION OF NEUTRAL VESSEL ARE CONFLICTING.

Paris, March 13.—The first officer of the Norwegian bark Silius is quoted by the Paris Herald as saying the vessel may have been struck by a bomb from an aeroplane instead of by a torpedo, as previously reported.

The first officer was on watch at the time and heard a noise which he thought was an aeroplane, although he could see none. Then there came a terrific explosion at about the middle of the ship on the port side.

The crew got into boats with great difficulty and cleared the Silius just as a mast fell. A French torpedo boat took all on board.

REEF GETS STEAMER.

London, March 13.—The Spanish steamship Maria, 2,138 tons gross, owned in Bilbao, has grounded on the rocks off Cezimbra, Portugal, and is considered a total loss. The Maria was on the way from Marseilles for Hampton roads. Assistance has been sent.

GERARD IS GRANTED SHORT VACATION

Washington, D. C., March 13.—Word has gone to American Ambassador James W. Gerard at Berlin authorizing him to leave his post for a vacation. Secretary Lansing has had no word from Mr. Gerard as to when the ambassador will take his leave or where he will spend it. It is considered not unlikely, however, that he may go to Switzerland instead of coming home. The ambassador recently sustained a painful injury while participating in winter sport and has not fully recovered from its effects. State department officials say there is absolutely no political significance in the granting of a leave to Mr. Gerard at this time.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER IS CLEARED OF ICE

Davenport, March 13.—The channel in the Mississippi river opposite Davenport is clear, although some ice remains close to each shore. The stage of the river was little affected by the movement, a rise of only two-tenths of a foot being apparent. The movement started Sunday. Last year the ice moved Feb. 16 and in 1914, March 14.

BELL TELEPHONE AIDING THE ARMY

ANNUAL REPORT OF PRESIDENT HINTS AT COOPERATION WITH THE MILITARY.

New York, March 13.—An increase of more than \$13,900,000 in the gross earnings of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co., last year over 1914 is shown by the annual report of President Theodore N. Vail, made public today. Total gross receipts of the company, not including the connecting independent companies, last year were \$239,900,000. The company's net earnings were \$41,117,487 and dividends amounting to \$29,100,531.

The Bell system, President Vail reports, now connects 9,151,221 telephones, a gain of half a million stations in a year. It is estimated that \$7,000,000 will be spent in new construction this year. The company added 1,029,951 miles to its system, making a total of 18,505,545 miles. An interesting feature of the report is that substitutes for supplies used by the company which previously were obtained abroad, have been provided by the engineering department.

The report declares that the engineering department has done "important and confidential" work with representatives of the army and navy together out a system of communication "unequaled by any other nation," in connection with national defense plans.

Regarding the suggestion of public ownership, President Vail declares there is little likelihood of this as long as the present policies are followed.

SLAYER MUST DIE.

New York, March 13.—Joseph E. Hanel, convicted last week for the murder of Mrs. Julia Heilner, a wealthy Brooklyn widow, by whom he had been employed as butler, was sentenced today to die in the electric chair at Sing Sing April 24.

SCHOOL MATTER BEING VOTED ON BY BOTH SEXES

Men and Women Casting the Ballots in Election Being Held Today

HAVE BIG QUESTION TO BE DECIDED UPON

Bond Issue for Addition to High School One of Importance

Men and women of Ottumwa today are voting for three school directors to succeed J. B. McCarroll, C. E. Evans and M. B. Hutchison, and also on the question of an addition to the high school building to cost \$125,000.

The polls opened at 9 o'clock this morning and will not close until 7 o'clock this evening. The voting precincts and polling places are the same as in former years.

The first precinct voting place is in the city hall, with E. C. Loomis and E. F. Slutz acting as judges; E. G. Tisdale as clerk, T. F. Koefe and F. W. Wilson as registrars. The second precinct polling place is at the Hutchison Lumber Co.'s office. The judges there are W. H. Stevens and James King; C. O. Nichols is clerk and H. B. Arnold and J. A. Harlan are the registrars. The South Side fire station is the polling place for the third precinct. P. C. Ferguson and S. H. Ellis are the judges; Ernest Baer the clerk, and T. E. Gibbons and G. E. Styrer the registrars.

The names of the following appear on today's ballots to succeed the three retiring members of the school board: C. H. Allison, R. M. Asbury, C. D. Evans, M. B. Hutchison, S. B. Livingston, J. B. McCarroll and S. S. Menefee; for treasurer, W. H. McElroy.

The question of the bond issue reads: "Shall the independent school district of Ottumwa, in the county of Wapello, state of Iowa, issue bonds in the sum of \$125,000 for the purpose of building, constructing, furnishing and equipping a high school building?"

The voting at 1:30 o'clock showed a total of 784, the majority of which were cast at the city hall. In the second and third precincts fifty-seven women voted but no count of the women's vote was kept at the first precinct. Following is the vote cast at 1:30: First precinct, city hall 276 Second precinct, Hutchison Lumber Co. 278 Third precinct, south side fire station 236 Total 784

WOMEN ARE UNOPPOSED.

Marshalltown, March 13.—Interest in the annual school election being held here today was slight, owing to the seventh hour withdrawal of candidates who opposed the two women candidates for school board members. Mrs. F. A. Moscrip and Miss Mary Hosteler, former county superintendent of schools, will be the first women to serve on the local school board. In addition to the election of board of education members, there are two bond issue propositions before the voters. One is for authorization of a \$30,000 tax levy to improve old school buildings and buy a site for a new one and the other an authorization of the sale of the old Hartwell school property.

HEAVY VOTE CAST.

Des Moines, March 13.—Early voting in the Des Moines election, according to City Clerk Susong, who predicted that owing to good weather and the strenuous campaign the vote this year would surpass even the heavy vote of two years ago.

DEMURRAGE NOT TO BE INCREASED

Des Moines, March 13.—In a statement made public today, John A. Guiber, Iowa railroad commissioner, said he had received information that the interstate commerce commission would not increase demurrage charges as a means of ending the car shortage. Mr. Guiber represented Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas at the recent interstate commerce meeting at Washington. According to Mr. Guiber the commission will adopt other means to relieve the shortage.

The present car shortage, Mr. Guiber said, was found to be due chiefly to congestion of cars in Atlantic ports. The congestion was due, he said, to the insufficient number of bottoms available to take care of the export trade.