

VILLA MASKING HIS TRAIL WITH FALSE RUMORS

View on Border Is That the Bandit Chief Is Hidden in Sierra Madres

SOLDIERS BEING LURED SOUTHWARD

Little Stock Taken in the Reported Death of the Leader of Rebels

El Paso, Tex., April 12.—Masking his trail with the deluding fiction spread broadcast by Mexican poems that he is dead of his wounds, Francisco Villa is thought by Mexican military officers in Juarez to be safely hidden away in the sheltering recesses of the Sierra Madre mountains while the American cavalry is pursuing a rear guard band of Villa bandits, whose strategy is to beguile Villa's pursuers away from the hiding place of their chief.

Mexican followers of Villa in other campaigns say it was a favorite trick of Villa when the chase became hot for the bandit to have the story spread that he was dead, that the ardor of his pursuers might be dampened.

Brig. Gen. Pershing has established a new base at Satevo, according to information here, but no word has come from the flying columns of American cavalry under the command of Col. Dodd and Brown whose pursuit of the Villa forces is said to extend beyond Fernal.

There is nothing official to confirm a report that American troops killed a number of Villa bandits last Saturday south of Satevo.

Supplies in increasing quantities are being steadily forwarded by the quartermaster's department to Casas Grandes, Namiquipa and other points.

VICTIMS OF VILLA.

Pershing's Camp, at the Front, N. M., April 12.—Two widows of Carranza officers slain by Villa near here passed through camp today enroute to Chihuahua. One was Senora Innocente aged 16, and the other Senora Tomas Milan, aged 20.

"I wished to kill myself," said Senora Rivera, "so they are sending me away from this part of the country."

Senora Rivera had been married three months when her husband was killed, when some of Villa's forces rushed the Guerrero garrison at 3 o'clock on Monday morning, March 28. The 16 year old bride was in Minaca at a dance that night, while her husband, a colonel, was on duty in Guerrero.

The other young woman, Senora Milan, had been to San Ysidro to a Sunday night dance from which she was returning accompanied by her husband, a lieutenant colonel, when some of Villa's men came upon them. Senora Milan was shot, her husband tall. A Villa officer leveled his rifle directly over her head, as she sought to protect her husband and shot him dead.

The two young women said that Villa sent detachments to attack not only Guerrero but San Ysidro and Minaca, all of which are near, the same night. At San Ysidro, a Villista soldier disguised as a tortilla seller, entered town two days before the attack, acting as a spy on all the garrison's plans. Similar spies preceded Villa into Minaca and Guerrero. Neither of the young women knew of the wounding of Villa.

VILLA NOT DEAD.

El Paso, Tex., April 12.—An entirely new version of the story of Villa's death was brought here today by a Mexican cattleman, who claimed to have suffered a visitation from a band of Villistas on his ranch near Bachiniba. This man said that Villa was neither dead nor wounded but that Pablo Lopez, the bandit's notorious lieutenant and executioner in chief, had died and that Villa had deliberately used his death as the basis of the story of his own finish.

The Mexican who told this story is well known to several Americans here who considered him reliable.

Villa's ride south has been a disastrous one for the villages and the small towns through which he has raided, according to numerous reports received here. His men have looted at will and have been ruthless in their destruction of property. Several reports relate instances of women being outraged and of Mexicans who were friendly to Americans, but none of them have been corroborated.

The most reliable information now is that the bandit is in northern Durango, trying to arrange for a concentration for the Villistas who have been operating under Canuto Reyes.

CARRANZA FORCE REPELS BANDITS IN FIERCE FIGHT

GARRISON AT PASAJE, DURANGO, ENGAGES BANDS OF THE ENEMY FOR FIVE HOURS.

Torreón, via El Paso Junction, April 12.—Details of a five hour battle between the Carranza garrison at Pasaje, Durango, and an attacking force composed of Contreras and Cenceros bandits were brought here today. The outlaws fled in disorder into the hills of the Nazas district after losing seventy killed, it is reported. The de facto troops had four dead.

The battle took place on Sunday. First reports were that the attacking force was commanded by Gen. Canuto Reyes.

As negotiations have been under way for the surrender of Gen. Reyes under an amnesty grant, bitter disappointment was expressed by Carranza officials. The surrender of Reyes was expected to seriously cripple the Villa cause in the neighborhood of Torreón and Durango.

The fight was reported to have been precipitated by the garrison, which was said to have fired on the troops of Gen. Reyes as they approached under an agreement for peace negotiation. The latest details, however, seem to show that Reyes is not implicated and there are still hopes that he will cease warfare against Gen. Carranza.

A doctor sent from here to treat some of the men wounded in the battle said that the Contreras and Cenceros attackers were subjected to withering fire from the garrison. They fled in disorder. He arrived in time to count the bodies of seventy of the outlaws scattered over the battle ground. Among the dead were a colonel and a captain.

After the battle word was brought in that Juan Lamadrid, a noted bandit, was killed in a dispute over the division of loot by the Contreras bandits.

ORDNANCE FORCE INCREASED.

Columbus, N. M., April 12.—Preparations to increase the ordnance department at the expeditionary base here were being made today. Ten men are expected from the government arsenal at Rock Island, Ill., to augment the present force, which under the supervision of Lieut. Clarence S. Davidson of Lead, S. D., has issued pieces to troops in the field since the beginning of the campaign.

The six wounded Villista prisoners brought here last night were being held in the hospital today under heavy guard. It is assumed that they will be taken to Deming to await trial.

USING THE RAILROAD.

Washington, D. C., April 12.—Reports of a battle between troops of the seventh cavalry and Villa bandits south of Namiquipa were not mentioned in the war department's early dispatches today and there was no further mention of the reported death of Villa.

Maj. Gen. Funston reported the progress of a new plan for sending supplies forward to Brig. Gen. Pershing's columns. A trial shipment of nine carloads forage has been sent over the Mexican Central line, which has the most direct route to Chihuahua, where it probably will be transferred to the Mexican Northwestern and sent on south.

Maj. Gen. Scott said today that Mexican direct use of the Mexican Central, in that way, instead of shipping through mining companies or brokers, would greatly simplify supplying the troops in the field.

"REGULARS" WIN STATE PRIMARY

PRACTICALLY COMPLETE RETURNS GIVE RESULTS OF MONDAY ELECTION.

Des Moines, April 12.—Practically complete returns from all sections of the state in Monday's presidential preference primary showed W. W. Marsh, victor over E. G. Dunn for democratic national committeeman by approximately 8,629 to 4,616. E. T. Meredith, Maurice Connolly, J. J. Hughes and George Silvers, organization candidates, were chosen democratic delegates at large to the national democratic convention.

The victory of John T. Adams over John Olson for republican national committeeman was estimated today as approximately 10,000 to 7,000.

E. J. Burkett of Lincoln, Neb., received the endorsement for the republican nomination for vice president by a 8 to 5 majority over William Grant Webster of Chicago.

WAGES ARE BOOSTED.

Chicago, April 12.—It was learned today that the Chicago & Northwestern railroad April 1 gave a voluntary increase in wages of from \$2.50 to \$7 a month to all baggage men, station and freight house employees.

GREAT CARNAGE IS CONTINUING

Gallant Germans Die Trying to Break Steel Wall Around Verdun

FRENCH MANAGE TO WITHSTAND FOE

Reports From the Eastern Fields Fail to Show Material Changes

Paris, April 12.—While bringing up reinforcements to resume their attack on Le Mort Homme, the Hill of the Dead Man, the Germans are trying to recover the ground regained by the French in Callette wood, and to the north between Douaumont and Vaux.

The French positions there describe an arc from a point south of Douaumont fort to the center of the village of Vaux and the front is a little less than two miles in length.

For three days the only actions on the east bank of the Meuse have been centered there with the habitual preparation in heavily concentrated artillery fire with finishing touch in the form of a couple of hours of heavy shelling with suffocating and tear provoking gas projectiles.

After a bombardment with high explosives lasting eight hours and the use of gas for another hour or two the Germans would attack in two columns simultaneously on two flanks. The consequence is that the unprecedented carnage of the battle of Verdun goes on.

Yesterday the whole front, beaten by gas projectiles, was overhung by a yellowish cloud of cholera vapor which seemed to be suspended from the sky. When the cloud lifted the Germans bounded forward seemingly indifferent to thick death dealing curtains of fire from the French artillery. Some of them got through but only to find that the French had abandoned the first line trenches to allow the gas cloud to dissipate.

German reinforcements were sent up to fortify the trenches but before they had reached the line the French came back with an irresistible counter attack and in a few minutes drove the Germans from the few points where they had penetrated the trenches.

On the eastern front the Russians have stopped a big offensive movement by the Germans in the region of the Ikskull bridge. The big guns of both sides have been active at various points.

The Russians report continued gains against the Turks in the region of Erzerum. The Turks are said to have regrouped their forces and are now stubbornly resisting the three Russian main lines of advance into their territory.

The Austrians have brought into the campaign against the Italians artillery described by Rome as new and very powerful.

ACTIVE IN BALKANS.

Paris, April 12.—Resumption of violent cannonading along the Greek frontier in the vicinity of Gievelli and Doiran is reported in a dispatch from Saloniki to the Journal. It is said the French artillery had the advantage.

It is also reported that the German allies captured the fortified position at Beve Tepe, but this has not been confirmed.

GERMANS GAIN GROUND.

Berlin, April 12.—German troops in the operations against Verdun yesterday gained some ground in Callette woods southeast of Ft. Douaumont, according to the official statement given out by the war office today.

POWDER PLANT EXPLODES

Factory Working Night and Day on War Orders For the Allies, is Completely Destroyed.

Bluefield, W. Va., April 12.—Three persons were killed, a workman and two children, when the plant of the Dupont Powder Co. at Nemours, Mercer county, eight miles from here, was blown to pieces by four explosions early today. The force of the explosion was such that houses in the little village were wrecked. The dead children were buried in the ruins of their home near the powder mill.

The principal damage was done by the first explosion which is said to have completely destroyed the building in which it occurred. The succeeding explosions were believed to have been caused by flying embers and were of less intensity.

Details of the explosion are lacking. The plant has been working day and night on war orders.

TRAP SHOOTERS MEET.

Des Moines, April 12.—Seventy-five trapshooters from all sections of the state are here today for the first meeting of the season in Des Moines.

GERMANS ADMIT TORPEDOING OF ALLIES' VESSELS

CLAIM IS MADE THAT TEUTONS WERE WITHIN RIGHTS; DOUBTS ABOUT SUSSEX.

Berlin, April 12.—The German reply to the American note concerning the damaging or sinking of five steamships contains the statement that the steamers Englishman, Eagle Point, Manchester Engineer and Berwindale were destroyed by German submarines. Evidence is presented to show that these vessels were torpedoed legally in accordance with the rules of war.

The note states that a German submarine torpedoed a steamship in the vicinity of the place at which the cross channel steamship Sussex was damaged by an explosion but that evidence at hand indicates that the vessel torpedoed by the submarine was not the Sussex.

U. S. IS WAITING.

Washington, D. C., April 12.—Germany's note regarding the Sussex and other merchant ships which have recently met disaster was expected to reach the state department late today. Officials realize that its text may have an important bearing on the American submarine policy.

If a reply is sent to Berlin it is said that it will not deal exclusively with any one case but will cover the whole history of Germany's submarine campaign.

SENATOR IS SUNK.

London, April 12.—Lloyds announces that the Senator, a new British steamer of 3,497 tons, has been sunk. It is believed all hands have been saved. The senator was owned in

RICHARD HARDING DAVIS IS DEAD

Mt. Kisco, N. Y., April 12.—Richard Harding Davis, author and war correspondent, died at his home here late last night from heart trouble. His body was found early this morning and he had apparently been stricken while at his telephone.

Davis, one of the most popular of American writers, a playwright also and a veteran correspondent of five wars, was born in Philadelphia in 1864.

After being educated at Lehigh and Johns Hopkins universities, Mr. Davis entered journalism, starting with the Philadelphia Press and later serving on the New York Evening Sun. He was correspondent during the Turco-Greek, Spanish-American, South African and Russo-Japanese wars for the London Times and the New York Herald and during the present war wrote dispatches for a syndicate.

One of his earliest and most widely read books, "Soldiers of Fortune," was published in 1899 and in succeeding years he wrote more than thirty volumes of fiction and war experiences, together with a number of plays and numerous short stories.

RIVER AT FLOOD STAGE

Warnings are Sent Out to Cities Along the Mississippi to Beware of the High Water.

Clinton, April 12.—Warnings were received today, predicting that the flood stage of 16 feet will be reached by the Mississippi river here by Saturday and that the highest stage of 16.5 feet will be reached Sunday. This morning the stage had reached 13.8 feet, a rise of one foot in the last 24 hours. Owners of low lands are removing live stock and taking steps to protect their property.

ILLINOIS PRIMARY HELD

Senator Sherman and President Wilson Unopposed for Nomination on Their Respective Tickets.

Chicago, April 12.—Voters in the Illinois presidential preference primary yesterday declared in favor of President Wilson on the democratic and Senator L. Y. Sherman of Illinois on the republican tickets. The names of Roosevelt, Hughes, Root and Mayor William Hale Thompson were written in on the republican ballot and that of Champ Clark on the democratic, but that of Col. Roosevelt was the only one to receive a material number of votes. Sherman's total vote in Chicago was 63,823, Roosevelt, 11,620; Hughes, 950; Root, 198 and Thompson, 2. President Wilson polled 79,398 at the head of the democratic ticket, and Champ Clark 75.

TODAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE—Resumed debate on army reorganization bill. Sisal investigation continued.

HOUSE—Discussed calendar Wednesday business.

Miss Margaret Wilson advocated a bill before a house committee to permit using school buildings for community forums.

COUNTY OPTION PLAN EXPLAINED

Good Roads Booster Tells of Move to Improve State Highways

GRANGE MISTAKEN ON TAXATION IDEA

Legislation Needed to Get Better Results Without Increasing the Cost

The action of Wapello County Farmers grange in opposing the plan of the Greater Iowa association for county option in the matter of road building, has brought a response from D. W. Norris of Marshalltown, editor of the Marshalltown Times-Republican and one of the foremost good roads boosters in the state. Following is Mr. Norris' letter:

Editor Courier: I wish to correct an apparent misunderstanding of the purposes of those who desire better roads in Iowa as it was expressed in resolutions by a grange meeting and published in your paper.

Nobody is out to bond Iowa for forty millions or any millions except as the people of each county, or township, or special district vote to bond themselves and inasmuch as the farmers cast two-thirds of the votes in this state they will have a great deal to say about the bonds and the kind of roads to be built with them.

Iowa farmers are putting up \$11,000,000 every year now for road and bridge taxes and they get nothing but mud roads for their money. There are twenty-six states in the union that have more miles of hard roads, gravel and otherwise, than Iowa has upon less tax money per annum. They issue bonds so as to distribute the first cost of a permanent grade or bridge over a period of years. In some states they string out this first cost over twenty and in some forty years and they build permanent roads as they go.

In Iowa we spent \$7,000,000 last year upon our roads and less than \$2,000,000 was classed as permanent work. Over \$5,000,000 was washed away this winter and will have to be done over again.

In the next twenty years that waste will amount to \$100,000,000 without any bonds.

Your own county will spend nearly \$4,000,000 during the next twenty years upon its county roads and bridges at the present rate of taxation, allowing for a normal increase in auto money. What will you get for this money? What have you to show for the money spent during the last twenty years? Just mud.

Clay, Hardin, Buena Vista, Sac, Dickenson, Emmet, Cerro Gordo and Black Hawk counties have decided through their boards of supervisors this spring to permanently grade and gravel their entire county road systems within from three to five years and issue bonds.

The board of supervisors can bond county road and bridge revenues under section 403 of the code. In each of these counties the estimate show that the people can have these roads to use at once and can pay off the bonds with interest and maintain the roads within from the eighth year to the twelfth year without increasing a single tax levy.

In some of these counties it would have taken them thirty years to put their county roads to grade at the present rate of progress. The average county in Iowa is putting to permanent grade only five miles per annum with 160 miles in its county road system alone. It will take thirty years in Iowa to permanently grade our county road system at our present rate of progress and 100 years to gravel it, and yet we will waste \$5,000,000 out of

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DEFENSE FOES IN IOWA

Anti Preparedness Advocates to Speak in Des Moines; Commercial Body to Act.

Des Moines, April 12.—Speakers of national reputation arrived here early today to speak tonight against preparedness at a meeting to be held in the coliseum here. The speakers included Rabbi Stephen S. Wise of New York, Amos Pinchot, J. A. McSharron of Philadelphia, secretary of the national league; A. L. Wetherby of Nebraska, and Rev. A. A. Bert of Boston.

Members of the Des Moines Chamber of Commerce will express themselves on preparedness by endorsing or rejecting propositions sent out by the National Chamber of Commerce in an effort to learn the attitude of business men throughout the country. The propositions deal with the increasing of land and sea forces, establishment of a council of national defense, production of war munitions and compulsory military training.

Every commercial organization in the state, it was said, will be given an opportunity to express itself on these questions.

FISKE DEPLORES LACK OF METHOD IN BUILDING NAVY

U. S. ADMIRAL SAYS LOGICAL PLAN SHOULD BE DEvised, THEN CARRIED OUT.

Washington, D. C., April 12.—Secretary Daniels' refusal to permit Rear Admiral Fiske to read a paper before the Navy league convention here today stirred up a wave of denunciation of the secretary in the meeting and drew hisses from one part of the hall. The admiral's paper, previously published in Naval Institute, an official publication of the navy war college, was read by William Mather Lewis of Lake Forest, Ill., while the meeting cheered roundly.

Washington, D. C., April 12.—Lack of logical method in the development of the American navy was deplored by Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, U. S. N., today before the navy league of the United States. The admiral's paper was read by a delegate.

"In the elementary parts of the naval profession," said the paper, "we do very well. But of the higher branches, particularly strategy, we have little clear conception. We are forced to admit that the German methods are better adapted to produce economically a navy fitted to contend successfully in war against an enemy. In Germany the development of the navy has been strictly along the lines of a method carefully devised before hand; in our country no method, at least no logical method, whatever is apparent."

Comparing the American navy with that of England, Admiral Fiske declared that it was coherent policy of development and wisdom of strategy established which more than any other factor has made Great Britain the mistress of the seas and almost the mistress of the world.

Admiral Fiske pointed out that in this country congress alone decides what vessels shall be built and how many officers and men shall wear the uniforms.

Helpless Before Japs. "If a Japanese fleet conveying troop transports should appear off the coast of California, or adjacent Mexico, with the command that we abandon our established policy of flight, and the canal was blocked, I doubt not we should instantly abandon our exclusion policy," was the startling assertion of Henry A. Wise Wood of New York, formerly a member of the naval advisory board.

Germany, Japan and Russia were placed by Mr. Wood in the active group of sea power nations with one or more of which the United States might become involved in war, while he put Great Britain, France, Italy and Austria in the passive group.

A flat naval policy for the United States required, said Mr. Wood, an Atlantic force superior to that of Germany, a Pacific force superior to that of Japan and protection for the Panama canal.

How To Get Money. Isaac M. Seligman, New York banker, telling how preparedness should be advanced, recommended increases of the income tax, an inheritance tax, if necessary, and additional revenues from the stamp taxes.

The weakness of the American army and navy was pictured by Charles G. Curtis of New York who attributed most of the trouble to the fact that this country has no defense commission to advise the president and congress and that the navy has no general staff.

SUGAR BILL IS IN CONFERENCE

JOINT COMMITTEE FROM HOUSE AND SENATE GIVING IT CONSIDERATION.

Washington, D. C., April 12.—The sugar tariff bill, passed by the senate yesterday by a vote of 40 to 32, went to a conference of the two houses today, where a sharp controversy over the measure is in prospect. The bill is a substitute for the house free sugar repeal resolution and would extend the present duty of one cent a pound on sugar until May 1, 1920.

With the sugar tariff bill temporarily disposed of, the senate resumed debate on the army reorganization bill. Final action on the bill will come next Tuesday when, by agreement, a vote is to be taken.

The rivers and harbors appropriation bill, carrying \$40,000,000 passed by the house late yesterday by a vote of 210 to 133, went to the senate today where it is expected to meet with further opposition.

As finally approved by the house, the bill with all its items as reported from committee was unchanged.

ATTACK SECRET SERVICE MAN ON ALLEGED ACTION

Sheriff Cremer's Attorney Flays Special Employee for His Conduct

INTRODUCE LETTER HE SAYS HE WROTE

Note Written March 31 to Woman Now Being Held in Jail

The severe cross examination of G. Crawford, a secret service man from Memphis, Mo., and a witness for the state, featured the ouster proceeding trial of C. C. Cremer, sheriff of Wapello county, today.

Mr. Crawford took the stand to testify of arresting six persons last February and of either taking them to the county jail or turning them over to the deputy sheriff. He related the circumstances in connection with each case and insisted that no charges were made nor was there any expense attached to the actions.

It was in connection with his alleged relations with Blanche Hall or Blanche Mills, a jail prisoner, that Sheriff Cremer's attorney, J. R. Jaques, grilled the witness. He denied that he had been in the jail to see her or that he had flirted with her from the county attorney's office window in the court house.

County Attorney Employed. He said that he had been employed by the county attorney and worked in connection with the state agent here but was emphatic in his statement that he was not a state man. When the defense offered a letter, supposed to have been written by Crawford to the Hall or Mills woman, he acknowledged that he had written it.

It was written on the office stationery of the county attorney and he said that he had written it in that office. He bore the date of March 31, 1916, although the witness had previously testified that he was only here during January and February and left on February 24. He said that he called the woman Blanche Hall and never did call her Mills. The letter was addressed "Blanche Mills, Kind Friend," and signed, "Lovingly, a Friend."

He had to do with the sending of a message to the woman by her sister. He said he could not come to the jail on account of "serious trouble about the sheriff which was on then."

Took Woman Out. He denied that he had ever taken the woman out of the county jail and brought her back so intoxicated that she had to be helped up the stairs to her cell, but did say that he had taken her to the county attorney's office, the day after her arrest on a charge of prostitution, to talk to her.

He said that he had been friendly with the girl before he arrested her and had taken her to picture shows and other places. When criticized for this by the sheriff's attorney, he replied, "I am always friendly with my prisoners in that way, it is a part of my business."

He denied emphatically that he was using the woman in jail as a stool pigeon to spy on the sheriff and when asked about the superscription and signature to the letter said that he always wrote his prisoners that was whether they were men or women. He admitted telling the woman to destroy the letter.

On the indirect examination Mr. Crawford said that he was put to work by Chief Brunson of the state agent force, and that Mr. Daugherty simply kept track of his time and paid him and then the state paid Mr. Daugherty. Sheriff Hollenbeck, William Gallagher, Mrs. Cornelia Thomas and Frank Thompson were on the stand this afternoon.

Mr. Hollenbeck testified in regard to Sheriff Cremer's alleged failure to investigate a supposed booze camp on the south side of the Des Moines river between here and Eldon.

Mr. Thompson, for sixty days during the spring of 1915, testified about the time of day certain prisoners were received and discharged and how such entries were made from the jail office to the sheriff's office. The witness testified that he had nothing to do with keeping the books, and that the books were handled by Deputy Sheriff Doran.

Helped Take Prisoners. Harry Carter of Eldon helped Sheriff Cremer take three Mexicans to the state penitentiary at Ft. Madison in January of last year he told the court. He had his expenses paid but nothing was said about pay for going on the trip until April 3, 1916, when Mr. Cremer paid him \$2, saying that he had forgotten about it. Carter said that he did know that that was the regular charge, so made no reply.

He said that he was a friend of Charles E. Doran and was one of those

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