

ATTACK ON SUPPLY TRAIN BEATEN OFF

FORTY MEXICAN BANDITS TRY TO CAPTURE TRUCK ON WAY SOUTH

Effort of Villa Band Turns Out to Be Dismal Event for the Assailants

CABINET TAKES UP CARRANZA DEMAND

No Order Given Yet for the Troops to Return From Pursuit of Pancho

Gen. Pershing's Camp at Front, April 12.—Via aeroplane to Chihuahua April 13.—Via El Paso Junction, April 14.—About forty mounted men, believed to be Villa men of Gen. Tarango's command, attacked last night an automobile supply train and were driven off after a short fight. There were no American casualties. One Villa bandit was killed.

The fight which occurred about 9 o'clock last night was several miles in the rear of the automobiles carrying Gen. Pershing. It lasted about twenty minutes. When the bandits tried to capture one truck came up, the Americans poured in five volleys which ended the fight completely. There were two attacks, the first a slight one, and directed against a forward truck. The last attack was a rush against the rear trucks, during which bullets flew against the automobiles and poured through the brush which covered the mesa.

The bandits seemed to think the cutting off of the rear truck would be easy because some of them got within a few feet of it before the Americans, who were withholding their fire, started shooting. The American soldiers thought they hit some of the bandits. At the constitutionalist camp within a few miles of the scene of the fighting it was reported that three bandits were killed during the first part of the week. Lieut. A. R. Christie of the aero squad commanded the men in the fight. The fight was over too quickly for the men in the forward trucks to get into action.

ANXIOUS ABOUT FORCE.

Washington, D. C., April 14.—Deep anxiety was felt in official circles today over the fate of Major Tompkins and his little force of U. S. cavalry, attacked in Parral, Mexico, on Wednesday.

Known to be outnumbered, perhaps beleaguered, in a district notoriously anti-American, it was feared that the troops might be in grave danger. Lack of information from the isolated detachment intensified the anxiety for their safety. Wireless, field telegraph and every other available means of communication have been employed to get to Gen. Pershing the instructions to rush to headquarters with all possible speed a report on the incident and the measures he has taken to relieve the little cavalry force that was forced to fight for its life Wednesday night.

Unbroken silence on those subjects was not taken at headquarters, however, to mean that Gen. Pershing was unaware of the fight or that he was not doing anything to assist the detached and menaced cavalrymen. Gen. Funston and his staff officers realized that Gen. Pershing must first receive from Parral the story of what occurred and because of his own location, far to the front, perhaps beyond the most advanced wireless station, might have to use couriers in getting the account of the developments of the past forty-eight hours back to the border.

PRESSING FOR PARRAL REPORT.

Washington, D. C., April 14.—Gen. Funston today reported to the war department that he had received no word from Gen. Pershing on the fight Wednesday at Parral but that he is continuing to press for information.

Secretary Baker said today there had been as yet no change in Gen. Funston's orders but declined to discuss questions of policy raised by the Carranza note. The border commander's hands were entirely free, he said, to make any necessary disposition of the 30,000 men under his command.

Dispatch of troops to strengthen the supporting lines or the shifting of border forces to places best adapted to eventualities are matters of which Gen. Funston himself is the only judge.

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MOVEMENTS OF MEXICAN TROOPS BEING WATCHED

NINETEEN THOUSAND AMERICAN SOLDIERS GUARDING BORDER AGAINST SURPRISE.

El Paso, Tex., April 14.—More than 19,000 U. S. regulars are guarding the Mexican border from Brownsville, Tex., to San Diego, Cal., today, while hurried troop movements southward from Columbus, N. M., show that the line of communications reaching over 400 miles into Mexico to the advance guard of Gen. Pershing's expeditionary force, is being rapidly strengthened to meet any emergency.

American scouts are watching the Pulpito pass which leads from Sonora into the Casas Grandes district of Chihuahua state, for the appearance of Gen. Arnulfo Gomez, commanding a body of 2,500 Carranza infantry and cavalry. Gen. Gomez is awaiting orders from the Mexican minister of war, Gen. Obregon, to go into Chihuahua for the announced purpose of taking up the pursuit of Villa. In the event of trouble with the de facto government Gen. Gomez would be in position to strike the line of American communications at Casas Grandes. An aeroplane has joined in the scouting operations undertaken to ascertain the location of Gen. Arnulfo Gomez's forces and the route they are following.

Border on Qui Vive. In spite of alarming rumors and considerable apprehension which was expressed in some quarters the night in El Paso and Juarez passed peacefully.

As far as is apparent on the surface the Mexicans in both cities have only a languid interest in the situation brought about through Gen. Carranza's request for the withdrawal of the American troops and the clash at Parral. The only noticeable excitement is among the Americans.

At the same time the anti-American agitators who have been busy for weeks spreading stories of the United States' intention to embark on a war of conquest have not overlooked their opportunity. Their first effort was the spreading of a story in Juarez to the effect that hundreds of people had been slain in an attack upon Parral by American soldiers and that the "Gringos" had been defeated with great losses. Gen. Gavira, the Carranza commander, took speedy steps to crush this yarn by posting in a prominent place Gen. Obregon's official account of the Parral incident which was read by thousands yesterday and last evening. The people accepted the official version and what little excitement had been created quickly subsided.

The authorities here were so well satisfied that there was no occasion for alarm that nothing beyond the normal precautions were taken to guard the town during the night. Today rumors of impending plots and revolutions have given way to the intense interest with which the developments in the diplomatic situation at Washington are awaited. Even the popular amusement of locating Villa has lost its charm pending the result of President Wilson's deliberation with his cabinet.

HUNTING THE HIGHER UPS

Agents of U. S. Department of Justice Wants to Get Men Who Directed Bomb Plots.

New York, April 14.—Agents of the department of justice and federal prosecutors who already have eight men under arrest on charges of attempting to blow up munitions ships with fire bombs still sought today the principals who originated, financed and directed the alleged conspiracy. They declared that the eight prisoners, mainly employes of the North German Lloyd and Hamburg-American steamship companies, were active only in the execution of the plot, the manufacture and distribution of the bombs by which it is charged fires were started on more than thirty steamers. The identity of the chief conspirators, if known to the authorities, has not been disclosed.

One man for whom the federal agents are searching is Walter T. Scheele, head of the New Jersey Agriculture & Chemical Co., of Hoboken, in whose factory the fire bombs are said to have been charged with explosive chemicals.

CONGRESS HEARS TALKS ON ARMY BILL

Washington, D. C., April 14.—The senate continued work today on the army reorganization bill under the rule limiting speeches to ten minutes each. This rule will be enforced until next Tuesday afternoon, when by agreement final action on all amendments and the bill itself is to be taken.

ASK KAISER FOR NEW PROMISES

Such Is Announced Plan of Wilson Administration in New Controversy

DEMAND TO BE MADE FOR SHOW OF FAITH

Evidence at Hand Indicates German Violations of Her Agreements

Washington, D. C., April 14.—It was indicated today that the next step in the submarine crisis, probably the sending to Germany of the cumulative evidence which the United States contends shows violations of Berlin's assurances, will be taken within the next forty-eight hours. Developments are expected to follow rapidly.

The evidence collected by Secretary Lansing was placed before the cabinet today. Affidavits on the Sussex case, which arrived on the steamer St. Paul were not before the cabinet but it was said that the evidence was so complete that they were not entirely necessary to the preparation of the case of the United States.

The president and the cabinet showed no disposition to let the Mexican situation postpone action on the submarine question.

The administration considers the German note possibly shows that a submarine attacked the Sussex.

The president and the cabinet are understood to have agreed that the presentation of the facts shall be accompanied by a definite and final demand for evidence of Germany's good faith and observance of her guarantees but probably will be accompanied by no time limit which properly could be described as an ultimatum.

EVIDENCE ARRIVES.

New York, April 14.—Guarded by Sir Charles Allom of the British foreign office the evidence in the Sussex case which has been gathered for the American state department arrived here on the American steamship St. Paul. It included affidavits of the survivors and was part of an exceptionally large amount of embassy mail, filling twenty big sacks. The affidavits are those gathered by attaches of the American embassies in Paris and London.

Among the St. Paul's 586 passengers was Edward H. Huxley of Englewood, N. J., president of the United States Rubber Export Co. of this city, who was a passenger on the Sussex, escaping uninjured. Mr. Huxley, after confirming previously cabled news dispatches regarding the attack on the vessel, stated positively that from the hour that the vessel left the British shore until the moment that she was attacked and for nine hours thereafter, not another vessel was sighted except the destroyer which came to the rescue.

Mr. Huxley made this assertion in connection with the text of Germany's note of April 10 to the state department citing an attack by a German submarine on an unarmed vessel in the vicinity of the Sussex at the hour when the latter met with mishap.

Mr. Huxley also said he was positive the Sussex carried no ammunition. The German note declared that a "violent explosion" on the ship which was torpedoed warranted "the certain conclusion that great amounts of munitions were aboard."

Mr. Huxley said a warrant officer who had talked with the captain of the Sussex declared that the captain had said he had seen the wake of a torpedo.

Mr. Huxley showed a letter which he said had been written by Capt. Thomas Carroll, French embarkation officer at Boulogne, France, in which Capt. Carroll said:

"I have just stepped take from the Sussex 'the body of a woman with a piece of German torpedo imbedded in her stomach.'"

It was understood that Mr. Huxley planned to visit Washington to confer with state department officials regarding the Sussex.

FRENCH GIVE FACTS.

Paris, April 14.—The American government is now in possession of the information obtained by the French government which led to the assertion that the steamship Sussex was torpedoed by a German submarine. Full details, even to the name of the commander and number of the submarine, have been communicated privately to the American government. This information is not made public because it is the desire of French officials to give Germany an opportunity to reply to the statement that the name of the commander and number of the submarine are known.

BRITONS TO FORCE LOWER RATES ON OCEAN FREIGHT

EFFORTS BEING MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT TO CUT DOWN COST OF SHIPPING.

London, April 3.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—Government action in the matter of reducing freight rates is apparent in most directions of the market and fears are entertained by those who at present are reaping a harvest in the sections hitherto untouched by government measures that their turn will soon come for a scaling downwards in quotations.

These lower rates apply only to British steamers as the authorities have no control over neutral tonnage; but some move is contemplated in order to bring neutrals into line by restricting insurance and bunkering facilities.

The requisitioning of German steamers by Portugal has already relieved the scarcity of tonnage somewhat and several of these boats are on voyage for the allies with much needed pit props.

Certain sections of the shipping world are optimistic regarding the Dardanelles being free for Russian shipments before the end of the year and discuss the possibility of laden steamers leaving Black sea ports for the Mediterranean and United Kingdom in August. No cargoes of grain have as yet been sold for shipment from that direction but it is considered significant that some of the biggest merchants on the Baltic are offering stocks of American, Australian and Argentine cereals rather freely.

CANADA OPENS U. S. MAIL

Censor Begins Persuing Letters Coming In For Delivery in the United States.

Seattle, Wash., April 14.—Postmaster Edgar Battle announced today that he would take up with the post office department at Washington protests that have been made against the censorship of American mail at Vancouver, B. C. The censorship on mail coming into the United States was established this week and every letter and parcel received here is marked "censored."

Mr. Battle said that official mail received yesterday had been opened by the censor. One of the censored letters was a communication from the United States consular service at Nanaimo, B. C. No notice of the Canadian government's intention to censor American mail was received here and the establishment of the censorship was not known until the censored mail began to arrive.

TODAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE—Resumed discussion of army reorganization bill. Sinal investigation continued.

HOUSE—Discussion of agricultural appropriation bill continued.

Disagreed to senate amendment of the house bill to repeal the free sugar clause of the tariff and sent the bill to conference.



Next Week

The "Better Foods" school opens at the Opera House. Miss Harriet H. Ellis, the famous domestic science expert and lecturer will address the ladies every afternoon at 2:30 and Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. A concert each afternoon from 2 to 2:30.

Under the auspices of The Ottumwa Courier

CLEAN UP WORK TO BE LAUNCHED

Meeting Scheduled For Next Monday Is Expected to Attract Many

WILL ORGANIZE FOR LOCAL IMPROVEMENT

Permanence Will Be Object in Starting Movement Here This Spring

Interest in the big clean up meeting to be held Monday evening in the rooms of the Commercial club is growing and all over the city a sentiment for the cleaner and prettier Ottumwa is cropping out. The attendance at the first mass meeting planned to further the movement this year is expected to be large for many people of both sexes and in all parts of the city are interested in the work.

The committee of twenty-one that did such effective work last year is just as active this spring and even more keen to do than a year ago. The members of this committee and all who participated in the organization effected by the clean up boosters last year feel that the experience of the first year has been a help and should make it easier now to accomplish the ends for which the movement was started.

Despite the fact that a full attendance of the committee was not present at the meeting held April 6, the interest was not in the least diminished. Many were unable for various reasons to be present at the first meeting but all are expected at the mass meeting Monday evening. The fact that the governor's proclamation sets Monday, April 24, as the official opening day of the clean up period, it is expected to have things moving in good shape here by that time.

Want Permanence.

Organization will be accomplished and the workers busy by the date of the opening of official clean up week. The expectation here, however, with many of the clean up boosters, is to make it not a week but a continuous clean up. Permanence is the idea that many of the workers in Ottumwa believe in and the meeting next Monday will see considerable sentiment for a permanent movement to clean up and keep clean.

Competition among people in a neighborhood will be encouraged and every section of the city entered in the contest for which prizes will be given for the best premises, if the plans of some of the boosters for cleaner Ottumwa prevail. The person taking pride in his or her own premises will see that the alley and street on which the home is located are tidy and in keeping with the premises.

The meeting of next Monday has been characterized by one enthusiast as the gathering of the enemies of dirt and disease. Cleanliness and sanitation applied to every home in the city and to the vacant lots, streets and alleys, the removal of tin cans, old papers, rags and other rubbish from yards, streets, alleys and also from the cellars, sheds, etc., where they are hidden away from sight, will be things discussed at the clean up meeting. The removal of disease breeding places and a general better toning of the city throughout, making it a nicer and healthier place to live; the encouraging of everyone to clean up the house, the yard, the barn, shed or garage, the lawn, parking, alley and street adjoining, etc., are all things that the clean up campaign to be launched in Ottumwa at the big meeting Monday night is to accomplish.

Every man and woman of Ottumwa is invited to attend the meeting or at least become interested in the movement by starting at home in clean up work. A big attendance Monday night will make possible a good start for the work this spring and a better prospect for the successful accomplishment of a cleaner and brighter Ottumwa this summer.

DEPUTY COLLECTORS WILL BE INDICTED

Washington, D. C., April 14.—The government's investigation at New York of charges of collusion between deputy internal revenue collectors and tobacco manufacturers and dealers recently arrested in the alleged \$20,000, 000 internal revenue frauds has reached a stage, officials here have been informed, where indictments charging conspiracy may be asked for against a number of deputy collectors. The investigation has spread, it is said, to Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and other cities.

BATTLE AROUND VERDUN FAILS TO CHANGE ASPECTS

LIVELY ENGAGEMENTS OCCUR, BUT MOST OF FIGHTING IS WITH THE BIG GUNS.

Paris, April 14.—West of the Meuse a violent bombardment was delivered by the Germans against the French lines to the west of hill 304, says the French official communication published this morning. Yesterday evening to the east of the Meuse a small attack was made on the French positions south of Douaumont but it was completely repulsed. There was a lively bombardment south of Haudremont. In the Woerwe district artillery duels took place.

The Germans have made several attempts to advance against the Russians in the Lake Narocz region but, according to Petrograd they have been repulsed.

On the Austro-Italian line bombardments continue and the Turks have made several powerful attacks on positions taken from them by the Russians in the Caucasus region but their attempts failed, according to the Russians.

Five more vessels have met disaster from contact with mines or submarines.

A semi-official dispatch from Berlin estimates the French losses around Verdun at 150,000.

BRITONS DEFEAT TURKS.

London, April 14.—Defeat of the Turkish forces in Mesopotamia by the British was reported officially. In an engagement on the Tigris the Turks were driven back from one and one-half to three miles.

The announcement of the British victory came at a time when the public was beginning to fear efforts to relieve the force of Gen. Townshend at Kut-el-Amara were doomed to failure, owing to the check suffered by the relieving army a few days ago and the difficulties brought about by floods.

Many military writers in England believed the floods had made the relief of Gen. Townshend almost an impossibility but today's official report shows that, instead of hindering the British, the high water has helped the forces of Lieut. Gen. Goringe in one of the most difficult tasks undertaken by the British army. Each mile the Turks are forced back makes the British operations easier for as they approach Kut-el-Amara the Turks are compelled to defend a wider front. In view of today's news, therefore, the prospect of rescuing the army at Kut-el-Amara is regarded as better than it has been for some time.

ANOTHER SHIP SUNK.

Queenstown, April 14.—Capt. Charleston and eleven men of the British steamship Inverlyon were landed today and reported that their vessel had been sunk by a submarine on Tuesday afternoon. One of the members of the crew who was rescued is an American, William Loss. Another boat from the Inverlyon, containing eleven men, is missing.

PRIMARY VOTES \$3 EACH

Figures Compiled at State Capital Show Approximate Expense of Recent Election.

Des Moines, April 14.—The presidential preference primary in Iowa April 10 cost the state approximately \$3 a vote, according to figures compiled today by the state librarian. The figures were based on the estimated returns from Monday's balloting and from returns in previous primaries.

JOHNSON TURNING TO REPUBLICANS

San Francisco, April 14.—"I wish you, within your party, an overwhelming success," said Gov. Hiram W. Johnson, progressive candidate for vice president four years ago, in an open letter here today to a group of candidates for election as delegates to the republican national convention designating themselves "united republicans."

On the official ballot these men appear simply as republicans. The governor says in his letter he will continue to be a progressive as long as that party lasts, "or until there shall be what every man who follows passing events looks forward to—joint action upon common ground of the progressive and republican parties at their national conventions in June. "I trust that every forward looking man or woman, not of that (republican) party in the past but expecting to affiliate with it in the immediate future, will vote with you in the ensuing presidential preference primary," was the concluding sentence of the letter.

DORAN SAYS HE ACTED ON HIS INSTRUCTIONS

Former Deputy Sheriff on Witness Stand Claims That He Was Taught

MADE UP RECORDS FROM CREMER'S LISTS

Identifies Extra Expense Charges as Being in Sheriff's Writing

Direct examination of Deputy Sheriff Doran was finished at 1:50 and cross examination was immediately begun by Attorney J. R. Jaques for the defense, who had the former show what notations were made in the books of the sheriff's office by others than the witness.

Charles E. Doran, formerly deputy sheriff of Wapello county, has been on the stand nearly all day today in the outer proceedings trial of Sheriff C. C. Cremer now in progress before Judge A. N. Hobson, special jurist.

Doran's testimony had to do principally with his work in the office and an explanation of how the books were kept. There were many returns in which he stated that he had added up the totals and charged them but that the additional expense items were in Sheriff Cremer's handwriting.

Doran Last Witness. Mr. Doran is the last witness for the state. He told the court that he began work for the sheriff on January 2, 1915, but that for three weeks prior to that time he worked in the office to acquaint himself with the work and that this was done at his own expense.

He testified that he was raised on a farm, spent three years as a railway fireman, and knew nothing about keeping books until he came into the sheriff's office. His work, he learned, was to keep the jail calendar, the criminal fee book, the civil fee book, the warrant book and the part of it devoted to the list of persons sent to the state institutions.

Mr. Doran said that he did not assist in the feeding of the prisoners in any way and that he got his information for the books, about when prisoners came in, from the sheriff or turkey key. If they were not there then often the deputy went to the police and justice court and got them himself.

Had No Share in Fees.

The deputy, when he first began to work was paid by the sheriff and for the first six months received \$33.33 1/3 a month. Then the law changed and he received a monthly salary of \$37.50 from the county. At no time did he share in the fees of the office, except for his actual expenses. These were paid by the sheriff and Doran maintained that he often did not get them.

His information, for the books, about the discharging of prisoners came from the sheriff, Mr. Doran stated. When a man's time was up he was marked "out" on the books, such were the sheriff's instructions, the witness declared. If the sheriff or turkey key were not there then Doran himself, turned them out but that was not often.

Calendar Was Informant.

The former deputy said that he received his information for compiling the quarterly statements from the jail calendar. He would often write them and the sheriff would read them off to him. This was done, Doran said, when the sheriff had time to do it. Again the deputy would write the items and the sheriff's son would read them and again the young man would write and the deputy read. As far as the witness knew the reports were aimed to be correct copies of the jail calendar; he said he knew of no overlapping charges from quarter to quarter.

He arrived at the number of lodgings to charge by the number of days, counting one for each day. He arrived at the number of meals to charge by the total number of meals on the jail calendar.

Information from the fee books and insane cases book was obtained from the warrants and the information on the warrants from the sheriff.

Told to Count Three.

Doran said that Cremer told him to count three meals a day for every prisoner in the jail. On three day prisoners he was instructed by the sheriff to turn them out after breakfast on the third day.

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