CORPUS CHRISTI CALLER
AND DAILY HERALD

By The
CALLER PUBLISHING COMPANY

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHN W. STAYTON, Managing Editor.

Subscription Rates—By Mail.

Daily and Sunday, one year	$5.00
One month	.50
Sunday only, one year	1.50

By Carrier.

In Corpus Christi and Kingsville

Daily and Sunday, one year	$7.20
Per week	.10

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CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT
Phone 58.

Address all business communications and make out all checks, drafts, money orders and express orders to The Caller Publishing Company. All items, articles and communications should be addressed to Editor, Corpus Christi Caller.

Entered as second-class matter at the Postoffice in Corpus Christi, Texas.

CIRCULATION BOOKS OPEN TO ADVERTISERS

Friday, March 24, 1916.

THOSE CONFLICTING REPORTS FROM EL PASO.

(Dallas News)

By reading one set of dispatches from El Paso one infers that Carranza is doing all that he can to aid us in capturing Villa. By reading another set, one infers that Carranza is doing about all that he can to aid Villa in escaping us. Between the lines of this last-named set there is even the suggestion that Carranza may call on Villa to aid him in expelling our troops.

Several things contribute to make these contradictions and this confusion. It is due partly to the censorship. The imagination guesses at that which the eye is not permitted to see clearly. It is due partly to the desire of interested parties to make trouble between the United States and the de facto government of Mexico. Their desire is, not that the punitive expedition should succeed, but that it should fail. Still another cause of these contradictions and this confusion is Carranza himself.

Carranza is hindering our operations, manifestly. His delay in responding to the request for the privilege of shipping supplies to our troops is one of the hindrances he has put in our way.

Carranza's noncommodating course is partly to be explained by the fact that his own situation is a delicate one. He faces domestic difficulties and dangers, an appreciation of which must urge a tempering of judgment with mercy. And partly, too, it is to be explained by the Mexican habit of deferring till tomorrow what ought to be done today. It is further explained by the fact that Carranza is a proud old pedant, who, himself a priest at the altar of precedent, is critical of the incense which he demands be burned as a testimony of his dignity. Now, as always, Carranza is more sensible of his rights than of his duties. The fact that he has given a post facto consent to the crossing of our troops, becomes, in the perverting alembic of his mind, a gracious favor the value of which, he suspects, we have not appreciated. The fact that we have been grievously injured by Villa, and the further fact that it was his own and his government's dereliction that enabled Villa to injure us—these highly pertinent and weighty facts seem to get no recognition in the myopic mind of this vainglorious old mulatto.

Never has a nation sought so sedulously to befriend and favor a people as we have the Mexicans. We have forborne greatly, endured much. We have shown even all the compassion and charity that the very strong owe to the very weak. Instead of the attitude which our sympathy and abnegation ought to inspire, it seems to have stimulated the arrogance of ignorance. The doubtful quantity of the whole equation is coming to be, not the susceptibilities of the Mexicans, but the patience of the people of this country. Is it capable of withstanding the provocations which the Mexicans are capable of submitting it to?

ABOLISH THE FEE SYSTEM.

(Fort Worth Record)

There is another campaign on. There is another legislature coming. Senators and representatives will be nominated in July to be elected in November. Texas has a fee system. Taxpayers have been protesting against it for fifty years. The people are the masters. They name the lawmakers. They should instruct the lawmakers. Why shouldn't the fee system be abolished, root and branch? Why shouldn't the property owners of the state interest themselves? Why should they growl year in and year out when they are the masters and make the servants? This editorial from the Houston Post is to the point:

"The constantly arising controversies touching official fees are bound to be embarrassing to officials. Every year, it seems, there are differences between the auditor and some of the county officials. In some cases, officials have been compelled to return sums of money alleged to have been collected or retained in excess of the allowances of the law.

"No one believes that any of these public servants would intentionally exact more than they are entitled to, but the law is construed differently by different people.

"The one remedy for these fee quarrels is to abolish forever the infamous fee systems and pay each official and employe a specific salary and provide by specific declaration that he is to receive no more, no less.

"The people have been demanding the abolition of the fee system for many years, but efforts to abolish it are defeated in the legislature through the efforts of those who are beneficiaries of the system, a circumstance which suggests that those who are honored with public station consider that the offices are created primarily for the benefit of the people who hold them instead of for the benefit of the people who pay the expenses of government.

"It has been pointed out many times that the existence of the fee system of official compensation is productive of many evils. It obstructs the processes of justice. We still have with us the old scandal of the fine of 'one dollar and costs,' which means one dollar for the public treasury and anywhere from a dozen to forty dollars of swag for the diligent officers. This system means that men are punished not to avenge the outraged law, but to fatten the pockets of thirty officials.

"All citizens who favor clean administration, specific compensation and economy ought to demand of the legislature that the fee system be entirely obliterated. It is no longer justified and it serves no good public purpose. Let each official who serves the public be paid his salary out of the public treasury in a systematic way, and then stopp fee-grabbing and all the evils it introduces into our government."

Voters should begin at home. Tarrant county voters are interested. When the time comes they should be sure others in their senator and representatives. There should be no mistake made. The fee system is a relic of barbarism and it should be abolished.

Handicapping Expeditionary Force.

Washington dispatches tell of the discussion among Mexican and American officials of a proposed new agreement for a joint pursuit of Villa by American and Mexican troops. It can be to effect is so the Mexican minister of the interior says, a new authorization is necessary. Otherwise, the American troops will respect as after be authorized to go Mexico without for one captured Villa. Villa is at home in the wilds of northern Mexico, while the American troops are unfamiliar with any section of the country in which they may find themselves. Therefore, it might be comparatively an easy matter for Villa to elude his American pursuers. And the agreement sets forth that once the trail is lost the chase of necessity must stop dead. Of course it is hoped by the most ardent and active spirit that a technical excuse will mention the American troops out of Mexico. But nevertheless this Carranzista has the nerve boldness to announce that such an invasion would be without the pale of possibility. In fact, for all we know, the expeditionary force may be off the trail now. Though it is no short that the American troops are against the south Chihuahua they may know.

To further handicap the American troops, they have been ordered specifically not to accept Carranza treachery or any other excuse or ruse to Mexico. Knowing the popularity of Villa in some of the towns and cities in northern Mexico, why couldn't he seek refuge in one of them? The whole trouble seems to lie in the overwhelming confidence of the American government in the de facto government of Mexico. The American expeditionary force was sent into Mexico to capture Villa, dead or alive. The de facto government had previously devoted months to a fruitless search for him, or one having promised to do so, assumed in their promise. So why hamper the American troopers with such unalloyed confidence in the de facto government troops? Either they are unable to find Villa or the they don't want to find him. Here along the border there is doubt of their extremity.

Really, the American troops should not be expected to endure red tape for the mission which they have been ordered to perform to perhaps enough at last. Give 'em a chance. If let alone they'll capture Villa, dead or alive, but if the American government continues handicapping them in every way possible there is likelihood of failure. Certainly the de facto government isn't going to succeed, anything which will facilitate their work, yet such cooperation which Don Venustiano now makes is accepted immediately by the American government. It's most unfortunate that the American troops can't get all communication with Washington.—El Paso Times.

Candidate for Pacifists.

"If the pacifists are looking for a presidential candidate," observes the Rocky Mountain News, "we commend to their prayerful thought Mr. Allan Benson, who has just been nominated by the socialists in a party referendum."

Mr. Benson is a thoroughgoing Socialist.

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[illegible]

EAT LESS AND TAKE SALTS FOR KIDNEYS

TAKE A GLASS OF SALTS IF YOUR BACK HURTS OR BLADDER BOTHERS

[illegible]

The Hatred of Publicity.

[illegible]

Yet the Irish Do Not Love War.

[illegible]

Couldn't Help But Answer Right.

[illegible]

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Get a 25 cent box of "Tiz" now from any druggist or department store. Find foot relief forever—wear smaller shoes, keep your feet fresh, sweet and happy. Just think! a whole year's foot comfort for only 25 cents.—Advertisement.

Caller to Give Complete Report of Willard-Moran Fight Saturday Night

The Caller has completed arrangements for giving the complete Associated Press, round-by-round, report of the Willard-Moran championship fight, to be staged in New York next Saturday night. The report will be received at The Caller office by an experienced and fast operator of the Western Union and the complete bulletins will be megaphoned to the crowd in front of The Caller office.

The service will be the very best that money can buy and sent out by the best sporting writers in the employ of the world's greatest news-gathering agency, The Associated Press. And the Western Union has promised the best wire service. The complete story will be published in the Sunday's editions of The Caller.

The fight will start promptly at 8:30 o'clock Saturday night and within two minutes bulletins will be megaphoned from The Caller office.

WEATHER SUMMARY

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE—WEATHER BUREAU.

[illegible]

Amusements

"What Will People Say?"

The next Melo attraction at the Amusu Theatre will be Miss Petrova, the popular stage and screen star, in "What Will People Say?" a five part Melio on which the picture is based, was written by Rupert Hughes, one of America's foremost playwrights and novelists, and is especially fitted for the gifted emotional actress who is starred. Miss Petrova is surrounded by a strong supporting cast in "What Will People Say?" including Pitts de Lint, Frankie Frankhots, Charles Dunnigan, John Dudley, William Morse, Jean Thomas, Eleanore Sutter and other prominent stage and screen artists. The production is mounted on an elaborate scale, in keeping with the standard of Metro photo-plays.

Philip Borden, a young millionaire owner of a great steel foundry, attends a musical comedy performance and falls in love with Miss Fern Fern, the star. In private life she is Fern Hardy, foster child of a man who proves to be a crim-

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Member of Board of Lectureship of The Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Mass.

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Friday, March 24, 1916
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