

GEN. CARRANZA LOSING GRIP ON MEXICO POWER

Mexicans Fire on American Aeroplane, Advance Column In Danger of Sudden Attack

Carranza Officials Profess to be Losing Control Over Troops and Population—Expect Early Removal of U. S. Troops.

First Chief's Hold on Reins of Government is Slipping and New Revolt is Imminent.

FORCED TO FLEE FROM CAPITAL TO SAVE LIFE

Evidence of Weakening Complicates Situation Now Confronting U. S. War and State Departments.

International News Service: EL PASO, Texas, April 21.—Andreas Garcia, Mexican consul here, today received a dispatch from the de facto government's information bureau at Mexico City containing an interview with Minister of War Obregon, in which he states that he expects confirmation of Villa's death at any moment.

International News Service: EL PASO, Texas, April 21.—Venustiano Carranza's power in Mexico is tottering, and his downfall is regarded only as a matter of time. This news reached the border today from "reliable sources. The military branch of the Mexican government is retaining the ascendancy and only Gen. Pablo Gonzales, the commander at Mexico City, remains loyal to the first chief.

The anti-Carranza faction of the de facto government, headed by Gen. Alvaro Obregon and Gen. Candido Aguilar, respectively ministers of war and foreign affairs, is dictating every move now made by Mexico. The American campaign in Mexico brought the long smoldering animosity against Carranza to a head. Carranza made no protest against the entry of American soldiers into Mexico and his foes took this opportunity to satisfy their demand for the recall of the United States troops followed.

Forced to Flee. Carranza was forced to leave Queretaro and go to Mexico City to save his life. Instead of making a triumphant journey from Queretaro to the capital, Carranza was fleeing for his own safety. The international crisis developed in this manner: Carranza sought to have executed Gen. Lucio Blanco, Panfilo Natera, Carrera Torres and two others because of the fear that they would be released from custody after being arrested on charges of treason and lead troops against him. The execution order he issued was rejected by the commander of the Queretaro garrison.

Carranza then ordered the munitions commander punished, but soldiers and citizens in Queretaro protested violently and threatened to revolt if the order were carried out. Carranza was threatened with death if he persisted.

Gen. Gonzalez notified by Carranza of the threatened mutiny, hurried to Queretaro. With an escort of 100 soldiers Carranza was hurriedly taken to Mexico City.

Gen. Blanco, particular object of Carranza's wrath, was minister of the interior in the Gutierrez conventional cabinet. He revolted against Carranza, but later surrendered on offers of amnesty. Carranza had him tried. He was sentenced to death, but was saved by the personal plea of Maj. Gen. Hugh Scott of the United States army.

COMPLICATES SITUATION. International News Service: WASHINGTON, April 21.—Cumulative evidence of the impending collapse of the Carranza de facto government today complicated the already tangled skein of American-Mexican relations. The feeling openly expressed in official circles that the dispatch of Gen. Scott, chief of staff of the army, to San Antonio, Texas, to confer with Gen. Thomas on the future of the American punitive expedition, was a forerunner of the withdrawal of the United States troops, began to give way to a belief that the forces could not be withdrawn at this time.

Sec'y Lansing has repeatedly said that the United States was ready to comply with Carranza's none too courteous demands to treat concerning American withdrawal. While the administration, in the view of many observers, was watching to observe whether conditions were shaping themselves to justify the withdrawal of the American soldiers, incident has followed incident to indicate that Carranza gradually is losing his grip on affairs. The view prevails that the American forces hardly can be withdrawn in the face of Carranza's helplessness.

Assert Independence. Officials have said that the American troops would be recalled as soon as Carranza could master the situation, but there is hardly a state in all Mexico where Carranza's authority is supreme.

Investigation of conditions here shows that Mexican citizens and Mexican troops stand on a common ground as regards the American troops both as regards the expedition which entered Mexico to capture Francisco Villa must return to its own country. Carranza officials have spread the information that the withdrawal of the United States forces may be expected hourly. As a result American citizens are preparing to abandon their interests in the Chihuahua district and leave with the troops.

Forse Return of Chaos. They forse after the departure of the American troops a Mexico once more plunged into a chaos of official plunder and haphazard government without precedent even in this country of revolution and outlaws. Already there are complaints that the Carranza government has unlawfully seized property. American citizens in this district consider that German influence is playing a great part in the direction of Mexican affairs and it is even intimated that the diplomatic differences of the United States and Germany will be used as an excuse for lifting the American expedition back across the border. English residents of Mexico already have banded into a chartered organization to fight back the German influence, but confess that it has been a losing fight.

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By Wallace E. Smith.

CHIHUAHUA CITY, Mexico, April 21, (By courier to El Paso, Texas).—Mexican troops in Chihuahua city fled upon an American aeroplane that flew over the town Wednesday morning. The shots failed to hit the machine, which was too high in the air to be damaged.

Within the last 72 hours a group of American correspondents who came here from the border to run down the apparently inspired reports of the death of Francisco Villa, have been stoned by natives of three different sections. One incident of this kind happened when the Americans were being personally escorted by Carranzista officers.

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The opinions of the Americans and other foreigners in this district are not the opinions of alarmists or radicals. They are the opinions of men of affairs, representing great industries or officially powerful. Coinciding with their affairs are the views of Mexican army officers and government authorities. More than a score of representative men were interviewed by the correspondent of the International News Service. Added to this was the personal observations of conditions.

The International News Service is now able to give to the American people for the first time since the Columbus massacre a first hand report of conditions in this throbbing heart of the American-Mexican situation. The trip by his correspondent was made after the Mexican consul at El Paso had issued a warning that such a journey must be taken at the risk of the correspondent. The Mexican government refused to be responsible.

Mexican officers admit freely that they fear that their need commanders will be unable much longer to keep in control the Carranza soldiers and under officers. This, too, may be part of the inspired campaign. Official newspapers of the Carranzistas print many tales of Carranza's helplessness.

The entire outcome of the Amer-

ican expedition may be decided on the Parral incident. Each hour the situation at Parral becomes more tense. The American advance is at Santa Cruz La Viga, a short distance from Parral. Gen. Luis Gutierrez, commander at Chihuahua, has announced that he has ordered the American troops to advance no further.

Gen. Luis Herrera, the "Gringo biter" is in command at Parral. His father is mayor. His brother-in-law was wounded in the Parral fight. Carranza troops are being rushed to his command. Today a fresh band of them arrived from the north. They are preparing for the crisis.

Americans Preparing. The American advance also is acting ready for any turn of fortune. It was reported here today that 2,500 were being rushed to the front. At present both sides are making time watching and waiting and ready to shoot.

American commanders have been refused the use of telegraph lines since April 15, and American airmail has been forbidden to land in Mexican towns. This order followed the demonstration when the first American plane landed with Capt. Foulis at the wheel. He was

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FRENCH GAIN ON BOTH SIDES OF MEUSE RIVER

Attack at Le Mort Homme and Caurettes Wood Nets 154 Prisoners as Well as Trenches.

TEUTONS ARE EXPECTED IN TERRIFIC NIGHT ATTACK

Kaiser's Men Make Brave Assault But Are Driven Back. French Praise Russian Soldiers.

International News Service: PARIS, April 21.—French troops in their general offensive against the Germans at Verdun have gained ground on both sides of the Meuse river. The communiques states that an attack yesterday at Le Mort Homme and Caurettes wood. The French captured trenches and also took 154 prisoners. On the east bank of the Meuse the French troops also gained ground, advancing into Hautmont wood.

The Germans were also active yesterday. Following a terrific bombardment on the Hautmont-Vaux front the Kaiser's troops launched a furious attack which enabled them to capture a few trenches near the Douaumont pond. The French made their answer to this attack under cover of darkness and in a night assault completely ejected the Germans from the positions which they had captured.

There is combined rejoicing today in France over the gains at Verdun and the arrival of Russian soldiers to fight on the western front. There had been considerable impatience over Gen. Joffre's failure to strike back at the Germans, but he was apparently awaiting the moment when the fury of the "Teutons" offensive should weaken. This seems to have come. The French troops accordingly are striking and striking hard.

Praise Russian Army. The Paris newspapers are filled with praise for the Russian army, that has landed at Marseilles. The correspondents sent to witness the official ceremonies attending the disembarkation declare the Slav soldiers to be the embodiment of all things military.

It is expected that Gen. Lech-welsky, the commander of the Russian army, will come to Paris to pay his respects to President Poincare. The text of the official communique follows:

"On the west bank of the Meuse the attack launched yesterday by our troops in the region of Le Mort Homme made further progress during the night. We captured a trench on the north edge of Caurettes wood. We took four officers and 150 soldiers prisoners.

"On the east bank of the Meuse a violent bombardment of our positions was followed in the evening by a powerful attack on the part of the enemy along a front of two kilometers (1.2 miles), between Thiaucourt farm and Vaux pond. The Germans, who had succeeded in gaining a foothold in our lines south of Fort Douaumont and north of the pool, were completely rolled back by a counter attack made by us in the night.

ASKS CHANGE IN IMMIGRATION BILL

Japanese Ambassador Protests Against Phraseology of Burnett Measure.

International News Service: WASHINGTON, April 21.—Pres't Wilson was asked today by Viscount Suteki Chinda, the Japanese ambassador, to have the phraseology of the Burnett immigration bill, now before the senate immigration committee, changed so that the apparent coupling of the Japanese people with those of Hindoo nationality would be eliminated. The ambassador had talked the matter over with Sec'y Lansing and, at the request of the latter, asked the president today to take the matter up with Sen. Smith of South Carolina, chairman of the committee. The president is expected to ask that the bill be changed to carry the language agreed upon in this connection two years ago when a similar proposition came up.

It is understood that the Japanese ambassador called the president's attention to the fact that the Japanese government had agreed to restrict coolie immigration to the United States at the time of the original California immigration dispute and protested now that to write a provision of this character into the bill would be an implied reflection upon the good faith of the Japanese nation. And the apparent inclusion of all of the Japanese people with the Hindoo class, the ambassador explained, would be a serious affront to the Japanese.

U. S. SECRETS LEAK THROUGH PHONES

Government Puts Strict Ban on Official Conversation Over Wires.

International News Service: WASHINGTON, April 21.—A system of espionage that would do credit to an absolute monarchy exists in Washington. It is maintained by several agencies, mostly representatives of foreign governments. As a result government secrets, some of them of extreme importance, have in the past few months found their way into the possession of outsiders who have used them to embarrass the United States. This has been especially so in cases of international moment. Plans for future action affecting both Europe and Mexico have leaked out in such a manner that carefully laid plans, sometimes having taken months to perfect, have had to be changed at the last moment.

So serious was the situation that three of the governmental departments affected united in an investigation. The reports covering the results now are before the chiefs of the departments. They show that practically every leak is directly blameable on government officials themselves. Washington officials are notorious for talking over the telephone to any one who will listen. Today, however, most of them have received a quiet but peremptory tip to quit that method of discussing any matters that effect government policies.

Leaks Through Phone Systems. In the large residences of nearly all Washington officials there are telephone systems with as many as a dozen branches. Servants or others in the houses have overheard conversations of cabinet officials, army and navy chiefs, and other high officials by "cutting in" on these branches. This information has industriously been "peddled" some times to half a dozen sources. And it has not always been accurately reported, one instance recently having occurred where a reported communication from an American ambassador was distorted into a proposition entirely foreign from what was intended.

PROGRESS of the War

International News Service: SALONIKI, April 21.—German troops have blown up 10 bridges on the railway connecting Dobrovoza, Dolran and Gjevghel, near the Gracoo-Serb frontier. The purpose of this destruction was apparently to hamper the Anglo-French forces when they begin their drive into Serbia.

On the night of April 17 French aviators bombarded German encampments at Netzari and Bogordortza. The next day the same aerial squadron dropped bombs on the barracks at Gjevghel and on April 19 the aviators bombarded the aerodrome at Nagarci, the camps at Padagessi and the railway station at Strumitza. Considerable damage was inflicted, as many of the bombs were seen to hit the mark aimed at. The aviators were fired upon many times, but escaped unharmd.

International News Service: CONSTANTINOPLE, April 21.—(Via London). It is officially announced today that four Greeks arrested as spies in Turkey had been convicted and executed.

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International News Service: BATTLE CREEK, Mich., April 21.—If one-half the effort had been made to locate and arrest John H. Quilhot, many of many wives, vice sleuth, and fugitive from justice, that has been made to make certain of his escape, he would have been in the toils of the law long ago, this according to parties close to Quilhot here that have been drawn into the Young vs. Young divorce suit on trial in the circuit court. It is even laid quite bare that officers from South Bend, Ind., sent to Michigan to arrest Quilhot, who has been indicted by the St. Joseph grand jury for larceny and fraud, had to be careful to keep from running into the vice investigator, even if they did not actually run into him.

The scene of one such performance is set in Jackson, Mich., about the middle of last December, and another is located in Ann Arbor, with still another in Ypsilanti. "The South Bend city administration, including the mayor, the board of safety, and the police department, do not want Quilhot arrested and brought back here," is the opinion of one party who has been close to Quilhot—previous to his indictment—for a number of years. "If brought back to that city," it is asserted, "Quilhot might tell some things that would not be altogether complimentary to the administration and certain of the forces that are backing it."

Keller Meets Quilhot. The following tangible evidence of Mayor Keller's interest in Quilhot has come to light in the nature of a note sent by the mayor to Quilhot, the latter then master of "Mystery House" here, the mayor being a guest at the Battle Creek Sanitarium on the date mentioned. "The following tangible evidence of Mayor Keller's interest in Quilhot has come to light in the nature of a note sent by the mayor to Quilhot, the latter then master of "Mystery House" here, the mayor being a guest at the Battle Creek Sanitarium on the date mentioned.

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SAY OFFICERS AFTER QUILHOT DODGED QUARRY

Men Sent From South Bend to Arrest Vice Sleuth Were "Careful Not to Run Into Him."

FEAR HIS DISCLOSURES MIGHT HIT MAYOR

Note Indicates Keller Sought Interview With the Master of the "House of Mystery."

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LATEST in the News World

KILLED BY TORNADO. International News Service: NEW ORLEANS, La., April 21.—One woman was killed and another injured in a tornado near Mobile, Ala., early today and great damage was done in other sections of the south adjacent to the middle gulf coast.

Near Dubuys, Miss., the storm wrecked a dozen houses, injuring a number of people, and sank two small boats.

DROP QUAKER OATS SUIT. International News Service: CHICAGO, April 21.—After hearing two days of argument the United States circuit court of appeals today decided that the government has no case against the Quaker Oats Co., against which it had brought action under the Sherman anti-trust law.

The court sat as a district court in the case. Justice Alschuler dissented from the opinion.

GOES TO PHILADELPHIA. International News Service: WASHINGTON, April 21.—The Pres't and Mrs. Wilson departed for Philadelphia shortly after noon today. They expect to visit a few hours with Mr. and Mrs. Francis B. Sayre, the president's son-in-law and daughter, returning here tonight.

SEEK TO HOLD UP PAVING CONTRACT

Suit Alleges More Residents Want Brick Than Asphalt on Michigan St.

Suit to restrain the board of public works from entering into a contract with the Western Construction Co. for the paving of Michigan st., from LaSalle av. to South st., with asphalt was to be instituted this afternoon in circuit court. The suit is based on the contention that the board of works arbitrarily dictated that the improvement should be of asphalt when there were a majority of the free holders on the street in favor of the brick pavement.

The contract was awarded last Wednesday to the Western Construction Co. at a cost of \$45,383.20. The contract was to have been made tonight and an agreement drawn up and signed by the board members and representatives of the paving Co. By the filing of the suit this afternoon, and service on the members of the board with a notice that the suit had been filed, the works board is enjoined from entering into the contract until the matter has been heard by court.

The petition for a temporary restraining order is based on the contention that the board of works violated the statute which provides that a majority of the property owners shall dictate the kind of pavement with which the street is to be improved.

The suit is headed by George Kernner and others and they allege that the works board disregarded the petitions for brick filed by a majority of the free holders and awarded the contract for asphalt improvement in the face of these petitions. The injunction suit was filed by Ore and Geyer, attorneys for the plaintiffs.

Far-Reaching Result. In this connection it is learned that the United States has made its plain in an informal manner that if Germany accepts the viewpoint of the United States, thus removing the only real international cause of friction between the two nations, the result must be far-reaching. It will enable the United States to devote all of its time to disputes with the contented allies, settlement of which must inevitably benefit Germany. It also will enable the United States to aid Germany "along humanitarian lines" when the peace conference are held. It specifically is denied that there has been any formal communication between the two governments along this line. The suggestions have been conveyed in a distinctly informal and unofficial manner, but they are expected to have their effect when the final German decision is framed. There is hardly a single official in Washington who does not realize the friendly feeling the German emperor personally entertains for the United States, and this fact is certain to be a determining factor when the question is disposed of, after all, the Kaiser will have the final say.

Although officials had hoped to receive an answer this week, it was admitted today that it hardly will be possible. The German imperial chancellor has gone to the front to take the matter up with the Kaiser, the Berlin dispatches say, and he is not expected to return to Berlin before the first of the week. Meanwhile official expect that German U-boat commanders will be instructed not to take any action which would force the hand of the United States until a final decision is reached on the course of action to be followed.

Action in Congress. It has definitely been decided that there shall be no attempt at this time to pass through congress any legislation in any way dealing with the existing situation. Suggestions made by friends of the administration that a resolution should be adopted endorsing the stand of the president have been turned down by the leaders. To do so, they say, would open the way for an unwelcome debate that might have far-reaching serious consequences.

There is a strong undercurrent of opposition to the action the president took, particularly from certain southern senators and representatives and the leaders, who have been hard put to it to prevent their openly airing their views at this time.

Count von Bernstorff, German ambassador, left the city early today. Officials at the embassy refused to disclose his whereabouts, but it was generally believed that he has gone to New York. He is not expected back in the city before Monday.

White House and State Department Both Evidence Hope That Nations May Reach Agreement.

WOULD GIVE MORE TIME TO ALLIES' BREACHES

Settlement of Submarine Controversy Would Open Way to Press Protests to Entente.

International News Service: WASHINGTON, April 21.—Anxiously awaiting Germany's final word on the American demand that present methods of submarine warfare against merchant shipping be abandoned, officialdom today gradually was losing its initial feeling of intense pessimism. There was no evidence at both the white house and the state department, as well as in congress, a spirit of hopefulness that the two great nations yet would be able to reconcile their differences.

This feeling grows out of the realization that if Germany will announce that she has abandoned present methods of retaliation, Pres't Wilson will agree without question to debate how submarines may lawfully be used. In fact, Sec'y of State Lansing has already announced that retaliation by Germany that in the future she will apply to the operations of all her submarines, the limitations which Count von Bernstorff on Jan. 7 told the state department had been made applicable to Mediterranean shipping, will satisfy this government. Germany must, however, specifically announce the abandonment of present methods in the Anglo-French war zone. The Mediterranean restrictions adopted the doctrine of visitation and search and state that merchant shipping shall not be attacked without adequate warning, and provisions made for the safety of all on board, unless such shipping shall resist. This agreement covers freighters as well as passenger liners.

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THESE MEN HOLD NATION'S DESTINY It is Within Their Power to Decide Whether it is Peace or War Between United States and Germany



Chairman Flood of the House Foreign Relations Committee. Count Johann von Bernstorff, German Ambassador to United States. Pres't Woodrow Wilson Who Appeared Before Congress on Nation's Stand in Submarine Controversy. Sec'y of State Lansing. James W. Coward, American Ambassador to Germany.

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