

# The Caldwell Watchman

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## CARRANZA REPLY RECEIVED; MAKES GOOD IMPRESSION

WASHINGTON PREFERS DIRECT  
NEGOTIATIONS TO MEDIATION  
—MEXICAN NOTE FRIENDLY.

### SECY LANSING IS SATISFIED

Plans For Border Cantonments Urged  
in Carranzas Reply—Mexicans  
Suggest Guard on Each Side  
of the Border.

Washington.—Early resumption of friendly diplomatic conversations with the de facto government of Mexico to the end that peace and order may be restored in northern Mexico and along the border is expected here to be the next step of the United States in its relations with its southern neighbor.

The crisis precipitated by Villa's raid on Columbus, N. M., and culminating in the fight at Carrizal between American and Mexican troops appeared to have been dissipated by an amicable note from Gen. Carranza presented by his ambassador designate here, Eliseo Arredondo.

The note proposes that the differences between the governments be settled by mediation or by direct negotiations. It is remarkable for its brevity its restrained and friendly tone and for the absolute lack of any of the strong, even insolent language which characterized the last two communications from the de facto government. It treats as a closed incident the exchange of unfriendly communications which brought war almost within sight.

No formal comment on the note was obtainable from State Department officials. A copy was forwarded to the White House immediately upon its receipt and President Wilson will determine the course to be pursued. The fact that Secretary Lansing completed preparations for a month's vacation is regarded as significant, however, of a feeling on his part that the crises is over.

### Two Problems Are Presented.

The text of the note follows:

Washington, D. C.  
"Mr. Secretary—I have the honor to transmit in continuation the text of a note I have just received from my government with instructions to present it to your excellency:

"Mr. Secretary—Referring to the notes of June 20 and 25, last, I have the honor to say to your excellency that the immediate release of the Carrizal prisoners was a further proof of the sincerity of the desires of this government to reach a pacific and satisfactory arrangement of present difficulties. This government is anxious to solve the present conflict and it would be unjust if its attitude were misinterpreted.

"It was also the Mexican government that earnestly suggested a plan for cantonments along the boundary line during the conferences of Ciudad Juarez and El Paso. This government is disposed now, as it has always been, to seek an immediate solution to the two points which constitute the true causes of the conflict between the two countries, to wit: The American government believes reasonably that the insecurity of its frontier is a source of difficulty and the Mexican government on its part believes that the stay of American troops on Mexican territory, aside from being a trespass on the sovereignty of Mexico, is the immediate cause of the conflicts. Therefore, the withdrawal of American troops, on the one hand, and the protection of the frontier, on the other, are the two essential problems, the solution of which must be the directing object of the efforts of both governments.

### Would Prevent Border Incidents.

"The Mexican government is willing to consider in a quick and practical way and prompted by a spirit of concern the remedies which should be applied to the present situation.

"Several Latin-American countries have offered their friendly mediation to the Mexican government, and the latter has accepted it in principle. Therefore, the Mexican government only awaits information that the government of the United States would be disposed to accept this mediation for the purpose mentioned above, or whether it is still of the belief that the same results may be attained by means of direct negotiations between both governments.

"In the meantime, this government proposes to employ all efforts that

## VENUSTIANO CARRANZA



Head of the De Facto Government of Mexico.

may be at its disposal to avoid the recurrence of new incidents which may complicate and aggravate the situation. At the same time it hopes that the American government on its part may make use of all efforts to prevent also new acts of its military and civil authorities on the frontier that might cause new complications.

"I avail myself of this opportunity to reiterate to your excellency the assurance of my most distinguished consideration.

"(Signed) C. AGUILAR"  
"Having thus complied with higher instructions of my government, it affords me pleasure to reiterate to your excellency the assurance of my highest consideration.

"(Signed) E. ARREDONDO."

### Direct Negotiations Preferred.

As a matter of general principle the Washington government already favored mediation of any dispute suitable for such procedure. There is every indication, however, that in the present instance it will be deemed desirable to conduct forthcoming negotiations directly with the Carranza government.

Members of the Latin-American diplomatic corps here are expected to make inquiry soon as to the attitude of the Washington government, in view of the statement of the Mexican foreign office that it awaits only a decision here as to whether mediation or direct negotiations would be preferable. Indications were that the inquiries would be met with assurances that the two governments had reached the stage where they would not find it necessary to call upon the friendly services of their neighbor states.

It is not known whether a formal reply to Gen. Carranza's note is contemplated. Diplomatic usage does not call for one, any more officials feel that more can be accomplished through informal discussion between Mr. Arredondo and Counselor Polk, who will act as secretary in Mr. Lansing's absence, than could be hoped for in any other way. It is understood Mr. Arredondo plans to call at the department to say good-by to Secretary Lansing before the latter's departure for his vacation. Probably the preliminary steps necessary for the inauguration of the informal discussion will be taken then.

### Willing to Withdraw Troops.

State Department officials appeared entirely satisfied with the definition of the matters to be settled outlined in the new Mexican note. It is presented in this language, as translated at the embassy.

"The American government believes, reasonably, that the insecurity of its frontier is a source of difficulty, and the Mexican government on its part believes that the stay of American troops on Mexican territory, aside from being a trespass on the sovereignty of Mexico, is the immediate cause of the conflicts. Therefore, the withdrawal of American troops, on the one hand, and the protection of the frontier, on the other, are the two essential problems, the solution of which must be the directing object of the efforts of both governments."

Coupled with this definition is an outline of a sort of military status quo beyond the border which the de facto government suggests as a substitute for its previous demands for immediate withdrawal of the American troops. It is stated as follows:

"In the meantime," (pending mediation or direct negotiation) "this government proposes to employ all efforts that may be at its disposal to avoid recurrence of new incidents which may complicate and aggravate the situation. At the same time it hopes that the American government on its part may make use of all ef-

orts to prevent also new acts of its military and civil authorities on the frontier that might cause new complications."

While the object of the negotiations is thus clearly outlined and appears acceptable to the State Department, the subjects to be considered specifically will have to be arranged later. President Wilson has made it clear time and again that gradual withdrawal of the expeditionary force would be ordered once he was assured that Carranza forces would be employed actively in breaking up bandit preparations for new raids. It has been noted already that the Mexican troops have occupied and policed the territory relinquished by Gen. Pershing as he drew his men northward. Army officers believe that this, taken in connection with the new assurances given in the note, may lead to complete withdrawal of the force as rapidly as possible without endangering the border.

### Guards on Both Sides.

In effect the latest note proposes that the clock be turned back to the time immediately following the Columbus raid, and when negotiations were afoot for the passage of American troops into Mexico in pursuit of the raiders. Conditions have changed since then, however, Gen. Carranza having assembled a considerable army in Northern Mexico and the United States having called the entire national guard to the line for patrol duty. It is regarded as improbable that any plan for American pursuit of bandits, except possibly within limited areas where a hot trail is followed and no Carranza troops are available, will be discussed in the new negotiations.

A plan for "border cantonments," to which reference is made in the note, was proposed by Gen. Obregon at his conference in El Paso with Maj-Gen. Scott, chief of staff of the army. Gen. Scott would not consider it then because it was founded on the stipulation that Gen. Pershing's column would be withdrawn immediately. That stipulation in effect now is revoked and unquestionably American officials now will give the plan serious consideration.

Gen. Obregon proposed that necessary intervals along the border, camps of Mexican and American troops be established opposite each other on their respective sides of the line. Information as to bandit movements would be interchanged by the camp commanders and military operations against the raiders being conducted jointly, although each force would remain within its own territory.

With 100,000 or more national guardsmen at the border it would be possible to establish the American camp in a way to make it practically impossible for raiders to escape if real co-operation were given by the Mexicans.

### Movement of Troops Continues.

The mobilization of the guard continued at full speed. It is certain there will be no immediate alteration in the War Department plans. Probably a reduction of the border forces would be ordered only after some cooperative plan of action had been agreed upon with the Mexican government and had been tried sufficiently to leave no doubt as to its practicability. In other words, a demonstration of the ability of the Carranza forces to carry out their part of the bargain would be required. Whether such a demonstration must precede withdrawal of Gen. Pershing's forces is not so clear.

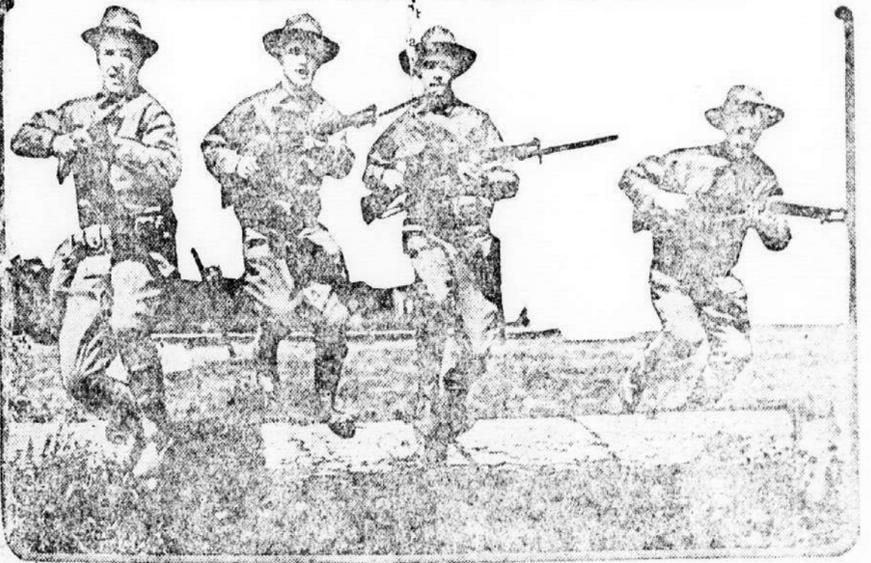
Officials believe that the call for the national guard and the actual despatch of the troops to the border was the impelling influence which induced Gen. Carranza to abandon the hostile attitude taken in his previous notes. They say the United States holds a strong argument in favor of peaceful solution of border difficulties as long as it maintains an army near the line, and there seems little probability that it will be withdrawn until all danger has passed.

Unquestionably, if no new bandit outbreaks occur, the national guardsmen will be gradually sent back to their homes. It originally was planned that only a part of the force be used on the border, the remainder being sent later to relieve regiments which had put in the required time at active service. It is possible that scheme will be followed later.

### "Same Old Bull."

"I've been reading a lot of Assyrian history in my 'Library of the World's Knowledge in Sixteen Volumes,'" says the man who is devoting one hour each evening to acquiring information and culture. "What especially interests me is the fact that almost all the pictures of the walls have big carvings of bulls on them. Seems to me as if the ancient Syrians couldn't look in any direction without seeing a bull. Wonder why they had them?" "Oh," yawns the man who knows everything, "they serve the same purpose as the political posters we paste on our walls. Same old bull, you know."—Judge.

## IOWA GUARDSMEN READY TO JUMP ON MEXICANS



Members of the Iowa National Guard in a practice charge over obstacles. They are eager and ready to meet the Mexicans.

## GENERAL REVENUE BILL INTRODUCED

MEASURE DESIGNED TO PRODUCE \$210,000,000 IN SUR-TAXES ON INCOMES.

Washington.—A general revenue bill designed to produce about \$210,000,000 from increases in sur-taxes on incomes and special taxes on inheritances and war munition plants was introduced in the House by Democratic Leader Kitchin. It carries a provision creating a non-partisan commission and an anti-dumping clause, and proposes abolishing stamp taxes by eliminating schedules A and B of the tariff law.

The measure will be taken up in the house by a special rule.

### Embargo on Raw Hides.

Washington.—Secretary Lansing promised a committee representing branches of the shoe and leather industries he would endeavor to have lifted the embargo placed upon raw hides by Russia and other European countries. The committee told Mr. Lansing that solely because of the embargoes shoes have already been advanced an average of \$1 a pair and that the prices are likely to go higher.

### Consulate Destroyed.

Eagle Pass, Tex.—The United States consulate at Torreon, Mex., was demolished by a mob of 3,000 civilians led by the mayor and a Carranza army band, according to American refugees. The refugees said the people were attending a bull fight when Carranza troops forced them to join an anti-American demonstration.

### Defense Act in Force.

Chicago.—Recruiting for the regular army was stimulated by the receipt by Captain Franklin R. Kenney, in charge of recruiting in the Chicago district, of advices from the War Department that the national defense act is in force and that recruits from 18 to 21 years of age may be accepted without parental consent.

### Taft On Preparedness.

New York.—The United States won its war with Spain because its adversary "was the only nation of the earth less prepared than we were," according to William H. Taft, who delivered an address here. He declared preparedness is a moral obligation upon the country.

### 300 Would Be Aviators.

New York.—Maj. C. F. Hartman of the United States Signal Service, who is supervising the mobilization of civilian and national guard aviators, has received from officials of the Aero Club of America a list of men ready to enter the aviation service. At least 300 officers of the national guard have asked for transfer to aviation duty.

### Racial Troops Hurtful.

New York.—Mayor Mitchel objects to the organization of a regiment of troops to be composed exclusively of citizens of German birth. He made public a letter in reply to the suggestion of a German that such a regiment be organized. The mayor wrote that he believes it would be hurtful to draw racial lines in American military affairs.

### American Soldier Killed.

Washington.—One American soldier was killed and another wounded in an engagement between United States marines and Santo Domingo rebels. The rebel losses were not given.

## QUIET ON BORDER AS TROOPS ARRIVE

INDEPENDENCE DAY PASSES  
PEACEABLY ON BOTH SIDES  
—GUARDSMEN APPORTIONED.

### ARMY WILL BE CHANGEABLE

All Guardsmen Stationed at Strategic Points in Such Manner as to Make Rapid Move in Any One General Direction.

San Antonio, Texas.—While Gen. Funston and his staff were working out the details of placing all the troops, both regular and guardsmen, on a tactical basis, a close scrutiny of movements across the international line was kept by border commanders. It was feared that the celebration of Independence Day in border towns might give rise to some incident capable of growing into a clash with Mexicans, but reports from all quarters indicated comparative quiet.

Some excitement was caused here during the Fourth of July parade when Jesus Alamoso, a Mexican, was overpowered by the crowd. Alamoso made an insulting gesture when that section of the parade headed by the acting mayor passed. Some one cried that a "Mexican had insulted the flag," and only the arrival of police saved Alamoso from injury. He was taken to police headquarters and later released.

The big movement of guardsmen toward the border continued unabated. One of Maine's regiments of infantry passed through here on its station in the Laredo district, and more Missouri troops reached Laredo, passing through here. The heavy New York movement to the Brownsville district was continued, the first squadron of cavalry and the second battalion of artillery from that state going through here. When all the troops are stationed, New York will have a representation on the border of about 22,000.

Little was known here of the troops that are being sent to El Paso and stations west of there, but it is known that before the War Department adopted Gen. Funston's suggestion to divide the southern department into three commands he and his staff had worked out a station list with the idea of providing adequate forces so far as possible for all districts from which men might be drawn for general operations in Mexico. When the two general officers designated under the new plan of providing a field army formation assume charge of the work in the west they will find already there all the men now available and so disposed they can be moved easily to any positions the new commanding officers may desire.

### Will Represent U. S.

London.—American affairs in Mexico will be taken over by British officials in case of war. Arrangements have been made for the taking over of Mexican interests at Washington by the French embassy.

### Shackleton Again Fails.

Montevideo, Uruguay.—Lieut. Sir Ernest Shackleton, in a dispatch to the British minister here, reported his return to Port Stanley, after having failed because of heavy ice conditions, to rescue the main body of his Antarctic expedition, left on Elephant Island.

### Killed by Street Car.

Muskogee, Okla.—Martin Miller, automobile salesman, 32 years old, was struck by a street car and instantly killed while demonstrating an automobile. Four women in the car with him escaped uninjured.

### Texas Capital Guarded.

Austin, Tex.—Guards have been doubled at the state capital buildings because of the Mexican situation, it was announced. Orders were issued to search all suspicious Mexicans entering the buildings.

## CAPTAIN ELTINGE AGAIN CROSS LINE

RETURNING TO AMERICAN SIDE  
AFTER SEVERAL HOURS HUNT  
—NO CLASH WITH CARRANZA.

Fabens, Texas.—American troops, which crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico near Fort Hancock in pursuit of Mexican raiders, recrossed the river, the trail having been lost, according to a report received here. Three troops of cavalry under Capt. Leroy Eltinge pursued eight Mexican cans who raided the old post at Fort Hancock and escaped with several government horses.

San Antonio.—American troopers are again across the Rio Grande, bandit chasing. Capt. Leroy Eltinge, in command at Fabens, Texas, crossed the river with a detachment of his troops of the Eighth Cavalry, in pursuit of eight Mexicans who raided near Fort Hancock and ran off a number of cattle.

Gen. Funston stated that unless Eltinge found a hot trail and had good prospects of coming up with the marauders he would return to the American side. He said it was not the intention that this little expedition should remain long on Mexican soil.

Eltinge had orders from Brig-Gen. Bell to be careful to avoid contact with Carranza soldiers.

Capt. Eltinge crossed the Rio Grande, picked upon the trail and followed it a short distance, but found that it led him back toward the river at a point lower down. He was unable to discover an indication by that time as to the location of the bandits and recrossed to the American side. Capt. Eltinge's report made no mention of encountering any Mexican troops.

All reports received at Gen. Funston's headquarters indicated nothing more exciting along the international line than the exchange of shots between sentries at Nogales. Apparently no early offensive by the concentrated forces of the Mexicans in front of Gen. Pershing's positions was contemplated.

All officers commanding troops along the 1,700 miles of border have been cautioned to avoid clashes with the Mexican troops that face them, but the recurrence of such incidents as that at Nogales has caused staff officers to fear that an incident may occur at any time that may serve as the basis for further complexing a situation already bad.

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