

# The Caldwell Watchman

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## RECRUITS WILL GO TO MEXICO BORDER

LOUISIANA FIELD HOSPITAL IS WAITING FOR MORE EQUIPMENT AT CAMP STAFFORD.

## MANY ARE ARRIVING DAILY

As Soon as Equipment Arrives They Will Be Ordered to Brownsville and Likely Will Leave Within the Next Few Days.

Alexandria.

It is announced that recruits are arriving at Camp Stafford daily from various sections of the state, about sixty having reached here within the past few days. They are being equipped as rapidly as possible and will be assigned to different companies of the First Louisiana Infantry which is now stationed at San Benito, Tex.

The field hospital corps, which is under command of Major O. L. Pothier, and which has a complement of sixty men, was held here to be thoroughly equipped before proceeding to the border. A greater portion of this equipment has been received and another car load is expected to arrive at once. As soon as it reaches here, it is expected that orders will be received for them to move at once to the front. They probably will be ordered to Brownsville, and likely will leave during the present week.

Major Charles S. Miller and Captain S. Ross Yancey, of the quartermasters' department, will remain at Camp Stafford as long as men are being sent here from the different recruiting stations throughout the state. They will provide the recruits with equipment and send them to San Benito to join the different companies in an effort to bring them up to the required war strength.

## BRIEF NEWS AND NOTES.

Louisiana's new election laws, which came out of a Democratic legislative caucus, are to be made an issue in the national campaign by the Republicans, according to the statement of Louisiana Republicans. It is said that copies of the new law, with its remarkable penalty clause and its restrictions designed to keep down opposition, have been sent to Republican national headquarters together with circumstantial accounts of the manner and reason of passage of the measures.

Workmen motored to Stonewall from Mansfield recently and made a good beginning in the grading and widening of the model road one mile north of here at the DeSoto-Caddo parish line. The road will be graveled all through DeSoto parish. The members of the party were: Messrs. Atkinson, Digne, Ditzell, Gilmer and Hewitt.

The police jury has arranged with Powell, Gerard & Co., of Chicago, to bond the parish indebtedness, about \$20,000, through the Bank of Lafayette, bonds to run sixteen years, and bear 5 per cent interest. One-half mill tax was set aside to meet interest and liquidate the debt. The jury thus saves three banks, charging 8 per cent.

The Bank of Winnfield has sold the Cooper plantation, on Red river, to the Riverside Stock Company. This company will raise cattle and Duroc hogs. The live stock will be fed in winter on silage raised on this farm.

The question of voting an additional bond issue of \$600,000 for the construction of highways in Calceston parish is being presented to the big taxpayers, and has met with almost universal approval.

The Fluker postoffice and store of Richard A. Kemp, in which the Fluker postoffice is located, six miles above Amite, was robbed of some money and goods and stamps to the amount of about \$200.

J. J. Thomas, one of the largest land owners and best known residents of Acadia parish, was found dead at the scene of a fire on one of his farms two and a half miles from Estherwood.

An attempt to raise a special school tax four mills to seven mills in the Pine graded school district recently was defeated at the polls.

The first ship to enter the port of Baton Rouge was the John D. Rockefeller, which came up from New Orleans to the Standard Oil docks.

Five hundred members of the Washington Artillery and the seventy-five troopers of the First Troop Louisiana have settled down to border life at typical border town, Donna, located eight miles from the Rio Grande on the branch of the St. L. B. & M. R. R. The run from Houston to Donna was accomplished in much faster time than was at first expected, the two special trains getting the right of way after leaving Bay City without much trouble.

Tents were pitched. The three batteries of the Washington Artillery worked hard pitching the officers' tents and putting the finishing touches to the camp. The artillery and cavalry occupied grounds north of the railroad, on the side of the town least inhabited. Donna is a small place, but is cheerful compared to the barrenness of the border proper. The soldiers all seem pleased with the prospects and are making the best of existing conditions.

It was first expected that the artillery and the troop would camp at Mercedes, a town about ten miles east of Donna. Owing to the many companies at Mercedes, Major Owen and the commanding officers agreed upon the camp at Donna. There are, in all, about 1200 Khaki-clad soldiers at Donna. Two battalions of Texas infantry are located here, numbering in all about 600. There is a regimental band, too. The artillery has about 500 men and the cavalry troop consists of about 75 riders, most of whom are from Jennings, La. There are five New Orleans boys in the troop, all considered good soldiers.

Everyone here "totes" a gun. The "dough boys" have their rifles, and have ninety rounds of ammunition apiece. It is considered dangerous to question their soldiering ability. The cavalrymen will be given ammunition for their rifles and also will be issued pistols. The artillery boys already have pistols and will be given enough powder to protect themselves.

As a result of the adoption of the compulsory education act by the Legislature the Lake Charles schools will be taxed to capacity in the fall. The schools were already crowded, and it is estimated that the attendance will increase by at least 500 pupils. Some extra provision will have to be made for the colored pupils. In the parish outside the city the school enrollment for the year just closed was 4,600, and 500 white and 250 colored children will be added by the compulsory school law.

At a special election held at Pleasant Hill for the purpose of voting a bond issue to run five years for \$30,000 it was carried by a vote as follows: For bonds 83 votes, property \$41,350, and against proposition one vote, property \$370.

Secretary E. E. Shackford, of the Lafayette Fair Association, is now distributing his catalogs for the eighth annual fair, October 12-15, showing a cash premium list of special prizes. A special feature will be the sale October 14 of pure-bred swine under direction of the State Swine Breeders' Association, entries to which will be open to all members and boys' clubs of the state.

The sixth week of the summer normal at Lafayette closed and certificates of credit were granted to seventy-five students who had finished the prescribed course. Over 200 remain to complete the full course of nine weeks. President Stevens and faculty feel highly gratified over the splendid progress made and work accomplished.

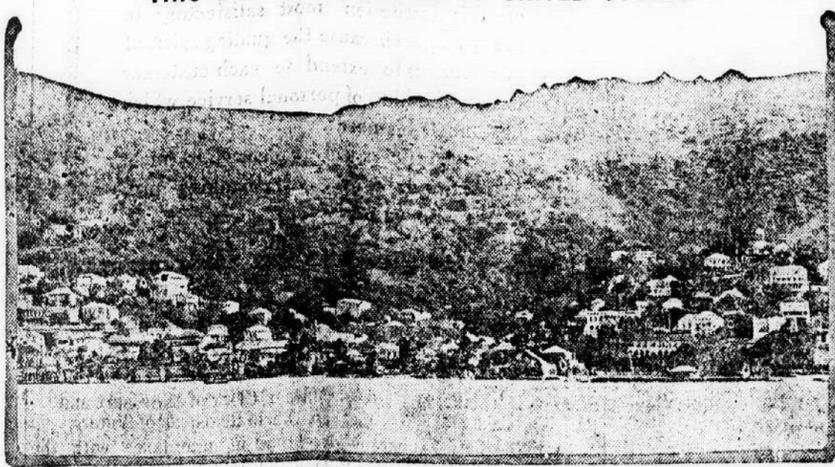
Governor Pleasant appointed J. A. Guss, assessor of Catahoula parish, Vice K. P. Holstein, who died in January. Catahoula has been without an assessor since Mr. Holstein's death, but the fact did not become officially known at the capital until the abstract of the parish failed to come in to the State Board of Equalization after a two weeks' wait.

According to data compiled by Commissioner Leon I. Kahn of the department of public utilities, the city of Shreveport this year has sold fifteen cars of waste paper collected by the street cleaning department, at a good profit. There were twenty tons to the car, and the net profit was about \$7 per car, making the total remuneration for the city about \$2,100.

Fire, caused by defective wiring, broke out on the second floor of the building in St. Mary street, near Constance, New Orleans, used by the Redemptorist Fathers as a schoolhouse, and caused damage of \$150. The loss is covered by insurance.

The Third Judicial district executive committee met at Gibbstown and ordered a Democratic primary election to nominate a judge and district attorney and state committee-man on September 12. Declarations of candidacy must be filed on or before July 31.

## THIS MAY SOON BELONG TO UNITED STATES



View of Charlotte Amalie, one of the chief towns of the Danish West Indies the sale of which to the United States is being negotiated. The three islands, St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix, lie about fifty miles off the east coast of Porto Rico. They are 142 square miles in area and support a population of 271,000 persons. Nearly all the inhabitants of the islands are negroes who live by the cultivation of sugar cane.

## 22 DIE IN TUNNEL BY GAS EXPLOSION

FOUR INVESTIGATIONS STARTED INTO DISASTER AT CLEVELAND.

Cleveland.—Federal officials investigating the waterworks tunnel disaster which cost 22 lives, ordered all attempts to reach the bodies of 12 men in the tunnel abandoned. Tests of the gas in the tunnel showed that it was highly explosive and the officials feared a second explosion. An attempt will be made to pump out the gas so that the work of recovering the bodies may progress.

All hope that any of the 12 men trapped in the tunnel are alive was abandoned. Ten bodies, those of members of two rescue parties which tried to reach the doomed men, but themselves succumbed to the deadly gas, were recovered. Eight injured men, also members of rescue parties, will recover.

Four investigations—city, county, state and federal—will be started to determine the cause of the explosion near the five-mile crib end of the tunnel last night.

The efforts of Gustav C. Van Duzen, superintendent of waterworks construction, and the members of the two rescue parties, to reach the men imprisoned without gas helmets or pulmotors increased the death list. A third rescue party equipped with the safety devices entered the tunnel and recovered the rescuers, ten of whom were dead. Van Duzen was among the rescuers revived.

## Cane Crop Prospects.

Washington.—The Louisiana field agent of the Bureau of Crop Estimates places the cane acreage of Louisiana this year at about 15 per cent above 1915, when about 133,000 acres were harvested and 275,000,000 pounds of sugar made. The condition of the crop July 1 was 10 per cent above the 10-year average, while last year about harvest time it was 24 per cent below the 10-year average.

## Arkansas Is Dropped.

St. Joseph, Mo.—Before adjourning after a two days' session here, directors of the Jefferson Highway Association voted to drop the states of Arkansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota from membership in the association. As now located, the highway does not traverse any of these states. The next meeting of the association will be in Muskogee, Okla., in October.

## Hettie Green Will Filed.

Bellows Falls, Vt.—The will of Mrs. Hettie Green was admitted to probate here without contest. Mrs. Green left her entire estate to her son, Colonel Edward H. R. Green, and daughter, Mrs. Matthew Astor Wilkes. Colonel Green filed a bond for \$50,000 as trustee for the fund left his sister.

## Demand That U. S. Act.

New York.—The organization formed by individuals and firms affected by the British commercial blacklist, adopted resolutions declaring it the duty of the United States government to demand that Great Britain revoke the blacklist. The organization will be known as the Association to Resist British Domination of American Commerce.

## Order Weekly Reports.

Washington.—The War Department has instructed army commanders on the border to submit weekly reports showing the actual physical condition of their commands, describing the treatment accorded the men, and detailing the duties they are performing.

## EXPLOSION CAUSES \$25,000,000 LOSS

AMMUNITION AWAITING SHIPMENT TO ALLIES DESTROYED—FIVE STATES FELT SHOCK.

New York.—Property loss estimated at \$25,000,000 was caused by a series of terrific explosions of ammunition awaiting shipment to the entente allies and stored on Black Tom Island, a small strip of land jutting into New York Bay off Jersey City. The loss of life still is problematical. It will not be determined definitely until there has been opportunity to check up the workmen employed on the island and on boats moored nearby.

Two are known to be dead and at least two more are missing. Scores of persons were injured, some of them probably mortally.

Explosions, which were felt in the city, began with a continuous rapid fire of small shells, then the blowing up of great quantities of dynamite, trinitrotoluene and other high explosives, followed by the bursting of thousands of shrapnel shells which showered the surrounding country and water for miles around.

Fire that started soon after the first great crash destroyed 13 of the huge warehouses of the National Storage Company on Black Tom Island, in which were stored merchandise valued at between \$12,000,000 and 15,000,000. The flames, shooting into the clouds, were reflected against New York's "sky line" of towering office buildings, which only a few moments before were shaken to their foundations as if by an earthquake. Miles of streets in Manhattan were strewn with broken glass and shattered signs.

Early reports of heavy loss of life were impossible of verification, and the authorities asserted the number of deaths probably would be small. It was said that, owing to the extent of the wreckage, it might be several days before the exact figures could be obtained.

The cause of the disaster has not been determined. Officials of the National Storage Company and the Lehigh Valley Railway, which also suffered heavily through loss of property, declared that reports to them showed a fire started on a barge belonging to an independent towing company that had been moored alongside a dock used by the railroad company to transfer ammunition shipments from trains to vessels in the harbor.

The barge, it was said, was there without authority either of the railroad or the storage company. The officials refused to disclose the name of the independent towing company, saying they were investigating "to ascertain whether the barge purposely had been set on fire as the result of a plot." A statement issued by the Lehigh Valley Railway Company said: "Thirteen brick storage houses out of the 24 owned and operated by the National Storage Company, and six piers owned by the storage company, and leased to the Lehigh Valley road, were destroyed. Several others of the brick warehouses were badly damaged, and some minor damage was done to the Lehigh Valley grain elevators. In addition, as far as is known, 85 loaded cars were destroyed.

"According to the evidence obtained by officials of the railroad, the fire started in a barge belonging to an independent towing company which had been moored alongside the railroad company's dock expressly against orders.

Second Term For Hamlin. Washington.—Charles S. Hamlin of Massachusetts, now the governor of the Federal Reserve Board, was nominated for another term by President Wilson.

## FORWARD ENGLAND BLACKLIST PROTEST

RESTRICTIONS ON AMERICAN TRADE ARE SET FORTH VIGOROUSLY.

Washington.—American Ambassador Page will present to the British Foreign Office a formal note protesting against the blacklisting of American business firms under the trading with the enemy act. In announcing that the communication had been transmitted to London, Acting Secretary Polk said it discussed only the general principles of international law involved without specifically taking up cases of individual firms blacklisted.

The note, officially described at the department "as a protest," is said authoritatively to be positive in tenor and to leave no doubt regarding this government's attitude. It is about 1,000 words in length.

While officials are reticent regarding details of the representations made, it was understood this government's view that illegal restrictions are imposed by the blacklist order upon the freedom of American trade is set forth in vigorous terms. Some modification of the order, it is believed, is insisted upon. There have been indications that should diplomatic efforts fail to bring relief to affected American firms, some form of retaliation would be considered by the United States.

The British ambassador conferred with Mr. Polk and it is believed he was given a full explanation of the basis of this government's protest in international law. Individual cases of blacklisted firms, it is expected, will be taken up in personal conversations here and at London.

## Will Burn \$50,000,000.

Mexico City.—Fifty million dollars in Mexican paper money will be burned within the next few days in the courtyard at the National Palace, according to an announcement by the government. This money is of the old Vera Cruz issue and has been supplanted by a new issue made in the United States. The public has been invited to witness the burning of this money.

## Another Vote of Credit.

London.—Another vote of credit will be asked for, the premier informed the House of Commons. It will be the eleventh since the outbreak of the war and probably will be for 300,000,000 pounds, the same amount as the last one. This will bring up the total for the war to 2,582,000,000 pounds, or about \$13,410,000,000.

## Plan Musketry School.

Lawton, Okla.—A special term of the school of musketry of the United States army, for instruction in the use of machine guns, will start August 20 at Fort Sill. Officers from many divisions of the army and those in charge of machine gun companies of the National Guard are expected to attend.

## Nebraska Progressives.

Lincoln, Neb.—Nebraska Progressives in the state convention without discussion resolved to continue the party's existence. The convention ratified the action of the State Central Committee in endorsing the candidates of the Republican national ticket.

## Will Censor All News.

Columbus, N. M.—Announcement was made at military headquarters that General Pershing has issued orders that news emanating from Columbus and the Mexican field shall be more strictly censored than heretofore.

## MEXICAN BANDITS KILL U. S. TROOPERS

ONE AMERICAN CAVALRYMAN SERIOUSLY WOUNDED IN CLASH—BANDITS LEFT FOUR DEAD.

## ROBBERS WERE DRIVEN OFF

Fight Occurred in Early Morning and Small Body of U. S. Troops Called to Carranzistas Across the River to Aid Them.

San Antonio.—Carranzistas and United States troops fought side by side in the engagement with Mexican bandits south of Fort Hancock, Texas, according to the official report from Brig. Gen. George Bell, Jr., at El Paso, to Maj. Gen. Funston.

After the bandits had been surrounded in a ranch house on the American side of the Rio Grande River and an American customs guard had been killed, another customs guard named Bean ran down to the river bank and called to a detachment of Carranzistas on the Mexican side to come over and assist the American troops.

A captain and eight soldiers responded. They joined in the fighting, which became general. Soon, the report says, the bandits fled from the ranch house and retreated over the river, leaving behind four dead.

The American dead numbered two, Private John Tweney, F Troop, Eighth United States Cavalry, and Robert Woods, customs guard. Sergt. Lewis Thompson, F Troop, Eighth United States Cavalry, was seriously wounded. He was made the target of three bullets.

The report of Gen. Funston does not make clear the manner in which the fight, which took place about 1:30 a. m., began, nor does it indicate the object of the bandits in crossing to the American side.

Gen. Funston said it was possible, however, that the bandits, who surprised by the Americans, were attempting to escape from the Carranzistas, who later engaged in the battle.

The latter had been in pursuit of the marauders for several days.

The American force consisted of eight men under command of Sergt. Thompson, two hospital corps men and the two customs guards. They speedily surrounded the Mexicans in the ranch house. Woods was the first to fall, laid low by a bandit who had slipped outside to aim at him.

His death was avenged a moment later by one of the hospital corps men, who shot down the bandit just as he was fleeing back into the house.

It was at this point that Bean summoned the Carranzistas. Brisk firing followed for a time. Then quiet reigned in the ranch house. A cautious investigation disclosed three more dead bandits inside its walls. The remainder had succeeded in getting out and making their way over the Rio Grande. The Carranzistas followed in pursuit. Gen. Funston said that no American troops would join the chase. The number of bandits who escaped is not known here.

## Six Civilians Executed.

London.—Six civilians have been executed by the Germans at Ghent charged with "war treason," according to a Reuter's Amsterdam dispatch, quoting the Telegraaf. The dispatch also says that the Germans have removed 7,000 men, 2,000 women and 150 pupils of the Turgot Institute from Roubaix, presumably for agricultural work in Germany.

## Motor Vehicles in U. S.

Washington.—The number of motor vehicles registered in the United States last year averaged one for every 44 persons. The total number of vehicles registered was 2,455,664. Ninety per cent of the \$18,245,700 paid as fees was spent for building and maintenance of country and state roads. There was an increase of 734,325 registrations over 1914.

## Death For Woman Spy.

Berlin.—"A military court at Mar-seilles on May 18," says the Overseas News Agency, "sentenced a woman named Pfadt to death for treason and espionage. The Supreme Court having rejected the appeal, the sentence of death against the woman has become valid."

## Senate Confirms Clarke.

Washington.—The Senate unanimously confirmed the nomination of John H. Clarke of Cleveland as associate justice of the Supreme Court to succeed former Justice Hughes. Justice Clarke will take his place on the bench when the court convenes next fall.