

GEN. PERSHING GETTING READY FOR RAINY SEASON IN MEXICO

Road For Trucks and Wagons is Being Built Along the Grade Made For the Old Mormon Railroad; Postal Service Has Been Established and Soldiers Now Get Letters and Papers in Good Time.

By GEORGE H. CLEMENTS.

TEMPORARY Headquarters, Punitive Expedition, U. S. Army, Colonia Dublan, Mex. June 17.—Getting ready for the rainy season seems to be the most important work of that portion of the American army now in Mexico, just at present and the army is working at it with all the forces it can muster.

I have just returned to this base, after nearly two weeks in the brain of Gen. Pershing, spent in making an inspection of posts and roads, chiefly roads, and have a pretty fair first hand knowledge of the workings of the great machine in the hands of or under the direction of the commanding general of the expedition.

Must Prepare For Rain. Whether the men do or not, the general does know the absolute necessity of being prepared to supply the army with food and forage for as long a time as the rains are falling, during the months of June, July, August and September, and he is losing no time. Hundreds of teams and thousands of men are grading, graveling, planking and otherwise making the bad places in the long line of communications possible.

Laying Mormon Railway Grade. From Columbus south to Boca Grande, or for the greater portion of that distance, the old railroad grade made by the Mormons 29 years ago or more, will be utilized as a wagon road by the army during the occupancy of this section of Mexico. Traction machinery has been brought in and is being used to bring the old road to a point where it may be surfaced with gravel and used as a passageway for motor trucks.

Gives Rise To False Rumors. The work being done on this old relic of the days when the Mormon empire was indulging in dreams of a Mormon empire in the valley of the Rio Colorado, has given rise to stories to the effect that the American government is building a railway from the border into the heart of Mexico and that their circumstances was a sure indication the army was here to stay. The army may be here to stay—I have no knowledge on that point—but I do know that the old grade will be converted into a very good motor truck wagon road within a very few days if Gen. Pershing is permitted to live up to the reputation he acquired as a road builder while he was making Mindanao, in the Philippines, a fit place for human habitation.

Building Many New Bridges. In addition to grading and graveling, a world of work is being done by the engineering department of the army, in the way of building culverts and bridges and in planking those sections of the way which cannot be made passable in any other manner. All of this is costing much money—how much cannot be learned—but the work must be done regardless of cost and the greatest precautions are being taken by Gen. Pershing to see that the cost is kept down to a minimum. During the recently taken tour of inspection all officers were held strictly to account for the work coming under their personal supervision and there is a general speeding up all along the line. Where gravel was being hauled more and heavier loads were insisted upon from each team on the job, and greater economy of time was suggested in the loading pits and on the dumps as well as in the spreading

MEXICAN GREAT CALLS MEN OF ZAPATA BAND IS BEING CRUSHED

U. S. Proposes to Move Troops the Minute Danger Appears. "Preparedness" Invitation To Drill is Made By a Friend of Gen. Gavira. Carranza Claims Are That Rebel Band Is Being Disposed of Rapidly.

(Continued from page 1.)

A call to the citizens of Juarez to receive military training daily at the Plaza principal as to be prepared in case of a break of relations with the United States has been posted conspicuously in several public places in Juarez. Jesus Valdez, an attaché of the customs house at Juarez, is the originator of the movement.

Invites All Citizens. Translated the notice reads: "We invite all the citizens and inhabitants who care to receive military instructions free and voluntarily to please put themselves in service and attend today at 5:30 p. m. in the Plaza principal in front of the headquarters of the 15th battalion. The instructions will continue for several days as to apportion the arms necessary and for the purpose of being prepared in case a break of relations with the United States."

Valdez Acting Independently. Valdez is acting on his own initiative in establishing the military training in Juarez. He is a warm friend of Gen. Gavira. At first, it is said, the military instructor was to be confined to the young business men of the city, but as Valdez had not many friends of this type in Juarez he decided to invite every public spirited citizen in the city to attend.

General From River Bed. From Columbus to Namiquito the road builders will be comparatively fortunate in being able to find an abundance of building material in the beds of the rivers, which will be paralleled for the greater portion of the distance. This will make the setting up of expensive road construction machinery unnecessary, but there will be a considerable expense attached to the hauling of the gravel from the river beds.

Soldiers Build Unique Shelters. The large barracks posts which hold the garrisons established along the line of communications the soldiers have prepared for the coming of the rains by building shelters of planks and of wicker liberally plastered with mud, which give the little towns which have sprung up under the circumstances the appearance of having been brooded in the Philippines where many of the men of the respective garrisons have served in times past.

Even where the "pup" tents have not been supplanted by the mud huts, they have been set up on elevated beds which will keep them well above the ground and free from moisture while the rains are falling and from insects or noxious insects crawl.

Mexico Flooded With Gold. The employment of so many natives in road work, at such wages as they have never before received, is having the effect of placing many of them on the sunny side of Easy Street. In a financial way, and they are anxious to show it in their manners as well as in their improved living conditions.

Not in the least, the republic has there been so much gold in circulation in this section of the state of Chihuahua as there is now and has been since the Americans crossed the line March 15, last.

Old Timers Are Pessimistic. Some of the old timers in this country, among the Americans, are of the opinion that so far from causing the natives to be more friendly toward Americans, the paying of wages and the furnishing of constant employment will have the effect of making the laboring masses harder to handle in future than they have been in the past.

While it is true that the longer residence of these men in the country, their greater familiarity with native character and characteristics gives them more or less of a friendly attitude with authority on this and kindred subjects, army officers are not yet convinced that they should not have employed as road laborers or that having been so employed, they should not have been paid good wages.

New Wage Standard Set. It is probably true that a new standard of wages has been set in this section of the Mexican republic as one of the results of the building of a rainy weather road from the border and that hereafter a similar wage will be required to attract the best of Mexican labor but that that will have a bad effect upon the attitude of the Mexicans toward the United States is not generally believed by students of the situation as a whole.

Service Improved. Army mail is to be made to future in up to date fashion. The lack of transportation facilities which at first prevailed through the lack of papers of the soldiers in the field to be given secondary consideration.

Appreciated By Officers and Men. This reorganization of the first organization of the army postal service will be of great benefit to the men in the field inasmuch as it will give the effect of keeping them more regularly in touch with friends and relatives in the outside world.

As it used to be, while in the matter of miles we were separated by but a span from all we held dear, in the matter of time we were divided by a distance far greater than the seven seas. Not only are we getting letters from home regularly, but we are getting newspapers before they are as stale as to be worth nothing as purveyors of the news of the world.

All this is appreciated by, not only those attached to headquarters but by the very latest recruit to the ranks. No fault is being found with what has passed and gone. That could not have been helped. We are only rejoicing in the fact that the mails have at last been organized and are now being handled in a manner which puts us in touch with home and mother rather promptly.

Sanitary Rules More Rigid. As hot weather approaches greater care is being taken by those having the matter in charge to see that the health of the occupants of all bases and camps is conserved to the fullest. Much attention has been paid at all times to the conservation of health but the vigilance is increasing as the weather grows warmer.

During the earlier days of the campaign, the cold waters of the rivers along which the army camped were good enough for all purposes. Now, however, water for drinking purposes and for cooking must be taken from driven wells or from flowing springs. The river water has been found to be healthful. Horses and mules still drink it and the men are still permitted to bathe in it provided they bathe below those sections set off as drinking places for the animals but it must be kept out of the canteens and the water supplies for any new camp which the exigencies of the campaign may make necessary, the engineers have made maps which give the locations at which wells may be driven with assurance that water in abundance may be found at comparatively shallow depth.

MEXICAN AND AMERICAN CONSULATES ARE MOVED. Laredo, Tex., June 16.—It was reported here today that Mexican consul Melquiades Caron had moved the consulate to the Mexican side for the purpose.

Gen. Pablo Gonzalez, Director of the campaign against the bandit Zapata in Morelos, has made important captures of rebel supplies and restored the railway and postal facilities in that state, according to a message received by the Mexican consulate today from Mexico City. The capture is claimed of 20 cartons of shells, 12 cannon, an outfit of cartridge making machinery and 15 locomotives.

The place of the reported dispersing of Zapata's followers was at Tlatilpam, the last place in Morelos where any number of Zapatistas had been concentrated. This offsets the many rumors received at El Paso in the last few days, alleging that Zapata had not only cleared Morelos of Constitutionalists, but was in a position to take Mexico City at any time he chose.

Regulating Food Prices. The message to Consul Garcia also told of the extreme measures the government is taking to regulate food prices. It states that the bakers, who have been raising the price of bread, and curtailing the production of bread, despite an abundance of flour, have been notified that they must resume normal operations, keep their places open at all hours and post their list of prices, under severe penalties for disobedience.

Decreasing National Debt. Information to the consulate says large contributions of money are being made to decrease the national debt. Nearly \$400,000 has been received from Yucatan, alone and the contributions are coming in from all parts of the republic. The reported total contributions aggregate millions. Bills received are retired immediately from circulation and destroyed.

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Reading Matter Sent Them. A group of Alamoerian women recently sent a box of reading matter to company C, New Mexico national guard, at Columbus, Tex. The women received an acknowledgment from Lieut. R. D. Daugherty, of company C, who said:

Reading matter is naturally scarce in a mobilization camp like this and it would have been indeed hard for you to have found anything else which would have been as great a source of satisfaction to all of the men. Every man is taking advantage of the opportunity you have afforded us to read at any time between drill hours most of the men can be found in their tents enjoying your gifts.

Miss Olive Thomas entertained a number of her friends with a "500" party, in honor of Miss Sophia Williams, the champion of E. Williams, president of the Sacramento Mountain Lumber company. Miss Williams had lately returned from Fort Worth, Tex. after the card game. A salad course was served, followed by an ice course. Miss Williams won the ladies' prize and W. Chihuahua won the gentlemen's prize for the high scores in "500." Miss Williams will make her home with her parents in Alamoerian.

PAUPER SITUATION IN JUAREZ IS BECOMING DESPERATE. Some Mexicans encamped on the river bank in Juarez tried to avoid the American immigration authorities last night by crossing the Rio Grande, but they were met and turned back by guards.

The situation in Juarez caused by the growing number of paupers is becoming desperate. The Mexicans have arrived in Juarez penniless in the hope of obtaining work on the American side. But their physical condition was such that a part of them were rejected as unfit by the United States immigration authorities out of each squad of paupers. Without funds to live on and having no object in returning to the poverty stricken parts of the republic they escaped from their camp to the river and trust to luck for their food.

MEXICAN DRUG CLERK HELD ON CHARGE OF INSULTING U. S. FLAG. Charged with making insulting statements about the American flag, and vagrancy, Ygnacio Cully, said to have been a member of a prominent Mexican family, and now a drug clerk at the Cleveland Square pharmacy on Lipeon street, was arrested by city detectives Friday night and confined in the city jail.

The arrest of Cully followed a number of complaints made to the police department that the man had made a number of statements regarding the American flag, and had expressed his sympathy for Pancho Villa.

Cully was ordered held on a bond of \$1000 Friday night. The father of Cully is said to be one of the most prominent drug men in Lipeon street and proprietor of a number of stores in Chihuahua and Mexico City.

BANDITS HAD 11 YEAR OLD BOY AS MASCOT; IS CAUGHT. Laredo, Tex., June 17.—Mexican bandits, captured during the raid at San Antonio, had with them an 11 year old boy, Francisco de Leon, who also was captured after the raid. He is being held as a witness against the Mexicans under arrest. The boy says the Mexicans picked him up in Mexico and carried him with them as a mascot.

DO YOUR HANDS ITCH AND BURN Because of Eczemas, Rashes, Chaps, Etc.? If So

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Sample Each Free by Mail. With 25¢ Skin Book on request. Address post-card "Cuticura, Dept. 14, Boston, Mass." Sold throughout the world.

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