IS BIG BEND PART OF MEXICO? RANCHMEN DESERVE PROTECTION

THE war department should put enough troops in the Big Bend district to prevent Mexican bandit raids on American ranches. Or else the state should furnish the protective measures itself. That gangs of worthless brigands should be allowed to terrorize American citizens and convert a strip of the state of Texas south of the G. H. & S. A. railroad into a part of Mexico, so far as living conditions and security of life and property are concerned, is outrageous.

The foregoing does not constitute a contradiction of anything that has been said heretofore in praise of the work of Col. George T. Langhorne and his regiment, the Eighth United States cavalry, in combatting the Mexican marauders. Col. Langhorne and his men, by their skill and daring, by their hard riding and quick shooting, by their willingness to follow a hot trail as far as the equator, if need be to inflict punishment, have proved the best protectors this border country has ever had. They have inflicted heavy punishment on the bandits AFTER the raids into Texas have occurred and AFTER American citizens have been killed and their property destroyed or stolen. Unless every single one of the bandits could have been killed, no one could have done any better than the Eighth cavalry has done.

The point to be emphasized is that their work has been punitive, after the act. What is needed is a work of prevention, protection to avoid the act. It seems that no matter how many bandits are killed there are always more to take the places of the dead and carry on their crimes with cruelty unabated.

With 12,000 or 14,000 square miles of territory in the Big Bend district, a single regiment cannot patrol it effectively, cannot furnish a guard for every ranch. That is what is needed, a guard for every ranch within 25 miles of the border and patrols riding the north bank of the river on the lookout for bandit movements in the vicinity of the line. Bandit bands might lie in concealment to avoid contact with a patrol, only crossing the river after the patrol had passed, but soon the patrol would return and observe the trail and notify those ranches lying in the direction taken by the bandits so that the military guards could be on watch and greet them with the leaden rain they have learned so to dread. In that way lives of ranch owners and their employes could be saved and their property preserved.

As conditions now are, the bandits are able, by watching their chance, to take the ranchmen by surprise, surrounding their houses in number overwhelming to the defenders and pouring in a stream of bullets which quickly kills any who may be inside the premises. Fortunate, indeed, are any who, by fortunate circumstances, manage to effect their escape. Then they rob the ranch house and outbuildings, drive off horses or cattle or both, and perhaps escape across the Rio Grande before word can be sent to Colonel Langhorne's soldiers. After that comes Boots and Saddles for a troop or two, a breakneck ride into Mexico, a short, hot engagement, and the burial of all but the few bandits who manage to escape. The troopers return to American territory and there is quiet until another band of hungry cutthroats rides out of Mexico on another so called "invasion of the United States." Actually, that is what they consider it. Foremost in their minds, of course, is the thought of food, clothing, ammunition and beef in contrast to the starvation conditions of their own land, but they keep up the pretense of waging warfare for the recovery of Texas for Mexico.

AND THEY ARE GETTING AWAY WITH IT to the extent that they are rendering life unsafe on American territory. They are killing and plundering. There is some satisfaction in killing them afterward, but death of half a hundred of the worthless brutes does not compensate for the murder of a single American who was trying to live like other Americans live on American territory, in peace and security under the constitutional guarantees of life and liberty.

The Brite ranch raid was a bad one and after a few minor raids following, the Nevill ranch raid fully aroused the Big Bend people to their danger. There was talk that every American ranchman was doomed to be killed because of the inadequacy of protection and some of them felt forced to consider moving clear out of the district to save their lives and property; abandoning their ranches, abandoning that part of the state of Texas, to the Mexican "invaders."

But a few days ago the ranchmen gathered from 100 miles roundabout at the court house at Van Horn and listened to a plan laid before them by Colonel Langhorne for helping themselves. He suggested a cowboy constabulary divided into patrols and each patrol covering a certain definite locality. He would divide the whole region into checkerboard districts with each patrol covering its district and reporting to the patrols with which it would come in contact; making reports by telephone, also, to the military headquarters in Marfa. This would be for the purpose of quickly apprehending any strange Mexicans or picking up and reporting any trails of suspicious appearance, discovering the presence of bandits on Texas soil, in fact, before they had a chance to attack.

This plan is now being worked out by a committee as the only recourse if neither the national nor state government will afford the proper protection.

Realizing the inability of his command to afford the preventive measures needed, Colonel Langhorne is endeavoring to get the constabulary plan going. It will work, though it is a hardship for the ranchmen to be obliged to neglect their work and take their employes from their duties to afford themselves the protection which the United States guarantees them. There ought to be another cavalry regiment in the Big Bend and even then the protection would be inadequate until the new troops familiarized themselves thoroughly with the country, its mountains, plains, ranches and waterholes. The ranchmen at their Van Horn meeting adopted resolutions to be sent to president Wilson and the governor of Texas, asking very respectfully and in very moderate words for adequate protection. Let it be hoped that in one quarter or the other the appeal does not fall on deaf ears.

Hesitate About "War Work" Abroad.

EVERY day one hears people talking about going to France on some mission or other in connection with war work but not in the fighting line. The motive is generally patriotic, although there are plenty of Americans who have gone to France on "war work," with all expenses paid, whose intention is to remain only long enough to get together a fund of material for newspaper or magazine articles or chautauqua lectures with which to make a money cleanup after returning to the United States.

The advice to everyone contemplating going to France except in army service should be, don't unless you are strong and gritty, willing to put up with hardships and anxious to work harder than you ever worked in all your life.

There are already 20,000 American nonproducers in Paris alone, according to James S. Douglas, of Douglas and Bisbee, Ariz., who is one of the toilers in France. In a letter to friends at home he deplores the presence in France of those who have not had the strength nor the grit to stick to the job. While their friends in the United States picture them helping the allies win the war, they actually are merely loafing in the French capital, wearing out clothes, taking heat and light and consuming about 40,000 pounds of food a day when the whole French nation, even the soldiers in battle, are on rather slim rations. The French are too kindly and courteous to get rid of them and our government does not see fit to demand that they cease imposing on the hospitality of a hard pressed ally. The state department could get prompt action by an order revoking their passports if they do not leave France within a stated time.

There is plenty of war work to be done by those who are disqualified for army or navy service, but before swelling the number of mouths to be fed in France one should make sure of one's strength and determination. Incidentally, not all the war work in the world is in France. There is plenty of it in this country, though it may lack the romantic appeal.

Lots Of 'Em Get Away With It - By Briggs

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When A Fellow Leans Out Over A Rail And Takes A Fall Off The Front Porch

By K. C. B.

WE'D HAD our dinner.
WITH SOME friends.
WHO LIVE in a bungalow.
AND ALONG after dark.
I WENT out on the porch.
AND LEANED over.
FROM UNDER the roof.
TO LOOK at the stars.
AND WAS resting on the railing.
WITH MY left hand.
AND ALL of my weight.
AND THE railing ceased.
AND I went forward.
INTO THE darkness.
AND STRAIGHT downward.
I LANDED six feet below.
ON MY left ribs.
ON THE square edge.
OF A flower bed.
AND I thought at first.
I'D KILLED myself.
BUT I hadn't.
AND I stood up.
AND BY that time.
EVERYBODY WAS out.
AND WAS helping me.
AND THEY took me inside.
AND I was breathing.
AND MY clothes were soiled.
AND MY face was dirty.
AND I sat there.
SORT OF feeling myself.
AND TRYING to suffer.
BECAUSE IT was the first time.
IN YEARS and years.
THAT I'D had an accident.
AND I love to be petted.
AND SOMEBODY said.
"YOU LOOKED so funny.
"WHEN YOU were getting up."
AND WITH that.
ONE OF the younger ones.
GIGGLED A little.
AND LOOKED at my wife.
AND SHE laughed.
AND THAT was the cue.
FOR THE party.
AND FOR an hour.
CONVULSIONS FOLLOWED.
ONE AFTER the other.
AND WHEN we left.
THE WHOLE family.
WAS STANDING in the doorway.
LAUGHING SO hard.
IT COULDN'T say good-night.
AND WHEN I got home.
I WAS all bruised up.
AND THIS morning.
I WAS black and blue.
AND IT hurts me to breathe.
AND WHEN I get through with this.
I'M GOING to a doctor.
AND I hope I've broke a rib.
SO THAT tonight.
WE CAN have a good time.
LIKE WE had last night.
I THANK you.

AMERICANS IN TRENCHES RESCUE DOUGHNUT WAGON

The vigorous bombardment by German artillery of a Salvation Army doughnut wagon has aroused the indignation of the Americans in the trenches in the sector northwest of Toul, France, according to word received from a Chicago newspaper writer, and published to Salvation Army people over this country. The wagon was on the way to the front line with steaming crullers, when the Germans located it and fired hundreds of shells at it, the driver being forced to abandon the load. Volunteer rescuers were forced to seek shelter until a whole regiment came forward to bring back the doughnuts to safety.

The wagon was one of many the Salvation Army is maintaining on the war front, according to Adjt. A. Lasey, in El Paso.

Hogwallow Locals

By BUNK BOYES.

YAM SIMS says many of us men are in the habit of overlooking the smaller details of life, but that the gaps in a razor are to be reckoned with when they are faced.

* * *

Raz Barlow Saturdayed in Tickville and as there was a big crowd in town, he got a good look at the public. He says the public is a peculiar looking lot of people when they all get together.

* * *

Tube Mosley's wife says secretary McAdoo with his whole passel of jobs, can now sympathize with a woman who has a squad of young and growing children to look after.

Little Interviews

Says Soda Water Making Is Restricted; Price To Be Same El Paso's Centenarian Says Darwin Was His Schoolmate

"SODA WATER will remain five cents a bottle this summer," said Hope Smith, of the Magnolia Bottling works. "I don't know how long the price will be kept down, for we will have to increase the cost to the dealer five cents a case during the summer, and we increased it ten cents last year. It can still be sold at five cents a bottle, retail, however. If the price of things keeps increasing, the retailers may have to raise the price to six or seven cents. But this will not come this summer.

"One thing the public does not know—we are going to be allowed to make only 80 percent as much soda water this year as last year. That is a positive order, and we are to be allowed only 80 per cent of the sugar we got a year ago.

"Everything is going up that goes into the manufacture of soda water, but we are holding the price down as well as we can. I am selling Coca Cola syrup at the same price today that I sold it for seven years ago. Some of the things that enter into the manufacture of soda have advanced 100 per cent in cost. Take caps for the bottles, for instance; they cost just twice as much this year as they did a year ago."

* * *

"Few living people can say they attended school with Charles Darwin, the great evolutionist, but I am one who can say it," said Jock Nicenson, 102 year old resident of the valley, who is attending the John Brown revival. "In 1815 my father, master of a slave ship known as the 'Black Rover,' was chased out of Long Island sound by revenue cutters and he started towards the shores of Scotland. As the ship was sounding over Newfoundland waters, my mother gave birth to twins, one of whom was myself. The ship went to Edinburg, where I grew up to manhood before returning to America. At the Scotland city, I attended school with Darwin, who was about six years older than I. Darwin was a great lover of nature as a youth, and was always studying things found in the open. I recall something interesting that took place at the school. The master was a democratic old Scotchman. There was attending the school a son of the duke of Wellington by a morganatic marriage. This boy carried a watch and chain, which was unusual in those days. One day he pointed to me and said, 'I am somebody. I have 230 pounds a year pin money. You are a pauper.' I resented this and a fight started. The master intervened and gave us both a spanking, although the other boy was a noble."

* * *

"The community council is the last word in the Council of National Defense scheme; it reaches the people—the everyday man and woman, and brings them immediately into service of the country as an organized unit," said T. R. Patterson. "The president is urging every school community in the land to organize a council at once to help the country in war and peace, but especially in this war. The first community council in the country was organized at the Highland Park school on the evening of April 1. What precinct next? Any citizen or group desiring to organize, in any precinct, can secure information and assistance of Winchester Cooley, county chairman, or myself, by phoning 2417, or writing me, 2711 Richmond street."

* * *

"I am opposed to the fee system of paying deputies," said Oscar Crowson. "I believe a constable's deputies should all be paid flat salaries, sufficiently large to support them. If they are paid fees, their income depends on the conviction of the persons they arrest. It is apparent that this creates an unjust situation as regards individuals against whom officers are testifying.

* * *

"The cattlemen on the lands right along the river should certainly have some better protection," said J. Livingston. "The soldiers are along the railroad, and in place like Marfa we feel secure, but it's hard to feel that way close to the line. The country south of the railroad is rough and not easy to patrol, but such tragedies as that of the Nevill boy must be stopped. One of the troubles is, I understand, and I have reason to believe, that innocent Mexicans are sometimes killed by the constituted authorities, for no worse offence than smuggling or something of that kind. This encourages the bandits and results in what they regard as reprisals."

* * *

"More of the singing at the Rotary club should be devoted to patriotic songs," said E. W. Kayser. "I have mentioned this matter to members, and some of them have told me that it is all right to sing the 'Star Spangled Banner', but they have added it is too difficult. I think Rotary should sing the song, no matter how hard it is and I for one am willing to learn how to sing it. If Rotary is what it claims to be, no song, if it is patriotic, is too difficult to learn."

* * *

"Now that the Sells-Floto circus is here, I am reminded of the first time I ever saw Otto Floto," said Frank Roscoe. "It was in 1892, at Cripple Creek. I was mining at the time and Otto Floto, then in obscurity, came to Cripple Creek as a bill poster. Later he promoted several boxing matches, and finally opened a dog and pony show. Later, he became identified with the Denver Post as a sporting writer."

Abe Martin

CONSTABLE PLUM has censored th' film, "Th' Enchantress o' th' Nile," new showin' at th' nickel the-ater, an' ordered 85 feet cut off th' kim in th' second reel. Some girls idea o' beauty is a snow white nose, cerise cheeks an' a nut brown throat.

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Short Snatches From Everywhere

The national prohibition party has been swallowed by the national party whatever that is.—Los Angeles Times.

Mr. Wilson has sent a friendly message to the Russians, but we are afraid everybody has gone to bed.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Col. Edward M. House is one of the most interesting of Americans, yet how many people in America know what the M in his name stands for?—Charleston News and Courier.

Some people are very patriotic but they want the other fellow to do the extra work and feel imposed upon when they are asked to take a few minutes from their business. Such men are patriotic so long as there is a per cent coming their way.—Silsbee Signal.

The sentimentalists who are opposing the digging of liberty trenches in Central Park to help the new Liberty loan are next of kin to the persons who insistently warn the firemen not to damage the bric-a-brac when the house is on fire.—New York Evening Mail.

Instead of laying plans for the formation and pushing of new political movements in these days every man ought to be bending his energies and giving his thoughts to movements that will best promote the part we are having in the world war,—our purpose to win the war.—Waco Tribune.

The daily ration of food in France is 3.04 ounces. The Texan who tries that on himself will understand why the Frenchman smiles when he hears that Americans are denying themselves to aid the allies. The average adult in this country today consumes 40 ounces of food, and complains because he may have only two teaspoonfuls of sugar in his coffee.—Houston Post.

MORE TRUTH THAN POETRY

Buy One.

In such a critical situation your Liberty bond may save the nation.

Playing Safe.

The kaiser seems to think that the more of his soldiers he allows to be killed in battle the fewer there will be to revolt when the war is over.

Now, Altogether.

Hold 'em Haig! Hold 'em Foch!

Cheap.

Historians have discovered that Nero imported roses from Egypt for one of his parties at a cost of $175,000. Any one familiar with quotations from the florists' shops can see how the cost of living has gone up since the old fiddler's time.

Any Odds You Want.

We haven't seen the German casualty list, but we are willing to bet that none of the Hohenzollern boys are on it.

No Extravagance.

There's plenty of daylight now, so the senate is justified in letting a little of it into the workings of the war department.

Answer: None!

What good is the Daylight Saving law going to do the men who only use the extra hour to golf and motor in?

TEXAS UNIVERSITY MAKING OIL SURVEY NEAR PECOS

Austin, Texas, April 8.—J. A. Udden, Ph. D., director of the bureau of economic geology and technology of the University of Texas, is making an investigation of the geological formations of the region around Pecos where prospecting for oil is in progress. Several years ago oil in limited quantities was discovered in the vicinity of Toyah in the Pecos region and considerable prospecting work has been carried on there from time to time since then. Dr. Udden recently made a hurried survey of the territory lying between Brownwood and Wichita Falls where oil developments are now in progress.

Miss Lucy Burleson, daughter of the postmaster general, has entered the navy as a yeoman and draws $41 a month pay.

The Young Lady Across The Way

THE young lady across the way says she saw in the paper that some of the American troops were billeted in a French town and she supposes the German airplanes get almost everywhere.

PLAN MUNICIPAL PIGGERY.

Manitowoc, Wis., April 8.—A municipal piggery is the plan being considered by the city fathers here on the suggestion of the state agricultural department, which has figured out that every city of 1000 population or more has enough garbage to fatten 10,000 hogs annually. This city, according to that estimate, would be able to raise 150,000 pigs every year.

More Telegrams To Protest

By JAMES J. MONTAGUE

YOU legislators ought to know that if the state goes dry
The business of the leading jails will be destroyed thereby.
My inmates all assure me, and I know that they're sincere,
That they have not the slightest doubt that Whisky sent 'em here.
And when one does his stretch and quits, we're sure the liquor men
As soon as they can get the chance will send him back again.
Our institutions thrive best in the most intemperate zones.
To close the bars will ruin us. Yours truly,

WARDEN JONES.

THIS place is always nicely filled. New patients come each day—
And while the bars are open it will always be that way.
I find among the mental wrecks entrusted to my care
But very few who don't admit that Whisky placed 'em there.
We have a great establishment, keep many men employed,
And it will be a pity if our business is destroyed.
But it would be economy to tear the buildings down
If liquor's banished from the state. Sincerely,

KEEPER BROWN.

MY fare table's paying big, my wheels are going strong,
And I assure you that it's booze that helps my trade along.
Before you let the state go dry I want to prove my claim
That it is Whisky which provides the suckers for my game.
In running games in many towns I usually have found
That if a guy is not lit up he doesn't come around.
To close the drinking places up would be a great mistake
And as a gambler I protest. Yours truly,

THREE CARD JAKE.

EL PASO HERALD

DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF THE PEOPLE, THAT NO GOOD CAUSE SHALL LACK A CHAMPION, AND THAT EVIL SHALL NOT THRIVE UNOPPOSED.

H. D. Slater, editor and controlling owner, has directed The Herald for 29 years; J. C. Wilmarth is Manager and C. A. Martin is News Editor.

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The El Paso Herald Information Bureau at Washington furnishes readers, free of charge, with authentic and authoritative answers to questions on any and all subjects concerning which information can be had from the organized resources of the various federal government departments, the great Library of Congress and the many experts and scientists in the government service at Washington. Three cents in postage for reply must accompany each inquiry. State clearly the information wanted and address The El Paso Herald Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, Director, Washington, D. C.

Uncle Walt's Denatured Poem.

Spring In Germany

IN Germany the wren and sparrow are singing springtime ditties now; but no man plies the drill or harrow, and none gets busy with the plow. The kaiser's needing all the horses, which should be plowing up the loam, to gather in his crop of corses—a ghastly sort of Harvest Home. By stalwart men no fields are seeded, though spuds and prunes are needed much, for all the man and spades are needed for digging trenches, graves and such. The rains don't cheer the German farmer, he has no eye for sun or clouds, for "on with Gott" he goes in armor, to boost the price of biers and shrouds. The starving German cows go reeling down to the brook to drink their fill; the rawboned hogs are always squealing, and sip a substitute for swill. There is no grub that's worth the eating, there is no kraut or wurst in kegs; the hungry calves and lambs are bleating, the hens lay substitute for eggs. Since Germans took up warlike labors they've found—and they are somewhat bored—they can't make wienerwurst with sabres, or carve good pretzels with a sword. Oh, spring in Germany's forbidding, a time of stress and want and groans; so, kaiser Wilhelm, quit your kidding, and harvest hay instead of bones.

Copyright, by George Matthew Adams. WALT MASON

OUR ANTEDILUVIAN ANCESTORS.

SKINNY SHANER'S TRIP

GOAT GRABBERS

SUE PERSITIOUS THE DAME WHO GETS MAD ARGUING THAT SPILLED SALT ALWAYS MEANS A FIGHT.

ILLUSTRATION BY AUTHOR. G.J.F.

WELL KNOWN SAYINGS ILLUSTRATED BY LOUIS —

HE DOESN'T TAKE ENOUGH EXCERCISE

GEE BUT YOURE GETTIN' FAT!

Answer to Saturday's

WHO MAY MARRY MANY A WIFE, AND YET STAY SINGLE ALL HIS LIFE? A CLERGYMAN —

HOW ZAT?

On Your Toes!

FROM BERNOT, _____ U. S. A.

WHICH OF ALL THE BIRDS LIFTS THE HEAVIEST WEIGHT?

ANSWER TO-MORROW.