

FURTHER REPORTS OF VILLA'S DEATH UNCONFIRMED; CARRANZA TROOPS TAKE PART AT PARRAL

SUNDAYS DISPATCHES SAID BANDIT'S BODY HAD BEEN EXHUMED; IF DEAD U. S. FORCES WILL BE WITHDRAWN

Mexican Consul Declares He is Certain Reports are Correct—Body Said to Have Been Interred at San Francisco Borja.

El Paso, April 17.—Confirmation of Mexican reports that Villa's body has been exhumed at San Francisco Borja and is being brought to Chihuahua still is lacking at the headquarters of the Carranza government...

SAYS BODY IS ENROUTE TO CHIHUAHUA CITY. Consul Garcia's information is that the body of Villa has been exhumed at San Francisco Borja, and was being brought into Chihuahua...

DEAD FOR OVER TWO WEEKS, SAYS REPORT. According to reports from Mexico City, Villa has been dead over two weeks, and the physical changes may be such as to preclude any positive proof that the dead man was Villa.

NO CONFIRMATORY MESSAGES. Washington, April 17.—War department officials announced that none of the over-night dispatches or early telegrams brought any confirmation of the reported finding of Villa's body in the vicinity of Chihuahua.

MORE CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE. Washington, April 17.—Secretary Baker received a dispatch from Naco, saying that General Villa was last seen heading in the direction of the place where reports yesterday said he was buried.

FUNSTON HAS NO OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGE. San Antonio, April 17.—Unless the body reported to be that of Villa is brought to El Paso, the matter of identification probably will not come to the attention of military officials, it was announced at General Funston's headquarters.

Villa's Death Reported. El Paso, Tex., April 17.—An unofficial message received over the Mexican land lines from Chihuahua last night says that Villa is dead. The message stated that the burial place of Villa's body was betrayed by a Villista officer who was promised his freedom if he would tell where the bandit's body could be found.

Reports Reliable. Mr. Garcia hurried immediately to Juarez when he heard Villa's body had been found. After hearing the reports and telegraphing for official confirmation of Governor Enriquez of Chihuahua and to Colonel Carranza at San Antonio, he said: "I cannot say that the report of the finding of Villa's body is absolutely true, because I have, as yet, no official confirmation, but I deem the reports at hand very reliable."

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MEXICAN MOB THREW STONES AT AMERICANS

Constitutional Troops, then, Join in Attack and Shots Are Fired.

THOMPKINS LEFT CITY IMMEDIATELY

Pershing's Report Differs from Carranza's—Funston Regrets Retreat.

ASKS FOR MORE SCOUTS. Columbus, N. M., April 17.—General Pershing has asked for more civilian scouts familiar with the district north of Parral. This is taken to mean that Pershing is placing no credence in the finding of Villa's body.

BODY HAS NOT ARRIVED. El Paso, April 17.—A telegraphic dispatch was received by General Gavira, commander of the Juarez garrison, from Outhurachic at 10:30 o'clock this morning, stating that the body of Villa had not arrived at this hour.

Washington, April 17.—As the hours pass without confirmation of the story of the finding of the body of Villa, Washington grows more doubtful. Villa's body was to have reached Chihuahua City by special train some time last night, but American Consul Letcher has not even forwarded rumors as to Villa's death, which must be circulating there.

PERSHING'S REPORT DIFFERENT. State and war department officials refused to comment on Pershing's report of the Parral fight, which is much different from the one transmitted by Carranza to support his suggestion that American troops be withdrawn. The American report shows that the Carranza troops not only joined in the attack upon the little detachment of Americans, but followed them several miles as they withdrew to avoid a clash.

San Antonio, Tex., April 17.—In a message to Consul Letcher at Chihuahua City, the Mexican ambassador, Colonel Brown of the Tenth cavalry asked that an aeroplane be dispatched immediately to bring in a report of an occurrence Thursday night—this advice was received by General Funston yesterday. Colonel Brown's command was engaged in a night with Mexicans at Parral last night, and he has urgent request for an aeroplane to take headquarters to mean that he has important news of a second engagement.

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BATTLE OF VERDUN, MOST GIGANTIC IN HISTORY, BEGINS NINTH WEEK; LOSSES GREATEST OF THE WAR

Ground Occupied by Germans After 66 Days' Fighting is Roughly Estimated at 100 Square Miles—French Thrown Back to Definite Line of Resistance.

London, April 17.—The most gigantic conflict in the history of the world, the battle of Verdun, has entered upon its ninth week. It is in many respects without precedent, because of the enormous scale of the German preparations and execution of the attack, the unparalleled concentration of artillery and the sustained ferocity of fighting mark the battle as one of the greatest efforts of the war.

Verdun has been rated as one of the strongest fortresses of Europe, the corner stone of the French defenses against Germany. The evolution of military tactics during the war, however, has particularly the employment by the Germans of long range howitzers capable of reducing the greatest forts have done much to change the character of the Verdun campaign, as compared with the earlier conceptions of what such a struggle might be.

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GRAIN GRADING CHANGE SOUGHT

E. F. Ladd Declares Farmers Lose 15 Cents on Bushel of Rejected Wheat.

(Herald Special Service.) Fargo, N. D., April 17.—Farmers selling rejected grain at 21 cents less than the price commanded by No. 1 wheat, are losing 15 cents on every bushel. Such statement was made today by Dr. E. F. Ladd, president of the North Dakota agricultural college in a hearing before the state railroad commission, where the question of grain grading was considered.

Dr. Ladd, pointing to millings tests conducted at the North Dakota agricultural college, said the present spread of 21 cents in No. 1 and rejected wheat is entirely 'unfair, unjust and uneconomical. This is taken to mean that Pershing is placing no credence in the finding of Villa's body.

North Dakota's tests, Dr. Ladd said, revealed the actual difference in milling value of only 6 cents per bushel, as between high grade and low grade wheats, the low grade wheat having much more gluten. Dr. Ladd also maintained that small millers were being driven out of business through the fact that they are unable to utilize the lower grades of wheat. This gives big millers, using low grade wheat, a big leverage, with which they are able to successfully force the small millers out of business, he said.

The railroad commission will seek to find a way of bringing about a change in grain grading in this state. The grain grades now conform to Minnesota's regulations.

FATHER AND SON DROWNED

Prominent Fisher Farmer Dies in Effort to Save Boy.

(Herald Special Service.) Crookston, Minn., April 17.—August J. Wentzel, a wealthy farmer near Fisher, died last night, he was drowned in the Red Lake river this morning together with his son, Paul, aged 13. They were attempting to save some wood when they fell in and the father drowned in an effort to save him. The bodies were recovered. The wife and seven other children survive.

KELLY MUST GO BACK TO CANADA

Contractor Loses His Fight Against Extradition on Fraud Charge.

Washington, April 17.—Thomas Kelly, contractor, wanted in Winnipeg in connection with alleged frauds in the construction of the parliament buildings there, lost his fight against extradition in the federal court. The high court affirmed the federal court in Chicago, which refused to release Kelly on habeas corpus. Canada asked for Kelly's extradition that he might be tried on a charge of obtaining \$1,125,000 by false pretenses on the parliament buildings contract.

NATIONAL LEAGUE table with columns R, H, E and rows Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis.

AMERICAN LEAGUE table with columns R, H, E and rows St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, Washington, Boston.

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New York-Philadelphia game postponed; Boston-Philadelphia game postponed; wet grounds.

TO FORCE SUBMARINE ISSUE TO DECISION; GERMANY MUST AGREE PROMPTLY TO THE U. S. POSITION

SHIP ATTACKED AND AMERICAN IS WOUNDED

Gulfport Fired Upon by Austrian Submarine—Another U. S. Man Unhurt.

Washington, April 17.—One of the two Americans aboard the Russian bark Imperator from Gulfport, Miss., for Marseilles, France, was wounded when the vessel was fired upon without warning by an Austrian submarine of the Columbre islands, according to official advice to the state department. American injured was Gustav Olson, whose father is a bandmaster at Fort Warren, Boston. The other American aboard was Auer Sweeney, whose brother is former man of a Minneapolis furniture factory. The state department's information came from the American consul at Barcelona, Spain. He said the ship was fired upon without warning on April 11.

Washington, April 17.—Three shots were fired, one taking effect. The vessel was set afire by the submarine. Olson is reported to be in a hospital at Barcelona, suffering from shrapnel wounds.

Neutral Ship Sunk. London, April 17.—The sinking of a neutral ship and a British steamship was reported to Lloyd's. The Norwegian ship Glendown was sunk by gunfire. The lost British ship was the Harrovia, which was unharmed.

CONSTANTINOPLE IS VISITED BY AIRCRAFT

Constantinople, April 17.—Two hostile aeroplanes have flown over Constantinople, dropping bombs on villages nearby, the war office announced yesterday, but no damage was done. The statement followed: "The situation on the Mesopotamian and Caucasian fronts is unchanged. On Friday night two hostile aeroplanes ascended off the Bardselles and flew over Constantinople at a considerable height. They dropped several incendiary bombs on two villages nearby, without results. One of the bombs set fire to a village, the hostile airmen lost sight of their object and retired."

SWEDISH STEAMER STOCKHOLM HELD UP

London, April 14. (delayed by censor).—The British authorities have taken into Kirkwall for examination the Swedish liner Stockholm, from Gothenburg to New York with passengers, mails and a general cargo, and the Norwegian steamship Maud, New Orleans and Christiania with a cargo of cottonseed oil and resin; Tromp, Baltimore and Copenhagen, with wheat and rye and the Import, Baltimore and Skien with wheat and rye.

The Swedish steamship Bolmen, New York for Copenhagen, has been taken to Leith.

AMBASSADOR PAGE SAILS. London, April 17.—The American steamship St. Louis sailed from Liverpool for New York at 9 o'clock last night with Thomas Nelson, Page, American ambassador at Rome, and Mrs. Page on board. Mrs. Page is on the way to the bedside of her brother, who is seriously ill.

PLAN FOR STANDARD CLEARING SYSTEM

Washington, April 17.—Governors of the twelve federal reserve banks will meet here today to consider a standard system of clearing, contemplated ever since the present monetary system went into effect. The federal reserve board probably will meet with the governors. Attorney General Gregory has been asked to interpret a clause of the law which apparently gives power to the board to establish such a system. His opinion has not yet been submitted and unless it is ready in time for tomorrow's meeting action probably will be postponed.

Other matters to be discussed include rates on commercial paper and the present surplus of reserves, aggregating nearly \$1,000,000,000 more than required by law.

WOULD INSURE TWINE SUPPLY

Trade Commission to be asked to Superintend Disposal of Sisal.

Washington, April 17.—Senator Ransdell, chairman of the committee investigating the alleged monopoly to control the output of sisal, announced that the federal trade commission would be asked to superintend the disposal of 125,000 bales now in Yucatan in order to insure a sufficient supply of binder twine for American harvests.

Without discussion, the senate adopted Senator Ransdell's resolution directing the federal trade commission to supervise the distribution of available sisal in Yucatan. The commission is ready to undertake work.

TO DECLARE 100 PER CENT DIVIDEND

Cleveland, April 17.—Directors of the Standard Oil company of Ohio announced a special shareholders' meeting May 25, to authorize a 100 per cent dividend, equal to \$2,500,000, to be in the form of a new stock.

RED LAKE RIVER BEGINS TO FALL

Crookston Reports Drop of One Inch During the Night.

(Herald Special Service.) Crookston, Minn., April 17.—The Red Lake river fell an inch during the night. The Great Northern bridge at Red Lake Falls is unsafe and passengers, mail and express are being transferred across it. It is believed the crest of the flood is here.

The country district is drying rapidly, with a gale blowing Sunday and bright weather today. The river is full of timber, cordwood and debris.

CAUCASUS AND MESOPOTAMIA FRONTS



1—Russian advance on Caucasus front reaches close to Trabzon, on Black sea. 2—Russian advance in Persia passes Kermanshah. 3—Turkish report victory over British at Fakhra, below Kut-al-Amara. Troops transferred from Baghdad defeated in attack on Turkish position, leaving 3,000 dead on both. 4—British forces telegraphed at Kut-al-Amara. 5—British reported defeat of Fakhra attempting to relieve Gen. Townshend at Kut.

STATES FRANKLY THAT PROMISES WERE VIOLATED

Declares that Sussex is Only the Link in Chain of Evidence.

WILSON'S NOTE IS NEARLY READY

Will be Sent Forward to Berlin Late Today or Tomorrow.

Washington, April 17.—Announcement was made at the White House that President Wilson practically has completed consideration of the forthcoming communication to Germany, and it was indicated that it probably will go forward to Berlin late today or tomorrow.

The president, it is said, has been steadily engaged on the note for two days. He did not go to church yesterday, but worked practically all day examining evidence submitted by the state department.

Force a Decision. The document, officials said, will press the submarine issue to a decision.

It was reiterated that the Sussex case would form only a link in the chain of evidence the United States will present to Germany to show her promises have not been fulfilled.

Positive in Tone. The document is characterized by officials as being very positive in tone, and they believe only a prompt acquiescence by Germany in the positions taken by the United States can prevent a break in diplomatic relations.

Unofficial advices from Berlin, indicating that the German government is ready to meet the United States more than half way, it is said, will not change the course of the American government, decided on at Friday's cabinet meeting.

FRENCH LINES ARE BOMBARDED

Position in Avoncourt Wood is Subjected to an Attack.

Paris, April 17.—The French position in the Avoncourt wood and to the front from Dead Man's Hill to Cumieres was bombarded yesterday. There were no infantry attacks, the official report says.

To the east of the Meuse the night was calm, except for artillery activity at Haudremont wood.

AUTHOR OF 'PECK'S BAD BOY' IS DEAD

Milwaukee, Wis., April 17.—George W. Peck, 75 years old, former governor of Wisconsin for two terms and at one time mayor of Milwaukee died here yesterday after a short illness. Peck was one of three Democrats who, since the admission of Wisconsin to the union in 1848, held the position of governor. He was governor from 1880 to 1885. In 1885 he opposed the Populists when they formed United States Farmers and C. Spooner, whom he defeated in a close contest. Before his entry into public life, Peck published the Milwaukee Journal. He was the publisher of Peck's Bad Boy.