

Roane River Courier

DAILY EDITION

VOL. VI, No. 151.

GRANTS PASS, JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1916.

WHOLE NUMBER 1495.

No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

AMERICAN TROOPS CROSSED INTO MEXICO AT NOON ADMITS FUNSTON

Major-General Has Also Practically Admitted Truth of the Report That the U. S. Flying Squadron of Cavalry Had Met and Engaged Villista Army, Though Details Regarding the Result Are Not Yet Obtainable

San Antonio, Mar. 15.—United States troops crossed the border into Mexico at noon today, Major-General Frederick Funston officially announced this afternoon. He declared that there had been no resistance at the border, and that the Carranza troops were joining the American forces.

San Antonio, Mar. 15.—Major-General Frederick Funston virtually admitted this afternoon that a flying squadron of American cavalrymen had crossed the border into Mexico, and that they may have been engaged in a battle.

Funston also said: "The report that our cavalry has been in an engagement is interesting, and may be true. Frankly, I am out of touch with Colonel Dodd's column. He will get into wireless communication with General Pershing before evening, I expect, and then I'll hear details. Reports of fighting so soon after crossing were unexpected. It is possible that word of operations along the border may have seeped back through the telegraph operators not under censorship before it reached me. Only Columbus (self is under censorship.)"

Washington, Mar. 15.—The war department had no information this afternoon regarding General Funston's statement that Colonel Dodd's men "may have crossed" the border into Mexico. Colonel Dodd commands the Second cavalry brigade at Douglas, Ariz.

San Antonio, Mar. 15.—"I hope the American people appreciate that this is going to be a hard and difficult campaign. It may be a long one also."

In this fashion today General Funston, in whose hands has been unreservedly placed the task of capturing Villa, summed up the campaign for the United Press. Funston intimated that General Pershing has his orders, and will move when ready.

"One of the best features of this business is the fact that our troops are in splendid shape for the work," Funston said.

"From a physical standpoint they could not be in better condition. The time most of them have spent on the border has hardened and toughened them. But it is going to be a hard job."

"Villa has fled into one of the most naturally desolate countries in the world. What nature did not do for it in this respect the fighting factions have done. Unless we go in sufficiently supplied with food and fodder to handle the problem of subsistence, we would be defeated by nature before we met the Villistas. There is nothing left in all that vast naked region for us to buy or take."

"Our prisoners captured at Columbus said that Villa and his followers were living on jerked beef. They have no other foodstuffs of consequence."

"I believe our aeroplanes are going to be most valuable to us in scouting. They will be the first we ever used under these conditions. I have great hopes of their success."

"I hope the people will understand the reason for the apparent delay in crossing into Mexico and starting our chase. It would have been utterly for us to have continued the

pursuit of Villa on the day he raided Columbus. We would have had only 250 men against Villa's 1500 or possibly more followers. Our men had no supplies with them. They might have continued the running fight, and killed a few more, but unless we had actually captured Villa there was no particular military advantage to be gained. In fact, Villa's forces so outnumbered ours that there would have been danger in us continuing the pursuit.

"Our men might have been surrounded, and another Custer massacre would have resulted."

"From all I have learned, I believe Villa raided Columbus as a result of one of his characteristic brainstorms. These fits of his blind, unreasoning anger are well known. When in the grip of them, he will do anything."

"Back of that rage was the hope, I presume, that intervention might result in swinging the tide of Mexican popular favor toward him, so he would again be made political factor there."

FEW AMERICAN TROOPS AT BORDER

By J. W. T. Mason.

New York, Mar. 15.—Eight thousand Americans, whom it has taken five days to concentrate on the Mexican border, could hold about a mile and a half of trenches in Europe for one battle.

If they bore the brunt of any hard fighting, about one-fifth would be killed, wounded and captured.

If there was any delay in reinforcing them, there would be nothing left but nasty defeat and possible extermination for the remainder.

Three thousand could check 8,000 men on the offensive, according to the European lesson. The soldiers on the offensive must be three times as strong as the defenders to succeed. This applies to straight fighting on comparatively level ground.

Mountainous Mexico, however, suggests problems similar to those in the Vosges and in the Alps, which are yet unsolved. In that kind of country, 8,000 men would be strong on the defensive, but on the offensive probably 2,000 foemen could halt them.

MT. LASSEN AT PEACE

WITH ALL THE WORLD

Redding, Cal., Mar. 15.—Contrary to reports, Mount Lassen today showed no further signs of eruption than have been evident for months. There is a spattering of steam from the northeastern crater practically all the time, and occasional faint rumblings are heard. The last big eruption was November 22. Many believe another one will occur when melting snow reaches the crater's interior.

GENERAL SCOTT REVERSES SUBORDINATE OFFICIALS

Washington, Mar. 15.—General Hugh Scott, chief of staff, today announced he had reversed the decision of subordinate war department officials, who asserted yesterday that civilian military training camps planned for this summer would be abandoned. On account of the Mexican situation, however, Scott said the plans would be considerably curtailed.

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR BOOZE TEST CASE MAR. 24

Salem, Mar. 15.—March 24 was fixed by the supreme court today as the date for hearing a mandamus suit which attacks the constitutionality of certain provisions of Oregon's prohibition law.

The suit was brought by a Portland firm against the San Francisco & Portland Steamship company to compel delivery of two barrels of ethyl alcohol shipped from San Francisco.

It is contended that restriction of such shipments of alcohol into the state makes the manufacture of flavoring extracts so expensive that competition with manufacturers in other states is impossible.

VILLISTAS RAID

HACHITA, NEW MEXICO

El Paso, Mar. 15.—A Villista band looted homes on the outskirts of Hachita, N. M., last night, according to reports today over the El Paso & Southwestern railroad wires. The local police were misinformed that a large Carranzista force had captured the town. All is quiet there now. Early accounts failed to state whether the American garrison engaged the raiders.

Hachita is on the El Paso & Southwestern railway, a little more than ten miles from the Mexican border. It is about 40 miles west of Columbus, N. M.

CUMMINS FAVORITE

IN IOWA PRIMARIES

St. Paul, Mar. 15.—Senator Albert B. Cummins of Iowa received four times as many votes as Henry D. Estabrook in the primary election for the republican nomination for president here yesterday, according to the completed count today. Cummins was backed by the state branch of the German-American alliance and the "old guard." Hiram Johnson of California was unopposed for the progressive vice-presidential nomination.

PROF. COLLIER OF U.

OF OREGON DEAD

Eugene, Mar. 15.—George Haskell Collier, 89 years old, professor emeritus of the University of Oregon, is dead at his home here. He retired from active teaching in 1895.

ESSEN RAIDED BY ALLIED AVIATORS

London, Mar. 15.—Allied aviators have raided Essen, where the Krupp works are located, according to Amsterdam dispatches today. Others were said to have attacked Munich and Gladbach.

Six sheds at Essen were destroyed, it is reported. The raid was not confirmed officially, but the reports caused great enthusiasm. It is some time since war experts urged air raids on the Krupp works, 170 miles north of Verdun, and Gladbach, 30 miles southwest of Essen.

The Germans are known to have taken precautions against an air raid on the Krupp munitions works at Essen. If the air fleet really succeeded in raiding Munich, it made one of the longest flights of the war. Munich is nearly 250 miles east of the French lines in upper Alsace.

MORE STEEL FOR SUGAR FACTORY

Structural Iron for Building Arriving Daily, and Workmen Make Haste With Preliminary Construction

More cars of steel arrived last night for the construction of the sugar factory in South Grants Pass and were at once set over to the factory site. There the cars are being unloaded as fast as they arrive, and it is hoped that all the 24 cars of structural steel required will reach here within the next few days and be ready for putting in place as soon as the foundations are ready. From 40 to 50 men are now employed in the preliminary work at the factory, and derricks are being erected for the hoisting of the heavy materials into place. A well has been sunk and equipped with engine and tank, and everything is now about in readiness for the serious work of real factory construction.

CENSOR NEWS FROM THE MEXICAN FRONT

El Paso, Mar. 15.—Military censorship has been thrown so closely around Columbus and the border country today that it is impossible to ascertain troop movements, although many firmly believed the American expedition had started.

Control of the telegraph and telephone was taken over by a squad of soldiers acting under orders from General Pershing. A long distance telephone call to Columbus merely brought a reply from "central" that she was under military censorship as well as everybody else there.

A censored Columbus dispatch from a United Press staff correspondent told of preparations to establish a base of operations for the pursuit. Railroad switches and bridges are being built by army engineers. Troop movements were not mentioned in the message.

The censor permitted mention, however, of the arrival of the aero squadron from San Antonio, with its consort of motor lorries. The United Press correspondent's message was timed 9:30 a. m. today, but it does not necessarily contradict rumors of a start having been made, because newspapermen were not expected to be permitted to enter Mexico with the vanguard.

Officers at Fort Bliss refused to discuss rumors that the border already had been crossed.

The El Paso & Southwestern railway telegraph department's statements that Villistas had looted a few houses on the outskirts of Hachita, N. M., apparently disposed of the story that a Carranzista force had seized the town.

It was announced that Palomas had been evacuated by the Carranzistas and that 1,000 of them were marching toward Guzman. They are led by General Bertani, according to a statement from General Gutierrez, and will join the constitutionalists hunting Francisco Villa.

Mexican Consul Garcia's statement that 400 de facto government soldiers remained to garrison Palomas seemed to give the lie to rumors that American forces already had crossed the border, unless the de facto troops have definitely decided to co-operate.

Reliable Casas Grandes advices said a number of Carranzistas deserted from the garrison there and joined the Villistas, being eager to

(Continued on page 2)

FRUIT GROWERS' MEETING THURSDAY

The fruit growers of the district are taking much interest in the coming visit of C. E. Bassett, of the U. S. department of agriculture, who will be in Grants Pass Thursday. The problem of marketing is a vital one in the Pacific northwest, and every fruit grower should be present at this meeting with Mr. Bassett, which will be held at the Commercial club rooms at 2 p. m.

SENATE PASSES RESOLUTION FOR ARMY INCREASE

Washington, Mar. 15.—The Hay-Chamberlain resolution increasing the size of the regular army to its full strength of 100,000 men was adopted today by the senate. It provides for an immediate increase.

Hoke Smith was the only senator to oppose the resolution during the debate. He proposed an amendment making the enlistment term two years instead of the usual four. Smith said he was against long enlistments and that, in the present case, he felt sure the recruits could be more easily obtained if the term were shortened.

The senate enjoyed unlimited debate on the measure until Senator Gallinger called for a vote. Then it was passed unanimously.

Senator Sherman introduced a resolution that the American forces be withdrawn from the Philippines. He said:

"Twelve thousand regulars could be sent to Mexico. They would be ideal soldiers in that tropical climate. Furthermore, they have been well trained in guerilla warfare."

Sherman said he would leave 5,700 native scouts in the islands as a Philippine garrison.

INTERVENTION PLAN HATCHED IN THE U. S.

Mexico City, Mar. 15.—Well laid plans to force American intervention in Mexico were defeated by President Wilson's acceptance of Provisional President Carranza's military reciprocity proposals, Carranzistas asserted today.

Carranza knew of these plans. He believes the Villa raid on Columbus, N. M., was financed by American interests seeking intervention.

Patriotic demonstrations continued today, following the announcement that American-Mexican differences had been settled. Military bands paraded the streets, playing national airs.

CARRANZISTAS LEAVE PALOMAS

El Paso, Mar. 15.—Carranzistas have evacuated Palomas, south of Columbus, Mexican Consul Garcia announced today. General Bertani was said to be leading 1,000 of them toward Guzman.

AUSTRIA DECLARES WAR ON PORTUGAL

Rome, Mar. 15.—Austria has declared war on Portugal, dispatches received here today declared.

Geneva, Switzerland, Mar. 15.—Austria has recalled its minister to Lisbon and handed the Portuguese ambassador at Vienna his passports, dispatches received here today asserted. It is not known yet whether there will be an open declaration of war, or merely a severance of diplomatic relations.

FRENCH STOP GERMANS AT VERDUN

Counter Attacks by the Allied Forces Have Halted the Teuton Offensive West of the Meuse River

London, Mar. 15.—Vicious French counter-attacks have halted the German offensive launched west of the Meuse river, northwest of Verdun, the Paris communique asserted today.

Berlin's announcement apparently confirms this claim.

Paris last night admitted gains made by Germans. The Teutons again attacked last night, said Paris, and were checked.

Other French reports said soldiers of the republic held the Cumières forest, Bethincourt and surrounding territory. This was the first French admission that Germans had captured a portion of the forest.

Near Neuve Chapelle, Berlin said German sappers blew up a British position with its occupants.

London, Mar. 15.—Between the shell-shattered town of Bethincourt and the slopes of "Dead Man's" hill the Germans have driven a new wedge deep into French defenses, Berlin messages announced today.

Teutons surround Bethincourt on three sides, and a slight further advance, it is declared, would force the French to evacuate the city.

French strongholds on "Dead Man's" hill are again imperilled by this resumption of infantry attacks on Verdun.

Latest Paris communique contradicts these German claims. They admit there were infantry attacks in the specified region following an almost unprecedented bombardment, but assert all charges were repulsed except at two isolated points between Bethincourt and "Dead Man's" hill.

It is indicated that the assaults there mark the beginning of a most severe battle, which may prove to be the last phase of the Verdun fight.

It is believed that the German crown prince hopes by a brilliant stroke to break French lines northwest of the citadel. If such a smash were successful, the French army on the Meuse east bank would be trapped and it would mean the capture of great quantities of munitions, supplies and artillery ammunition, as well as the probable surrender of many thousands of soldiers.

Paris dispatches said military experts there were awake to the danger of new German successes. The critics said:

"Were the Germans to gain Verdun via Douaumont and Vaux, it would be an empty victory. They would lose 300,000 more men for an empty husk."

Success via Goose hill and Bethincourt, however, might be much more substantial. The French are holding the Lorraine front on the east side of the river. Their guns and material run the risk of capture, as the main bridges spanning the Meuse might be commanded by the foe.

General Petain's precautions guard against surprise. The Germans are expected to hurl solid masses against "Dead Man's" and Goose hills. All French are convinced the Germans will be fought to a standstill."

NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT CHARLIE CHAPLIN'S SALARY

Los Angeles, Mar. 15.—Charlie Chaplin, highest paid movie actor in the world, returned to work at a Hollywood studio today.

"It's all true," he said. "I will receive \$470,000 a year, turning out one picture a month."