

LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS AGREE TO CONFERENCE

Six Countries Asked by Wilson to Be Represented at Meeting to Plan Restoring Peace in Mexico.

WHAT THE STEP CONTEMPLATES

First Step in Pacification of Mexico Probably Will Be Embargo on Arms and Ammunition.

DIPLOMATS CONFER THURSDAY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—The six South and Central American nations which President Wilson has invited to be represented at the meeting here Thursday to consider plans for restoring peace to Mexico have formally signified their willingness to join with the United States in the preliminary conferences.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—When the three South American ambassadors and the three ranking Latin-American ministers meet with Secretary Lansing Thursday to hear President Wilson's plan to ask the co-operation of their countries for restoring peace to Mexico, a course of action will be outlined which all Latin-America will be asked to approve.

It contemplates the restoration of constitutional government without the use of force, if possible, but has in view joint action of all the Americas, if necessary.

Although all officials surround the conference with the greatest secrecy, it is known that one of the first elements is an embargo on arms from all Latin-America to Mexico.

The president is not committed to details of any plan, but will invite suggestions from the Latin-Americans to open the way to a common ground.

Carranzistas Become Anxious. Announcement of the conference surprised agents of the Mexican factions here. Carranza's agents, hopeful that his course within the last few weeks and his efforts to respond to the demands of this government to relieve Mexico City, would lead to ultimate recognition, confessed their dissatisfaction.

They did not attempt to conceal some misgivings, but are hopeful that Carranza's showing of strength in Mexico will force the conviction that his provisional government demands recognition.

Villa's adherents believe President Wilson will submit a plan for a provisional government, taking up the constitutional succession where it was broken by the death of President Madero. Vasquez Tagle, minister of justice, is in line. Should any faction revolt, they propose an embargo on munitions of war against the revolters, and that the American government support the factions participating in the provisional government.

Such a course, they admitted, might necessitate armed intervention. General Carranza's followers here believe he will yield, but will take the ground that he is entitled to recognition.

General Carranza's agency announced that General Hernandez, commanding Villa forces at Coahuila, had sent emissaries to arrange a surrender of his forces to the Carranza army. It was said he based his surrender on the reported withdrawal of the Madero family from the Villa movement.

BOY IS DROWNED BY FLOOD IN PENNSYLVANIA

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa., Aug. 3.—One life was lost and many thousand dollars damage done throughout this section last night, by a series of storms which flooded streams, washed away bridges, damaged railroads and interurban lines and destroyed harvests. Ralph Rapsky, a boy, was swept from a bridge here and drowned.

The Weather

Forecast till 7 p. m. Wednesday: For Omaha, Council Bluffs and vicinity—Partly cloudy; warmer. Temperature at Omaha Yesterday: Hour, 7 a. m., 78; 8 a. m., 78; 9 a. m., 78; 10 a. m., 78; 11 a. m., 78; 12 m., 78; 1 p. m., 78; 2 p. m., 78; 3 p. m., 78; 4 p. m., 78; 5 p. m., 78; 6 p. m., 78; 7 p. m., 78; 8 p. m., 78; 9 p. m., 78; 10 p. m., 78; 11 p. m., 78; 12 m., 78.

LORD KITCHENER MAKING A PERSONAL INSPECTION OF A BODY OF TROOPS IN FRONT OF THE GUILD HALL IN MANCHESTER.



HIGH HAND RULE BY NORMAL BOARD

Kearney Building Contract Let to Highest Bidder and Member Gettys Voted Out.

ABOVE GOVERNOR AND THE LAW

(From a Staff Correspondent.) LINCOLN, Aug. 3.—(Special.)—In the same arbitrary manner which has characterized the work of the "brutal majority" on the state normal board for several years the board proceeded today to vote itself greater in authority than the people who created it or the governor who appointed them members.

The work of the board was so openly antagonistic to the interests of the taxpayers of the state that many of the firms which were there for the purpose of bidding on the contract for the Kearney normal auditorium left in disgust and one of the principal bidders, Gould & Son of Omaha, withdrew its bid.

The fine Omaha band of the "majority" was first shown when President Velez, who was defeated for the presidency at the last meeting, took the chair instead of President Dan Morris of Kearney, who had been elected.

Straitened Peru Record. This was done in order to make regular the corner stone of the Peru normal, which had inscribed thereon the name of Velez as president of the normal board, the stone having been carved when the majority thought it had such a lead pipe cinch on the presidency that it could reel Velez. That the machine slipped a cog and Velez was defeated was no fault of the machine.

The roll was called and again the brutal majority got in its work by refusing the call the name of J. R. Gettys, member of the board, and substituting that of H. E. Reische of Chadron, who had been appointed by Governor Morehead to fill the term at the expiration of Gettys' term. After that act Secretary Cavness moved that Mr. Morris be declared the unanimous choice of the board for president, notwithstanding he had been elected a month of six weeks ago.

Bids Are Not Alike. Then the board proceeded to open bids for the erection of the building at Kearney. The advertisement called for bids for the general building and also for the heating, plumbing and wiring. The bid of W. F. Crosby of Kearney simply called for the erection of the building and the furnishing of material and work for its completion and was for \$57,567. Walter Knutson of Kearney put in a bid substantially worded the same for \$33,323. Gould & Son put in a bid for the building alone without the plumbing, heating and wiring for \$21,750, and two other bids, all below the Crosby figures, were opened. There were more than a dozen bids on simply the heating, plumbing and wiring. The question then arose as to what the board had really covered and Crosby was allowed to make a verbal statement that it covered the whole thing. Treasurer Hall did not believe that the board had any right to accept a bid that did not specify what it covered, neither did he believe that any action of the board along that line was legal.

Thomas As a Square Deal. Superintendent Thomas opposed the Crosby bid. He said that naturally, being from Kearney, he would like to see a Kearney firm get the contract, but he did not believe the board had any right to let the contract on that kind of a bid. He said the board should get the work done as reasonably as possible, but he said it owed the other bidders who had bid according to the advertisement a square deal.

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DOUBLE TRAGEDY AT ENDICOTT, NEB.

George W. Cook, Wealthy Retired Farmer, Murders Wife with a Razor and Kills Himself.

DAUGHTER FINDS THE BODIES

FAIRBURY, Neb., Aug. 3.—(Special Telegram.)—George C. Cook, who murdered his wife with a razor and then killed himself at Endicott early this morning, had been worrying over a scandal connected with his 18-year-old son and a married woman in Endicott.

About a month ago this woman's husband threatened young Cook with prosecution. Thoughts of his son's facing trial had affected the father's mind. The family admitted he had become slightly unbalanced. He had even conferred with Sheriff Edward Hughes at Fairbury about the scandal and Mr. Hughes assured him that there would be no trial at Fairbury and for him not to worry.

In addition, Mr. Cook was suffering from ill health. Coroner Dodge's verdict was the deed had been done during a period of temporary insanity.

Daughter Finds Body. It is assumed the tragedy occurred at 3 o'clock this morning, as the young daughter heard the baby crying piteously and she went into the mother's bedroom. She stumbled over the bodies of her parents, in a pool of blood, and was frightened nearly to death. She gave the alarm and Sheriff Hughes and Coroner Dodge were summoned from Fairbury. The father's body was found lying across the body of his wife, still clutching the bloody weapon.

Mr. Cook was 55 years of age and his wife, Sarah Cook, 48. They were parents of ten children, seven girls and three boys, five of whom were married. They were highly esteemed in Jefferson county and had lived in Endicott for many years. Arrangements have been made to hold the funeral Thursday and burial of the bodies will be made in the Fairbury cemetery. The surviving children include Mrs. Roy Schell of Diller, Mrs. Charlie Wilson and Mrs. Francis Pearson of Endicott, Mrs. Ralph Hughes of Steele City, Mrs. Roy Riley of Endicott, Misses Lilla and Viola Cook, and three sons, Ellis, Ivo and Virgil, living at home.

Lawson's Attorneys Appeal His Case

DENVER, Aug. 3.—An appeal to the Colorado supreme court was filed today by attorneys for John R. Lawson, former coal strike leader, convicted of the murder of John Nimmo, a deputy sheriff.

A petition was filed for a writ of error and a superaddes to stay the execution of the sentence to life imprisonment, pronounced by Judge Granby Hillier in the district court of Las Animas county. Lawson was convicted May 3 of first degree murder, the case growing out of a battle between striking coal miners and deputy sheriffs at Ludlow, October 25, 1912.

The appeal makes the same allegations of error that were made in the application for a new trial, recently denied by Judge Hillier. Among the charges is included the affidavit of Grover Hall, a member of the jury, who claims that he was induced to consent to a verdict of guilty by coercive measures, said to have been employed by Frank Gooden, bailiff. The Colorado supreme court already has before it a petition for a writ of prohibition to bar Judge Hillier from presiding at future trials growing out of coal strike disorders.

BRITAIN ASSERTS ITS BLOCKADE IS WHOLLY LAWFUL

Britain Declares American Protest that Orders-in-Council Are Illegal to Be Unsoundable on Any Grounds.

'CHANGED CONDITIONS' CITED

Alleged German Atrocities Held to Justify Move to Cut Off Sea Trade of foe.

J. BULL TO CONTINUE DOING IT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—Great Britain's replies to the latest American representations against interference with neutral commerce reject entirely the contention that the orders-in-council are illegal and justify the British course as being within international law.

"Unsustainable either in point of law or upon principles of international equity," is the British reply to the American protest against the blockade of neutral ports, with an invitation to submit to international arbitration any cases in which the United States is dissatisfied with action of British prize courts.

Great Britain's reply, embodied in two notes, one supplemental, was made public here tonight and in London simultaneously by agreement between the two governments. With the notes made public also the correspondence over the American steamer Neches, seized by the British while en route from Rotterdam to the United States with goods of German origin. All the correspondence aggregates 7,000 words.

Changed Conditions, Says Britain. Changed conditions of warfare, the British note contends, require a new application of the principles of international law. The advent of the submarine, the airship and the alleged atrocities by Germany troops in Belgium are cited as justification for the exercise of extreme measures. The blockade is justified on the contention that the universally recognized fundamental principle of a blockade is that a belligerent is entitled to cut off "any effective means the sea-borne commerce of his enemy."

The note reiterates that Great Britain will continue to apply the orders complained of, although not without every effort to avoid embarrassment to neutrals, and observes that the American statistics show that any loss in trade with Germany and Austria has been more than overbalanced by the increase of other industrial activities due to the war.

In the general reply to the American representations against the orders-in-council, Sir Edward Grey, the foreign minister, addressing Ambassador Page, begins by expressing the hope that he may be able to convince the administration in Washington "that the measures we have announced are not only reasonable and necessary in themselves, but constitute no more than an adoption of the old principles of blockade to the peculiar circumstances with which we are confronted."

"I need scarcely dwell," wrote Sir Edward, "on the obligations incumbent upon the allies to take every step in their power to overcome their common enemy in view of the shocking violation of the recognized rules and principles of civilized warfare of which he has been guilty during the present struggle."

Sir Edward then refers to alleged atrocities in Belgium, poisoning of wells in German southwest Africa, use of poisonous gases against the allied troops in Flanders, and finally, the sinking of the Lusitania, to show "how indispensable it is that we should leave unused no justifiable method of defending ourselves."

Coming down to the question of the allied blockade of neutral ports, the note continues: "In the various notes, which I have received from your excellency, the right of a belligerent to establish a blockade of the enemy ports is admitted, a right which has obviously no value save insofar as it gives power to a belligerent to cut off the sea-borne exports and imports of his enemy. The contentions, which I understand the United States government now puts forward, is that if a belligerent is so circumstanced that his commerce can pass through adjacent neutral ports as easily as through ports in his own territory, his opponents has no right to interfere and must restrict his measures to blockade in such a manner as to leave such avenues of commerce still open to his adversaries. This is a contention which his majesty's government feel unable to accept and which seems to them unsustainable either in point of law or upon principles of international equity."

They are unable to admit that a belligerent violates any fundamental principle of international law by applying a blockade in such a way as to cut off the enemy's commerce with foreign countries through neutral ports. The circumstances stand under such an application of the principles of blockade the only means of making it effective. The government of the United States, indeed, intimates its readiness to take into account the great changes which have occurred in the conduct of the war.

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STOP OFF IN OMAHA THE GATE-CITY-OF-THE-WEST Omaha's fine fireproof Auditorium is now the property of the city—and is at the disposal of any and all national conventions or big gatherings that may "stop off" here.

Austrian Regiment that Tried to Retake Position is Wiped Out

UDINE, Italy, Aug. 3.—(via Paris.)—Italian officers arriving here from the front say that the Austrian attempt to retake the positions occupied by the Italians on Carso plateau reached their climax when the Austro-Hungarian commander launched against Mount Selsol one of four Kaiserjäger regiments, which had just arrived from Vienna.

The Kaiserjäger met a regiment of Bersaglieri and shouted to them to surrender. The next moment the officers say 4,000 fixed bayonets flashed in a desperate hand-to-hand struggle, and when finally the Bersaglieri occupied the Austrian positions, the field where the Kaiserjäger had stood resembled a scene of immense carnage. Few of the Austrians had escaped.

Italians Advance in Rovereto. VERONA, Italy, Aug. 3.—(via Paris.)—Although the weather still is unsettled, the advance of the Italian forces against Rovereto, an Austrian town thirteen miles southwest of Trent, is progressing along the Arsa valley. The forts surrounding the town already are said to be suffering under the fire of Italian siege guns.

PRACTICAL TESTS FOR STEAMBOATS

Sandbags Weighing as Much as Entire Quota of Passengers to Be Placed on One Side Ship.

INSPECTORS RELEASED ON BOND

CHICAGO, Aug. 3.—A board named by the city council harbor committee today began preparations for tests of the stability of excursion steamships sailing out of the port of Chicago. Sand bags, weighing as much as a full quota of passengers, will be placed on one side of the steamship Christopher Columbus next Thursday as a means of ascertaining the seaworthiness of that vessel.

The federal grand jury today resumed the taking of evidence regarding the alleged "cranky" performances of the steamship Eastland, which capsized at its dock a week ago Saturday. It was announced that subscriptions to aid the families of Eastland victims are in excess of \$30,000, and that benefits to be given in the next few days will considerably increase that figure.

Judge Landis in the United States district court today ordered the release of Steamboat Inspectors Robert Reid and Charles C. Eekhoff upon their own cash bonds of \$2,500 each. They will appear in court a week from tomorrow, when arguments on an application for a writ of habeas corpus filed by their attorneys will be heard.

Nine hundred and eighty-one persons lost their lives in the steamer Eastland disaster, according to final figures given out today by the Western Electric company, which completed the checking of its employees and friends who boarded the vessel. The identified dead number 331, unidentified dead two, and the Western Electric company placed the final list of missing at 141, making the total 504.

The bottom has dropped out of the lake excursion business as a result of the disaster to the Eastland, according to H. W. Thorp, general manager of the Goodrich Transit company. Three big excursion steamers have been withdrawn from service and ship owners are said to be foremost in urging safety tests which will restore confidence in lake boats.

Alleged Slayer of Auburn Man Pleads Ignorance of Crime

SIoux FALLS, S. D., Aug. 3.—(Special.)—Repeatedly declaring that he remembers nothing of the fight, Joseph Glenn, a transient, who is charged with first degree murder in connection with the death of Thomas Sarvis, of Auburn, Neb., has been lodged in the Lake county jail pending his trial at the October term of state circuit court. The defendant waived his preliminary hearing and his bond was fixed at \$10,000.

Glenn is something of a man of mystery. He is about 48 years of age, and from appearances is of the hobo element. Notwithstanding repeated questioning he refuses to give any information concerning himself to the officers, and nothing can be learned as to his home or whether he has relatives living. Since he was taken into custody a relative of the murdered man also questioned him about the fight in which Sarvis lost his life, but could get nothing from the prisoner beyond the brief claim that he "didn't know."

It is said the state at the trial will produce a witness who will testify that immediately before Glenn plunged the blade of a large jackknife into Sarvis' abdomen, he (Glenn) made a threat to "get" Sarvis. Both men were intoxicated at the time of the fight, which resulted in the fatal wounding of Sarvis, who died some hours later in a hospital.

Sarvis lay on the ground an hour and a half after receiving the frightful wound, when he managed to make his way to a drug store and call for assistance. The murdered man was about 22 years of age, of fine physique, gave evidence of having been well raised and spoke of his people being well respected at Auburn, Neb., and vicinity.

Buffalo Express Hits Landslide

PARKERS LANDING, Pa., Aug. 3.—Running at high speed, the Buffalo Express on the Pennsylvania railroad ran into a landslide near here early today. Jesse Williams, engineer of Pittsburgh, was killed, and R. Geifrich, fireman of Pittsburgh, was seriously scalded. Three day coaches and a sleeper left the track, but remained upright.

RUSSIAN LINE TO WEST OF POLISH CAPITAL HOLDS

Teuton Hosts, However, Continue Their Advance on Warsaw from Both the North and South.

READY TO EVACUATE THE CITY

French and Belgian Consulates Turned Over to American Officers.

FIGHTING RESUMED IN FRANCE

LONDON, Aug. 3.—The armies of Germany and Austria-Hungary are being held by the Russians to the west of Warsaw, but they are making progress elsewhere on the eastern front, according to the official statements emanating from Berlin and Vienna, their most determined attack evidently being that directed against Wyszow, a town thirty-five miles northeast of Warsaw.

Pursuing their policy of cutting the communications of Grand Duke Nicholas, heavy German forces are attacking the railroad linking the main Warsaw-Petrograd line with Ostrolenka.

The latest dispatch direct from Warsaw, coming from a correspondent of the Associated Press and dated July 23, shows that conditions in the threatened Polish capital are much better than were indicated in the latest direct dispatches to the London newspapers, which were sent July 23.

The later information of the Associated Press states that the people are returning to their homes and that the life of the capital is resuming a normal aspect, although the official establishments have made all preparations for the expected evacuation, the French and Belgian consulates being placed in the hands of the American consul.

Fighting Resumed in West. In the west, fighting again is in progress on the British section of the battle front, and there has been a resumption of infantry activity, with the French admitting that the Germans have captured some trenches in the Argonne and the Cas Marie Therese district, but claiming that counter attacks have won a portion of the lost ground.

In the Vosges mountains, Paris states that the French troops took several German trenches, after inflicting heavy losses on the defenders.

The record of British submariners activity given out by British admiralty last night, was supplemented today by a Petrograd official report, which announces that an English submarine has sunk a large German transport in the Baltic.

PARIS, Aug. 3.—The French war office today gave out an official report as follows: "In the Artois, in the vicinity of Souchez, there was spirited fighting during a part of last night, in which hand grenades and bombs were largely used. On the plateau of Quenneverin and in the valley of the Aisne yesterday saw violent artillery exchange. Soissons was again bombarded."

"In the Argonne, in the sectors of St. Hubert, Marie Therese, Fontain-Aux-Charmes, and at Hill No. 214, the fighting continued throughout the night. The Germans endeavored to deliver several attacks, but were not successful. At Eparges there was yesterday a rather severe bombardment.

"In the Vosges the enemy yesterday evening delivered one attack against our positions on the river Linge and three attacks against our positions on the Barrenkopf. These violent attacks were all repulsed.

Duma Votes to Prosecute War.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 3.—(Via London.)—Michael V. Rodzianko of Ekaterinoslav today was re-elected president of the Russian Duma by a vote of 26 to 43. On the conclusion of the debate on the war, the Duma placed itself on record by the following resolution: (Continued on Page Two, Column Three.)

Supreme Council Knights of Columbus Meets at Seattle

SEATTLE, Wash., Aug. 3.—The annual convention of the supreme council of the Knights of Columbus opened here today with delegates from all parts of the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico and the Philippines in attendance.

The chief matter to be taken up by the convention will be the report of the commissioner on religious prejudice, which has carried on an investigation for the last year to determine the causes of waves of religious prejudice and with a view to effecting a more friendly feeling between different religions.

Colonel P. H. Callahan of Louisville, Ky., chairman of the commission, said: "The recommendations of the report will include a declaration of the Catholic position in regard to civil allegiance, and will condemn the action of the politicians who make religion a campaign issue. The report will deal with the principal matters which excite prejudice, the chief sources from which it springs and the classes in which it largely exists."

The delegates to the supreme council attended high mass at St. James cathedral, celebrated by Archbishop John Bonzano, the papal delegate, before opening their annual session. Addresses of welcome were delivered before the council by Governor Ernest Lister, Supreme Justice Chadwick, Mayor Hiram C. Gill and Thomas Burke, president of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce. Supreme Knight James A. Fishery responded. A second session of the council was held this afternoon.

Hearing Ordered. WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—(Special Telegram.)—The Interstate Commerce commission has ordered a hearing held at Sioux Falls, S. D., on September 2 in the matter of rates on coal in carloads from points in Wyoming and Montana to points in South Dakota.

Two Elevators Burn. MASON CITY, Ia., Aug. 3.—(Special Telegram.)—Elevators owned by Hugh Mullin and Charles Raw at Britt, burned this morning. Loss \$14,000; insurance, \$5,000.

THE WANT-AD. WAY



PLEASE PASS THE PICKLED PURPLE PLUMS. He found a nice room, a home by itself, his own laundry, serves real nice meals. The job he holds brings him good pay, and he's sure of it. For the Want Ad way. He looks through the Ad most every night. And he always finds what he wants. He thinks all right. (Continued Tomorrow.) You can secure the very best class of "Board and Room" through the Classified Columns of THE OMAHA BEE. Place a Board and Room Ad in today's paper, telling all the good points about your offerings. Telephone Tyler 1000 now and PUT IT IN THE OMAHA BEE.