

TORREON BATTLE BEGINS AND VILLA IS CONFIDENT

Believed Decisive Engagement of the Present Revolution Has Been Begun With Thousands Lined Up In Battle Array

ALREADY MANY HAVE BEEN KILLED

On This Battle, It Is Conceded, Hinges the Fate of the Revolution—Preliminary Skirmishes Give Advantage.

EL PASO, March 24.—The battle of Torreon opened yesterday afternoon and is still in progress early this morning. A dispatch was received here late last night by General Chao, military governor of the state of Chihuahua, signed by Villa, telling of the engagement.



General "Pancho" Villa.

Consul Perceval Makes His Report On Benton Killing

WASHINGTON, March 23, March 23.—British Consul Perceval, at Galveston, reported to the British ambassador the results of his independent investigation of the Benton killing.

From the incomplete evidence he was able to secure, Perceval reports that Benton was unarmed when he entered Villa's office and that there was a scuffle, followed by perfect quiet. No witnesses could be found who heard the sound of a shot.

Benton did not emerge from the office alive, but the report does not disclose where or when the body was removed.

The consul drew the inference that Benton was killed by a knife, his body secretly removed, and interred in the immediate neighborhood, though there was no direct evidence to sustain this inference.

This report will be given to Secretary Bryan and the British foreign office. According to the British view, there is nothing further to be done at this stage.

Perceval was originally ordered to El Paso to co-operate with the commission appointed by Secretary Bryan, but finding the American commission helpless to act as a result of the refusal of the rebel leaders to allow them to examine and examine Benton's body, he conducted an investigation of his own. Much of the evidence was collected in secret, because of the witnesses' fear of punishment at the hand of the constitution.

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ADMITS PLOT TO IMPLICATE TEAMSTER TRIO

Charles Killman Confesses He and Three Others Planted Dynamite In House Where Union Men Lived

SOUGHT CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY

Their Own Eagerness to Give Information to Deputy Sheriff Results In Arrest of Two On Suspicion

SEATTLE, March 23.—Charles Killman, a prisoner in the county jail, confessed, according to Edgar Wright, deputy prosecuting attorney, that he and Jack Sample, professional strikebreaker also in jail, and two other men not yet arrested, planted dynamite in a house where union teamsters were believed to live, with the intention of causing the arrest of the teamsters for conspiracy. The dynamite was carelessly planted, according to the alleged confession, on the premises of men who had no connection with the strike and Killman was arrested on suspicion.

According to his alleged confession, the Team Owner's Association, suspecting John Clark, James Patton and Jack Hoyle, striking teamsters, leaders of the strike with being responsible for harness cutting on the streets, employed Killman and Sample to "get the goods" on the three strikers. Killman and Sample, alleged they could find no evidence against strikers and hatched the dynamite plot.

Killman says he and his companion, on February 25, went to the Milwaukee tunnel in Rockdale, at the crest of the Cascade Mountains. Killman worked there five hours under the name of William Brown. When he, and his companion quit work that night, they came back to Seattle with twelve sticks of dynamite. Killman says, the four met at Georgetown and manufactured a bomb out of pieces of gas pipe.

This, with the dynamite sticks were placed under the house of F. Lyons, who is a tannery workman and had nothing to do with the teamsters strike. Killman said that Sample then

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DOESN'T UNDERSTAND THE LANGUAGE.

By John T. McCutcheon.



SAYS NATION IS IN HONOR BOND TO REPEAL ACT

President Explains His Position Regarding Exemption of Tolls Clause With Relation to the Baltimore Democratic Platform

WASHINGTON, March 23.—President Wilson asserted that in seeking the repeal of the Panama tolls exemption clause, he is not only asking the nation do what it is in honor bound to do, but also is going the way of the majority in the democratic party.

He pointed out that when the tolls act was passed a majority of the democrats, then in Congress, voted against the exemption. This was taken as the president's answer to the argument that the Baltimore platform made the tolls exemption its doctrine. The president is confident of victory.

The president declared that the tolls exemption only passed Congress by a coalition of the minority of the democrats with a number of republicans. The president is understood to believe that the majority opinion of the democrats then expressed the result of a more deliberate consideration than was possible at the Baltimore convention.

Representative Murdock, progressive leader, declared during the debate in the House that if instead of the contemplated fifteen hours, forty hours were allowed for discussion, the sentiment of the House would shift, and that the votes would change "America's way, instead of England's."

That all the progressive party members of the House are not opposed to the repeal of the tolls exemption was disclosed when Representative Charles M. Thomson, of Chicago, issued a statement declaring his intention to support the president.

Representative Chandler, of New York, also a progressive member, supplemented the recent statement of his party leader in the House, declaring his opposition to the repeal "because I believe a political platform is the covenant with the people, a sacred thing to be loyally observed, and faithfully executed by the representatives of the people."

FACE MURDER CHARGE AFTER SEVEN YEARS

GRAND JUNCTION, March 23.—T. D. Bowman, Dale Mitchell, and George Hughes, all prominent cattlemen of Western Colorado, were arrested on an indictment charging them with the murder of Peter Swanson, seven years ago. Swanson was shot to death by a band of cowboys, while guarding two thousand sheep. The killing grew out of a feud between the sheepmen and the cattlemen.

IN AUTOCRATIC CONTROL MINE MEN ARE LOSERS

Congressman MacDonald Says Until This Is Dissipated Operators Will Never Be Able to Settle Disturbances

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The Western Federation of Miners at present has nothing in common with the Industrial Workers of the World, although the organization of the latter, John Mitchell, labor leader, testified before the house committee investigating the Calumet strike. There is now no connection between the two organizations.

"The autocratic control of all business opportunity by the big mining corporations was a vital thing in the Calumet situation," declared Representative McDonald, of Michigan. McDonald said that unless this autocratic control is dissipated, they will never be able to settle the disturbance and asserted that all forces of the government in the copper country were nullified during the strike.

"The sheriff made no bonafide effort to enforce the law," McDonald said. "Mr. Waddell, of the company, which imported the gunmen took charge of the sheriff's office just as soon as the strike began."

President Chase of the Calumet and Hecla company, will be called to testify regarding the attitude of his company toward union labor.

The Calumet and Hecla mining company, through its attorney, James Minter wants Gun Schrank Used In Shooting Roosevelt

MILWAUKEE, March 23.—The revolver with which John Schrank attempted to kill Theodore Roosevelt here in October, 1912, will be presented to Roosevelt, together with five unused bullets which remained in the weapon when Schrank was hounded over to the police.

PAGET'S ORDERS MISUNDERSTOOD BY ULSTER ARMY

Believing They Were to be Sent Against Ulster Men, Officers of Infantry Battalions Quit the Service.

COMPROMISE WITH SOLDIERS

Arthur Bonar Law Receives Letter Quoting Officer As Saying "By Saturday Hundreds Will Be Dead In Ulster."

LONDON, March 23.—Defection of army officers in Ulster resulted from a misunderstanding of orders by General Paget, commander, who told the officers they were to move upon Ulster for a campaign for repression, according to inferences made in the House of Commons. Parliament is turbulent and excited. Unionists believe the government participated in a fiasco and that the officers' resignations alone prevented the government from moving troops on a wholesale basis to overcome Ulster.

According to official statements, misunderstanding of military orders was cleared away after three officers were summoned here for a conference. The general belief is that they were assured they did not have to fight against Ulster men. This is considered a distinct surrender by the government.

Lord Morely stated that the King approved of orders sending the officers back to Ireland after the conference. The part the King played in the crisis was not disclosed. It is reported that the King used his influence with the cabinet to secure a compromise with the army. Unionists believe Lloyd-George and Winston Churchill are the chief movers in the plan to overcome Ulster by a show of superior force and the arrest of the leaders.

Some unionists members assert that Andrew Bonar Law recently received a letter quoting one of the highest officers in Ireland as saying "By Saturday there will be hundreds dead in Ulster." Unionists accuse the government of blaming Commander Paget for their own "colossal blunder." Unionists believe the army checkmated the government.

They will be surprised if the government soon relinquishes its armed force, as it's action had the immediate result of striking a shower of sparks of class jealousies.

Liberal newspapers of high standing and influence, like the Daily Chronicle and The Daily News, printed bitter denunciations of the officers as part of the Tory aristocracy which insists upon the prerogative of ruling the country against the people. These papers demand the democratization of the army, that the system of officering it from the sons of the rich be superseded by a system whereby officers may be promoted from the ranks.

The labor papers are equally bitter. They demand to know why privates should not have the same privilege of refusing to fire upon working men when they are called upon to suppress strike riots.

"What about strikers?" is the shout with which labor members tried to drown Bonar Law's defense of the rights of the officers to refuse to obey orders, against their consciences. Conferences of high officers with the King continued today. Sporadic resignations of officers was announced, including

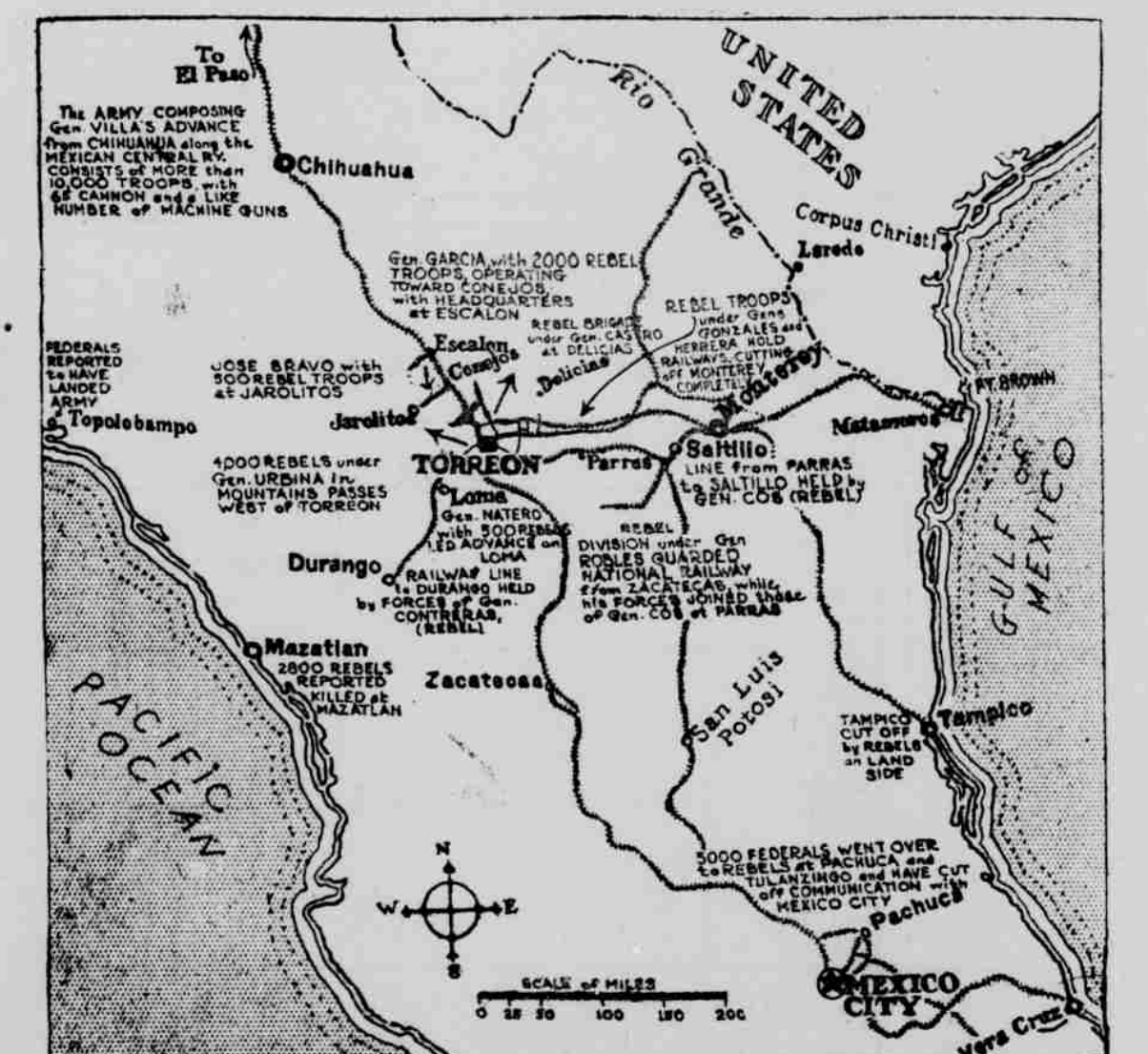
A. Emery, was requested to furnish data of the financial conduct and history of the company.

Attorney Emery cross-examined Mitchell and endeavored to show that the constitution of the Western Federation of Miners and its history, and showed it was opposed to collective bargaining as a principle.

"I want to show," said Emery, "that this organization would not feel itself bound to carry out any contract that it might make with mine operators, and that therefore the offer to make such a bargain is hardly an attractive one to the operators."

Want Word of Roosevelt NEW YORK, March 23.—Failing to receive further advice from the Roosevelt party, who lost their equipment in the rapids of the Amazon River in Brazil, the American Museum of Natural History wired American Consul Para to procure the earliest possible information. It is not believed that Roosevelt is in any danger, unless the food supply was lost with the other equipment.

Villa is Centering Forces on Torreon Attack; Should This City Fall Way Would Be Opened Toward Capital



This map of the northern part of Mexico shows the extent of the present activities of the constitutionalists and the federals in preparation for the decisive actions that are expected to settle the fate of Dictator Huerta or of the forces of Villa and other generals who are operating against Huerta. The principal objective point of the constitutionalists is the city of Torreon, in which, according to the latest advices, there are about 10,000 federal troops, besides many cannon and machine guns. Should Villa capture Torreon, it is believed that he will find few other obstacles in his path to Mexico City.

UNEXPLAINED BANK RUN

DENVER, March 23.—With \$300,000 cash in the banks and vaults and all its securities still undisposed of, the German American Trust company will open its doors tomorrow to meet the third day of an inexplicable run

CHASE MAKES STATEMENT

DENVER, March 23.—Adjutant General Chase said tonight: "Mother" Jones, arrested in Walsenburg early today, on the way from Denver to Trinidad, will not again be confined in the hospital.