

VILLA PROPOSAL CANNOT BE
CONSIDERED OFFICIALLY BY
THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Bandit Has No Standing on Which His Offer to Make No Further Attacks on Foreigners Could Be Given Consideration.

ASSURANCES COULD NOT BE DEPENDED ON

Past Performances Make Promises of Little Value—Correspondent Tells of Visit to Bandit Leader While He Was Occupying Chihuahua City.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The pacific utterances of Villa, the Mexican bandit, sent by a messenger to El Paso for the enlightenment of the authorities here, can hardly be considered officially, it is stated.

Villa asks for a free hand so far as the United States is concerned in dealing with the Carranza government, in return for which he agrees not to assault American citizens.

The position of this country has been such, it is pointed out, that the Villa proposition could hardly be accepted. In the first place the United States has nothing to do officially with the troubles of Villa and Carranza but is presumably interested only in the safety of American citizens and other foreigners in Mexico.

Moreover, it is plain that in official circles the Villa assurances are not given deep credence in view of his past performances and of his recent threats.

INDULGES IN DARK THREATS. The other day a New York correspondent at El Paso sent his paper a story of a visit he paid to Villa. The writer said:

The sentry took me to Salazar first. He was quite friendly and asked about old friends in the United States. He also advised me to be careful and not contradict Villa, nor take too much of his time, and not to mention his foot, which was still stiff, although the wound he received in the Guerrero battle had healed.

After this I was taken to another room on the second floor to Villa himself.

He was sitting behind a table so I could not see his face, but a cane was hanging on a nearby chair as proof that he still had trouble walking. "Do you come from El Paso?" was his first question.

"No," I said, "I am from Europe." "Well I know," he said, "but weren't you with me two years ago? Have you been in El Paso?"

I had.

"Do you know that Jefe Politica up there?"

I did not know who had that title in El Paso, and he called an interpreter. "Do you know the mayor of El Paso?"

I understood then what he was driving at, and answered diplomatically that I knew his name, but did not like him.

"Buena," he said, "do you know what he did? He chased my wife out of the country like a common peon woman of the street and took her diamonds and rings away from her. Tell that fellow that if he were a man he would come down and fight with me and not fight a woman who is a stranger in his country. I know him; he is an advocate for the Cientificos, and Hipolito me Hermano (Villa's brother)—did not the North Americans try to murder him?"

He grew excited by this time. I did not feel any too well and kept quiet, so he continued:

PERSHING HAS TO GET OUT. "Do you know Pershing?"

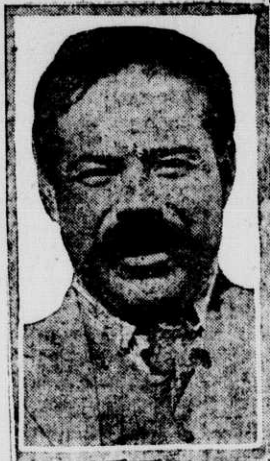
I told him no; that I only interviewed real big generals like von Hindenburg and himself, knowing the German warrior was a favorite of his. This pleased him and he continued:

"Pershing is violating the sacred rights of Mexico, and has got to get out. But I will show them poco tiempo, that they cannot violate Mexican rights."

"Do you know Wilson? I was his friend. I liked him, but at Agua Prieta he turned traitor to me and the Mexican cause I represented and helped Carranza—the bad man of Mexico. Is there any wonder that I chase the Americans out of Mexico?"

I told him I considered his army very good and asked what he intended to do with "the American violators of peaceful conditions in northern Chihuahua." He fixed his eyes on me, and his an-

PANCHO VILLA



swer was to the point.

"Drive them out, or make them fight, and after they are gone I will make a gap between the two countries so wide and deep that no American will ever be able to steal Mexican land, gold or oil."

RAID ON COLUMBUS.

By this time there were many people waiting to see him and I made a drive direct to the point I came down to get.

"General," I said, "how could you make the daring attack on Colonel Slocum's forces at Columbus and get away across the big plains?"

"Easy," he said. "I was awake; they were sleeping, and it took them too long time to wake up." "You must have had many men?"

"Yes, I had about 300."

I did not touch the Santa Ysabel massacre of Americans, knowing that Martin Lopez, brother of Pablo Lopez, who committed the crime, now holds a general's commission under Villa. This showed me that Villa, even if he did not commit the crime himself, did approve of it.

When I got out on the street I was challenged by the sentry, "Quien Vili?" and was forced to answer "Villa."

FIRE, BELIEVED TO
BE INCENDIARY, AT
LLEWELLYN PLANT

Property Damage of Half Million at San Francisco—Private Investigation Decided Upon.

Los Angeles, Dec. 16.—Fire which the authorities believe incendiary, and two explosions, the nature of which is being investigated, today destroyed a greater part of the Llewellyn Iron works, causing property damage estimated at over half a million dollars.

The explosions were reported to have occurred practically at the time the fire was discovered. Scores of windows in adjoining buildings were broken. The directors of the company held a meeting while the fire was in progress and determined upon a private investigation of the fire, supplementing that of the police.

HUGHES FOR HEAD OF
BAR ASSOCIATION

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 16.—Charles E. Hughes has been named for the presidency of the New York State Bar association by the nominating committee of that organization, it was announced today.

RATES REMAIN SAME

INCREASE GRANTED ON COAST COUNTRY'S FRUITS, CANNED GOODS AND OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS WILL NOT BE PUT INTO EFFECT AT PRESENT.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The Pacific coast's entire season's output of dried fruits, canned goods, wine, beans, barley and other foods will move east under prevailing freight rates, notwithstanding the authority given to the railroads to advance them 10 cents per hundred pounds.

Such a decision has been reached voluntarily by the transcontinental railroads and communicated to the interstate commerce commission.

PROFESSOR OF
PSYCHOLOGY AT
HARVARD DIES
VERY SUDDENLY

Hugo Munsterberg, Noted Educator, Seized With Fainting Spell and Passes Away Just as Physician Arrives.

VISITED BOISE AND EXAMINED ORCHARD

Attended Haywood Trial and Made Study of Slayer of Governor Steunenberg—Famous the World Over as Psychic Expert.

Cambridge, Mass., Dec. 16.—Hugo Munsterberg, professor of psychology of Harvard university, died suddenly today while lecturing before a class at Radcliffe college. He was seized with a fainting spell on the lecture platform. Some of the 60 young women, to whom he was lecturing, went to his assistance, but he expired just as a doctor arrived.

Hugo Munsterberg visited Boise in 1907 during the trial of William D. Haywood, charged with complicity in the murder of Governor Steunenberg, and was here several days as an interested spectator of the proceedings in court. The purpose of his visit was to make a psychic examination of Harry Orchard, chief witness for the state at the trial. Not only did he study Orchard while he was on the witness stand, but he conversed with him at length privately. Later he wrote a magazine article concerning Orchard.

Professor Munsterberg, who was recognized as one of the world's greatest psychologists, was a native of Germany, but had been a resident of this country for many years, occupying the chair of psychology at Harvard during practically the entire period of his residence in this country.

PREMIER WILL NOT
BE ABLE TO SPEAK
IN HOUSE TUESDAY

London, Dec. 16.—It appears doubtful whether Premier Lloyd George will be able to go before the house of commons Tuesday next. He is making progress toward recovery but it is considered unlikely his physicians will allow him to speak next week. At any rate it is not expected the government will be by that time in a position to make a statement regarding the German peace proposals.

Philip Snowden, Socialist member, one of the leaders of the small pacifist group in the house of commons, made it known that he intends to state the views of that group in the commons. Its members believe negotiations should be opened, if only to state the terms of the entente to the central powers.

BIG FINES PAID BY
PACKING COMPANIES

Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 16.—Five packing companies each paid \$12,500 into the state treasury here today in settlement of fines of \$25,000 imposed upon them by the Missouri supreme court for violation of the state anti-trust laws. The payment was made under agreement with the attorney general that but half of the fines should be paid.

GREECE ACCEPTS
TERMS OF ALLIES

Paris, Dec. 16.—An official telegram announcing that Greece had accepted unreservedly the conditions of the allies was received at the foreign office at midnight, according to the Petit Journal.

BOY HAS A MILLION;
FIGHTING OVER HIM

White Plains, N. Y., Dec. 16.—Judge Frank J. Lamb of White Plains is preparing an action to be brought in the supreme court in behalf of William Mills of New Rochelle, for the purpose of having the name of his son, William Crossman Lee, changed to William Mills, Jr.

The boy is heir to an estate of \$1,000,000 and for some time was under the guardianship of his stepfather, T. Frederick Lee, of White Plains, but the appellate division has decided that De Witt H. Lyon, who was appointed his general guardian by Surrogate Sawyer, shall have the control and custody of the boy. For two years Mr. Lee has been fighting the father for the guardianship of William.

COURT ORDERS
PROTECTION OF
STAR WITNESS
FROM ATTACKS

United States Marshal Is Given Instructions to Guard C. H. Wax, Champion Wooer, Appearing Against Rae Tanzer.

GIRL'S WHEREABOUTS BEING KEPT SECRET

Will Not Be Permitted to See Wax Before Her Trial on the Charge of Attempting to Blackmail James W. Osborne.

New York, Dec. 16.—United States Marshal McCarthy was instructed by Assistant United States District Attorney Roger S. Wood to take particular precautions to protect Charles H. Wax, the government witness in the prosecution of Rae Tanzer, from attack.

The attack on "Oliver Osborne" by Adolph Menke, Bronx grocer, in revenge for the alleged swindling of Menke's wife out of \$200, has convinced the federal authorities there is a real danger in the vicinity expressed against the champion wooer in letters received by the district attorney.

HIS SAFETY DEMANDED. "The safety of this man," Mr. Wood said, "is essential to the government's case against all under charges in the effort to get money from James W. Osborne or blacken his reputation. Entirely aside from consideration of Wax's comfort it is our duty to see that he is not harmed or intimidated." The whereabouts of Rae Tanzer and her sisters are not yet known to Mr. Wood.

SHE CAN'T MEET WAX. "After thoughtful consideration and consultation with various persons," said former Lieutenant Governor Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler, counsel for Rae Tanzer and her sisters, "I have decided not to allow Miss Tanzer to meet this man Wax."

Miss Tanzer is under heavy bond to remain within the jurisdiction of the southern district of New York. If she left the district without notice to the district attorney and his permission, her bail bond would be forfeited.

PROMISE OF LENIENCY. Every facility will be offered to her to verify the government's belief that Wax and not James W. Osborne was the man who made light of her affections and considerable leniency is to be extended to her if she will correct her testimony to that effect and become a witness against the Slades, her former attorneys.

ANOTHER VICTIM. Federal detectives said they had found Miss Katharine Masenhelmer, the nurse girl formerly employed in the household of Frederick Couder, who charges that Wax, calling himself "Angus McDonald," became acquainted with her through a Central Park flirtation, promised to marry her and vanished after she had given him \$200 of her savings. She will be allowed to meet "Oliver."

MARRIED MEN DRINK
MORE THAN SINGLE
ONES; THE REASON

St. Louis, Dec. 16.—Why do married men spend more time in saloons than single men?

Now, don't answer "They don't"—for they do; take it from such a well-qualified-to-speak authority as the commission on temperance of the federal council of the churches of Christ in America.

In a discussion on "Married Men and the Saloon," the commission stated: "Can it be that in many of these cases the home has failed to function? A careful student of the subject revealed that about twice as many married men go to the saloon as do single men."

"This may be due to the higher idealism of the younger men and it may also be attributed to the fact that they spend a great deal of time in the company of their sweethearts, who naturally would not visit the saloon with them."

ALLIES AGREED ON
PURPOSE TO CARRY
WAR ON TO VICTORY

Petrograd, Dec. 16.—Advices carrying the report of the Russian duma favoring a categorical refusal by the entente governments to enter into peace negotiations under present conditions, quote Foreign Minister Pokrovski as declaring to the duma that Russia and her allies are as one in the conviction that the war must be carried on to a victorious conclusion.

SMASHING DRIVE
BY FRENCH FORCES
ON VERDUN FRONT

Germans Forced Back to Within Short Distance of Positions Occupied When Battle Was Begun.

Paris, Dec. 16.—As his last act before assuming chief command of the French armies on the western front, General Nivelle today smashed the German line east of the Meuse along a front of six miles. The victory advanced the French positions two miles and they are now within a short distance of where the Germans stood at the outset of the great Verdun drive.

Military authorities describe the victory as complete and crushing and carried out without a hitch. According to the present count 9000 prisoners were taken in the drive and 80 guns.

The weather, according to hitherto accepted notions, was all against the offensive. It was wet and misty. French officers believe this fact undoubtedly led the Germans to miscalculate the probability of an attack.

MADE BY FIVE DIVISIONS. The French plan of attack was drawn up by General Nivelle, now commander-in-chief, with the concurrence of General Petain, who at that time was his superior officer. It was made by five divisions, or close to 100,000 men.

The front which French infantry had held since the recapture of Douaumont and Vaux dominated in places the German positions, but at other places the French were under German fire. The French advance began at 10 o'clock with each of the five divisions covering a front of one and a quarter miles. Each advanced behind a screen of French guns. They swarmed rapidly to the German trenches.

The Germans behind these positions, surprised by the suddenness of the attack, offered comparatively little resistance. In the village of Vacherauville, where the Germans installed a quantity of machine guns, the struggle was sharp but short. More to the east French formations charged the slopes of Pepper hill, carrying all before them.

As they rushed to the attack the soldiers cheered and from time to time the Marcellaise roared by the strong-throated soldiers, could be heard above the chorus of the cannon.

OHIO WOMEN TEN TO
ONE AGAINST EQUAL
SUFFRAGE IS CLAIM

Washington, Dec. 16.—That the great majority of American women are opposed to woman suffrage is the conclusion drawn by Mrs. Henry E. Talbott of Dayton, president of the Ohio State Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, as a result of a canvass just completed of 134,417 women of Ohio. Of this number 120,701 were found to be opposed, 1,571 were not interested one way or the other, and 12,140 desired the ballot.

These figures were given out by Mrs. Talbott just before leaving Washington, where she had attended the convention of the Anti-Suffragists. "They represent," she explained, "the poll taken by professional canvassers from door to door in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, Lancaster, Circleville, Washington Court House and Chillicothe. Adjacent rural territories report the same relative proportions throughout the state. The cards were signed by the women of more than 21 years of age, in their own handwriting."

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"This may be due to the higher idealism of the younger men and it may also be attributed to the fact that they spend a great deal of time in the company of their sweethearts, who naturally would not visit the saloon with them."

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MOTHER OF GERMAN
CROWN PRINCESS
LIVING IN FRANCE

Princess Anastasia.

This is a new snapshot of Princess Anastasia of Russia, mother of the Crown Princess of Germany, made in Paris where she is now residing. Needless to say the sympathies of this royal mother are not the same as her daughter's.

NEWS THAT PEACE
MOVE MAY FAIL
SENDS UP PRICES

Most of Yesterday's Losses Regained in Today's Trading on the Chicago Board of Trade.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Wheat leaped upward today in response to the Russian duma's rejection of peace and because of reports that the United States would not intervene at present. First sales showed an advance of as much as 8 1/4 cents a bushel, July jumping to \$1.40.

Developments over night were construed by the trade as indicating that peace was still a long way off. There was a consequent widespread rush to buy. In a few moments some transactions showed a rise of 10 cents a bushel.

After the maximum ascent of 10 1/2 cents, sellers were somewhat bolder and reaction set in. It was more than half an hour before comparative steadiness was established at range of 5 to 7 cents up from yesterday's latest figures. May at the top of the bulge touched 1.64 1/2.

The course to be pursued was made (Continued on Page Five.)

GERMANY ONLY
ASKING FOR A
CONFERENCE OF
BELLIGERENTS

Count von Bernstorff Explains Position Taken by His Country in Proposing the Discussion of Peace Terms.

CONFERS WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Purpose of Conference to Ascertain Position of the American Government on Proposal—No Mediation Offer Made by President.

Washington, Dec. 16.—Count von Bernstorff, German ambassador, conferred today with Secretary Lansing, seeking information of the attitude of the United States toward the peace proposals of the central powers, to discuss the general subject of peace from this government's viewpoint and to give any information Secretary Lansing might desire on the attitude of the German government.

TERMS NOT DISCUSSED. Count von Bernstorff said after a 10 minute talk with Secretary Lansing:

"We did not discuss peace terms in any way. I have not received any formal terms, and the American government knows officially that no formal terms have been proposed. All Germany suggested is that the belligerents get together and talk. If that proposal is accepted, definite terms naturally will be discussed, but till then it will not be proper to mention them. My visit to the secretary was for a purely general discussion."

The ambassador indicated that the place for the holding of a conference and the question of whether it would be by direct negotiation or through intermediaries, were questions entirely dependent upon the willingness of the entente allies to discuss the situation at all. He indicated also that he had not discussed the American action in sending on the Teutonic notes without comment, as that was purely a matter for this country to decide for itself.

NO MEDIATION OFFER. President Wilson's decision to forward the central powers' peace notes to the entente allies without any mediation offer by the American government left only the task of translation and revision of the phraseology to be finished before they were transmitted.

Secretary Lansing said the peace notes would go forward immediately, President Wilson having decided that they should not be accompanied by any mediation offer of his own. He has not determined whether any action on behalf of peace will be taken later by the United States on its own account, but is holding himself in readiness to serve in any way possible toward bringing the warring nations together.

The course to be pursued was made (Continued on Page Five.)

MARY GARDEN'S COSTLY LINGERIE REVEALED;
WORE FINE LACES IN LAND OF SUFFERING

New York, Dec. 16.—A cable from Paris to the Journal says that Mary Garden, the singer, was compelled to undergo a humiliating experience on the eve of her departure for the United States.

"The innermost secrets of her wardrobe were revealed," says the dispatch, "by a board of appraisers who took over lingerie valued at \$5000 in connection with an action to recover \$1500 balance said to be due a Paris underwear concern."

One newspaper comments on the incident: "One must be lacking in all decency to cover one's flesh with priceless laces at a moment when women and children are suffering from hunger and cold."

BLUE LAW OF 1642
INVOKED IN SPIRIT
OF RETALIATION

Waterbury, Conn., Dec. 16.—Michael H. Mokus, a lecturer invited here by the Lithuanian colony, has been arrested for blasphemy in connection with utterances about the bible under a blue law of 1642. It was under this enactment that men and women, too, were hanged for witchcraft.

Mokus inherited an antagonism on the part of those who felt aggrieved at Rev. Peter Saurasaitis, a Lithuanian pastor here, whose efforts resulted in the arrest of persons who had converted their dwellings into unlicensed saloons, as charged. The latest retaliatory step is the arrest of Mokus.