

STAGE IS SET FOR BATTLE IN MEXICO

CARRANZA TROOPS MAY MEET THE VILLA FORCES AT LAMPAZOS.

FIRING CLOSE TO RIO GRANDE

Villa Forces Expected to Reach Lampazos, and Battle Probably Will Be Fought—Carranza Troops Assemble.

Brownsville, Tex.—Firing between Villa and Carranza forces began shortly after midnight, March 30, near the breastworks on the west side of Matamoros, close to the Rio Grande. The firing was under cover of a heavy fog. The firing continued intermittently for half an hour and then stopped. Several cannon shots were heard. None of the firing was in the direction of Brownsville.

Washington.—While the Villa forces are marking time in their attack on Matamoros, awaiting the arrival of artillery, the stage is being set for another battle at Lampazos, about 70 miles southwest of Nuevo Laredo.

Advices from the border to the state and war departments said the Villa forces bound to attack the Carranza garrison at Nuevo Laredo were expected to reach Lampazos, "where a battle probably would be fought."

Other messages said Carranza troops were being assembled at Nuevo Laredo, including the force recently driven out of Piedras Negras. The garrison will number 1,200 in all and presumably a part of this force will be sent out along the National railway to meet the Villa force at Lampazos, if the battle is not already in progress. Should more troops be necessary on the American side at Laredo, Tex., in the event of an attack on Nuevo Laredo, a regiment of infantry is in readiness at Texas City.

The situation at Matamoros and at Brownsville, across the border, was unchanged. The Villa troops repulsed in their first attack were encamped five miles from the city, the state department was advised, expecting to renew the assault on arrival of their artillery.

Latest estimates of the losses said 300 Villa troops were killed and an equal number wounded, while the Carranza garrison had 10 killed and 39 wounded.

TAKE MOUNTAIN POSITION

French Wrest Top of Hartmann's Weilerkopf From the Germans.

Paris, via London.—The following official statement was issued by the war office:

"The day passed quietly along the front, the enemy showing no activity. A German aeroplane which had thrown a bomb in the region of Badonville was brought down by us. The pilot and observer were captured."

Also the following communication was issued:

"During the night of March 26-27 the Germans bombarded Arras with shells of all caliber. Fire broke out in Arras, but it was quickly extinguished. The fighting has been going on at La Boisselle under conditions favorable to the French."

"In the Argonne district, in the vicinity of Bagatelle, there has been bomb throwing from one line to the other, although no infantry attack has taken place."

"After a day of energetic engagement which lasted for several days the French troops were successful in reaching the top of Hartmann's Weilerkopf, which they captured from the Germans. The French also made progress on the northeastern and southeastern flanks of the main army, taking more prisoners, including several officers."

"The Germans have abandoned important war material and left numerous dead on these battlefields. The French losses were considerable."

"A German aviator dropped several bombs on the town of Willer, to the northwest of Thonn. Three little children were killed."

MISSING BOAT REACHES SAFETY.

London.—The missing boat from the British steamer Agulla, sunk by a German submarine off the Pembrokehead coast, containing 15 members of the steamer's crew and two passengers, has reached safety. This is the fourth boat that put off from the Agulla after the submarine attacked. It was believed up to the present time to have foundered. The number of men now supposed to have lost their lives with the sinking of the Agulla is nine.

Saw Delmira Torpedoed.

London.—The captain of the steamship Lizzie, which arrived at Llanelli, Wales, stated that he was close by when the British steamer Delmira was torpedoed March 26 by a submarine in the English channel. He said the submarine proved to be the U-37. The submarine was some distance ahead of the Lizzie, which ran over it at full speed. The German then disappeared and from all seen on the surface the captain concluded the underwater boat was either seriously damaged or sunk.

Millie Returns.

Youngstown, Ohio.—Sheet iron mills at the Mahoning valley resumed operations under the new wage scale adopted by a referendum of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Sheet and Tin Plate Workers. Two shifts of the mill were several weeks, while mills at Warren and Youngstown had been running on a small scale with the same of workers since the strike.

3 BRITISH VESSELS SUNK

Hundred and Forty Lives Lost When Three Merchantmen Go To the Bottom.

London.—Fully 140 lives were lost in the sinking by German submarines of the African liner Falaba and the British steamer Agulla, bound from Liverpool for Lisbon.

The Falaba, torpedoed in St. George Channel, carried a crew of 95 and 151 passengers, and of this total only 135 were rescued.

The Agulla's crew numbered 42 and she carried three passengers, and of these 23 of the crew and all the passengers were lost.

The admiralty issued the following statement: "Twenty-three members of the crew and three passengers are missing from the steamer Agulla."

"The steamer Falaba, which also sank, carried a crew of 96 persons and 151 passengers. About 140 survivors have been picked up, eight of whom, including the captain, died afterwards. It is feared that many persons on the steamer were killed by the explosion of the torpedo."

"The Dutch steamer Amstel, a vessel of 853 tons, of Rotterdam, was on a passage from Rotterdam to Goole, England, struck a mine the 29th of March, in a German mine field off Flamborough (Yorkshire, England). The crew has been landed in the Humber by the Grimsby trawler Pinewood."

An official list supplied at the offices of the Elder Dempster Steamship company shows that so far as is known at present 52 first-class passengers, 34 second-class passengers and 49 of the crew of the Falaba were saved.

Four of the passengers and four of the crew are reported killed and 61 passengers and 43 of the crew missing.

In each case, on sighting the submarine, the captain tried to escape by putting on all speed possible, but the underwater craft overtook the steamers, showing that Germany now has some of her most modern submarines engaged in the blockade operations against England.

VILLA AWAITS ARTILLERY

The Coming Villa Artillery Must Be Powerful Enough to Cope With Field Pieces.

Brownsville, Texas.—Brownsville faces one of the greatest of border crises, namely, the apparent certainty that the battle which began for possession of Matamoros, the Mexican town across the Rio Grande, will not be decided without the use of artillery consisting of field cannon firing three-inch shells.

There was no fighting March 28 except occasional shots several miles south of the city, and Villa officers announced that they were awaiting the arrival of artillery. The likelihood of such shells falling in Brownsville was demonstrated by the rifle bullets which dropped here during the first Villa assault on the Matamoros trenches, a costly failure for the Villa forces, in which their losses were officially given as 100 killed and 400 wounded.

This attack was a headstrong dash of 2,000 mounted men firing rifles. The Carranza losses were 10 killed and 45 wounded and two persons were struck by bullets in Brownsville, being seriously injured. The coming Villa artillery must be powerful enough to cope with nine three-inch field pieces of the defenders, none of which was fired Sunday. In addition, the Carranza troops are said to have four 3½ inch guns.

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ADMIRALS IN CONFERENCE

The Final Assault On Dardanelles Will Decide Question of Importance.

London.—A dispatch from Athens tells of the colossal preparations being made for a final assault on the Dardanelles forts. The French have declared, says one correspondent, that one way or another the Dardanelles will be forced, for it is not only a question of honor, but it is of the utmost importance to the allies to clear the straits.

After council of the admirals, the dispatch says, the captains of the warships when summoned and special instructions were given to them.

It appears the decisive assault was postponed to allow for the arrival of further warships. Eight were expected March 29—three British, four French and one Russian.

Paris.—The trans-Atlantic liner Niagara, from New York to Havre, on March 26, encountered a German submarine off Cherbourg, according to a Havre dispatch from Havre.

The Niagara, owing to its speed, was able to escape. The steamer had on board the crew of the French line steamship Florida, which was sunk by the German auxiliary cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich.

Relief for Masons.

Cincinnati, O.—Thirteen thousand dollars has been sent to Masonic grand lodges in eight European countries for the relief of suffering and destitute Masons there, according to a report by the Masonic War Relief association of the United States. The grand lodges of Germany, England, Ireland and Belgium each received \$2,500, while \$3,000 has been divided between the grand lodges of France, Italy, Switzerland and Luxembourg. The fund is rapidly approaching \$50,000.

Ship to Aground.

New Orleans.—The British steamship Glenahed, loaded with supplies from Belgium, is aground near the mouth of the Mississippi, according to a report received at the maritime exchange here. The vessel apparently is in no danger.

To Aid Cotton.

Geneva, via Paris.—As a result of the efforts of American Ambassadors in London, Belgium and France, instructions have been received from the British government to the effect that the British government will not export cotton to Germany.

LAD TESTIFIES IN SOMERVILLE COURT

DECLARES THAT HE WAS LABORING UNDER INTENSE EXCITEMENT.

CONFESSES; SEEKS MERCY

Judge Everett Says If Verdict Is First Degree Murder There Is No Necessity For Specifying the Penalty.

Somerville, Tenn.—"Guilt of murder in the first degree," was the verdict returned in the case of Henry Roberts.

After Henry Roberts had taken the witness stand and admitted shooting and killing Deputy Sheriff David Dobbs and wounding Sheriff J. T. Jordan, the jury trying the case of the young bandit and gang leader retired.

Roberts practically threw himself on the mercy of the court and jury. He stated he was laboring under intense excitement when he shot the officers, and denied that he entertained malice.

Judge S. J. Everett, in charging the jury, reviewed the crimes of outlaws, and stated that if malice was shown and proven in the killing of Deputy Dobbs, a verdict of murder in the first degree should be returned. Judge Everett, however, stated that if the jury was convinced that Roberts, after he shot Sheriff Jordan, turned and shot Deputy Dobbs under stress of excitement, a verdict of second degree murder should be returned.

If a verdict of murder in the first degree was returned, Judge Everett declared, it would not be necessary for the jury to specify the penalty. Judge Everett said the law automatically fixes death by electrocution.

U. S. WARSHIP AT NORFOLK

Battleship Alabama In Port, But Not To Protect German Sea Raider.

Newport News, Va.—The United States battleship Alabama arrived in Hampton Roads under orders from Washington to enforce American neutrality in the port of Norfolk and Newport News and in American waters outside the Virginia capes, where British and French warships have been hovering since the arrival in this port nearly three weeks ago of the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich.

Authorities here are stolidly silent as to circumstances which prompted the government in sending a warship here, but that the purpose was not to protect the Prinz Eitel Friedrich within the three-mile limit of the American coast, as had been suggested, now seems apparent.

The German sea raider, in all probability, will be interned in this port for many days, although persons who have talked with officers of the Eitel declare they are ready to brave the dangers of a dash for liberty.

ARTILLERY ORDERED TO BORDER.

Precautions Are Taken To Prevent Firing Across the Line.

Washington.—Acting Secretary of War Department Breckinridge has ordered three batteries of the Third Field Artillery to Brownsville, Tex., as a demonstration to the Mexican forces fighting for possession of Matamoros that American lives must not be endangered by firing across the line. A regiment of infantry also was ordered held in readiness at Texas City to be moved to Brownsville if needed.

These precautions were deemed necessary, although assurances had been given by both Carranza and Villa agencies here that no shooting across the line would be permitted.

Subject Given Consideration.

London.—The king of England is using all his influence to bring about action with respect to the drink question in Great Britain, a subject to which the British cabinet is giving earnest consideration. It has been decided to organize the Liverpool dock workers under the name of the First Dock battalion of the Liverpool regiment, thus incorporating them into the army.

May Never Be Raised.

Washington.—Efforts to raise the sunken submarine F4 in Honolulu harbor were temporarily suspended after a diver which the boat was being dragged toward shore snapped.

Rear Admiral Moore reported from Honolulu late that the submarine evidently was waterlogged and too heavy to be raised by the equipment employed by the searching fleet. This destroyed any faint hope that might have been left of finding any of the crew of 21 alive.

The vessel lies in 45 fathoms (270 feet) of water.

Three Killed By Electric Wire.

Los Angeles, Cal.—When Cornelius Valkhoff went out to his rabbit hatch to procure a hare for a birthday dinner, he stepped into a water puddle as he touched the latch of the hatch gate and fell dead. An electric cable had broken during the night and turned its 2,300-volt current into the wire fence surrounding the hatch. Later two others were killed and three injured. Mrs. Valkhoff and Harris Skinner were killed when they went to Valkhoff's aid. Three others were injured in an effort to recover the bodies.

Two Men On Trial.

New York.—Frank Abarno and Carmine Carbone were placed on trial in the supreme court here on the charge of making a bomb and placing it in St. Patrick's cathedral on the morning of March 2. An effort to postpone the case was unsuccessful and as a result Robert C. Moore of counsel for Abarno withdrew from the case. He was retained last week to state the case, still in connection with the case and the case of the other men.

Turks Damaged Two French Ships.

Paris.—The French battleships Suffren and Gloire, which were badly damaged by the fire from Turkish batteries in the bombardment of the Dardanelles forts by the allied fleet, have left for Toulon, a French naval base, to be repaired in the dry dock there, according to a special dispatch from Athens. No attack was made in the straits March 29, the dispatch says.

AIRMEN DROPPED BOMBS

In the East the Russians Are Holding the Germans in North and Central Poland.

London.—The big effort in the west still seems far off and operations are confined to an occasional attack and counter-attack. Airmen on both sides are busy watching the opposing force and dropping bombs.

In the east the Russians are holding the Germans in North and Central Poland and are putting forth all their strength to force their way through Ussuk and Lupkow passes, with the result that some of the heaviest fighting of the war is in progress on the Carpathians, both sides claiming successes.

The Russians, who already have forced Dikla Pass, are making their way down the southern slopes of the Carpathians into Hungary, and, according to British critics, soon must compel the Austrians and Germans defending the two other passes to fall back or be threatened with interference with their communications.

Australia, which already has sent two contingents to fight for the empire, has offered a third, which probably will be accepted. In all cases the dominions have sent more men than was originally expected.

EXPIRED IN LONDON HOME

Head of English Branch of the Rothschild Family Dies in London.

London.—Nathan Rothschild, first Baron Rothschild, head of the British branch of the great banking firm, died at his London residence on March 29, after a long illness. He had been suffering from prostatic gland, although the first intimation of this was contained in a bulletin sent to the London papers, saying the baron was progressing satisfactorily.

March 29 a bulletin said that he had recovered from the first effects of the operation and the impression was that, despite his age, there was no danger.

News of Rothschild's death, which circulated throughout the city just as business men were leaving for the day, created a shock. His popularity had spread far beyond financial, social and sporting circles, as all classes shared his benevolence. Once a year every omnibus driver in London was decorated with his racing colors, for on this day he sent to each driver and conductor or a brace of pheasants.

CLAIM BULGARIA IS READY

Report That Country Will Take Initiative When Interests Are Threatened.

London.—"The moment when our interests are threatened or affected to our detriment, we, together with the nation, will take the requisite measures," was one of the statements contained in Premier Radoslavoff's declaration regarding the Bulgarian government's policy of neutrality, made at the closing session of the Sobranje, according to the ministerial organ Narodni Prava. The speech of the premier was applauded by the pro-German press.

AUSTRIAN LOSSES 16,000.

Geneva, via Paris.—Austrian losses in Lyutya valley and the province of Bereg (Northeast Hungary) on the day of March 28 are estimated at 18,000 in dispatches to Swiss newspapers. These advices say a column of 4,000 Austrians was annihilated in less than an hour during a desperate action in Bereg province, six miles north of Verecke. Austrian troops in this territory are reported to be demoralized as the result of their enormous losses.

Movement For Uniform State Laws.

Springfield, Ill.—A movement to obtain more uniform state laws throughout the country was started in the Illinois legislature. A joint resolution introduced in the senate provides for the appointment of five senators and five representatives as a uniform law committee to meet similar committees from other state legislatures. Copies of the resolution, if it is passed, will be sent to the legislatures and governors of every state, with the request that each state appoint a similar committee as delegates to such a convention.

Home For Newspaper Men.

New York.—J. Brislin Walker, formerly a magazine publisher here, now retired to a Colorado estate, announced he would give a site of 40 acres at Mount Morrison, Colo., to establish a home for newspaper men. Mr. Walker declared that "although no profession makes more serious demands upon the health of its members than that of journalism, no attempt has been made to establish a country home where those who have been giving their best efforts to the press may find a retreat in the event of a temporary or permanent breakdown."

Believe Austria Is Seeking Peace.

Geneva, via Paris.—Count Stephan Tisa, the premier of Hungary, has returned to Budapest from Vienna, where he conferred with cabinet ministers regarding the future course of the dual monarchy. According to dispatches to Swiss newspapers, the leaders of different political parties are trying to induce Count Tisa to make an effort to persuade Emperor Francis Joseph that Austria should conclude a separate peace. The premier, however, is said to have refused to make such an attempt.

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The dispatch also stated that the French battleships Suffren and Gloire, which were badly damaged by the fire from Turkish batteries in the bombardment of the Dardanelles forts by the allied fleet, have left for Toulon, a French naval base, to be repaired in the dry dock there, according to a special dispatch from Athens. No attack was made in the straits March 29, the dispatch says.

WEEK'S NEWS BRIEFLY TOLD

HAPPENINGS OF THE SEVEN PAST DAYS ARE BRIEFLY TOLD HERE.

FROM AROUND THE PLANET

Dispatches From Our Own and Foreign Countries Are Here Given In Short Meter for Busy Readers.

The Majestic theater at Sioux Falls, S. D., was destroyed by fire, with a loss of \$35,000.

Four-year-old Teddy Slingsby, the center of a lawsuit in the British courts involving a \$500,000 estate, arrived in New York with his mother, Mrs. Charles Slingsby.

An announcement that the International Esperanto congress would hold its convention next August at San Francisco, instead of Edinburgh, Scotland, as scheduled, was made by the secretary.

Samuel Turnipseed, a farmer, was killed at Dewitt, Ill., by making a misstep while trying to board an Illinois Central train.

David Reynolds, 4 years old, proved a hero when he routed four families from their beds and saved them from possible injury or death when fire at a tacked apartment house in East Sixty-fifth street, Chicago.

National President John Williams of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers announced that the official count of the recent referendum shows that the sheet and tin plate wage reduction has been accepted.

Secretary Bryan announced that the grand vizier of Turkey had informed Ambassador Morgenthau in Constantinople that there was no foundation for the reports of violence at Urumah, Northwestern Persia.

The hearing on the habeas corpus writ by means of which Harry K. Thaw hopes to procure a test of his sanity was adjourned until April 5.

Mrs. Andrew Borden, mother of Sir Robert Borden, premier of Canada, is dead at her home at Grand Pre.

Dr. Charles Richmond Henderson, head of the department of sociology at the University of Chicago, is dead of paralysis.

The United States land office has announced the cancellation of 47 coal claims totaling 7,000 acres in the Christopher (Alaska) group in the Bering river coal fields.

Mrs. Marion Louise Davis, 37 years old, of Paterson, is believed to hold the record for children in New Jersey. She has borne 17 children, nine of whom are living.

Mrs. Robertson Marshall of Westport, N. Y., is dead and her husband, a retired stock broker, is suffering from injuries as a result of an accident to their automobile.

Mrs. Laura Green, wife of a farmer, living near Lexington, Ky., was attacked by a cow, and narrowly escaped death after being badly gored. She seized the horns of the maddened beast and held on until her cries attracted her husband, who came to her rescue.

Beginning April 1, the price of flour will be lowered considerably, the German government announced.

Dr. James H. Dye, a dentist of Benson, Ill., was killed when he failed to observe an approaching train while crossing tracks.

By drinking a glass of buttermilk James Robinson, inmate of the county infirmary at Warsaw, Ind., ended a fast of 57 days. During his eight weeks of fasting Robinson lost about 100 pounds.

The government of China this week ordered \$240,000,000 worth of tin plate, a total of 70,000 boxes, to be rolled by the American Tin Plate company.

Through Minister Van Dyke, at The Hague, the United States protested emphatically to Germany against bomb-dropping near Belgium-bound relief ships.

Gen. Rene Joseph Delarue, chief of a division of the French army, was killed when he was struck in the head by a bullet on an inspection of a trench at the front.

Kites were demonstrated as means of saving life when Dr. F. W. Riehl, 73 years old, of Alameda, Cal., leaped from the deck of the battleship Oregon to San Francisco bay and was towed to Alcatraz island, four miles from the anchorage of the war vessel, by a device of his invention.

The bodies of Joe Jackson and John W. Ryan, brakemen on the Missouri, Kansas & Texas railroad, were found at Denton, Tex., on top of a freight car. Both had been shot and their pockets rifled.

Thirty-five cases of smallpox have been discovered at Millville, N. J., and the board of health at a meeting completed preparations for the vaccination of the entire population, numbering nearly 14,000.

Thirty-eight women, according to the Nueva Politecnica Correspondencia, have been decorated with the iron cross, second class, up to the present time.

Chicago is having a lot of trouble with the weather. It is raining and the temperature is low.

Fifteen members of the crew of the British steamer Trostburg lost their lives when the vessel was wrecked near Cape Spartel, on the Moroccan coast, at the entrance to the Strait of Gibraltar.

Hall Thompson of Virginia, Ill., aged 32, son of the late Harry Thompson, committed suicide by taking strychnine at the home of his grandfather, Robert Hall. He was engaged to marry a girl in Chicago early this spring.

The total attendance at the Panama-Pacific exposition during the first five weeks was announced officially as having been 2,358,642. This was an average daily attendance of more than 64,000.

The Jefferson County (Ill.) Medical Society at Mount Vernon placed itself on record as opposed to the practice of clairvoyancy. An alleged swindle perpetrated by a clairvoyant was the reason.

Eight masked robbers entered the mail order business of Babson Brothers, Chicago, felled the watchman, John Kastory, with an iron bar, bound him to a chair, blew open two safes and a vault and escaped with more than \$400.

Kansas motor cars increased in number from 36,775 to 53,216 in the last year. In the same time the number of motorcycles has grown from 6,911 to 8,344. It is estimated \$16,000 was spent in the state for cars during the year.

Col. Francis Desclaux, Madame Bechoff and a soldier named Verges, who were convicted by a court-martial of stealing army stores, and sentenced to terms of imprisonment, have appealed from the decision of the court.

Clarence Burke, who has been held at Aurora, Ill., for a month as a suspect in the Emma Peterson murder mystery, was released from custody.

A. M. Augustine, one of the leading horticulturists of Central Illinois, has discovered that the peach crop in that section has been ruined by the severe temperature of last winter.

California has 800 incorporated oil companies and 276 oil producing companies. The number of producing wells is 6,183, producing 657,051,468 barrels of oil.

Forty-five hundred Villa soldiers were opposite Mercedes pumping plant, on their way to Matamoros to give battle to the constitutionalists. Villa currency is being traded here freely at three Villa dollars for one 25-cent piece of United States currency.

A German Zeppelin attacked the Russian fortress of Lomza on the Narow river, the war offices announced. Fourteen bombs were dropped and nine civilians were injured.

Sammy Mucolish, aged 11, confessed that he had shot and killed Felix Novenski, also aged 11, near Jacksonville, Ind., recently. He admitted hiding the body in a clump of bushes.

As a result of a fight at Big Muddy, Ill., Patrick Priest is in the county jail, probably mortally wounded, and six other men, slashed with razors and shot, are in hospitals and eight others are prisoners.

Bernard Montvid was held by the police court for trial for murder in connection with the killing at New Britain, Conn., last month of Rev. Father Zabris and his housekeeper, Miss Iva Gilmanattis.

Mrs. Victoria Cadaract, aged 105, is dead in Ottawa county infirmary, near Oak Harbor, O. Mrs. Cadaract was the last survivor of the native Ohio Indians.

The report which has been circulated that Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria has been seriously wounded by a shell is officially denied.

Ben Horn, 25 years old, and his bride, 18, were found dead in bed at their farm home at Gainesville, Tex. The woman had been shot through the temple and the man through the heart.

Walter L. Ross, receiver for the Clover Leaf railroad, applied to the federal court for permission to borrow \$600,000.

The South African assembly unanimously passed an amendment to the war indemnity bill, removing the death penalty from all participants in the recent rebellion.

A vote on the preferences of children in the Alton, Ill., public schools as to moving picture dramas shows that the largest number like cowboy dramas. The vote was as follows: For cowboy pictures, 684; for comedy, 594; dramatic, 447; crime, 65; educational, 23.

Col. Roosevelt has not accepted the invitation to testify before a senate committee on the ground that he has no information. Chairman Walsh called