

DEFENDERS GAIN AT NUEVO LAREDO

Rebels Hanged as "Warning"; Acts of Barbarism Are Reported From Front.

MAN "SPITTED" ON POLE

Federals Reported Also to Have Slain Wounded in Field—Attacking Party Waiting for Artillery to Arrive.

LAREDO, Tex., Jan. 2.—While the fighting today was indecisive, whatever advantage there was at the end of the second day's battle in the state of Nuevo Laredo, Mex., seemed with the federal defenders tonight. In the most important engagement today a Constitutional machine gun detachment was dislodged from its position 1000 yards from the federal position, and the rebels fled after 150 of their number had been killed. The federal loss was placed at five.

The main line of the besiegers tonight was unbroken and the government troops held the position. The leaders were disappointed at the delay in the arrival of artillery reinforcements. They plan to prolong the siege indefinitely, and promise a more vigorous attack when the artillery arrives.

Rebels Reported Hanged. Seven Constitutionalists were summarily hanged by federals today "as a warning." It also was reported, but not confirmed, that the federals had put to death wounded Constitutionalists left lying on the field.

One act of barbarism was reported from the American side of the river. A captured Constitutionalist was trussed with a rope to the tail of a wild horse, which then was sent plunging across the plain, dragging the body behind. The prisoner had been shot, but it was not known whether he was dead.

Another report was that a wounded Constitutionalist, his arms tied behind his back and his knees tied to his body, was spotted on a pole and paraded in front of the federal lines.

It was learned today that the federals are maintaining a vigilant border patrol on the Mexican side and that no Mexican citizen is permitted to cross the river.

Firing Is Heavy. During the forenoon firing was heavy, but the fighting outside Nuevo Laredo seemed to be out of reach of prompt reports. One engagement was under way about two miles south of town, while another was in progress. The rebels were also reported to have attacked a large supply of ammunition intended for the federals.

During the night the Constitutionalists threw up intrenchments within 1000 yards of the federal lines south-east of Nuevo Laredo. Before noon the federals directed a heavy fire at these breastworks.

Four miles, which the federals had placed around the city in anticipation of a rebel attack, were not touched. Throughout the morning the advantage seemed to be with the attacking party, but this turned later in the day.

While estimates of the dead in the two days' fighting ran up to 500, the verified deaths were not much more than 200.

SAN LUIS POTOSI MENACED

Number of Rebels Surrounding Town Reported at 5000. MEXICO CITY, Jan. 2.—So rapidly has the number of rebels about San Luis Potosi increased and so imminent does an attack on that city seem that freight traffic into the city from the south over the only line open has been suspended. Telegraphic communication continues and reports from San Luis Potosi today said the rebels from the north and west were closing in on the town and that small bands were menacing it from the east and south.

Reports are current that the troops at Monterey and Saltillo have revolted, but there is no confirmation of this. Communication with both cities is cut off. Indications are that the rebel forces threatening San Luis Potosi are those led by Eulalia Gutierrez and Francisco Cors. They are supported by the Cedillo brothers, who for months have been operating along the railroad line from San Luis Potosi to Tampico. None of these has fought in the north.

Private advices received here place the number of rebels about San Luis Potosi as high as 5000. The majority of them are at Boca, 25 miles north on the National Railways. The remainder are along the railroad line extending westward from San Luis Potosi to Aguas Calientes. General Romero, commanding the federal garrison at San Luis Potosi, has about 1000 men, well supplied with artillery and ammunition. The campaign near San Luis Potosi appears to be independent of the one against Tampico, at which place the rebels have been brought down from Northern Vera Cruz.

The capture of San Luis Potosi, besides the wealth it would add to the rebel coffers, the city being perhaps the second wealthiest in the republic, would seriously increase the embarrassment of the government, as it would effectually block the importation of oil by way of Tampico.

Alarmed by the increasing difficulty in obtaining oil, the management of the government railways, acting under government instructions, is busy converting oil-burning engines into coal-burners. Owing to the scarcity of coal in the republic and the necessity of importing it from the United States, railroad men see little hope of operating trains for any length of time except in a limited zone.

HUERTA'S PRISONERS FREED Judge Finds No Basis for Charge of Rebellion Against 26. MEXICO CITY, Jan. 2.—Six former Mexican deputies, imprisoned by Provisional President Huerta last October, were released from the penitentiary today. This number does not include Rodolfo Reyes, former Minister of Justice, nor Jorge Vera Estanol, former Minister of Public Instruction.

The Judge of the District Court, who had charge of the investigation, found that there was no basis for the accusation of rebellion.

REBELS AWAIT AMMUNITION Troops Under Ortega Fall Back After Four Days' Cannoning. PRESIDIO, Tex., Jan. 2.—After cannonading the federal army at Olanes, Mex., for four days, General Ortega's rebel army today fell back, it was reported on the American side, to await

the arrival of more ammunition from Chihuahua. So far the losses have been heaviest on the rebel side, due to the federal's superior marksmanship. Federal deserters reported that they had fewer than 100 killed, with an unknown number of wounded. No Americans were permitted to cross the river and anything like an accurate estimate was lacking.

Few federal deserters attempted to reach the American side today. The wounded were cared for by the Red Cross. Dr. C. F. Braden, the Red Cross agent, reported he had 50 wounded in the mission church. He telegraphed to El Paso that he thought the present medical force was sufficient.

WILSON IS HELD IN ERROR

World Opinion to Force Intervention, London Paper Says. LONDON, Jan. 2.—The Spectator in an article today on the Mexican situation, declares that the pressure of public opinion will force the United States to intervene in Mexico. The article points out that President Wilson made a mistake in not assuming that President Huerta would be the strongest force with which to bring about peace in Mexico, and in supporting him accordingly; but it adds that it understands perfectly the reasons why Mr. Wilson did not adopt such a course.

"The article says, 'He did what, with all respect, we must say, was the worst thing he could have done. He intervened and pretended not to be intervening; he deplored bloodshed and anarchy and yet he would neither stop it himself nor let anyone else do so. The only way left for the United States was for themselves to restore order in Mexico.'"

The Spectator believes that joint action by other powers with the United States is impossible and that the United States will have to act alone or sacrifice the Monroe doctrine, which is not likely to be maintained if that it would prove rather an easy conquest for the United States, but that conquest would be succeeded by a demand for national independence and accompanied by rebellion.

The rebellion also would be suppressed if it would be followed by annexation to the United States of the northern states of Mexico and the independence of the remainder of the country under a treaty by which the United States Government would control Mexico's foreign relations. The Spectator thinks even this condition would not last long, as the English-speaking people will extend from the Canadian border to the Panama Canal, with the exception of British Honduras.

UNION CONTRACT HOLDS STATE BOARD, HOWEVER, TURNS DOWN WAGE ADVANCE

State Printer's Contract With His Employees Looked Upon as Personal. Treasurer Key Objects. SALEM, Or., Jan. 2.—(Special.)—By a vote of two to one the State Printing Board today decided not to try to have the contract made by State Printer Harris with the Allied Printing Trades of this city providing that only union men should be employed in the state printing department and that the union label be used upon state printed matter.

State Treasurer Kay insisted that the Board had control over the State Printer, and that the contract was in violation of the law. He read several sections of the first salary act, under which the department is being governed, to show that the State Printer in matters of that kind was subject to the will of the Board.

While declaring that he did not believe Mr. Harris should have entered into the contract with the union, he as he regarded it as largely a personal matter. Secretary of State Olcott said he did not favor action by the Board looking to the abrogation of the contract. Governor West said he believed the matter was a personal one with the State Printer.

The Board in a majority vote decided to notify W. C. Francis, general manager of the Employers' Association of Oregon, which has protested against the union contract, that it would take no action to annul it.

By a unanimous vote the Board decided to grant a general increase of \$1.50 a week to all employees of the department as asked by the State Printer. The salary of one pressman was increased from \$18 to \$19.50, another employe of the pressroom from \$15.50 to \$17.10 and another from \$8 to \$9. A week was granted the "printer's devil."

REALTY MAN IS ARRESTED

J. W. Adams Held at Astoria on Warrant From Portland. ASTORIA, Or., Jan. 2.—(Special.)—J. W. Adams, a real estate salesman of Portland, was taken in custody today by Sheriff Burns on a warrant issued in Judge McGinn's court at Portland. The warrant was issued on an execution in the case brought against Adams by Mrs. Elizabeth Scott for the recovery of \$365.70, alleged to be due her. She recovered judgment by default several weeks ago. When the case was called by Judge McGinn, attorneys for Adams announced that they had advised their client that the case was set for trial and that further continuance could not be secured. Adams did not show up for trial and the default judgment was granted.

Mrs. Scott charged that Adams had defrauded her out of the money in a lawsuit for three days when she had chased a tract of land in Council Crest Park.

KNUDSEN FOUND IN ASYLUM

Newport Resident Sandbagged and Robbed in Portland. NEWPORT, Or., Jan. 2.—(Special.)—Karl Knudsen, chief officer of the ferry boat Newport, is confined in the State asylum for the insane at Salem. A count of injuries received when he was sandbagged and robbed recently in Portland, where he had gone to have his eyes treated.

Knudsen was picked up by the Portland police and cared for in the police station for three days, when he was sent to Salem. There he recovered sufficiently to tell who he was and his recovery is looked for in a few weeks.

Knudsen has lived on Yaquina Bay for 25 years, where for many years he has farmed and raised oysters. He has a wife and two daughters and owns some valuable property.

Diversified Farming Now Plea. ASHLAND, Or., Jan. 2.—(Special.)—As an incentive to more diversified agriculture among Southern Oregon farmers, an application has been made to the Jackson County Court for an appropriation of \$1500 to further the movement. The project is backed by an influential delegation headed by R. D. Hetzel, director of extension of the state agricultural station, and Professor Reimer, of the Talent experimental station, in this county. A new law provides for such an appropriation, and the county Court has the matter under advisement.

CRISIS SEEN FOR PORTLAND AS PORT

Postmaster Says Railways Are Aiding Seattle to City's Detriment. COMPARATIVE DATA GIVEN

Realty Board Is Told How Columbia Gateway Is Avoided and Need of Independent Steamer Line Is Urged.

That for mercenary reasons the railroads do not want Portland to become a great port, and that Portland is now at a critical point in her development owing to lack of ocean commerce, were declarations made by Postmaster Frank S. Myers before the Portland Realty Board yesterday.

"Not a steamer line that calls at Portland but is controlled by the railroads," he said, "and apparently the railroads are more interested in the hauling of freight originating at this port by rail to Seattle than they are in helping secure direct lines of steamers from Portland to Alaska and the Orient."

For example, when the O.-W. R. & N. secured terminal and trackage at Seattle it discontinued its line of steamers between Portland and the Orient. The independent steamers have been driven off the Upper Columbia. The same thing happened on the Willamette to the complete eradication of the river traffic. The two steamer lines from Portland to Coos Bay ports are both controlled by the railroads. The steamers of the former Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company from Portland that were in possession of the Alaska trade were bluffed out of business by the Northern Pacific Steamship Company.

Customs Receipts Decrease. According to figures given by Postmaster Myers the customs receipts at the close of the fiscal year, June 30, 1913, as compared to \$684,191, including receipts at Astoria, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1912.

The value of imports at Seattle for the fiscal year 1913 was \$51,476,732, a gain of \$12,465,469 over 1912," said Postmaster Myers. "The imports for Portland for the fiscal year 1913 were only \$2,787,965, showing a gain over 1912 of only \$48,124."

"Unless something is done to make Portland the city it should be unless we wake up and secure a line of independent steamers to Alaska and the Orient, this city will become to Seattle what Sacramento is to San Francisco," he declared.

"Why, only last July the salary of the Collector of Customs at Portland was reduced from \$4500 to \$4500 a year, and that of the Collector at Seattle was raised from \$4500 to \$5000, solely because of the decrease of business here and the increase there."

Postmaster Myers pointed out that the headquarters for the thirteen divisions of the railway mail service was taken from Portland and given to Seattle a few years ago. This division comprises Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

"If we had maintained our line of steamers to Alaska when we had it a few years ago," he declared, "this city would now be 100,000 greater in population than Seattle."

One of Portland's great needs is a mail line to the Orient, said Mr. Myers. A subsidy for steamer lines was not favored, Mr. Myers preferring a plan whereby everybody who is interested in the upbuilding of Portland shall contract for a certain amount of ship space, and agree to pay for it whether it is used or not.

"This is the method by which Seattle built up her commerce," he said, "and this is the method that will work for us."

"A committee should go out and get such agreements from Portland shippers in the growth and progress of the city to make a line to Alaska profitable."

Mr. Myers referred to the securing of the regional bank for Portland, urging immediate action, and comparing Portland's apathy to the activity of Seattle.

Municipal Judge Stevenson made an optimistic speech on "The Greater Portland," predicting great growth for the future.

The committee appointed by the Realty Board to investigate the Somers system of property assessment reported that it considered it too expensive to be adopted.

CAMP PLAN PUSHED

Rockpile for Idle Likely to Be Started Monday. SMALL WAGE TO BE PAID

Commissioners Will Meet Today to Complete Arrangements for Institution to Make Tramps Work or Leave City.

Definite plans will be worked out today by members of the City Commission for the establishment, probably Monday, of a municipal rockpile, where tramps and hobos now in the city will be put to work at a small wage.

This site has not been definitely settled upon as yet, members of the City Commission desiring to go over the various places which are available before deciding finally. It is the plan to establish the rockpile and require every idle man to report there for work or leave the city. A small wage will be paid in addition to the tramps being given lodging and possibly meals.

These features of the plan are to be decided upon today. The Commission having arranged for a special meeting at 10 o'clock.

The rockpile plan is aimed to curb what city officials believe to be a concerted effort on the part of other cities of the Northwest to drive the Pacific Coast's supply of tramps and hobos to Portland. At present the men have an excuse for being idle or for begging on the streets. When the new plan goes into effect there will be no excuse. The police and Municipal Judge will have something to back up a general campaign to require the men to work or get out of the city.

At a meeting of the Commission yesterday an appropriation of \$500 was authorized for the purchase of blankets for the use of the hobos at the temporary sanatorium building. The blankets were obtained by Commissioner Bigelow, who was placed in charge of the work, and were sent to the sanatorium last night. Each man has been given a pair of blankets. A committee has been appointed to see that the blankets are all returned to the city after each night's use. Policemen will be on hand to see that none is carried away. In handling the situation, Commissioner Bigelow will co-operate with the Civic League.

For the legitimate unemployed, complaining men of families or with dependents, the city will keep up its relief labor plan. Arrangements were made yesterday by Commissioner Daly to issue \$250,000 in 4 per cent 36-year municipal water bonds to raise money to keep the men going in the water department. They are engaged here in digging water trenches at \$3 a day and are required to work. Idlers are kicked off the job immediately upon detection. These bonds, Mr. Daly said, will have to be issued in April, if not sooner, in order that the water improvements can be carried along during the Spring and Summer months. Inasmuch as the heavy work of the year is being done now, instead of during the Summer, other members of the City Commission backed Mr. Daly up in his plan for the bond sale.

The Stewart cabin was built without the use of a single nail. Not until six weeks later was the cabin at Mrs. Carter, at Christmas time in 1878. The first sermon was preached at the Stewart home, and the First Methodist Episcopal Church of this city organized there.

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