

La Grande Evening Observer

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FIGHT BEGUN IN MEXICO

Diplomatic Crisis With Germany Is Less Acute

DODD'S FUNGES CLASH WITH A VILLA OUTFIT

BANDIT, HIMSELF, SUFFERS WITH BROKEN LEG BUT WAS NOT IN FIGHT

VILLA GENERAL IS AMONG THE MANY DEAD

War Department Receives Message This Afternoon Telling of Fighting Early Wednesday Morning Between Expeditionary Forces and Villa Bands—Horse and Booty Captured.

Washington, March 31.—The war department has received confirmation of the report that Villistas have been badly beaten in a clash with the American expeditionary force. Colonel George Dodd's cavalry struck Villistas at 6 a. m. Wednesday near Guerrero, according to a war department message from the San Geronimo ranch. The dispatch was dated yesterday and transmitted from Gen. Pershing via Funston to headquarters.

Villa is suffering with a broken leg and other injuries. He was not in the battle.

Villistas left 30 dead on the field. Others are believed to have been killed.

Dodd Captured Booty. Dodd captured two rapid fire guns, many saddles, horses, ammunition and supplies. Ebaso Hernandez, commanding the Villistas was killed.

El Paso, March 31.—The American expedition has clashed with Villistas near Trou Alamos in the Guerrero region, according to a message from Casas Grandes to Consul Garcia made public this afternoon.

San Antonio, March 31.—Major General Fred Funston has received authentic, but unofficial, reports that Villa is working along the railroad from Guerrero toward Chihuahua City. Americans and Villistas, said the report, had exchanged shots. Skirmishes Seem Certain.

Funston is certain that fighting has occurred between members of the expeditionary forces and Villistas. Reports say Villa has been strongly reinforced.

"I am confident however our capable men under strong leadership can take care of themselves. Some isolated detachments are bound to suffer, but if Villa stands against the large forces, he will discover our metal," Funston said today.

Funston refused to reveal the serious advice to the effect that Carranzistas are cooperating with Villa at points and refuse to give the location of the main American column.

Americans Reported Killed.

El Paso, March 31.—Unconfirmed reports have been circulated here to the effect that Villa, fleeing from Guerrero, murdered several Americans at Minca, 10 miles south. Mining men and railroad officials are trying to get definite news.

The last reports say that the Americans at Guerrero were Doctor Stall, and men named Locke, Acklin, Memple and Herman Blankeberg.

BOLD CAPTURE FRUSTRATED

Lewis, Del., March 31.—A daring plot to capture the 5,000-ton British steamer Matoppo with a valuable cargo and take her to sea, was revealed by Ernest Scheller who was overpowered after holding up the ship's commander in attempting to seize the vessel single handed. Four others, he said, conspired with him.

The cargo of the Matoppo is being unloaded, officials fearing time bombs are concealed in the hold.

KELLEY BUTTEER IS UNDER ARREST

LA GRANDE CHIEF MEETS FUGITIVE HERE.

Hearty Laughs Precede Confession of Guilt to La Grande Police Officer.

Early on the morning of March 26, a dozen inmates of Kelley Butte, the Portland Rock Pile, crawled out of a hole slightly under eight inches wide; one of them, K. A. Ollon, better known as "Wireless," was coming out of a La Grande restaurant yesterday evening and bumped squarely into the arms of Chief of Police Ardrey.

Of distinctly characteristic facial expression, the original of which was widely heralded in Portland papers along with others who escaped, it was not difficult to recognize Ollon.

"How in the world did you manage to get out of that 8-inch hole?" was the first question the chief fired at the surprised fugitive.

A long and hearty laugh and then "Well I did, didn't I."

While he won't talk much of the affair, he is willing to explain something about the incident, the chief point in which is that he says he departed from the other escapes at once, and drifted toward La Grande alone.

The Multnomah county sheriff is arranging to have him brought back to Portland. He was sent up for larceny. An official will be here tomorrow to fetch the prisoner home.

QUARTERLY CONVENTION SET

Several Out-of-Town and County Speakers Are Booked

W. J. Case, county president, and Mrs. Henry McGoldrick, county secretary, have issued a call for the second quarterly county convention of the F. E. C. U. of A. This meeting is to be held in Imbler on the second Saturday in April, 1916. This being a very important meeting all members of the Union are especially requested to attend. A special program will be rendered. Subjects of special interest to the tax-payers of this county will be discussed by some of Union county's most able speakers. Also, F. A. Sikes of Corvallis, Oregon, state secretary of the Farmers' Union, W. W. Harrah of Pendleton, Henry Davidhizer of Wallawa county, and other members from out of the county are expected to be present. Day and night sessions will be held.

March Makes Fine Get-Away

The month of March has maintained the traditions of centuries. March was named after "Mars," the god of war, because it is the most blustery of months. It is also a regular daredevil. It can go bareheaded and face the fiercest blasts with three-quarters of its wish-bone exposed and flash striped hose that can be seen a mile off and pretend to never be scared a bit.

It's the one month in the year that is a Jonah to poets. No one has ever tried to spill any sentiment about March—only one. He was William Cullen Bryant and he wrote:

"The stormy March is come at last, With wind and cloud and changing skies."

That may be poetry but it doesn't sound much like it. Anybody who believes that "last" rhymes with "skies" is due for a trip to Pendleton.

When March goes out "like a lamb" as it has done this year then the twenty-five preceding days of grief are swallowed up and mollified in a season when real poetry begins to sprout.

OUSTED FROM L. D. S. CHURCH

Baker Man, Confessed Criminal, Is Publicly Excommunicated

Baker, March 31.—Asa Bagley, indicted for rape on an 11-year-old girl, arrested last week in Ogden while attempting to make his getaway and brought back to Baker by Deputy Sheriff Herbert, yesterday pleaded guilty before Judge Anderson to the crime of attempted rape. He was sentenced to the penitentiary by Judge Anderson, but the length of sentence is undetermined for the reason that Bagley did not plead guilty to the exact charge on which he was indicted. The penalty for the crime of rape is three to 20 years, and for attempted rape 11-2 years to ten.

Bagley had been a member of the L. D. S. church for some time, but last Sunday at the public services he was publicly excommunicated.

Sawmill Laborer Killed.

Enterprise, March 31.—An Italian laborer was instantly killed yesterday while at work at the new sawmill in Enterprise by getting his head crushed between two cars of logs.

MALANCOURT CAPTURED BY GERMAN RUSH

PARIS ADMITS GREATER PORTION OF GERMAN CLAIMS OF VICTORY

TRENCHES CRUMBLE AND FRENCHMEN PULL AWAY

Defenses Around Fortified City of Malancourt, Where Fighting Began Yesterday and the Village Itself Have Fallen to Germans Declare Messages from the Front Today.

Berlin, March 31.—The fortified village of Malancourt and defenses on both sides have been stormed and captured, it is officially announced. The prisoners totaled 328.

London, March 31.—With huge German shells smashing their trenches into ruins, the French troops have evacuated all but the eastern and southern outskirts of Malancourt, Paris dispatches here admitted. It is said the German artillery rendered other defenses untenable.

Mission Band Meeting. The Mission Band of the Presbyterian church will be entertained by Miss Stoddard and Miss Thompson tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the church.

BISHOP TO PREACH

Confirmation Rite To Be Administered At Episcopal Church

Bishop Paddock will visit St. Peter's church, Sunday evening at 7:30. He will preach and administer the Apostolic Rite of Confirmation.

DR. WAIT UNDER FIRST DEGREE MURDER INDICTMENT



Dr. Arthur Warren Waite, held as the order of the New York County district attorney in connection with the poisoning of John E. Peck, an aged wealthy man of Grand Rapids, Mich., and Mrs. Peck, while they visited his home in an expensive apartment house in New York City. Dr. Waite's wife was a daughter of the Pecks, and was entitled to half their fortune. Arsenic was found in the body of Mr. Peck.

New York, March 31.—Dr. Warren Waite was indicted for first degree murder today. It is alleged he poisoned his wealthy father-in-law, John E. Peck, of Grand Rapids.

LUMBERMAKERS INSPECT KILNS IN THIS CITY

SON OF LATE FREDERICK WEYERHAEUSER AMONG GROUP OF MEN VISITING HERE.

NORTHWEST CONDITIONS PROMPT BETTER FEELING

Bonnors Ferry, Potlatch and Tacoma Lumbermen Come to Look Over Improved Methods of Dry Kiln and Transfer Trucks Used by La Grande Institution—Confidence Expressed.

John Weyerhaeuser, eldest son of the late Frederick Weyerhaeuser—multi-millionaire lumber king—A. W. Laird, general manager of the Potlatch Lumber company, one of the biggest concerns in the white pine district, R. H. McCoy, general manager of the Bonnors Ferry Lumber company at Bonnors Ferry, Idaho, and his superintendent, M. L. Seymour, are this afternoon inspecting the improved method of dry kiln, stacking and auto transfer system built and operated by the George Palmer Lumber company. Incidentally a summary of the lumber situation as these men find it today in the Northwest, indicates that the lumber manufacturing business is on a firmer foundation than for any time in recent years. Advances, called reasonable are being maintained under a greater demand for lumber they point out.

Weyerhaeuser Head Comes. Mr. Weyerhaeuser is president of (Continued on Page 8.)

IMBLER CLEANUP PROCEEDS TODAY

STORES AND BANK PROCLAIM HOLIDAY

Women Serve Old-Fashioned Camp Meeting Dinner in Bon Ton Hall At the Noon Hour

Imbler, March 31.—(Special)—Imbler's "National Holiday," which the annual Spring cleanup has come to be called, began this morning, halted long enough at noon for the ladies of the city to serve a community dinner, and proceeded again this afternoon to a full and complete finish. An old-fashioned camp-meeting dinner was served at noon in the Bon Ton hall. Teams were ready at 7 o'clock to haul away rubbish. Stores, the bank and all other business suspended that the work might proceed unhampered.

Burglars Hit Same Store Twice

Lebanon, Oregon, March 30.—The hardware store of Everett, Kyle & Epperley was entered by burglars a few nights ago and firearms, knives and ammunition were taken. An entrance was effected by boring a hole through a window sash and releasing the lock. This store and the Gilson hardware store were entered by burglars about two months ago by some local boys and some of the goods, recovered at that time, were among those taken during this recent raid. The last case appears to be the work of an expert, instead of amateurs.

NUGGETS STILL EXCHANGE.

Eccentric Joseph Miners Brings Purse of Nuggets to Trade With.

Joseph, March 31.—The Joseph Herald recites that Ed Bowen, an eccentric old prospector and miner, who has been placer mining in the small streams above the Lake for some time, was in town this week buying supplies and provisions. His method of paying his bills was to pull out a buckskin purse nearly as long as his arm and weigh out small gold nuggets enough to pay the bill. Many of the miners in this district pay their bills in similar manner, which reminds a person of the good old golden days of '49 in California. It seems strange that when gold strikes are reported in some faroff, inaccessible place like frozen Alaska or miserable deserts like Nevada, Australia or Africa, thousands of men would break their arms, legs and necks in a mad scramble to get there. And mining prospects and conditions here are better than in any of the far-off places.

Alleged Riots Explained

Rotterdam, March 31.—Favoritism in the distribution of foodstuffs is declared on German authority to have had more to do with recent disorders in the Fatherland than any actual shortage. The accusation is not made alone by radical publications like Vorwarts. The Kreuzzeitung, of the military press, discussing the situation at Dresden, relates the following:

"It appears that the market authorities in that town have for months past been doing a thriving trade in cornering vegetables and cereals which were intended by the municipality to be distributed at a nominal charge among the poor. Before long, proof was forthcoming that the names of customs and town hall officials, wholesale business firms and first-class boarding houses were carefully noted in the market authorities' books. These favored customers were supplied secretly with all the articles they needed at prices only slightly in excess of those fixed as payable by the poor.

"The consequence was that on scores of occasions hundreds of poor women, after standing for hours in front of the market stalls, pushing and trampling one another and tearing one another's clothes off their backs, in their struggles to obtain the desired food, were sent away either empty-handed or given a paltry half pound of peas or beans, while well-paid officials or rich merchants were supplied with 20 pounds at a time, delivered free at their houses."

Woman Leads In Assessing Work

Baker, March 31.—Out of 10 deputy assessors working through Baker county, Mrs. Pearl Bessler of Sumpter, is the first to report to County Assessor Hyde. She arrived at the Courthouse this morning with a report covering valuations in the city of Sumpter. Her territory includes much of the surrounding country and work on the latter part of her district will begin next week.

The other deputies are all men. "Trust a woman to get ahead of a man every time," Mr. Hyde chuckled, as he told of Mrs. Bessler's work.

SUSSEX ISSUE WON'T BE PUT UP TO BERLIN

GOVERNMENT LACKS PROOF UPON WHICH TO BASE ITS FORMAL CHARGE

CABINET GOES OVER THE EAGLE POINT QUESTION

Germany Will Have Answer to All Cases It Is Contended—Announcement Made that Positive Proof Doesn't Exist that Steamer Was Torpedoed in the Channel as Claimed.

Washington, March 31.—A considerable load has fallen from diplomatic shoulders by an announcement made late this afternoon that in the Sussex case especially, no proof of submarine warfare is at hand.

The government does not possess proof upon which to base a formal charge that Germany is renewing illegal submarine warfare.

The cabinet today inspected the circumstantial evidence in the Sussex case. It is stated no positive evidence is at hand that the channel steamer was torpedoed.

Washington, March 31.—President Wilson and his cabinet again discussed the submarine crisis, facing the muddled problem in a mass of evidence before them. Of the four vessels concerned in recent U-boat attacks, it is understood the Eagle Point, in service of the British admiralty was the chief one. Germany will contend the steamer Englishman was torpedoed only when she attempted to escape and that the Sussex hit a mine. Officials believe the Kaiser will advance a defense for sinking the Manchester Engineer. Americans were on board all of them.

Wooden Legged, Not Wooden Headed

London, March 31.—War economy is not ignored by the soldiers who have returned home minus a leg.

A London shoemaker explained today that one-legged veterans appear at his establishment in pairs, having by some means negotiated to deal beforehand. One is always minus his right leg and the other his left leg and the remaining feet are the same size. The two war victims buy one pair of shoes and divide the cost.

COZY THEATER BURNS

Fire At Union Early This Morning Eats Into Movie House

Union, Ore., March 31.—The Cozy Theater was seriously harmed by a fire which was discovered here this morning at 4:30. Evidently the flames had been smoldering inside the building for several hours as the wood work throughout the entire structure was badly scorched. The heat inside the building was so oppressive that the firemen could not enter. The estimated damage was about \$2,000 completely insured.

The operating room was not hurt by the flames and about \$1200 worth of films were rescued from it. The show will be in running order again in about two weeks it is thought.

The building is owned by a number of stockholders, but the machine and fixtures are owned by Jas Webb.

GIANT LINER AGROUND

San Francisco, March 31.—The Chiyo Maru has grounded on an island 22 miles off Hong Kong. Passengers will be taken to Hong Kong, according to a cable received at the offices of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, which is the first word of an accident to the giant ship. It is indicated the crack liner ran aground Thursday morning.

Unofficial advices said the ship was ashore off one of Lema Islands at the mouth of the Canton river.