



## BRITONS BELIEVED MURDERED BY VILLA

### Rumor of Real Court-Martial Discredited.

## CONSUL ANNOUNCES DEATH

### Occurrence Causes Great Excitement on Border.

## THREE OTHERS MISSING

### Outspoken Ranchman Known to Have Declared He Would Speak His Mind if Rebel General Refused His Request.

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 20.—Gossip is current here tonight that certain European powers again are planning to urge the United States to assume a more active policy in restoring peace in Mexico. Many persons expressed the belief today that the Beaufort incident might be seized upon as an opportunity to impress such a view on the Washington Government.

Various diplomats intimated today that they would use the killing of Benton as the basis of reports to show their displeasure when it comes to protecting their nations in the greater part of Mexico.

EL PASO, Feb. 20.—The execution, or murder of William S. Benton, a British subject, by General Francisco Villa, head of the Mexican rebels at Juarez, became known here today and caused intense excitement.

Two other British subjects, John Lawrence and a companion named Curtis, who went to look for Benton, are also missing tonight.

Gustav Bauch, who was being tried for being a spy, also disappeared. Thomas D. Edwards, American Consul at Juarez, said that when friends of Bauch went to visit him with bedding and food, he was not in the cell where he had been held incommunicado since last Sunday, while his trial was being held.

## Shooting Reports Numerous.

Reports were numerous today that Bauch would be shot. The Consul is confident that Bauch was not removed to Chihuahua, as he watched the train leave with General Villa on board.

Stewart quoted a rebel officer, whose name he did not learn, as remarking: "Well, we've gotten rid of three more ringleaders."

Benton was one of the most prominent foreigners residing in Northern Mexico. Previous to adopting resolutions in mass meetings condemning the government for its handling of Mexican affairs, El Paso citizens selected ex-Governor Curry, of New Mexico, to call on Consul Edwards at Juarez for information concerning Benton's fate.

## Consul Pledged to Silence.

"Mr. Consul," he said, "the people of El Paso and the foreign refugees from Mexico are in a feverish state because of the murder of William Benton. They have been unable to hear details of the crime and have asked me to seek information. Any light you can shed on the subject will be appreciated."

"I have telegraphed the Secretary of State that Benton's death has been officially reported to me," replied the Consul. Other details I have forwarded to Washington by mail. General Villa said he did not dare to talk to the press or public of the case, but gave me the information for Mrs. Benton, the widow, and the State Department. They are at liberty to talk, but I promised the General that I would remain silent."

Asked as to his careful use of the phrase "officially reported dead," and whether he personally thought the official report by Villa might have been deliberately misleading, the Consul said that inasmuch as the rebels had been sending Chihuahua, Blanton, Benton, and Juarez prisoners to Chihuahua, that he had had a faint hope that Villa might, for his own reasons, have lied to him.

## Villa's Version Credited.

Benton disappeared Tuesday and there is no disposition outside the American consulate—if it still exists there—to doubt the authenticity of Villa's report to the Consul.

Mr. Edwards made his first inquiry of Villa yesterday on receipt of instructions from Secretary Bryan, who made the request at the instance of the British Ambassador, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice.

"Mr. Edwards," Villa is reported as saying, "Mr. Benton is dead. You are an official of the American Government and I give you this as an official report. I have made denials to other inquirers as this is not a matter for the public. It is for the information of the widow and the State Department."

What else passed between them Mr. Edwards would not say and Mrs. Benton was unable to.

The Consul telegraphed the bare announcement to Washington last night and the news reached El Paso through an Associated Press bulletin when Secretary Bryan had the information public today.

## Consul Informs Widow.

Edwards waited until after his last hope flickered away with the departure of the train this morning before informing Mrs. Benton that her husband was dead. She is a Mexican woman, and although educated understands the English language imperfectly. The Consul spoke in his own tongue and

## STEAMER IS IN TROUBLE

### Eureka, Buffeted by Heavy Sea, Sends Distress Call.

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., Feb. 20.—The steamer Eureka, Ventura to San Francisco, sent out distress signals tonight off Morro Bay and the steamer Santa Clara has gone to her assistance. This was the report sent here tonight by the railroad agent at San Luis Obispo.

The message said that both vessels were being buffeted badly by the heavy seas.

## STEAMER GOES ON SHORE

### Vessel Stranded Off Virginia Coast Is Unidentified.

NORFOLK, Va., Feb. 20.—An unidentified steamer was reported ashore tonight one mile north of Little Island lifesaving station.

Lifesavers hardly will be able to reach the vessel tonight, as there is a severe storm sweeping the coast and the waves are unusually high.

## AMERICANS RETURN FIRE OF MEXICANS

### CAVALRY TROOPS ENGAGE IN NIGHT BRUSH ON BORDER.

### One Mexican Is Wounded and Two Are Taken Prisoner; Fifteen or 20 Shots Are Exchanged.

EL PASO, Tex., Feb. 20.—A squad of soldiers of Troop M, Thirteenth Cavalry, had a brush with a score or more Mexicans tonight, during which 15 or 20 shots were fired. One Mexican was wounded and two taken prisoner.

Captain Harry M. Cootes, of Troop M, had received word that filibusters might attempt to rush the barracks where his detachment is housed, on the outskirts of the city, in order to get arms and ammunition, and was on the watch.

Corporal Jansen first noticed the presence of the Mexicans in an alley. He called upon them to give an account of themselves and was greeted by a shot. He replied with a bullet into a crowd and was quickly reinforced by some of his comrades, who also shot at the Mexicans. The latter returned a few shots and disappeared in the darkness. The troopers pursued, but all but two escaped. The wounded man escaped, but hobbled to a hospital to have the bullet taken from his leg. The incident occurred near the river, in a district known as "Hart's Mill."

Captain Cootes was uptown at the time, busy with his duties as provost marshal, and the troopers were handled by Lieutenant Yancey.

## CUTOFF WORK TO BEGIN

### Arrangements Under Way to Build Coyote Route Near Stanfield.

PENDLETON, Or., Feb. 20.—(Special.)—Work on the construction of the Coyote cutoff virtually has started, according to reports received here. Representatives of Twohy Bros. are now in the field locating camps in which hundreds of laborers will be housed while the cutoff is being built. One of the camps will be situated near Echo and a second near Stanfield.

It is reported the O. W. R. & N. Company proposes some line changes between Echo and the upper end of the cutoff in order to eliminate grades.

According to reports, the cutoff will start from the mouth of the Butter Creek instead of from Echo or Stanfield, as at first believed.

## ALASKA BILL IS INSPIRATION

### On Signing of Measure by President Chamber Plans Celebration.

The Portland Chamber of Commerce, upon the passage of the Alaska railroad bill on the day it is signed by President Wilson, contemplates holding a special celebration in honor of the event.

The railroad bill has long been recognized as of vital importance to Portland in relation to its present campaign into the trade territory of Alaska.

It is suggested that the celebration take the form of a banquet.

## NOTED DIVA NAMES "RIVAL"

### Schumann-Heink Adds Statutory Charge to Divorce Bill.

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—The divorce bill filed here by Mme. Ernestine Schumann-Heink-Rapp, of San Diego, Cal., the grand opera singer, against William Rapp, Jr., of New York, was amended by permission today and now contains a statutory charge against Mr. Rapp.

"K. E. Deane" is the name given in the amendment as that of the woman in the case. Mr. Rapp was alleged to have been acquainted with her in New York in 1912 and 1913.

## HELEN GAYNOR IS ENGAGED

### Scion of Corn Products Magnate Finance of Late Mayor's Daughter.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—Mrs. William J. Gaynor, widow of the late Mayor of New York, announced today the engagement of her daughter, Helen, to E. T. Bedford, second son of Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Bedford, of Brooklyn. Miss Helen is Mrs. Gaynor's third daughter. She is 19 years old. Three of her sisters are married.

Her fiancé is a grandson of Edward Thomas Bedford, formerly a vice-president of the Standard Oil Company.

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## JUDGE'S ATTITUDE GIVES THAW HOPE

### New York's Good Faith Declared Issue.

## COURT FREE WITH COMMENT

### Prisoner's Counsel Bitterly Assails Mr. Jerome.

## CRITICAL POINT REACHED

### In Event Habeas Corpus Writ Is Granted and State Does Not Appeal, Thaw Will Be Free—Argument Continues Today.

CONCORD, N. H., Feb. 20.—(Special.)—Ex-Governor Stone, of Pennsylvania, Harry K. Thaw's chief counsel, made a bitter attack on William Travers Jerome when the hearing before Judge Aldrich on Thaw's habeas corpus petition opened today. The hearing marks Thaw's crucial battle against extradition. Ex-Governor Stone assailed the good faith of Mr. Jerome and attacked the methods employed in securing the indictment on which the extradition request is based.

Judge Aldrich made several comments on the case as it appeared to him and his indication that he considered the question of New York's good faith of importance in the case. New York has contended that Judge Aldrich must ignore all question of New York's honesty in his decision.

Judge Aldrich's word on this question came while Governor Stone was arguing. The judge interrupted to ask: "How can I satisfy myself as to this question of good faith?"

Ex-Governor Stone replied: "By hearing of all facts."

When the hearing adjourned for the noon recess Judge Aldrich made this statement: "It seems to me that the important question at this hearing is whether extradition is the appropriate remedy, not whether Thaw shall be returned to New York. Secondly, it is important to decide whether in the description of the offense alleged by the State of New York they have not left their charge in the field of uncertainty."

Ex-Governor Stone made the opening argument and openly charged bad faith in the proceedings. He said: "The record of this case is full of evidence of bad faith. The intent to

(Concluded on Page 2.)

## INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 52 degrees; minimum, 45 degrees. TODAY'S—Rain, breeze to high southeast winds.

Mexico. British subject executed by Mexican rebel general. Page 1. Washington deeply stirred by new Mexican developments. Page 2. Citizens of El Paso denounce policy toward Mexico. Page 2.

Foreign. Polish count placed on trial for killing wife and her nephew. Page 2.

Domestic. Heavy rains continue in citrus belt. Page 1. Jury breaks will of lumberman who out off wife and sons. Page 2. Harry Thaw still hopes to defeat extradition. Page 3. Aviator and millionaire go to sea in gale. Page 1. Americans and Mexican troops in brush on border. Page 1.

Sports. McCredle decides not to pass final judgment on recruits at training field. Page 10. Coral Sea trip nerve-racking on White Sox and Giants. Page 10. University of Oregon defeats Washington basketball team, 24 to 9. Page 11. Bud Anderson loses to "Red" Watson in fifth. Page 10.

Pacific Northwest. Strike of shingleweavers at Raymond followed by open shop. Page 6. Delegates to Eugene development congress forecast heavy Booth vote. Page 5. O. W. R. & N. Co. soon to begin Coyote cutoff. Page 1. Seattle Mayor denounces Bill in announcing he will take stump. Page 5. Three passengers killed by robber on Great Northern train. Page 1.

Commercial and Marine. Outlook is for active mohair market and good prices. Page 15. Sentiment in commercial and industrial lines is optimistic. Page 15. Stock dealings quiet and fluctuations narrow. Page 15. Chicago wheat firmer on reports of foreign crop damage. Page 15. Licenses of pilot and second officer of General Hubbard suspended. Page 14. River trade falls and abandonment of dredging plans are threatened. Page 14.

Portland and Vicinity. Ruling market block may not be available for auditorium causes fresh mudslide. Page 7. Armstrong counsel moves to drop case in civil service scandal. Page 8. Citizens endorse Somers assessment system. Page 14. C. J. Franklin resigns as general superintendent of street railways. Page 14. Neighbors of water meters shown by reports of 1913-13. Page 8. Weather report, data and forecast. Page 15. Recall committee opens office, but backer is kept under cover. Page 4. Early business days are viewed by pioneers of Portland. Page 4.

Smoking BOBS UP AGAIN

Woman Requests Mr. Albee to Ask Gentlemen to Quit Tobacco.

The question of the moral right of persons to smoke during Council meetings while women are present, which was the cause of much fuss during the last days of the old City Council, sprang up yesterday to bother the new Council. While the Council was in session several persons were seated about the table puffing at cigars.

Mrs. F. Egbert, who was one of a number of women present, wrote a note on a card and sent it to Mayor Albee, asking that gentlemen kindly be requested to refrain from smoking. Fortunately, a moment later the Council session adjourned and it was not necessary to make the request. The smoking question is expected to bob up again, however, as three of the five Commissioners are smokers.

(Concluded on Page 2.)

## 1 OF ROBBER TRIO KILLS 3 ON TRAIN

### Great Northern Passengers Shot Down.

## SAMISH, WASH., HOLDUP SCENE

### One Desperado Drops Men as Partner Shoots Out Lights.

## ESCAPE IS IN WILDERNESS

### Posses Quickly on Way From Bellingham, but Little Hope Held Out for Capture—Many Women Faint; Others Give Pursues.

BELLINGHAM, Feb. 20.—When three passengers on Great Northern passenger train No. 358, bound for Vancouver, B. C., undertook to resist one of a trio of holdups who entered the day coach when the train was running along the edge of the bay nine miles south of here tonight at 7:30, the robber pulled an automatic pistol and shot the men dead in their tracks.

The dead men are: Thomas S. Wadsworth, a Canadian Pacific conductor, of Vancouver, B. C. R. L. Lee, a clerk at the United States Navy-Yard, of Bremerton, Wash. H. D. Adterson, a traveling salesman, of Vancouver, B. C.

Masks Donned on Train. It is believed the three bandits got on the train at Burlington, a few miles south of the scene of the holdup. They were seen to leave the smoking car and enter the vestibule between it and the day coach, where they tied white handkerchiefs about their faces.

One of the men then entered the day coach and walked to the rear door. A second one stepped just inside the coach, while the third remained in the vestibule.

As the man reached the rear door and started to lock the door the three men who were killed leaped from their seats and started grappling with the robber. At that minute the bandit who was at the forward end of the coach began shooting into the ceiling of the car and putting out the lights.

Many Shots Fired. The robber, grappling with the three men, then pulled out an automatic revolver and began shooting. He fired probably ten shots. Lee was the first man to fall. The next two shots killed Wadsworth and Adterson.

Lee was trying to crawl behind the rear seat when the bandit turned his gun on him and fired five or six shots into his back.

None of the shots fired by the other

(Concluded on Page 2.)

## AVIATOR VOYAGES OVER SEA IN GALE

### GLENN MARTIN TAKES MILLIONAIRE ON WILD RIDE.

### Wind So Furious It Takes 85 Minutes to Go 36 Miles, and Men Are in Peril of Lives.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Feb. 20.—Buffeted and tossed about like a feather for an hour and 25 minutes by the furious wind which swept the ocean, Glenn Martin, accompanied by Frank Garbutt, a Los Angeles millionaire, today piloted his biplane from Oceanside to North Island in what probably is the most hazardous and spectacular flight ever undertaken on the Pacific Coast.

The men ascended from Oceanside at 10:45 this morning and made a safe landing at 12:10 P. M. They followed the coast line and the full danger of their flight may be judged when it is considered that had Martin, through an accident to the motor of his machine, been compelled to volplane, both he and Garbutt would have been either drowned or dashed to destruction on the rocks.

The wind was so furious that the aviator was unable to make greater headway than 36 miles in 85 minutes. Martin claims that his biplane is capable under ordinary weather conditions of a sustained speed of 75 miles an hour.

## CARL GRAY TO HEAD FRISCO

### Great Northern President, Resigned, to Begin When Receivers Quit.

ST. PAUL, Feb. 20.—(Special.)—Carl R. Gray, who has resigned from the presidency of the Great Northern Railway, will become president of the St. Louis & San Francisco Railroad as soon as that corporation passes out of the hands of the receivers. This announcement was made in St. Louis and verification was given at Mr. Gray's offices here today.

The vacancy on the board of directors of the Great Northern caused by the death of William H. Dunwoody has been filled. F. L. Howe, president of the Imperial Elevator Company, has been named. Mr. Howe is a director on a number of philanthropic and civic boards, including the Minneapolis Y. M. C. A.

## DANIELS DOMESTIC 'ANGEL'

### Secretary Voluntarily Arranges for Admiral to See Family.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 19.—While Secretary Daniels is encouraging matrimony in the Navy, he likewise took cognizance today of the domestic hardships of Naval officers who are away from home for a prolonged period.

The Secretary sent a wireless today to Rear-Admiral Fletcher at Vera Cruz, asking him if he would like to have a visit with his family and when the Admiral replied, Mrs. Fletcher and her two babies, with only a few hours' preparation, left on the Presidential yacht Mayflower, which sailed today for Mexican waters.

Whittier—All bridges gone, roads washed out, suburban service demoralized. Fruit orchards damaged. Large areas of lowlands flooded.

Padre—Stairway to citrus groves suffered. Steam and electric traffic interrupted.

Ontario, San Bernardino County—City water system damaged by storm. Many groves flooded.

Monrovia, in the foothills—Citrus groves and streets damaged by torrents dashing down mountainsides. Scores of homes of poor families in the lowlands inundated. Many collapsed when a riprap, or temporary dam, erected to protect railroad tracks, gave way.

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## FURIOUS TORRENTS CARRY DESOLATION

### Rainfall Continues in Citrus Belt.

## BUNGALOWS ARE SWEEP AWAY

### Orange and Lemon Groves Suffer Serious Damage.

## TWO MORE ARE DROWNED

### Region Hard Hit by Freeze of January, 1913, Again Sustains Blow—Trunk Line Traffic Continues Demoralized.

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 20.—Orange and lemon growers of the citrus fruit region about Los Angeles, who suffered severely in the freeze of January, 1913, sustained another hard blow in the storm which began early Wednesday and continued today. Groves that were nipped and shriveled by the frost a year ago were washed out today by torrents that rushed down from the mountains and tore madly through the valleys. In many instances homes and other movable property floated off on the crest of the swirling currents with the trees.

Summarized, the flood situation about Los Angeles tonight was as follows: Pomona, center of a large fruit-growing district—Orange and lemon groves razed by the storm waters. Every grove damaged more or less, each suffering loss of from \$500 to \$10,000. All railroad and electric lines washed out.

Woman Rancher Drowned. Covina, a town in the citrus belt—Menaced by floods held back only by a temporary dike, a woman rancher was drowned, Miss Susan Beville, a woman rancher, and her cousin, H. M. Seitz. Ranchers striving to save homes and groves.

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## WATER MAY BATTLE RUM

### Commission Planning to Fight Demon With Drinking Fountains.

The City Commission may decide to fight the liquor traffic with water. Commissioner Brewster at an informal meeting of the Council yesterday introduced a plan to install drinking fountains at various places in the North End.