

SPORT READY FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

American General, With 4700 Men at Back, to Meet Mexicans on Border.

REINFORCEMENTS ON HAND

Preliminary Conversations Held With Persons in Touch With Warring Factions and Investigation Begun.

NACO, Ariz., Dec. 20.—General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the United States Army, arrived here today and at once began an investigation of the Mexican border trouble here, which has resulted in the killing of five persons and the wounding of 47 by Mexican bullets crossing the line during the 10 weeks' siege of Naco, Sonora.

General Scott began a series of conversations with persons informed on Mexican affairs and also with those in touch with General Hill, the Carranza commander entrenched in Naco, Sonora, and Governor Maytorena, the Villa belligerent. This investigation is preliminary to a conference General Scott expects to hold with Hill and Maytorena in an effort to secure some agreement which will eliminate further Mexican fighting along the border.

It is recognized that, whatever care the Mexican factions might exercise not to fire into the United States, stray bullets would continue to fall here, either through bad marksmanship or individual disobedience of orders.

MAYTORENA WILL WITHDRAW

Carothers Notifies Department Villa General Has Agreed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—Consular Agent Carothers telegraphed the State Department today that Governor Maytorena, commanding the Villa forces besieging General Hill's garrison at Naco, Sonora, was preparing to withdraw his troops to a point 10 or 12 miles from the border to eliminate the possibility of firing into American territory.

SHIPWRECK LAID TO CAT

Isthmian Sailor Executes Black Felony, Friday Being Doomsday.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Dec. 20.—The black cat, blamed by the crew of the Isthmian for the shipwreck which nearly sent the freighter to the bottom of the sea, was summarily executed Friday night and the body thrown overboard.

TWO ROBBERIES REPORTED

Highwayman Gets \$22 and Burglar \$10 and Jewelry.

George H. Peters, Seventh-street terrace, reported to the police last night that two men had robbed him and robbed him of \$22 while he was at Sixteenth and Elizabeth streets on his way home. He said the men ran up from behind, grabbed him, and one held him while the other rifled his pockets.

RAISING OF CRAFT HALTS

Work on Stranger, Sunk Near Carson, Awaits Opening of Locks.

Charles Steelsmith, superintendent of the Dalles Columbia line, returned last night from Carson, Wash. He announced that arrangements for raising the Stranger, which sank after hitting a rock near Carson, are held up temporarily.

FOE IS ABLE, SAYS BERLIN

German Folk Warned of Future Possibilities in Russia.

BERLIN, via wireless to Sayville, N. Y., Dec. 20.—The official press bureau gave out the following items today: "Although certain observers still affect the belief that the German victory in the east will insure against danger of a Russian invasion for all time, as one commentator puts it, it is beginning to be realized that the victory, as complete as it was, is not synonymous with

Oregon Legislators—No. 89

Miss Marion B. Towne, Representative-Elect of Jackson.



MISS MARION B. TOWNE.

MEDFORD, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special.)

Miss Marion B. Towne, of Jackson County, has the unique distinction of being the only woman member of the 1915 State Legislature, and almost the only Democrat. Nevertheless, she does not view her political future with alarm.

ORPHEUM IS SPARKING

BELL FAMILY PRODUCES NEW LINE OF MUSICAL PROGRAMME.

George McKay's Wit Catching, Florence Kolb and Adelaide Harland in "Evolution" Are Clever.

BRITON REPORTED SUNK

DREADNOUGHT THUNDERER LOST LAST MONTH, SAY SWEDES.

Mine or Torpedo Caused Destruction, Believes American Bringing Announcement to New York.

PORTLAND MAN IN TROUBLE

Glasgow's Officer Explains Battleship's Absence From Fight.

LONDON, Dec. 11.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—When the German squadron off the coast of Chile, subsequently destroyed by British warships, sunk the British cruiser Good Hope and Monmouth and damaged the cruiser Glasgow, the British public asked: "Where was the Canopus? Why did she not arrive in time?"

TURKISH STRAIT SHELLED

Allies' Fleet Bombard Inner Forts of Dardanelles.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—An Athens dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph Company reports that the allied fleet bombarded the interior forts of the Dardanelles Saturday.

ENEMY ENCOUNTERS THEN DIFFICULTIES

British Official Observer Says Germans Are Stronger and Better Entrenched.

SMALL GAINS IMPORTANT

Tactical Advantage Often Greater Than Measure of Distance Would Seem to Imply—Prolonged Bombardment Necessary.

LONDON, Dec. 20.—The great difficulties under which military operations in France and Belgium are being conducted are described in a narrative of recent developments written by an official observer attached to the British headquarters and made public today by the Official Information Bureau.

GERMANS MUCH STRONGER

"It has one great difference, however, and that is that the enemy is in much greater force and his positions are much stronger and better organized than they were two months ago.

OBSTACLES TAKE EVERY FORM

"This zone really amounts to a maze of trenches and obstacles. Every known form of obstacle is used. Entanglements of barbed wire, concertina wire, and other forms of wire to securely stake networks of from 18 inches to nearly six feet in height and width are common.

DEFENSES REDUCED TO SCRAP

The official observer points out that the purpose of this is to reduce trenches, mines and machine guns to a scrap. Another method, he says, is to mine under them and blow them into the air.

LANDWEHR REPORTED RESSENTFUL

"We have reason to believe, from the evidence obtained from prisoners, that many of the landwehr are heartily sick of the war and resent the harsh treatment of their officers. They have been persuaded that the British will treat their prisoners, and but for this some would be willing to surrender.

SEA FIGHT WAITS; MEN EAT

(Continued From First Page.)

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U. S. Parcel Post Station for Your Convenience. Practical, Useful Christmas Presents The Owl Drug Co. If You Have Forgotten Someone on Your Gift List, Come to THE OWL. Note the Gathering and Convenient Display of GIFT THINGS AND THE WINNING PRICES! OPEN EVERY NIGHT UNTIL 11

1/3 Off Parisian Ivory Pieces. FOUNTAIN PENS. A GIFT THAT IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED \$1.00 to \$9.50. Dresden Baskets reduced—50c now 37c; \$1 now 75c; \$1.50 now \$1.23

Christmas Stationery Reduced. Gillette Razors Reduced. Holiday Perfumes. Umbrella Sale. With Long Straight Handles.

Holiday Candy. Just Received From the Best Eastern Makers. We Also Carry a Full Line of Local Chocolates. All Strictly Fresh. 25c to \$4.00. The Owl Drug Co. Washington at Broadway, Portland, Or.

DOCTOR'S KNIFE HALTED. COURT ORDERS DELAY OF OPERATION ON ALLEGED FORGER. Hospital Enjoined From Permitting Treatment Arranged by C. M. Chamberlain Before Date of Trial.

SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 20.—(Special.)—While Charles M. Chamberlain, ex-attorney and banking expert, who was to have been tried on a charge of forgery in the Superior Court Wednesday, went to the hospital today and arranged for an operation, County Prosecutor Crandell has obtained a temporary injunction to halt the surgery and will have the court order made permanent Monday, unless the accused man can show his life is in jeopardy.

Join Our Christmas Savings Club Starts Today. On December 10 we distributed thousands of dollars to those who joined last year. Why not prepare for next Christmas now. You know you will need the money. You cannot lose a penny. You have everything to gain. Five cents, 25 cents, 50 cents or a dollar starts you, according to the class you join. There is a limit to the time in which we can enroll members.

Join Now. If you can't come, send it by mail or get someone to bring it for you. If not familiar with the plan, call, phone or write for particulars. Merchants National Bank Washington and Fourth Sts.

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