



VILLA ESCAPES; MEXICANS AID

Carranza Army Moves at Top Speed to Border.

BANDIT REACHES HIS LAIR

Unexplained Action of Supposed Allies in Chase Has Grave Portent.

GAVIRA'S FORCE GROWING

Hopes of Early Capture Fade When Carranzistas Refuse to Give Battle.

EL PASO, Tex., March 20.—The Carranza forces have failed to hold their end of the net that was closing about Pancho Villa and the bandit chief has escaped to his mountain haunts about Guerrero, according to reliable information received here today.

The escape of the bandit is, however, far from being the most serious item of news which reached the border today. A feature of the gravest importance was injected into the situation by substantial confirmation of the numerous reports received for the past week that the Mexican government troops were not only failing to co-operate with the American troops, but, in certain instances at least, were actually withdrawing from the field of operations.

Carranza Forces Refuse to Fight.

The Associated Press learned on unquestionable authority that the troops of the de facto government which had been stationed at Casas Grandes have been withdrawn and are now in and about Juarez.

From the same source it was learned that at least one detachment of Carranza troops had refused to fight Villa and had withdrawn on the bandit's approach, leaving him free to pass into his favorite mountain fastnesses in the great continental divide south of Namiquipa. This detachment withdrew on receipt of a message that he was warning, not to Mexicans, but the enemies of Mexicans.

The extraordinary rapidity with which the American cavalry had pushed into Mexico gave rise to high hopes yesterday that the unexpected had happened and the notorious bandit was cornered. This seemed inevitable if the Carranza soldiers did their part and if the account of the strength of their field forces was correct.

Hopes Are Dashed.

Villa, cut off from the north by the forward sweep of the American columns, from the west by the Sierra Madre barring the approaches to the state of Sonora, was supposed to be equally barred from east and south by powerful Carranza forces. Those hopes have been completely dashed by today's developments.

More than this, it now seems certain that Villa is moving freely in at least a large section of the country supposed to be held by the troops of the first chief. In the last few days he has been variously reported by General Gavira, the Carranza commander at Juarez, at points along a line reaching north and south from Galena to Namiquipa, a distance of about 75 miles. By the same accounts he has not been moving steadily south, but roving north and east. The mountainous, canyon-split, roadless country in which he is operating adds many miles to the country he has covered as compared with its distance on the map.

Movement to Border On.

The reason for the Carranza troops moving to the border remains unexplained. It is impossible even to make a fair estimate of the number of men under General Gavira at Juarez. The large staff at his headquarters and the fact that new troops are arriving daily indicates that his force is a large one. The most conservative estimate places it at 3000 and calculations range from that point upward to 8000. Every precaution had been taken to prevent the facts being known and most of the men are kept outside the town among the hills. Reports from Agua Prieta and Ojinaga tell of Mex-

HILL LINE ASKS USER RIGHT TO ALTURAS

LAKEVIEW, OR. - SACRAMENTO ROAD SURVEYED IN PART.

Plan of Western Pacific to Extend Feeder to Reno, Nev., Also Is Revealed at Hearing.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 20.—Two contemplated railroad projects, one by which the Hill line enters California and the other by which the Western Pacific would extend a feeder into Reno, Nev., were disclosed in an argument before the Railroad Commission today. An attorney for the Nevada-California-Oregon Railroad said that tentative overtures had been made by the Hill lines for the use of the Nevada-California-Oregon rails from Lakeview, Or., to Alturas, Cal. He said the Hill interests had made surveys from Alturas through the Pitt River canyon to Sacramento.

The Western Pacific, he is credited with saying, wants the use of the tracks of the Nevada-California-Oregon from Doyle, Cal., to Reno.

The Nevada-California-Oregon asked the State Railroad Commission today for authority to issue \$19,000 in bonds to cover the cost of extensions already under way.

Were the Western Pacific and the Hill lines to use the Nevada-California-Oregon rails a new rail would have to be laid to convert the road to broad gauge.

SPRING OFFICIALLY HERE

Almanac Admits It and Weather Man Confirms It.

Spring began officially yesterday, according to the almanac man. To be exact Spring opened last night at 8:39 o'clock, the sun at that moment being directly over the equator on its way north.

The weather bore all the earmarks which Spring weather has possessed since the time of the cave-men. Heavy showers, intermixed with fleeting hours of sunlight, kept everyone guessing, and the day possessed all the moods which that fickle maiden, Spring, is known to haunt.

The day closed in a blaze of glory in Portland. Just before sunset a heavy shower came up and a splendid rainbow marked the heavens to the east.

BRYAN IN WORDY DISPUTE

Lie Passed by Lincoln, Neb., Politician in Argument.

LINCOLN, Neb., March 20.—A wordy dispute between William Jennings Bryan, ex-Secretary of State, and John G. Maher, a local politician, in which the lie was passed to Mr. Bryan in a hotel lobby, enlivened the informal meetings previous to the prohibition mass meeting here tonight, to mark the opening of the state campaign.

The dispute arose over a question of Mr. Maher as to whether one of the speakers who is on the programme for an address was getting paid for his services.

FIVE LIVE ON \$765 A YEAR

Labor Man Testifies in Minimum Wage Hearing.

WASHINGTON, March 20.—The minimum wage on which an American workman can support a wife and three children is \$765 a year, Arthur Hill, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor, told the House labor committee today in appearing in behalf of the Nolan minimum wage bill.

The measure would provide a minimum wage of \$3 a day for Government employes.

TOM TAGGART IS SENATOR

Governor Ralston Appoints Indiana Boss to Succeed Senator Shively.

INDIANAPOLIS, March 20.—Thomas Taggart, Democratic National committeeman, was appointed United States Senator to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Benjamin P. Shively by Governor Ralston today. Mr. Taggart expects to leave for Washington immediately.

STUDENT PARTY MAROONED

Week-Enders Returning to University Pass Night in Coach.

EUGENE, Or., March 20.—(Special.)—A score of university students passed last night in an Oregon Electric car which was tied up by the storm about a mile south of Albany. They were returning to Eugene after passing the week-end at their homes.

RED CROSS IS RESPECTED

Touton Submarines Permit Liner With Wounded Britons to Pass.

NEW YORK, March 20.—German and Austrian submarines in the Mediterranean respected the Mauretania and permitted her to pass untouched when she was being used as a hospital ship carrying wounded British soldiers from the Dardanelles.

COMMITTEE LOOKS FIRST TO HUGHES

Some of Old Guard Say T. R. Is Impossible.

CHICAGO, March 20.—(Special.)—Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia University, is the latest possibility considered for "keynote" of the Republican National Convention next June. Dr. Butler seconded the nomination of Taft in the 1912 convention and, as chairman of the resolutions committee, was chief drafter of the Taft platform. It was said his name was taken up late this afternoon by the sub-committee of the Republican National organization, which is meeting here.

KNOX FAVORED FOR CHAIRMAN

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler Is Latest "Keynote" Possibility.

Several Committeemen Strong for Mr. Root for Presidential Nomination—Belief Gaining That Hughes Would Not Decline.

BORAH SEEMS ELIMINATED

Progressive leaders, who appeared in the office to watch developments, argued that the intimation that Dr. Butler might be the keynote is further indication that the central fight in the convention will revolve around Theodore Roosevelt and William Barnes, of New York. The sub-committee took no vote and its discussion of candidates was purely tentative.

ALL GEORGIA FOR WILSON

Executive's Name Is Only One Filed for Presidential Primary.

ATLANTA, Ga., March 20.—President Wilson's name was the only one filed for Georgia's Presidential primary when the time limit expired tonight, and as a result no primary will be held. Wilson delegates will be selected at the state convention May 3.

WHY NOT REGISTER TODAY?

Because J. M. Toomey, who has served as chairman of the election board in precinct No. 19 for 12 years past, was not among those who wrote their names on the registration list early, he will not serve in that capacity this year. He wrote the County Commissioners yesterday to find out why he was not selected, and the information forthcoming was that at the time County Clerk Coffey made the selections for the board Mr. Toomey was not among the registered voters.

When the books closed last night the total registration had been brought to 27,355. During the day 1054 voters registered, 400 of whom were of the fair sex. The total registrations by party affiliations are as follows: Republican, 26,747; Democrat, 781; Independent, 129; Prohibitionist, 675; Socialist, 448; Progressive, 380.

WILLIAMS WANTS SHOWDOWN

Ralph Williams, who is conducting the Borah boom, wanted a showdown today. "When there is a nasty piece of business to be done my theory is to do it in a hurry," he said. "As time rolls on every Presidential candidate will develop a man for temporary chairman. This muss will increase as

(Concluded on Page 4, Column 3.)

CONFERENCE MAY RESULT IN PEACE

REPRESENTATIVES OF ALLIES GATHERING IN PARIS.

Galveston Has Report That War Will End at Once and Stock Markets Slump on Rumors.

THE HAGUE, March 20.—A war conference of probable momentous importance is about to open in Paris, where military and political representatives of every one of the entente allies are gathering.

This, taken in conjunction with rumors of peace which have prevailed for the last 24 hours, gives rise to all sorts of conjecture, and the forthcoming conference is being watched and awaited with extraordinary interest, especially by the advocates of peace.

Reports emanating from America today were that a cable message had been received at Galveston, Tex., from a London authority, which was said to be informed that "immediate peace is in sight," cancelling arrangements for a considerable amount of tonnage.

The peace reports are also said to have affected the stock markets at New York, London and the Bourse, where abrupt declines occurred.

Lieutenant-General Count Cadorna, the Italian commander-in-chief, arrived in Paris today to take part in the military and political conference of the entente allies. Crown Prince Alexander of Serbia, is due there tomorrow with Premier Pachitch. He will be the guest of the French government.

Great Britain will be represented by Premier Asquith, several other members of the Cabinet and General Sir Douglas Haig, commander of the British forces on the Continent. Premier de Broqueville will attend the conference for Belgium and General Glinisky, aide-de-camp to Emperor Nicholas, and the Russian Ambassador to France, A. P. Jawolsky for Russia. Premier Briand will preside.

GERMANS SHIFT TO MIGHTY FLANK DASH

Liquid Financiers Verdu Defendants.

PARIS ADMITS SOME LOSSES

French Rush 250,000 Reserves and Ask British Aid.

GRAVE DANGER REALIZED

Heights Protecting Fortress Menaced—English Troops May Go to Front—Tentons Gain Momentum on Le Mort Homme.

LONDON, March 20.—(Special.)—The German attack has again shifted to the west bank of the Meuse. Their ranks replenished after the failure of five night assaults on Vaux, like alternate blows on the Verdun anvil, the Germans have once more turned their attention to Le Mort Homme.

This time, however, instead of attacking from the Corbeaux wood, the Generals of the Crown Prince are attempting to flank the hill. Today violent attacks, accompanied by the use of liquid fire, were delivered in the Malancourt-Avancourt sector to the south and east instead of to the north of the hill. In the Malancourt wood, Paris admits a partial success, but does not detail the extent of the German gain.

Fresh Forces Employed. A fresh division of Germans, brought up from a distant point, was used in today's operation.

Like other moves on the Verdun chessboard, the flanking attack west of the Meuse was anticipated by the French and found them completely prepared. More than 250,000 French reserves have been brought up and massed west of the river, with every available piece of artillery. Even the British have rushed some of their heavy guns for what, it is felt, will be a repetition of the desperate struggles at Douaumont and Vaux.

There is no attempt to belittle the danger of the flanking movement for the French. In case it can be pushed home, the Germans will gain much more than they could have by direct assault on Le Mort Homme. If they are able to wrest the Montfaucourt wood and the village of Avancourt from the French, the latter would be forced to withdraw from both Le Mort Homme and the Cote 1016.

Danger to Verdun Realized. With the two heights in German possession, military experts realize that Verdun itself would be put in jeopardy.

That the French have appealed for British aid, in the climax of the battle for the mastery of Verdun, when the issue is not yet clear, was the inference drawn tonight from the publication of telegrams exchanged between Sir Douglas Haig and General

ORDERS EXCEED OUTPUT OF MILLS

GRAY'S HARBOR BUSINESS RECORD FOR RECENT YEARS.

Railroads and Middle West Lumber Yards in Market—Transportation Prevents Night Shifts.

ABERDEEN, Wash., March 20.—(Special.)—Grays Harbor millmen report the receipt of more orders now than during any time in recent years. They say that more orders are available than they can fill and that water and rail tonnage alone is keeping some of the mills from operating day and night shifts. No predictions are being made as to how soon this shortage of tonnage will be relieved.

Buyers of all kinds of lumber are in the market. Railroad demands are heavy, one big inquiry which local mills may partly fill is from the Northern Pacific Railroad and probably will total upwards of 3,000,000 feet. It is mostly for construction timber. Inquiries from many other railroads also are being received almost every week. The O.-W. R. & N. is said to be a consistent and heavy buyer. The demand from Middle West yards is said to be exceptionally heavy.

A. L. Davenport, of the Pacific Lumber Agency, said today that this firm has more orders on its books than at any time in recent years.

FEVER FIGHTER LOSES LIFE

Illinois Doctor Succumbs to Typhus Contracted in Mexico.

LAREDO, Tex., March 20.—Dr. Carlos Husk, of Aurora, Ill., died here today of typhus, contracted in Mexico, where he had gone with Dr. Peter Oltzky to combat with fever. Dr. Oltzky, physicians say, will recover.

Dr. Husk has been connected with the Guggenheim interests in Mexico for many years. Both physicians were brought here recently from Durango State suffering from typhus.

GERMANS USE SMOKE BOMB

Aviators Aid Artillery in Finding Marks in French Lines.

PARIS, March 20.—A German aviator has dropped several smoke bombs near a French battery, it is reported from the front. This is the first time since the war began that such bombs have been used.

Not in themselves dangerous the bombs give forth an intense smoke which persists for a long time and serves as a guide for the hostile artillery.

EPIRUS DECREE WORRIES

Annexation by Greece Said to Be in Violation of London Decision.

ROME, via London, March 20.—Advices received here from Athens that a royal decree had been issued, proclaiming the annexation of Northern Epirus, Albania, to Greece is causing some concern.

The annexation is regarded in official circles as a violation of the decision of the London conference concerning Albania.

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SIMPSON HEIRS SELL IMMENSE HOLDINGS

Buehners and Sailor, of Portland, Buyers.

PRICE BELIEVED NEAR MILLION

Big Timber Holdings of Late Coos Pioneer Are Included.

MILL AND SCHOONER GO

North Bend Business Property Listed in Transfer Which Will Take Effect April 10—Lumbering to Be Continued.

NORTH BEND, Or., March 20.—(Special.)—Charles S. Winsor, manager of the Simpson Lumber Company, today announced the sale of a large portion of the company's holdings in Coos County to a syndicate comprising Philip and Henry Buehner and George H. Sailor, of Portland. The deal was consummated, it was stated, in San Francisco by Philip Buehner, who met the Simpson heirs, including Louis J. Edgar, Mrs. Harry Simpson and a daughter of the late North Bend, all the residence of Coos Bay. He died two years ago, and left the property to his three sons and one daughter. Owing to varying ideas among the heirs they decided to dispose of the property separately.

The scheduled property lists 12,000 acres of timber on the divide between the North Coquille and South Coos rivers, 3800 acres of timber in the Ten Mile region, 1640 acres of timber on South Inlet, comprising 22,440 acres, with a stumpage of more than 1,000,000,000 feet of spruce, hemlock, white and red cedar, and fir.

Porter Mill Included. The Porter sawmill in the city limits of North Bend, which has a capacity of 100,000 feet daily, is included, with 2200 feet of waterfront in the main section of North Bend, reaching from Washington avenue to plat B; all side-lands east of Railroad avenue, from Washington street to plat B, comprising 40 acres; eight city lots on Sherman avenue, in this city, with a water reservoir and spring supply; four lots at plat B, with a water supply; the North Bend Sash & Door Factory at the foot of Washington street; the steam schooner A. M. Simpson, built at North Bend in 1911, capable of carrying nearly 1,000,000 feet of lumber.

The transfer will be effected April 10, and the Buehner concern will operate the mills afterwards. The holdings were accumulated here by Captain A. M. Simpson, who was the pioneer lumberman of Coos Bay. He died two years ago, and left the property to his three sons and one daughter. Owing to varying ideas among the heirs they decided to dispose of the property separately.

Price Near Million. The price, which not named by either of the parties concerned, is thought to be between \$750,000 and \$1,000,000. The sale leaves the Simpson heirs a large and valuable lot of property here, including 4000 acres of timber land, the sawmill at old North Bend, all the residence and Simpson Park in the north part of this city, several thousand acres of timber land near Rocky Point and other city property in North Bend, besides an interest in the steamer Hardy.

The sash and door factory, which ran steadily for eight years, was closed during the slump in lumber products last year, and has not resumed. The Porter mill has been sawing since last July, after having been shut down for several months. A large amount of its output was used in the Southern Pacific bridge and other construction in this vicinity.

DEAL IS KNOWN IN PORTLAND

Philip Buehner, Before Leaving, Tells of Intention to Close.

Negotiations for the sale of the Simpson Lumber interests to the Buehner syndicate have been in progress for several months. Philip Buehner, the well-known timber operator of Portland, is the principal in the new syndicate. He, together with his associates, now are in San Francisco to arrange for final transfer of the property.

Before Mr. Buehner left Portland, a few days ago, he confided to his friends here that he would close the transaction. It is understood that the sale involves a consideration of approximately \$1,000,000.

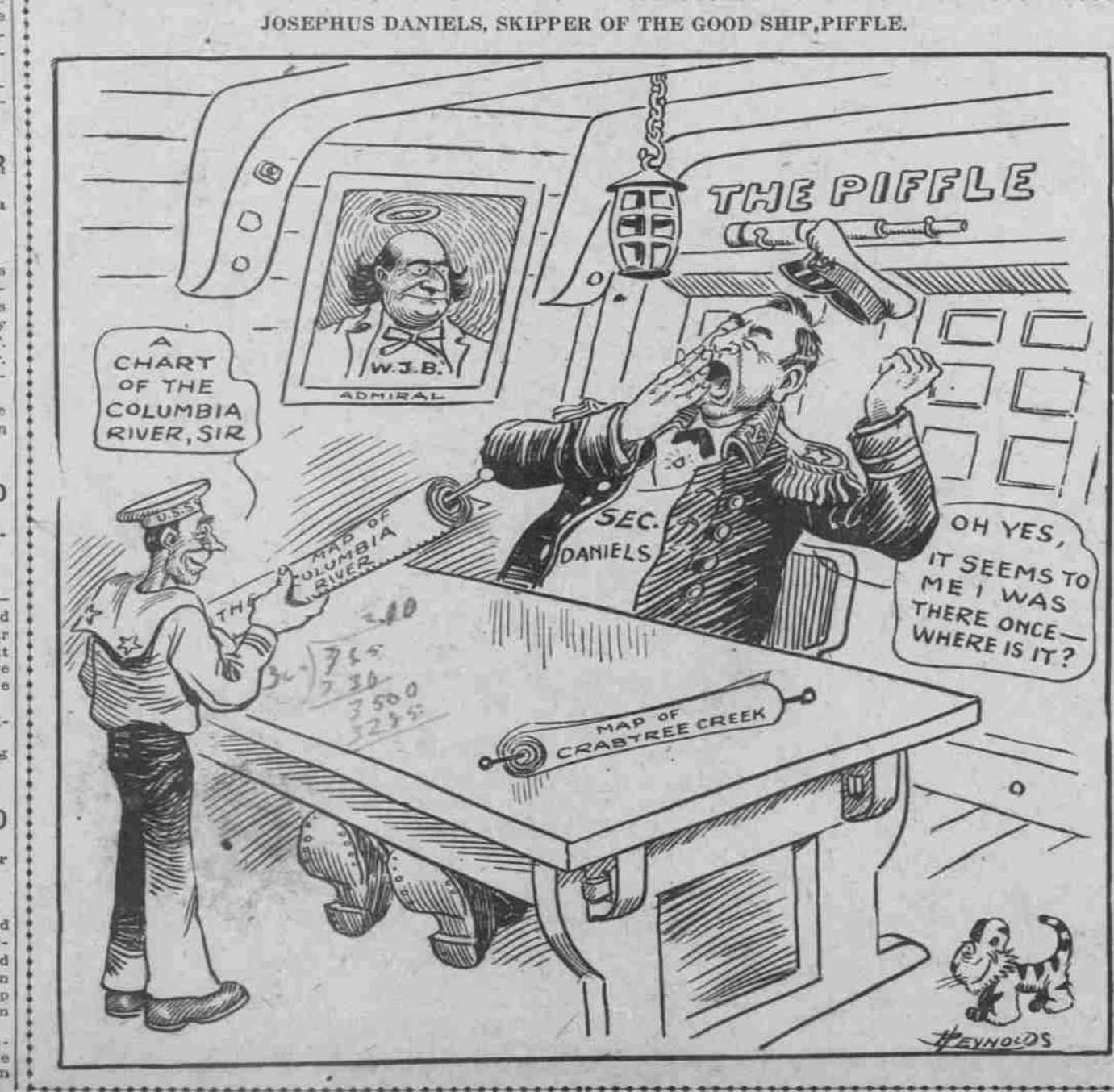
The Buehner syndicate proposes to continue operations of the Simpson plant as heretofore, and may make some improvements that will permit of more extensive operations, following completion of the Southern Pacific Railway.

LAD, 9, SHOGTS PLAYMATE

Yakima Youngster Gets Rifle While Parents Are Absent.

NORTH YAKIMA, Wash., March 20.—(Special.)—Horace Porter, 9 years old, in the absence of his parents, Saturday night obtained a small rifle and shot his playmate, Marshall Remelin, aged 10, through the lungs.

The victim, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. U. Remelin, is in the hospital and his recovery is doubtful.



JOSEPHUS DANIELS, SKIPPER OF THE GOOD SHIP, PIFFLE.