



FUNSTON AWATS NEWS OF BATTLE

American Forces May Be Engaged.

ADVANCE SOUTH IS REPORTED

Plan to Attack Villa Yesterday Related to Consul.

NEW BASE ESTABLISHED

Pershing Finds Difficulty in Provisioning His Men, Now More Than 200 Miles From Border. More Motor Trucks Needed.

COLUMBUS, N. M., March 24.—Janos, about 40 miles northwest of Casas Grandes and on the route taken by the American expeditionary force, was set on fire early today, presumably by a band of Mexican bandits. Four large fires were reported by Americans passing near the town.

No Americans are known to have been in the town. The fires were burning rapidly, fanned by heavy winds, when seen, it was said. It was also learned tonight that several small bands of marauders, affiliated with no Mexican faction, have been roving about near the American lines of communication since from Columbus to Casas Grandes.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., MARCH 24.—

General Pershing's report to General Funston that two columns of his expeditionary force were in the vicinity of Namiquipa, 120 miles southeast of Casas Grandes, and repeated reports from Mexican sources that Villa with a comparatively small force has been forced to a stand at El Oso, near there, caused officers here to expect news at any time of a battle. General Pershing thought it probable that an engagement might already have occurred. General Pershing referred today for the first time since last Monday to his operations south of Casas Grandes, but his report contained no information concerning any encounter between Villa and American soldiers or troops of the de facto government. He said Villa last had been at Namiquipa.

Report Comes by Wireless.

His report was dated today and was transmitted by telegraph to Fort Sam Houston. It was taken by Army officers here to indicate that either no engagement was fought yesterday at Villa or that General Pershing had not learned of it.

Consul Beltran, of the Mexican government, received a message late today from Consul Garcia at El Paso saying confirmation had been received of the report that Villa had been defeated yesterday in the Santa Gertrudes Canyon by the American and Mexican forces, and that he had fled to El Oso, five miles from Namiquipa, where he was surrounded. The Consul added that one of the American officers with the expeditionary force reported to General Pershing that they would attack Villa today.

Base Established at Villa.

The American troops near Namiquipa moved south and east from Casas Grandes over the trail that passes through Villa and Cruces, Villa, 55 miles from Casas Grandes, was selected by General Pershing as a temporary base, he said in his report to General Funston. The fact that he mentioned two columns as having reached points near Namiquipa caused it to be believed here that he called back the third column dispatched from Casas Grandes yesterday of the week from the trail leading to Carmen and sent it south from Galeana to join the Seventh Cavalry on its way south through Villa.

That General Pershing is meeting with some difficulty in provisioning his detachment, was indicated by a statement that unless he could use the Northwestern Railway for transportation he would need more auto trucks.

TROOPS ENTER MOUNTAINS

Snow and Sleet, Following Withering Heat, Add to Hardships.

COLUMBUS, N. M., March 24.—Snow and sleet following rapidly on the heels of a nine-day exhausting march under a withering desert sun today brought new difficulties to the American troops in the Casas Grandes district, according to reports received tonight from General J. J. Pershing, expeditionary commander.

The troops are not equipped for unusual weather, their orders being to minimize their baggage as far as possible, that the utmost speed might be made. Consequently the average soldier carried with him from the border only a sweater and a single blanket for protection against the cold.

That the troops have penetrated the mountain fastness to a considerable distance below Casas Grandes is indicated in the preparations being made here to depend more largely on mules and horses instead of motor-trucks for transport purposes. Several hundred cavalry re-mounts also have been received here from Oklahoma points and are being prepared for service.

It is reported here, unofficially, that the American cavalry in several detachments has spread fan-like below Casas Grandes reaching distances ranging from 33 to 120 miles from the advanced base.

2 AMERICAN WOMEN KILLED ON BORDER

MEXICANS SUSPECTED OF TRIPLE MURDER.

One Man Is Victim, Too, and Troops Said to Have Pursued Slayers Over the Line.

DOUGLAS, Ariz., March 24.—Three Americans, two women and one man, were killed near Gibson's line ranch on the New Mexico-Mexico boundary, eight miles west of Columbus, N. M., between 5 and 6 o'clock Wednesday, ostensibly by Mexicans, according to the story brought here by a party of five Douglas people, who said they arrived on the scene shortly after the bodies had been removed by soldiers. A command of United States soldiers stationed at the Gibson ranch was said to have crossed the line in pursuit of the slayers.

TOWNE OUT FOR SENATE

Former Minnesotan to Contest With O'Gorman in New York.

NEW YORK, March 24.—Charles A. Towne, ex-United States Senator from Minnesota, announced today that he would enter the Democratic primaries in New York for the Democratic nomination to succeed Senator O'Gorman.

ARMY SHORT OF AIRMEN

Training School Unable to Provide More for Pershing.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., March 24.—There are no qualified military aviators available here for duty with the expeditionary forces in Mexico, according to Captain Arthur S. Cowan, commandant at the North Island training institution, commenting on the request of Brigadier-General John Pershing for eight more fliers.

CRUISER MISHAP INDICATED

Old Logbooks of British Warship Found on North Carolina Shore.

NORFOLK, Va., March 24.—A possibility that the British cruiser Cumberland might have met with disaster off the Middle Atlantic Coast was seen by marine men last night in the finding of several log books marked "H. M. S. Cumberland" on the North Carolina shore near Chincocomaco. The books, dated 1908, were found today by coast guards, who reported they apparently had just been washed ashore.

GERMAN LOAN IS SUCCESS

New Subscriptions Are 10 Billion Marks; Total 36 Billion.

BERLIN, March 24.—(Via Wireless to Sayville.)—Dr. Karl Helfferich, secretary of the Imperial Treasury, told the Reichstag today that the fourth German war loan had been a brilliant success, the subscriptions having reached more than 10,000,000,000 marks, not including subscriptions abroad and at the front.

It was pointed out that the German war loans have now reached a total of 36,000,000,000 marks, while the British loans have only totaled 19,000,000,000 marks, and those of France 11,244,000,000 marks.

LINN COUNTY JAIL EMPTY

Like Condition Has Not Existed for Several Years.

ALBANY, Ore., March 24.—(Special.)—The Linn County Jail is empty for the first time in many years.

As a result of the last session of the grand jury and the term of Circuit Court the first of this month, all the prisoners in the jail were either committed to the Penitentiary or released, except G. C. Blyden, who was serving a sentence for violation of the local option liquor law. Blyden was released yesterday on a conditional pardon by the Governor.

DR. WAITE ADMITS PURCHASING POISON

Father-in-Law Is Suicide, Says Prisoner.

DUAL LIFE CHARGE RESENTED

"Other Woman" Not Part of Case, Is Indignant Reply.

BRIBE ATTEMPT CHARGED

Thousand Dollar-Check Given Detective to Induce Negro Maid to Testify Falsely, District Attorney Is Informed.

NEW YORK, March 24.—Confession was made today by Dr. Warren Waite, according to District Attorney Swann, that he bought the poison believed by the authorities to have caused the death of his father-in-law, John E. Peck, of Grand Rapids, Mich., but he asserted that he made the purchase at the request of the millionaire, who was despondent and wished to commit suicide.

Another remarkable development late in the day was the statement made to the press by Raymond Schindler, a private detective, that Dr. Waite had asked him to attempt to bribe Dr. Waite's negro maid, Dora Hillier, to corroborate the dentist's story.

"If she will say in court that she heard Mr. Peck ask me to buy the arsenic," Schindler told the District Attorney Dr. Waite said, "and that she saw me give him the package unopened, I will give her a check for \$1000."

Prisoner Guarded Closely.

Dr. Waite, according to the detective, thereupon signed what purported to be a check for \$1000 to the order of the girl, written by Schindler on a sheet from his notebook. This "check" now is in the possession of Mr. Swann.

Dr. Waite was taken to the prison ward at Bellevue Hospital tonight. Mr. Swann said he wanted the dentist kept under the closest possible surveillance, because Waite had expressed regret that the drugs he took Wednesday had not killed him, and that he wished he were dead.

In making his statement to the District Attorney today, Dr. Waite was witnessed, and spoke with evident deliberation. But when he was questioned about the alleged misuse of \$40,000 entrusted to him for investment by Miss Catherine Peck, sister of John E. Peck, and in regard to a woman he had previously admitted having lived with, he apparently became indignant, saying:

"That has nothing to do with the subject in hand."

"Yes," he said, according to Mr. Swann, "I bought the arsenic, but I know you won't believe what I am going to tell you, so I'll probably go to the electric chair. Mr. Peck was an old man and he was very despondent over the death of his wife. One day he asked me to buy some poison for

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The Weather. YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 41 degrees; minimum, 24 degrees. TODAY'S—Occasional rain; southerly winds. Mexico. Local authorities on border call for more protection. Page 4. Funston awaiting news of battle, which may now be on. Page 1. Two American women killed by Mexican bandits, who cross border. Page 1. War. Channel steamer, *Grand Rapids*, believed to have had Americans on board. Page 2. Germans seriously threaten two outposts of Verdun. Page 3. Foreign. Shackleton expedition marooned in south polar region. Page 4. National. Literacy test in immigration bill defeated in House. Page 2. Allied formally reject Lansing's suggestion that merchants be disarmed. Page 3. House Democratic caucus agrees on legislative program. Page 5. Admiral Fiske criticizes conduct of Navy. Page 2. House subcommittee agrees on contract provision for land grant bill. Page 4. Domestic. Dentist admits buying poison for father-in-law's suicide. Page 1. Sports. Irvin S. Cobb in mental condition for tonight's fight. Page 1. Willard and Moran will fight tonight. Page 1. Fifty-mile race starts at San Diego fair today. Page 13. Campaign against lax canoeists to begin. Page 12. McGoehhan picks Moran to beat Willard. Page 12. Beavers may add two more twirlers to staff. Page 13. Pacific Northwest. Robert E. Lee's cousin is 103. Page 1. Vancouver battalion leaves for Mexican border. Page 14. New president seated at Washington State College. Page 6. Vancouver Army officer weds just before departure for Mexican border. Page 4. Commercial and Marine. Local wheat bids raised on small demand. Page 10. Unfavorable crop reports lift wheat at Chicago. Page 10. Register firm and specialties weak in Wall street. Page 10. Cargo of crates coming for St. Helena company. Page 10. Portland and Vicinity. Commander Blair thinks Mexican war is possible. Page 7. Council opposes change in apportionment of grand jury districts. Page 7. Styles exhibit opens tomorrow. Page 7. Weather report, a.m. and forecast. Page 10. Grand opera opening is brilliant. Page 1. REGISTRATION TAKES JUMP

More Than 1100 Voters in One Day Brave Rain to Qualify.

Voters are beginning to realize the proximity of the primaries. Despite the rain yesterday, a record number of citizens went to the Courthouse to register—1149 in all. Of this number 495 were women.

BANK DEPOSITS GROWING

California Per Capita Increases \$25 in 12 Months.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 24.—An increase of about \$25 in the per capita bank deposits for the total population of California is shown in a comparison with the amount on deposit in state banks on March 4, 1915, and March 4, 1916, in a report issued today by W. R. Williams, state superintendent of banks. The total deposits on March 4, this year, were \$642,302,112.50 as against \$578,025,945.91 for the previous date.

COBB TRAINED FOR TASK AT RINGSIDE

Writer Is Fit as Fiddle for Fight.

FORECAST IS NOT SUPREMACY COURT BIAS

Cause of Neither Brother Gladiator to Be Espoused.

MANAGERS CANNOT LOSE

That Is, Observes Humorist, Unless Mistake Is Made in Counting Up Gate Receipts—Event Looms in Financial World.

BY IRVIN S. COBB.

(Copyright by the Wheeler Syndicate.)

NEW YORK, March 24.—In regard to the event to be staged tomorrow night at Madison-Square Garden, this city and state, at an expense unparalleled in the records of the sport, I take this timely opportunity of stating that I feel myself in every respect equipped and prepared to do my share toward making the affair a notable success.

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R. E. LEE'S COUSIN IS 103 YEARS OLD

CHEWING TOBACCO PRESERVES LIFE, SAYS L. H. LEE.

Abstinence From Liquors and Outdoor Work Also Are Credited for Longevity.

SCENE IS ONE OF SPLENDOR

Portland Pays Homage to Great Artists.

COOS ROAD BIDS REJECTED

County Court Alleges Irregularity in Advertising.

MARSHFIELD, Or., March 24.—(Special.)—The Coos County Court, this week rejected a large number of offers for constructing a new grade on the Coquille-Coos Bay highway between Davis Slough and Coaledo, a distance of about 12 miles.

ELMA SCHOOL MAY EXTEND

Green Cedar to Vote on District Consolidation Today.

ELMA, Wash., March 25.—(Special.)—The Green Cedar people will have a chance to vote on consolidating their district with that of the Elma school Saturday. Already the Elma school has many small districts consolidated with its district and the addition of the Green Cedar school would place the school roll above the 500 mark.

MYSTERIOUS PLANE SEEN

Aircraft Flies Over Malheur City at Night Toward East.

BAKER, Or., March 24.—(Special.)—People in the vicinity of Malheur City are greatly aroused over the sudden appearance and disappearance of a mysterious airplane that has been seen there. Aeroplanes were never seen there before.

MEXICANS BUY UP ARMS

Available Supply at Phoenix, Ariz., Taken; American Veterans Ready.

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 24.—Spanish-American War Veterans announced today they had confirmed reports presented at their meeting last night that all available arms and ammunition held for sale by merchants here had been bought by Mexicans.

GERMANS BEATEN IN AFRICA

British Occupy Arusha and Drive Line of Enemy Back.

LONDON, March 24.—The British expeditionary force campaigning against German East Africa is making further progress in its aggressive operations, according to an official statement issued tonight.

NEW MILK RECORD MADE

Holstein-Friesian With 60,278 Pounds in 2 Years Adds Honors.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., March 24.—Title Alcarita, a Holstein-Friesian cow, owned by A. W. Morris & Sons Corporation, at Woodland, Yolo County, already holder of the one-year world's record for milk production, last night completed a test which gave her the world's record for two years' production. Her figure for the two years is 60,278 pounds.

