



## PRESIDENT MAY ASK FOR OPEN RUPTURE

### Sinking of Sussex Is to Be Probed.

## CONGRESS MAY BE ADVISED

### German Offer of Disavowal Fails to Satisfy.

## EVIDENCE BEING GATHERED

### Mr. Wilson Confers With Senator Stone as to Advisability, if Blame is Fixed, of Break of Diplomatic Relations.

BY JOHN CALLAN O'LAUGHLIN.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—(Special.)—President Wilson's patience has reached the point of exhaustion in connection with the destruction of passenger-carrying vessels in the European zone. He is gathering all the facts in relation to the sinking of the Sussex. When these are in his possession he will decide whether to advise Congress that a situation has arisen which necessitates a rupture of diplomatic relations with Germany.

So far as the State Department has been advised the circumstances thus far developed:

First—That the quartermaster of the Sussex saw the torpedo coming and shored away in the hope of escaping.

Second—That the three American passengers swear they distinctly saw the wake of the torpedo.

**Bronze Fragment Found.**

Third—That a bronze fragment was found on board the Sussex which a French officer says was a part of a German torpedo.

Lieutenant Smith, the American naval attaché in Paris, has been directed to examine the fragment. If his opinion should coincide with that of the French officer President Wilson will conclude that the circumstantial evidence is sufficient for action.

The German Embassy does not believe that a German submarine was responsible for this catastrophe. It is pointed out that there was no military advantage to be gained by the sinking of the Sussex. In case of the improbable, however, it is declared positively that the German government will disavow the act of the submarine commander, punish him, offer reparation and satisfy the American Government that the outrage was in violation of the instructions issued by the German Admiralty.

## Denial of Little Moment.

But the President is at the point where such steps are of no consequence. The fact is that Germany gave explicit assurances that passenger ships would not be torpedoed without warning, nor sunk until passenger and crew had had an opportunity to escape. If Germany should deny that any of her submarines committed the outrage, which is regarded as extremely probable, the Administration will have to rely upon circumstantial evidence. Such evidence, it is pointed out, is stronger than a denial.

The Administration knows further that no English submarine was operating in the channel and it scents as impossible the suggestion that one of these vessels fired the fatal torpedo. In the first place the British government would hardly jeopardize the lives of its own subjects as well as those of its ally. Again, the British government does not use the bronze torpedoes employed by the Germans. Nor could Germany shift the blame to one of her allies—Austria-Hungary or Bulgaria. Neither of these powers has submarines in the Atlantic.

## Persia Case Unsatisfactory.

From Turkey today came assurance that a Turkish submarine was not responsible for the destruction of the liner Persia, which carried an American Consul officer to the bottom. This means that nothing will be done to secure redress for the life of the official lost.

The Administration does not propose to permit a similar termination of the sinking of the Sussex and Englishman. The fact that no Americans appear to have been lost does not alter the gravity of the outrage. Americans were injured and American life was put in jeopardy. Therefore, it is declared, something must be done to compel respect for unarmed vessels carrying innocent neutral life.

The President had a conference today with Senator Stone, chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee. After the conference it was announced that should it be established that the Sussex was sunk by a German submarine and the President reached the determination to take action, he would consult Congress.

## Mr. Stone Withholds Comment.

Mr. Stone said that all the facts must be awaited before action can be taken, and in their absence he declined to express an opinion as to the course the Government should adopt.

As a matter of fact, there are two things which deter the President from adopting extreme measures without delay. The first is the lack of troops in the United States to preserve order; the second is the attitude of the Senate and House. Mr. Wilson realizes that practically the entire American Army is engaged in the chase of the bandit Villa and is protecting the American frontier.

## MEXICAN BANDITS RAID TEXAS RANCH

### BATTLE FOUGHT 32 MILES EAST OF EL PASO.

American Cavalry Starts in Pursuit of Invaders, After Warning by Woman.

EL PASO, Texas, March 27.—The ranch of C. E. Kelley, ex-Mayor of El Paso, 32 miles east of here, was raided tonight by Mexican bandits, who drove off a number of cattle and badly beat the caretaker. Mr. Kelley was notified by long-distance telephone message from his foreman.

The foreman said the raiders were supposed to have come from Guadalupe, across the river from Fabens, Mexican employes on the ranch held them off in a battle in which more than 100 shots were exchanged.

Two detachments of the Eighth Cavalry are in pursuit of the bandits. One troop started at full gallop from Fabens, south of the ranch. The second left Yaleta, some miles on the other side, at the same time, in an effort to cut them off from the river.

## VETERANS GET EXEMPTION

### Civil War Soldiers Need Not Take Out Second Papers.

HOOD RIVER, Or., March 27.—(Special.)—According to a letter received from Representative N. J. Sinnott by S. F. Blythe, adjutant of Canby Post, Grand Army of the Republic, it is not necessary for veterans of the Civil War, who have papers of honorable discharge, to obtain final papers of naturalization to enjoy the privileges of full citizenship.

Mr. Blythe wrote to Mr. Sinnott relative to the status of citizenship of Thomas Gosas and Joseph Frazier, foreign-born men, who served during the Civil War and who are now members of Canby Post.

## SUFFRAGE FACES DEFEAT

### Only 9 of 21 Committeemen Favor Susan B. Anthony Amendment.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Suffrage leaders conceded tonight that their effort to bring the Susan B. Anthony amendment before the House probably will be defeated when the judiciary committee votes tomorrow on the proposal. Of the 21 committeemen they were assured of the support of only nine.

A possibility that the prohibition amendment might be maneuvered into such a position that the committee would be requested to vote on it and the suffrage proposal jointly, also dismayed the suffrage advocates.

## MEXICANS SEE AIR SCOUT

### American Hovers Over El Tigre, Making Observations.

DOUGLAS, Ark., March 27.—A United States Army aeroplane was sighted Saturday afternoon at El Tigre, hovering over the camp for several minutes at a height of approximately 4000 feet, according to Americans arriving here today. The flyer aroused much interest among the Mexican troops. The biplane was well handled and was at least 12,000 feet above sea level, the Tigre Mountains having an altitude of 8000 feet. The machine flew due east toward Casas Grandes, compelling what appeared to be observations for several miles in all directions from the mine.

## DR. ANGELL GRAVELY ILL

### President Emeritus, of Michigan University, Suffers Relapse.

ANN ARBOR, Mich., March 27.—Dr. James B. Angell, president emeritus of the University of Michigan, is critically ill again. His condition tonight was so alarming that members of his family were summoned to his bedside.

Dr. Angell, who is 87 years old, has been falling since January. Early in March he was thought to be dying, but he rallied temporarily. Last week he became worse again and since then has been sinking gradually.

## WILHELM HONORS SULTAN

### Von Mackensen Bestows Field Marshal's Baton on Turk.

BERLIN, March 27.—(By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.)—The semi-official Overseas News Agency has received advices from Constantinople confirming reports that Field Marshal von Mackensen had reached that city on a mission, given him by Emperor William, to present to the Sultan the Field Marshal's baton which the Emperor had bestowed upon the Turkish ruler.

The dispatch describes the Field Marshal's reception as most enthusiastic.

## TEXAN'S WORDS EXPUNGED

### "Amen," Chorus House, When Mr. Davis' Language Is Modified.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—The House expunged today the "vituperative and denunciatory" language inserted under the leave to print privilege by Representative Davis, of Texas, in a speech on Texas politics.

"Amen," chanted the House as the vote was taken.

Representative Davis sprinkled all the debates with "Amen."

## VILLA IS IN FLIGHT; AMERICANS PURSUE

### Carranza Force Lets Quarry Escape.

## DELIBERATE HELP SUSPECTED

### Pershing's Hope Is to Corner Foe and Force Fight.

## OUTLAW BANDS MAY UNITE

### United States Army Might Have to Meet Considerable Column—Natives Robbed by Chieftains Aid United States Troops.

CASAS GRANDES, Chihuahua, Mex., March 27.—(By wireless to Columbus, N. M.)—Villa is flying southwest toward the foothills of the Sierras. According to Army reports received here today by Villistas, are freely giving information concerning his flight, supplies, armament and strength to the American military authorities.

**Americans in Pursuit.**

While much of this information has been too indefinite to be of value, it is presumed that the knowledge that the Americans are kept informed as to his movements has influenced the bandit chieftain to the greatest haste in his retreat.

Although the United States troops are following closely in his wake, so far, it is said, no fighting has taken place.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 27.—Francisco Villa's escape from the region about Namiqulpa followed his victory over part of the Mexican government troops and was unopposed by other detachments of the de facto government forces, according to unofficial but credible reports reaching here today.

**Cerrada Troops Give Way.**

The cordon of troops that the Mexican authorities announced should have been drawn across his path, gave way, according to these reports, with a willingness that indicated their co-operation with him rather than with the American forces.

Army men here were inclined to believe reports of inefficient and half-hearted co-operation, and today contemplated the probable future of the second phase of operations just begun by the commander of the punitive expedition.

Reports from General Pershing to General Funston dealt only with routine subjects, principally those having to do with the transportation of supplies. The positions of troops were not revealed, but it was known that the cavalrymen were still riding hard along the trail left by Villa.

**Army 300 Miles in Mexico.**

Officers of the Quartermaster's Department studied the best methods of (Continued on Page 4, Column 3.)

## FAIR EDITOR TRIES TO WHIP MAN RIVAL

### KLAMATH FALLS MURDER CASE CAUSE OF DISPUTE.

### Merrill Times Contradicts Statements in Record—Woman Arrested in Street Encounter.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., March 27.—(Special.)—Miss Catherine Prehm, editor and publisher of the Merrill Record, was arrested here today on a charge of disturbing the peace by attempting to horsewhip George Bradnack, editor and publisher of the Merrill Times.

Patrolman McCarter made the arrest while Miss Prehm was trying to get at Bradnack, who had entered a cafe and was holding the door shut, according to the current version. The officer preferred no charges. Miss Prehm furnished bail and will be given a hearing tomorrow.

The trouble is reported to have arisen over an article by Bradnack in the Times, contradicting statements in an extra Sunday edition of Miss Prehm's paper to the effect that an armed guard had to be placed about the county jail to protect A. Ernest Lawrence, following his acquittal on a charge of murdering Mrs. Alma Kuehne at Dood Hollow.

When Bradnack's paper asserted that Miss Prehm's paper had misstated the facts, the ire of the Merrilites seems to have been considerably aroused. Yesterday Miss Prehm's motorcycle carrier was met in Merrill by a crowd of citizens and told to "move on." It is reported, however, that he managed to leave a number of copies and that 49 of these were bundled up and returned to Miss Prehm. This is said to be the cause of her wrath against Bradnack.

## STATE DRY; PRISONERS FEW

### Spokane Closes Honor Farm for Lack of Inmates.

SPOKANE, Wash., March 27.—(Special.)—The Board of County Commissioners today closed the county honor farm for the summer and possibly permanently. Four prisoners only were returned to the County Jail, and these were given their release on parole.

Superintendent J. Verbeck, who has had charge of the farm, was dropped from the payroll of the county. The number of prisoners at the farm has been decreasing steadily since the advent of prohibition.

## RAIDER SINKERS GET PRIZE

### Britain Gives 1115 Pounds Sterling for Destruction of German Ship.

LONDON, March 27.—Samuel Evans, president of the prize court, today awarded the officers and crew of the British auxiliary cruiser Carmania, £1115 as prize bounty for the sinking of the German auxiliary cruiser Cap Trafalgar in South American waters in September, 1914.

## POWDER PLANT DAMAGED

### Unit of Works Near Salt Lake City Destroyed by Explosion.

SALT LAKE CITY, March 27.—Eighteen kegs of black powder were ignited by a foreign substance in the powder at the Hercules Powder Company's plant at Bacchus, near here, this morning. The wheel mill, a small unit of the plant, was destroyed. No one was injured.

## SPOKANE DELEGATES TALK PREPAREDNESS

### Army Officers Speak; Gag Order Comes.

### FIVE SUPREME COURT JUSTICES DELEGATED

### Northwest Conference Hears Defense Needs Outlined.

## JAPANESE DANGER CITED

### Colonel Baker Says Attitude of Coast People Makes Trouble Possible.

### W. R. Struble Demands "Pork" Elimination.

SPOKANE, March 27.—(Special.)—Shortly after the Northwest preparedness conference began here today a telegram was received from the War Department at Washington instructing Army officers not to take part in the conference. The telegram was received too late to affect the appearance of Lieutenant-Colonel David J. Baker, Jr., of Vancouver Barracks, who spoke on the necessity of adequate protection for the Northern Pacific states.

Preparedness questions affecting the Pacific Northwest from the viewpoint of military and naval officers featured the addresses despite the telegram from the War Department. Under the circumstances pains were taken by the officers to say nothing that could be construed as having a political effect, or bearing on the measures now before Congress.

**Five States Represented.**

Delegates were present from Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Wyoming. The conference, which will continue through tomorrow, elected N. W. Durham, of Spokane, chairman; Frank W. Hammond, of Seattle, secretary, and P. N. Bernard, of Kallispell, Mont., assistant secretary.

Colonel Baker was not in uniform, and in the preamble of his address referred to the fact that he spoke only as a private citizen. In speaking of the Japanese question, Colonel Baker said:

**People's Attitude is Danger.**

"I think there is danger of trouble with Japan through the ignorance, arrogance and narrowness of our own people on this Coast who lack knowledge of the Japanese and therefore misunderstand and misjudge them."

"We have had 'pork' without preparedness; we want preparedness without 'pork.' This is our motto." So stated Wallace R. Struble, of Astoria, at the preparedness convention. Mr. Struble is the booster of Columbia River navigation and of the Port of Astoria.

Officially he is secretary-treasurer of the Columbia and Snake River Waterways Association. He has traversed every foot of the river from Astoria to Lewiston and knows everything about that greatest of navigable waterways on the Pacific Coast of the United States.

"What is wanted is an arm of the Navy at the mouth of the Columbia (concluded on Page 3, Column 1.)"

## MARCH RAINFALL IS NEAR RECORD

### FIGURE IS 10.91 INCHES, ONLY 1.85 LESS THAN IN 1873.

### Excess for Season Since September 1 Is 10.55 Inches, but Fair Weather Is Indicated.

March has come within two inches of breaking the record for precipitation and may establish a new high mark, although Forecaster Beals said yesterday the indications were not especially favorable for such an achievement.

The heaviest rainfalls recorded in March are those of 1874, when 12.76 inches fell; 1877, with 11.70 inches, and 1879, with 11.31 inches.

The record of March, 1916, last night was 10.91 inches, with four days to go. Since early in the Winter there has been an excess of precipitation, but this has been increased materially in March until now it stands at 10.55 inches.

The average contribution of March to the rainfall is 5.13 inches. This year the fall has been twice as great as normal.

The lowest rainfall for March was in 1911 and in 1885, in both of which years only .63 inch was recorded.

## CHURCH FACING SEIZURE

### Mexican Government Proposes to Take Over Clergy Property.

MEXICO CITY, March 27.—The published announcement that the Mexican government is considering the advisability of taking over all the personal and realty holdings of the Catholic clergy throughout the republic created somewhat of a sensation here tonight.

In a special dispatch from Queretaro, El Democrata, the official government organ, quotes Emil Secretary of the Treasury Cabrera and Dr. Strubor, Governor of the state of Guanajuato, as saying that the measure would be made effective under the old law dating back more than a half century, when church edifices were seized during the administration of Benito Juarez.

The clergy in the state of Michoacan, Puebla, Queretaro and Jalisco are reputed to be immensely wealthy in jewels, lands and works of art.

## JOY RIDING NOW COSTLY

### Vancouver Judge Puts Portland Miss in Jail for 77 Long Days.

VANCOUVER, Wash., March 27.—(Special.)—Joyriding in Clarke County has the joyriders are under the influence of stimulants, is a serious business, as Miss Helen Sullivan, 21 years old of Portland, today learned to her sorrow when she was sentenced to pass 77 more days in jail. She already had been in confinement for two weeks.

She was charged with being in a drunken and maudlin condition and the charge was sustained. A. McCloud, who was driving the machine when it collided with a passing automobile, paid a fine of \$101. Anna La Fene, one of the party, was released, after a fatherly lecture by Judge Back.

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## COLUMBUS, O., FOLK RUSH FROM FLOOD

### Scioto River Lapping at Top of Levees.

## RESIDENTS FLEE TO HEIGHTS

### Rain Stops and Crest May Not Break Through.

## MILITIA IS HELD READY

### Steady Caravan Moves Across Bridges With Household Goods to Points of Safety—Repetition of 1913 Disaster Feared.

COLUMBUS, O., March 27.—Less than two feet of reinforced levees tonight were holding the rising water of the Scioto River, preventing a flood which earlier in the day had threatened to equal that of 1913. Thousands of persons moved from their homes to high ground tonight.

Chances tonight favored a passing of the flood's crest without a breaking in the levees. Cessation of today's downpour in the Upper Scioto Valley and the coming of slightly colder weather quieted the anxiety of the 30,000 residents of lowlands in this city.

**Many Flee Across River.**

Normal business and school sessions were suspended in the district threatened while residents carried their household furnishings to second stories, moved them hastily in vans to places of safety or fled across the river with only personal belongings.

Ambulances sped through the streets all day carrying invalids and prospective mothers from the west side to hospitals or homes of friends in higher sections.

The Fourth Regiment, Ohio National Guard, tonight was held ready for mobilization if the water breaks the levees, and coats and blankets were provided in the City Hall, Statehouse and school buildings, where refugees could spend the night. City officials formed a citizens' committee to assist in the emergency.

**Levees Are Strengthened.**

Scores of families in the west side of the city, where the 1913 flood took more than 90 lives, moved out of their homes for higher ground today because of a continued rise in the Scioto River. The Weather Bureau issued a warning that the river would go to 26 feet, but declared there was no danger of a serious flood. The levees were raised to 21 feet after the 1913 flood.

All day long a steady caravan of people carrying household goods, provisions and clothing streamed eastward over the bridges. Refugees this afternoon invaded the State Capitol and prepared to spend the night. More rain is forecast for Columbus tonight.

## Flood conditions are reported from other points in Ohio.

**Michigan Cities Flood Centers.**

DETROIT, Mich., March 27.—Saginaw, Genesee and Bay counties, pelted by rain for nearly six hours, are flood centers to storm-wracked Michigan tonight. Much suffering was reported. The loss may be more than \$1,000,000.

## GIRL, WED AT 15, FILES SUIT

### Mrs. J. W. Baker Charges Cruelty and Non-Support.

Opponents of "early marriages" will find campaign material in the divorce suit filed with County Clerk Coffey by Beryl G. Baker against John W. Baker, yesterday. The girl-wife was 15 years old when she married Baker October 24, 1905. He was 25.

Kidnaping of their two children, Thelma, aged 6, and Richard, aged 4, cruelty and parsimony are allegations in the complaint made by Mrs. Baker.

Since marriage, sets forth the complaint, Mrs. Baker has been forced to depend upon her parents for necessities. She also charges he ruined her health.

## ECHO WATER FLOW STRONG

### Theory of Artesian Supply Partly Sustained by Deep Well.

ECHO, Or., March 27.—(Special.)—Water at a depth of 215 feet has been struck two miles south of Echo, which rose 156 feet after the vein was tapped. Pumping 1000 gallons an hour, the water level was lowered only 19 feet. This well was drilled for the shearing plant at this point and required 11 days. Hard rock was struck at a depth of 79 feet, which continued all the way down.

It has long been thought that artesian water underlies the Echo country, and this helps to support that theory.

## BRITISH TAKE GERMAN LINE

### Infantry Storms Way Into First and Second Trenches of 600 Yards.

LONDON, March 27.—The British infantry today stormed and took first and second-line German trenches along a front of 600 yards at St. Eloi. The British official communication gave this information tonight.

