

BANDITS IN CHINA SEIZE MISSIONARY

Three U. S. Clergymen Held by Outlaws in Honan.

PEKIN TO TAKE ACTION

Kidnapings Explained by Story That Robbers Want Restoration to Army.

PEKIN, Nov. 17.—(By the Associated Press.)—George Olaf Holm, an American member of the Lutheran mission, has been kidnaped by bandits in Honan province. The powerful bandit army is growing bolder. It apparently dominates the entire province of Honan. A dozen towns have been sacked and burned and their inhabitants forced to flee. Upwards of 300 Americans in the danger zone are greatly alarmed, according to the American consul at Hankow.

The Chinese government realizes that the kidnaped missionaries must be released at all costs, and as a last resort to insure their return it may accede to the bandits' demand that they be re-enlisted in the army at regular pay, according to a statement made today by Dr. Wellington Koo, foreign minister.

The foreign minister said that the government was making every effort to obtain the release of the captives, but that it was confronted by a grave difficulty.

Plot Is Unveiled.

He explained that the bandits are seizing foreigners in an effort to force the government to incorporate them in the Chinese army. Dr. Koo asserted that the government was reluctant to grant this demand for two reasons:

First, because it would encourage other outlaws to adopt a similar course and endanger more foreigners, and second, because it would increase the size of the army, which already was too large.

Dr. Koo pointed out that China had been urged to disband unnecessary troops by a resolution adopted by the powers at the Washington conference.

Mr. Holm is the third American missionary to be carried off by the Honan bandits, who also are holding Anton Lundeen and Einar Borg-Breen, together with the latter's 5-year-old son. Holm was born in Norway, but is a naturalized American citizen. His nearest relative lives at Moorston, N. D.

A body of armed bandits entered

the Holm residence at Chenyang, seized the missionary in the presence of his wife and two sons, and marched him off into the country.

Captives Believed Safe.

So far as is known here, all the kidnaped missionaries are safe and unharmed and are permitted to communicate with their families.

Reports from Honan indicate that the bandit activities are becoming more serious, with the outlaws apparently in full control of the province and a dozen towns laid in ashes in the wake of their march.

Foreigners in the unprotected communities have been advised by their consuls to flee to Hankow and scores of missionaries already have arrived there. Hundreds, however, still are scattered throughout the more remote districts, including approximately 500 Americans. The entire staff of the American mission school at Chikungshan has fled to Hankow, where martial law has been declared.

The head of the Lutheran mission at Kwangchow reports that bandits armed with machine guns are looting the cities in that section and are robbing the missions. They are threatening to carry off all foreigners.

The Chinese foreign office, replying to the joint note from the American, British, French, Italian and Swedish ministers demanding action, announced today that it had appealed to General Wu Pei-Fu, the military power of North China, to attempt to conciliate the bandits. It is feared that if force is used against them it would jeopardize their captives.

WOMEN OUTNUMBER MEN

Suffrage Opponents in Senate of France Worried.

(Copyright, 1922, by the New York Times.) (By Chicago Tribune Leased Wire.)

PARIS, Nov. 17.—The fact that there are 1,800,000 more women than men in France as a result of the war is what is worrying the opponents of woman suffrage in the senate more than any other argument.

These 1,800,000 women, they think, cannot become the real dictators of the country, for the feminine vote would always be larger than the male vote if equal franchise was given.

COLOGNE SHOPS ROBBED

Plundering Bands Steal Property Worth 70 Million Marks.

COLOGNE, Germany, Nov. 17.—(By the Associated Press.)—Plundering bands which have been operating since early in the week. Five shops in the city and two estates near Cologne were looted.

The property stolen during the recent disturbances here is valued at 70,000,000 marks. It is reported that the British authorities have received instructions from the Rhineland commission regarding the prohibition of meetings and the regulation of traffic.



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