

OUTLAWS BUSY IN CENTRAL MEXICO

Reports of Minor Battles With Carranza Troops Are Received at Border.

AMERICANS COMING OUT

Torreon Abandoned Because of Belief That Intervention Has Come and Resentment of Soldiers Is Not Concealed.

EL PASO, March 18.—North Central Mexico, in the neighborhood of the former Villa stronghold Torreon and about Durango, today furnished reports of battles between small bands of outlaws and constitutionalist troops.

Americans who said they dared not permit the use of their names arrived here today with details of the hardships of this fight.

"We met last Sunday," said one of these Americans, "in a hotel room in Torreon.

"On Monday there was no train. We became very anxious. The officers of the commandancia were not discourteous, but there was a feeling of resentment among the soldiers that we did not like.

"We left Torreon because we were not for any principle, but for our own protection.

"The food supply in Torreon is scant and the lower classes have little, if anything. They have no work to enable them to earn money and the supply of corn and beans is much drawn upon.

"It is the lack of work that makes the Mexicans of the lower class follow soldiering at all. I know them well enough to know that they would much rather be engaged in peaceful pursuits.

"In the party that came up from Torreon we had some 42 men, women and children. Of this number 22 were Americans, the remainder being Germans, French and English.

"As to Torreon, it has only a small garrison and it is difficult to say how many of the men are Villistas. Villa is said to have told persons coming into Torreon that he would take the city by March 25 and if he wanted to it would be a simple proposition."

VILLA BOAST RECALLED

BANDIT HEARD TO SAY HE WOULD FORCE INTERVENTION.

United States to Be Compelled to Pay for Its Recognition of Carranza, His Declaration.

EL PASO, Tex., March 18.—Villa boasted today that he would force intervention in Mexico by the United States, according to a story told here today by Harry Williams, of Chihuahua, an American mining man.

"I was one of 23 men employed on the mining property of the Madera Company," said Williams. "We were all arrested because the pay of the Mexicans working under us had not arrived from Chihuahua. It amounted to \$15,000, and this company was afraid to send it because they were certain it would be confiscated.

"Villa brought us to Chihuahua, and I have never seen him in an ugly mood. We did not know whether we were going to be shot or not, but we were not by any means too optimistic. He told us: 'I am going to force intervention by the United States in three months. The United States has recognized Carranza and must pay for it.'"

"He demanded \$31,000 from the company. I do not know whether it was paid or not, but we were released the next day after being warned to keep off the streets.

"I planned to leave on the train that was made to take out the men of the Coal Mining Company. Fortunately I felt sick and could not go. The next day I heard of the massacre of the 15 Americans on the train at Santa Ysabel."

Mr. Williams has spent 17 years in Mexico, but says he doesn't want to return.

General Pershing Finds Supplies.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—One dispatch from General Funston tonight said that General Pershing had reported finding a supply of corn, alfalfa and beef at an unnamed point in Mexico.

Whether the provisions had been abandoned by fleeing Villa troops or whether purchased or requisitioned by the American commander was not stated.

Wages of 1000 Increased.

PITTSBURG, March 18.—Four thousand employees of the MacBeth-Evans Glass Company were notified today of an increase in wages amounting to 10 per cent, effective April 3.

FIRST PHOTOGRAPHS OF SCENES AT COLUMBUS FOLLOWING VILLA RAID.



TOP—RUINS OF COLUMBUS AFTER FIRE—BELOW—RESIDENTS OF NEW MEXICO LOOKING AT SLAIN BANDIT'S BODY.

NIGHT MARCH IS ON

Bandit Leader Plans to Make Joke of Expedition.

SUPPORTERS MAY DISBAND

Mexican Consul at El Paso Thinks Large Rewards Offered for Capture Offer Best Hope—Flying Columns Favored.

(Continued From First Page.)

nearly due south of the American columns' present known positions and close to the Sierra Tarahumara Mountains, so close to them, in fact, that if his reputation as a fox holds good during the American chase he should be able to make a puzzling reappearance in these ranges with a few hours' hard riding.

By all accounts he is more than 100 miles ahead of the Americans, about the same distance he has been out of their reach for a week, but with one possibly important difference, that while heretofore the Americans have been riding on a somewhat cold trail, they are now nearing ground which Villa recently passed over and where they may have practical opportunity to test the temper of the rural Mexicans, from whom they might receive valuable information.

Villa Planning Joke. The story that Villa is gathering men and preparing to resist was revived in constitutionalist circles today and he was even said to have 10,000 rounds of cartridges and shells, many of home manufacture, scattered in the mountains, where he was expected to make a stand. Doubtly that Villa would do any such thing was expressed, however, by Andres Garcia, the Mexican Consul here, who asserted that Villa intends to make the American expedition a joke.

"One of my men," he said, "who returned from the Galeana district today, brought me positive information that Villa was disbanding his men and intended to hide in the mountains with three or four of his trusted followers and defy the Americans to find him. An army might wander in that region for years and never find a man like Villa, who knows every foot of the ground."

"I am convinced that Villa intends to play hide-and-seek with the American soldiers with the intention of making their expedition ridiculous. He makes raids on communications or something like that, but he will never risk a real battle."

Hope Seen in Big Rewards. The large rewards which have been offered for Villa, dead or alive, in Mr. Garcia's opinion are the best hope of ending the bandit's career.

"The news of these rewards will flash through the region," he said, "and I should be much surprised if they do not bring some result."

The Carranzista Consul has a plan of his own which he believes is the best way to capture Villa.

"General Gutierrez," he said, "told me he expected to have 15,000 men on Villa's trail within a week. There are 4000 to 5000 American troops. I do not believe that all these thousands of men with all their equipment are needed. What is needed is about five columns of 500 picked men apiece, all well mounted and carrying the least possible amount of equipment. These columns should be in sufficiently close touch to be able to render assistance to any one of them that Villa attacked. If they moved fast and were the right men they would have a good chance to lay Villa by the heels."

Mr. Garcia denied emphatically the repeated statements that the people of

Guerrero and Galeana are in sympathy with the fugitive.

"Many of them are afraid of him, of course," he said, "because of the reign of terrorism he inaugurated there, but it must be remembered that the Villa of today is not the Villa of five years ago. In the early part of his career he was liberal with the people about him. If he got \$100, say in a raid, he would give half of it away. But when he began to gather power he seized everything for himself. Those people among whom he is now have a long history of murders and attacks upon their women to avenge. The only hold he has on them is through fear."

WASHINGTON IS REASSURED

Dispatches About Mexico Laid Before Wilson in Person.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Reassuring advices came to both the State and War Departments today from Mexico, where an American army is following the trail of Villa and his bandit followers. The official reports indicated that the American troops thus far have encountered no Villa followers, though it was indicated a brush with them might be expected soon.

The State Department's advices, which included a dispatch saying conditions were improving about Tampico, were laid before President Wilson personally tonight by Acting Secretary Polk. Mr. Polk also conferred late in the day with Eliseo Arredondo, General Carranza's ambassador-designate, but neither official would discuss the subject of their talk, except to say that Carranza had been made aware of munitions which the de facto government desires to get to Vera Cruz from New York.

General Funston's request that the American forces be permitted to use Mexican railways for troop transportation was forwarded late today to Consul Agent Rogers for presentation to General Carranza at Queretaro. Officials here closely associated with the de facto government are understood to believe that Carranza will be strongly advised by many of his followers against granting the request on the ground that to do so might arouse public sentiment against the de facto government, seriously affecting the control it has established over the native population.

A development which was regarded in Mexican quarters here as likely to do much toward assuring continued cooperation between the Mexican de facto government and American troops was an announcement by the War Department similar to that of Tillamook County. The local association will maintain an inspector, who is expected to be L. B. Ziemer, from the offices of the State Dairy and Food Commission. The dairy products of Coos County alone exceed \$25,000 yearly.

Coos-Curry Cheese Men Unite. MARSHFIELD, Or., March 18.—(Special.)—The Coos-Curry Cheese Association was formed at a convention of factory owners in Coquille. The object is to create a higher standard of cheese and maintain a selling agency similar to that of Tillamook County. The local association will maintain an inspector, who is expected to be L. B. Ziemer, from the offices of the State Dairy and Food Commission. The dairy products of Coos County alone exceed \$25,000 yearly.

COLUMBUS, N. M., March 18.—The Columbus military camp enjoyed a lull today. Certain troops have been dispatched to "somewhere" and "certain others" have "arrived" and taken the places of those who have gone into the sand waste lying south of the railway track. The aeroplanes have been tested out and seem to be waiting for the word to start. The big special motor trucks used with the aeroplanes to follow the flights are just now busy with the more prosaic duties of carrying fodder and other supplies.

Reville was blown at 5 o'clock this morning over in the cavalry camp, but when the people of Columbus turned out of bed, they found nothing but foot and hoof prints and litter, and in what had been a populous corner of the camp.

An automobile record between Denver and El Paso, a run of 890 miles was made by Lieutenant A. M. Graham, of the Eleventh Cavalry, in answering the call to be with his regi-

ment in Columbus by Thursday. He was on the road 25 hours, with seven hours' sleep. He made the run alone.

The correspondents who have gone into Mexico with the expedition remained silent today on account of the censorship. It was said that most of them were under polite corral along toward the rear, with the infantry. While this could not be verified, it was a fact that the only members of the correspondents' party whose presence had been definitely reported were far behind the vanguard at last reports. If any newspaper observers are among the leading columns the censor has succeeded in hiding their movements much more effectively than he has cloaked the position of the troops.

GRESHAM PLANS BIG SEWER

Indebtedness Limit May Not Permit Use of General Fund.

GRESHAM, Or., March 18.—(Special.)—If the Gresham charter will allow it an 18-inch storm and sanitary sewer will be laid on Main street from Johnson Creek to the High School building and the improvement will be paid for out of the general fund. Herbert Nunn, C. H. Whitmore and H. B. Chapman, of the county road department, discussed the question with the City Council. Mr. Nunn said that the proposed sewer would be large enough to accommodate the drainage of the town for many years.

The Council, however, has not yet ascertained whether the city can spend the \$1500 and remain within the limits of indebtedness.

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PLAN MAY CHANGE

Method of Pursuing Villa Depends on Bandit's Course.

PERSHING KEEPS SECRET

Effort Will Be Made to Trap Enemy or Force Him to Fight—Border Inhabitants Advised to Organize for Defense.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 18.—Failure by Francisco Villa, on whose trail more than 4000 United States troops are marching, to make a stand and fight before the end of next week will radically alter the methods so far employed by the commander of the punitive expedition.

What General Pershing's plan is, however, has not been revealed and will not be, if General Funston can prevent it. Every effort will be made to keep secret the movements of troops if it becomes necessary to abandon the direct line of pursuit with the units of the little army practically intact.

When General Pershing led the expeditionary force over the boundary line into Mexico the juncture of troops which has taken place near Casas Grandes was planned with little expectation that Villa would be sighted before this time. It was realized that the only chance of the Americans to catch him at that stage of the operations was that he would gather his forces and resist their advance.

Reports of Whereabouts Vague. General Pershing's scouts may have brought him information as to Villa's whereabouts, but such information as has been received at the general headquarters here makes an assertion on the subject little better than a guess. There is reason to believe that Villa has retreated as the Americans advanced and that he is now somewhere in the Galeana district, south of Casas Grandes, near where a cavalry force under Colonel Dodd rested today.

Information received by General Funston from Chihuahua indicated that he was at Colonia Gracias, but most of those reporting contented themselves by placing him "in the mountains, from 60 to 100 miles south of Casas Grandes."

To force Villa to fight or to trap him in one of his many hiding places has now become the object of General Pershing's plan.

Tension Is Relieved. Unofficial reports that General Pershing did not insist on sending into Casas Grandes the advance cavalry force after General Gavira had intimidated such entry would meet resistance relieved the tension at General Funston's headquarters. General Funston was convinced that General Pershing would not pass his troops through any Mexican town unless he regarded it as a military necessity, but in case of such necessity he was prepared to induce the action of the man on the spot.

General Funston replied to thousands of petitioners from scores of towns in Texas where the inhabitants wanted troops for protection that it would be impossible to grant their wishes. In all cases he suggested that if they felt the need of protection it might be obtained if they were to organize local defense forces.

TROOPS WANT RAILROAD

CARRANZA ASKED TO PERMIT SHIPMENT OF SUPPLIES.

Only One Line Now Available, Villa's Action in Burning Bridge Having Cut Communication.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—The State Department received today from General Funston a request that the War Department make a request to arrange with the de facto government of Mexico for permission to ship by rail from El Paso supplies to the expeditionary forces in Mexico.

General Funston's request was forwarded by the Mexican Embassy here to General Carranza at once, with the suggestion that the de facto government, which owns the controlling stock of the road, permit the use of the line in accordance with the request.

State Department officials were informed today by counsel for Carranza that the request in all probability will be granted. Only one condition, it was said, might prevent the de facto government from acceding to the request, that being the uncertainty of public opinion in Mexico as to the use of the roads by the American Army.

EL PASO, Tex., March 18.—Only one of the two Mexican railways penetrating the territory where the American punitive columns are operating is in shape to serve the Americans, if per-

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mission is granted. Both have terminals in Juarez. Villa, by burning a bridge on the Mexican Northwestern Railway at Corralitos, effectively cut communication via that line. It would require about two weeks to reconstruct this bridge.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Mail service between Marshallfield and Sumner is to be increased from three to six times a week, effective April 1.

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