

AMERICAN RANCHER HELD FOR RANSOM

Villa Himself Leads Men in Raid on Muzquiz.

\$10,000 IS DEMANDED

Eight of Richest Mexicans Also Are Captured, Town Looted and Railroads Cut.

EAGLE PASS, Tex., Dec. 13.—Frank Hugo, an American citizen, manager of the J. M. Davies' ranch near Muzquiz, state of Coahuila, is being held for \$10,000 ransom by the Villistas who raided Muzquiz last Tuesday.

No other American was taken by the bandits and an Englishman seized by them was later released, according to word received here today.

William F. Blocker, American consular agent, reported early this afternoon that the town of Muzquiz was completely looted by the bandits.

Railroad communication with the town has been restored.

First reports that two Americans had been seized by bandits resulted from confusion of names in wire transmission.

Advices received here today said eight Mexicans also were held for \$5000 ransom each.

One of the Mexicans held is Don Miguel Muzquiz Pena, one of the wealthiest ranchmen in Mexico, it is said. His wife escaped by running to Rosita, several miles distant, where she telegraphed her son to send the ransom money to Pino Solo, 120 miles from Muzquiz, the point designated by the bandits.

The Villistas, who were reported to be led by Pancho Villa himself, left Muzquiz Friday at 2 P. M., taking the same direction over the hills toward Chihuahua state, from whence they came, according to G. M. Sequin, Mexican consul of Eagle Pass.



PLANET FEAR SCOUTED

HARVARD ASTRONOMER SAYS TALK IS "HOT AIR."

Peculiar Configuration to Take Place Wednesday Is Explained.

Oklahoma Indians Excited.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The world need fear no calamitous effects from the peculiar configuration of the planets that will take place next Wednesday, according to a statement by Dr. Haclan T. Stetson of the Harvard astronomical laboratory, issued here today.

Predictions of floods, electrical storms, riots and other disturbances of far effect, credited recently to a popular meteorological scientist, are based on nothing more substantial than "hot air," Dr. Stetson said.

On December 17, according to the Harvard scientist, all the planets, with the exception of the earth, will lie in an approximated line with the sun, and all of them except Uranus will be on the same side of the sun. They will be strung along in approximately the same plane and approximately the same line, like so many points on one spoke of a wheel. Meanwhile Uranus will be on the same line, but on the other side of the sun, like the point of the spoke directly opposite.

TORONTO, Ont., Dec. 13.—Collision with the head of a large comet would cause such a calamity such as has been predicted for the world December 17, according to officials of the Toronto observatory, but they add that if such collision were imminent, "we would have had some warning."

"There is no comet of the size visible which would be able to cause such a calamity," said one official.

LAWTON, Okla., Dec. 13.—Great excitement has been caused among the less educated and older members of Indian tribes in southwestern Oklahoma as a result of predictions of the world's end December 17. Along the creek banks and in the wilds of the Wichita mountains the constant beating of the tom-tom can be heard night after night as the red men dance and sing in the most fearful of events to come in the next week. Older Indians are greatly depressed, declaring it is to be "heap cold" and that none will survive.

TRADE ALLIANCE FEARED

"MITTEL EUROPA" DREAM TO BE REALIZED, IS VIEW.

Member of U. S. Mission Expects Russia, Hungary, Austria to Form Economic Combine.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 13.—The "Tentative dream of 'mittel Europa' is likely to be realized eventually in an economic alliance just as powerful as the military combination the German junkers hoped for, according to T. T. C. Gregory, who returned to his home yesterday after a year's service in central Europe as representative there of the United States food administration and American member of the inter-Allied mission.

"I expect to see European Russia, Hungary, Austria and the new states of Jugoslavia and Czecho-Slovakia swallowed up in one gigantic economic alliance," Gregory declared.

An head of the American food administration in central Europe Captain Gregory was credited with being largely responsible for the overthrow of Bela Kun, the bolshevik dictator in Budapest.

"Labor itself in Hungary cast out the curse of bolshevism," Captain Gregory said. "Labor was deceived into the movement by propaganda; the people were overawed by the troops of Bela Kun. Labor in the great manufacturing center of Budapest tried bolshevism. It failed. They learned it by their own experience and cast it forth."

Captain Gregory said the American committee simply showed the labor leaders that bolshevism was wrong and showed Bela Kun that the food situation was in the hands of the Americans.

Paintings Not to Be Exported.

BERLIN, Dec. 13.—Exportation of works of art, the loss of which would be detrimental to Germany, is forbidden in a law which became operative today.

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GERMAN PUPPET IS KING

ENVER PASHA CROWNED BY PEOPLE OF KURDISTAN.

Ottoman ex-Minister Escapes After Armistice, Now Reappearing as Head of 2,000,000 Kurds.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—Enver Pasha, the former Turkish minister of war, has been crowned king of Kurdistan, the Turkish region lying between Mesopotamia and Persia, according to reports that reached here today.

Enver Pasha was minister of war in the Turkish cabinet from January, 1914, to October, 1918. He was a leader of the Young Turk movement, an ardent pro-German and an enthusiastic pupil of the German general Von der Goltz. According to a "white paper" issued by the British government in November, 1914, Enver

Pasha was responsible for Turkey entering the world war. After the signing of the armistice in November, 1918, Enver fled from Constantinople to Berlin in disguise. He was arrested in Berlin at the request of the Turkish government, which demanded his extradition for his war activities. Enver made his escape and was next heard of in Trans-Caucasia. Kurdistan is an extensive region with ill-defined borders lying between Mesopotamia and Persia. The Kurds number more than 2,000,000, for the most part Mohammedans.

PROFESSOR FACES TRIAL

Forgery Laid to ex-Official of Manitoba Reformatory.

CHICAGO, Dec. 13.—Professor Harry Gardiner of Winnipeg, graduate of the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and a former official in the Manitoba state reformatory, was returned to Canada tonight by Chicago police. He was charged with forging a check for \$500 on a Toronto social center.

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Moonlight Bay
- Pilgrims' Chorus.....Wagner

AT 12:30 TODAY

Miss EDNA FERBER'S story, "The Gay Old Dog," has been inscribed on the Honor Roll of American Literature. A true and beautiful feeling underlies her character of "Jimmy Dodd"—and if in presenting him to you we sound the depths that penetrate the heart of life and enroll him, too, in your memory we shall have accomplished our thought for you—and perhaps for other Jimmy Dodds.

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