

BENTON LEGALLY TRIED, SAYS U. S. CONSUL AT JUAREZ

**Found Guilty by Courtmartial
on Charge of Complicity in
Plot to Kill General Villa,
Says Report.**

**BRYAN GIVES COPY TO
BRITISH AMBASSADOR**

Full Text of Result of Investigation Is Not Made Public at This Time.

(United Press Telegram Wire.)
Washington, Feb. 21.—That William H. Benton, the British subject executed at Juarez, Mexico, on a charge of complicity in a plot to kill General Villa, the rebel leader, was legally tried and convicted by a regularly constituted court martial was the substance of the report telegraphed to Secretary of State Bryan today by United States Consul Edwards from the scene of the incident. The text of the report was not made public.

Edwards had made a thorough investigation, he said, and was convinced that Villa was not guilty of the rights in convening the court martial. The report contained other information, Secretary Bryan added, which could not be published at present.

A copy of the report was given to Sir Cecil Arthur Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, who cabled it to London. It was not known here whether it would satisfy the British government, but Bryan was hopeful of averting a crisis.

Concealment of officialdom's anxiety over the Henton incident at Juarez was attempted at the state department today. England, however, it was known, had made no new demands.

For all that, it was recognized that the gravest danger existed of English popular indignation forcing the London government to demand a change in American practice.

icy in Mexico. As against this, it was insisted both at the state department and the executive offices that President Wilson would remain as strongly opposed as ever to intervention.

The state department had received no official information of the disappearance of two more Englishmen, Lawrence and Curtis. Secretary Bryan enjoined silence upon his subordinates.

BENTON SLAIN LIKE

**DOG, SAYS TELEGRAM
READ IN U. S. SENATE**

Washington, Feb. 21.—"William H. Benton was murdered like a dog by General Villa," read Senator Fall of New Mexico in the upper house here

today from a telegram he had received from Chairman R. M. Dudley of the El Paso mass meeting held last night in a sequel to Benton's death in Juarez.

"It is almost certain that Villa did it personally," the telegram continued. "There is no evidence that Benton was the aggressor. Everything indicates it was a cold blooded murder."

"It is the quest for our government, in safety and without punishment, Villa is boasting of his crime. Is there no protection anywhere?"

"El Paso is full of rebel officers. The business affairs of the army are openly done here.

"Your thousands of friends here want to hear your voice in the senate in behalf of the sentiment that 'watchful waiting' is a failure."

Fall also read resolutions to the same effect adopted by the mass meeting, together with a number of other telegrams he had received criticizing the "watchful waiting" policy.

It was stated on official authority, however, that the administration would ignore the El Paso meeting. At the state department it was intimated, indeed, that ex-Governor George Curry of New Mexico, the chief speaker of the occasion, was playing politics. He is admittedly anti-administration.

The state department telegraphed to Consul Edwards at Juarez, to do all in his power to rescue Lawrence and Curtis, the two Englishmen still in the rebels' hands, presumably at Chihuahua City. Secretary Bryan's relations with Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador, were seemingly very cordial and Sir Cecil expressed his appreciation of Bryan's handling of so difficult a situation.

London, Feb. 21.—William H. Bennett's death at Juarez, Mexico, either at General Villa's hands or at his orders was the topic of strong editorials and

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