

IS INTERVENTION NEARER?

Observers of Situation Look For Early Developments—Significance Attached to Villa's Halt on March to Mexico City—Indications Are That He Has His Own Junta in Washington.

It is generally admitted here, says a Washington dispatch to the New York Tribune, that the whole Mexican situation, especially in rebel territory, is critical. Commenting on advices to the effect that General Villa had returned from the recently captured town of Zacatecas to Torreon and had taken with him the main body of his troops, the Tribune says that some secret strategical reason is responsible for this withdrawal from the advance on Mexico City. It is declared by his friends that Villa has no intention of turning against Carranza militantly or otherwise. In fact, Villa is said to have telegraphed one of his agents in Washington that he would take no action against Carranza.

Despite the protestations of Constitutionalists agents, it is well known that a most serious situation exists in northern Mexico and that wrapped up in it is the future of the revolutionary movement.

Test of Strength Coming.

While Villa's agents declare that he will not take aggressive action against Carranza, it is admitted that the breach between the two has widened and that the time is rapidly approaching when there must be a test of strength.

In the war department the situation is being watched with keenest interest. Army officers believe that the American army is nearer to active service in Mexico than at any time in several months. Most officers believe that intervention is inevitable, no matter how much the administration may try to avoid it.

An interesting dispatch to the New York Sun from El Paso, Tex., says: "The tense situation in the Constitutional ranks is reflected by the attitude of the representatives of Carranza and Villa at this point."

"While both sides declare for publication that the relations between the supreme chief and his fighting general are strained, they insist that they have not reached the point where there will be a decision by arms."

"Villa came up to Torreon only to go to Parral to attend the military funeral of General Trinidad Rodriguez, who was killed at Zacatecas, say his agents. Villa has come north to confer with Carranza's representatives at Torreon, say the other men, and it will all be smoothed down by the elimination of General Felipe Angeles."

"It is noted, however, that Lazaro de la Garza and A. Farias, Villa's commercial agents, have begun to talk to Washington over a leased telegraph wire as if he had started an independent junta of his own at the capital. They are sending and receiving messages for hours at a time, but they will not say with whom they talk."

"The explanation of the Carranzistas is that Villa has organized a lobby at Washington in order to have the embargo on arms lifted and that he is not supplanting the official junta of the Constitutionalists."

NATURAL HISTORY RESEARCH.

American Museum Sends Out Six Expeditions on Exploring Tours.

The American Museum of Natural History will have six expeditions at work in the western hemisphere this summer. This does not include the Crocker Land expedition in the far north or the work now being done in Central America by Dr. Herbert J. Spinden. The expeditions and their leaders follow:

Alanson Skinner, study of the Kansas and Iowa Indians in Oklahoma as well as of various eastern Sioux tribes.

Dr. Robert H. Lowie, work among the Shoshones and Utes in Idaho and Nevada and a continuation of his work among the Crow Indians.

Roy W. Miner, a biological survey of marine life in Porto Rico in connection with the government of Porto Rico, the New York Academy of Sciences and the museum.

Barnum Brown, exploration in the Red Deer river region in Alberta, Canada, for dinosaurs.

Nels C. Nelson, archaeological work in the Galisteo valley region of Arizona.

Lord William Percy, son of the Duke of Northumberland, a special study of ducks, with Point Barrow, Alaska, as the base of operations.

Streams Full of Trout in Nine Years.

Plans to restock all trout streams and lakes of the national forests of Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota within nine years are well under way. The bureau of fisheries has promised to furnish the necessary fish fry for distribution to the various forests. Approximately 20,000,000 trout fry of the brook, rainbow and black spotted varieties will be needed. Of this number the bureau of fisheries is prepared to supply something over 4,500,000 this year.

SAVED BY PREHENSILE TRAIT.

Baby Grasps Locomotive Rod When Auto Is Smashed.

Portland, Ore.—A baby's inherited characteristic to grasp at a nearby object, much as the ape seizes a limb of a tree, probably saved the life of three-year-old Lois Frazier when an automobile in which she was seated was struck by a Southern Pacific train on a crossing near Clackamas station. The child's leg was fractured. The auto was demolished.

Mrs. Ruby L. Frazier of Portland, mother of the injured child, was driv-

ing the machine. In it just before the crash were Mr. and Mrs. James Linn of Lents, their two children, Florence, seven years old, and Ethel, five years old, and the baby.

The machine came to a stop across the tracks. The older persons leaped out, and Mr. Linn lifted out the older children and was reaching for the baby when the impact came.

As the mother screamed frantically the party looked among the ruins for the missing child, but in vain. Finally some one cried out that the child had been found. She was hanging from dear life to the brace rods which run from the boiler to the pilot bed. Apparently she had been thrown against the pilot and had grasped the rods intently.

The child was brought to Portland and taken to Good Samaritan hospital.

MONKEY CATCHES MEASLES.

Romped With Human Chum Who Already Had Disease.

Birmingham, Ala.—Pat, one of the big monkeys at the Avondale zoo here, has the measles.

Pat's keeper has prescribed a dose of castor oil, and the monkey is expected to get well in a short time.

Pat caught the measles from his friend, Jack Allen, a nephew of the keeper, Dayton Allen. Pat and the boy are great friends. The boy caught the measles and was confined to bed. Pat got lonesome and insisted on seeing his friend. He didn't show his insistence in the usual way, but Mr. Allen says he could not misinterpret the monkey's despondence and lack of appetite. He took the monkey to see the boy.

As soon as Pat got in the door he broke away from the keeper, jumped on the bed and began to frolic with Jack. Two days later Pat was all broken out with the measles and very sick.

Mr. Allen didn't confine the two friends to the same bed, but he did take Pat home for treatment and says the monkey is doing well.

SLEEPS IN COFFIN TO BALK UNDERTAKERS

Nebraska Man Hopes He'll Die In Casket.

Lincoln, Neb.—Every night in the year E. T. Hunger, formerly chief of police of Lincoln, sleeps in his coffin. The homemade box stands on the front porch of the Hunger residence, and at night, after the neighbors have gone to bed, "Old Man" Hunger goes out and climbs into the box. If the weather is cold or if a shower comes up he pulls the top of the coffin over the opening, leaves a crack through which he can get a little fresh air and calmly goes to sleep. Mr. Hunger is now seventy-six years old, and for many years he has been sleeping in his coffin.

"And I made that coffin myself, too," he says proudly. "Costs too much to die in these days. So I just thought I'd play a joke on the undertakers and make my own coffin while I was well enough to do it. So I got me some inch plank about a foot wide and several pieces of 2 by 4. I put the latter at each corner to make the box stable, and then I nailed it together with eight penny nails. Whole thing cost me less than \$5, but it's strong enough to hold a man about my size without any trouble. And won't these undertakers be mad when I die and they can't get any of my money?"

The Hunger home sits back from the street, and there are trees all around it. In the summer these trees shade the porch and the gawsome object cannot be seen plainly. But when winter strips the limbs and branches Mr. Hunger's homemade coffin can be seen by all passersby.

For more than twenty years Mr. Hunger was a constable in Lincoln and is one of the best known men in the city. But the fact that he sleeps in his coffin every night is a fact known to few other than his neighbors and close friends.

WALKED ACROSS CONTINENT.

And These Two San Francisco Boys Made Money at It.

Boston.—Two San Francisco boys, Karl Woodside and Joseph Kelley, arrived at the home of Woodside's aunt in Brookline, Mass., after walking across the continent. They said they started on their trip Jan. 1 with only 5 cents.

By singing, sawing wood, giving lectures and doing farm chores they worked their way to this city. When they arrived they had about \$12 between them, were clad in new khaki uniforms and were each about twelve pounds heavier than when they started. They are nineteen years old.

Cleaning a Sponge.

Don't throw away your old sponge, even if it has become old and slimy. Place it in a bowl, put a small handful of washing soda on the top, pour hot water over it and leave until the next day.

Then rinse the sponge very thoroughly in many lots of clear water until all the jellylike stuff it is filled with has disappeared, and it will be almost like new.

Forewarned.

Caller—Will you see if your sister is in? Susie—Yes, sir, but I don't think she will be. She saw you coming up the steps.—Albany Journal.

BIGGER PAY FOR AVIATORS.

Measure Appropriating \$250,000 For Efficiency Has Been Passed by House and Held Up in Senate Until Trust Program Is Completed—Provides For More Officers.

Washington.—Aviation is at last being recognized by the United States army as the result of the Hay bill, which has already passed the house of representatives and been favorably reported to the senate by the committee on military affairs. This bill, backed by a \$250,000 appropriation, gives the army signal corps, commanded by Brigadier General George P. Scriven, an opportunity to go ahead with the work which has been planned in the past.

At the present time the army aviation corps, which is under the direction of Colonel Samuel Heber, though a compact and essentially efficient body and capable of giving a maximum amount of service with a minimum of equipment, is infinitesimal as compared with the like organizations of other first class powers. In fact it is only through the bill of Congressman James Hay of Virginia that it has been given an official status in the aviation section of the signal corps. It is safe to say that from this beginning there will be results which will show exceptional efficiency for the money expended.

The United States has nothing in the line of fighting apparatus for use in the air, with the exception of aeroplanes, not a single dirigible balloon or other airship which might be used for offensive work. Its fleet of aeroplanes, which is divided into four sections, is located at Galveston, Tex.; San Diego, Cal., and in the Hawaiian and Philippine Islands, and used solely for scouting. This, however, is



Photo by American Press Association.

REPRESENTATIVE JAMES HAY OF VIRGINIA only the beginning and, as Colonel Heber expresses it, is like a baby taking its first exercise. "We must start by perfecting our scouting system, as a child first learns to crawl," he says. "After that he may take up walking, and before long will be fully prepared for running. In this case running meaning that we will have a full fleet of offensive airships."

The aeroplane work during the present trouble with Mexico at Vera Cruz has been handled entirely by the aerohydroplane force of the navy and has been essentially successful. The army force of aeroplanes, with the exception of those needed in Hawaii and the Philippines, has been kept on the border between Texas and Mexico, though mobilized and in such shape that on twenty minutes' notice they might be sent to any point.

Under the Hay bill the aviation section will consist of not over sixty commissioned line officers with rank below that of captain, as well as 200 enlisted men. These shall be detailed for periods of four years. The officers, who will first go through a preparatory course as aviation students, will be selected on the recommendation of the chief signal officer from among the unmarried lieutenants of the army who are not over thirty years of age, but they shall not be assigned to such service against their will.

It is further provided, on account of the extremely hazardous character of the service, that each aviation student, when he shall commence to make flights, shall receive increased pay, and there is increased pay for the enlisted men too.

After the passage of the Hay bill only officers and men who have passed an examination before a board composed of three officers of experience in aviation and two medical officers may be admitted to the aviation corps. At the present time the qualification for positions as military aviators are severe, as the applicant must not only be able to handle an aeroplane under any and all conditions, but must also have shown himself as especially efficient as a military observer.

Quick Floor Varnish.

To paint an inside or room floor that must be used soon, mix some shellac varnish with the desired color; then thin down the mass with alcohol, the denatured article answering. Apply two coats, an hour between coats. If done in the evening the floor will be dry and hard enough by morning. In fact, it will be hard enough to use in a few hours.

Boston is making a great fuss about a lobster weighing twenty-seven pounds. We had supposed from reports that they had much larger ones in New York.



MRS. LILLIAN MITCHNER who will talk temperance at the court room tomorrow evening.

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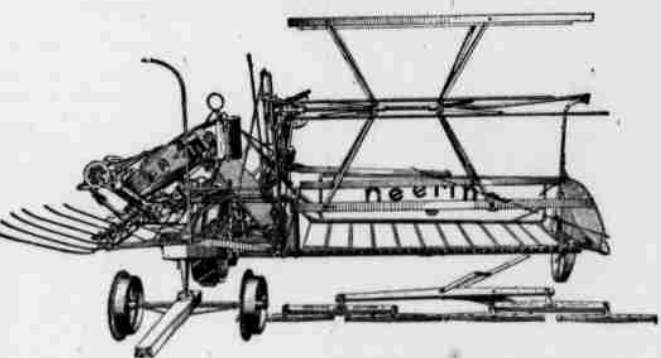
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