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No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

FUNSTON IS MOBILIZING TROOPS

American Army Had Not Yet Invaded Mexican Territory in Pursuit of Villa, But Expected Would Move Soon

Washington, Mar. 11.—"American troops positively have not entered Mexico yet," declared Secretary Baker this afternoon.

El Paso, Mar. 11.—General John J. Pershing said this afternoon there was no truth in the report that American forces already had invaded Mexico.

Washington, Mar. 11.—Behind a veil of censorship already established by the war department, Major General Frederick Funston today began mobilizing American troops on the Mexican border to execute the task of capturing General Francisco Villa, dead or alive.

Secretary of War Baker told the United Press today he did not know whether any troops had yet entered Mexico.

"It is up to them," he said. "They have their orders. They will go as soon as they get ready."

It is believed Funston has started forming the different divisions which will dash across the boundary at several different places and swoop down upon Villa and his bandits in their own country.

Funston requested that preliminary movements be kept secret.

The war department is paying no heed to scores of telegrams approving the hunt for Villa. It is busy mapping out a campaign which will allow the largest possible number of troops to return from Mexico alive and unhurt.

The war department, however, faced a certainty that the expedition will cost many lives.

In order to minimize the American losses, instructions to Funston directed him to strike hard and quickly. Facing a campaign of guerrilla warfare in unfamiliar territory against a desperate and treacherous foe, there is no doubt Funston's men will probably suffer heavy casualties. By an overwhelmingly and sudden envelopment of all bandits, the army hopes to prevent fighting over an extensive area and also to shorten the "little war."

If Villa is not crushed quickly and decisively, the administration believes military operations on a much larger scale will probably be necessary.

President wants to avoid a campaign entailing the use of militia or volunteers. Any delay in the regulars crossing the border would be caused by the war department's desire to have every arm in readiness for fast work before the blow is struck.

Americans must march through a wilderness of mesquite-tangled desert, where water is scarce. Many obstacles will be encountered. The establishment of bases of supply at various points along the border is a prime factor in the success of the move.

On the question whether Villa would make a stand in force or split his command into many different guerrilla bands for a harrying campaign among the foothills and arroyos, depends the immediate success of the expedition.

Villa's actual strength is also a doubtful factor. Various reports say his army numbers from 1500 to 4,000. It is believed he will retreat at once and seek shelter in his mountain fastnesses. A fan-like enveloping

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NEW OFFENSIVE BY THE GERMANS BEFORE VERDUN

London, Mar. 11.—Continuing their onslaughts on Verdun, the Germans suddenly broke out with a new offensive during the night, according to the official communiques today.

Six miles west of Verdun they unexpectedly attacked Rheims, 100 miles northeast of Paris, where there has been no infantry fighting of any importance for months.

On a front of 1,400 yards the Germans smashed through to a depth of nearly two-thirds of a mile. It was claimed by Berlin. More than 700 prisoners were taken, together with machine guns and trench bomb-throwers.

Paris failed to confirm the German gains. The French war office stated all German attacks had been hurled back. In their announcement the French described artillery battling around Verdun and admitted the Germans had captured a few houses east of the church in the village of Vaux.

Hand-to-hand infantry fighting continues on both banks of the Meuse.

Berlin declared all French troops had been ousted from the Corbeaux and Cumieres woods. Paris denied this, asserting counter-attacks had driven the Germans from those positions.

FORMER INDIAN AGENT SUBJECT OF SCANDAL

Washington, Mar. 11.—Senator Lane charged today that Former Indian Agent John Carroll was interested in oil companies leasing property from the Osage Indians at the same time that he was their agent, and that he allowed them to borrow his partners' money at interest ranging from 40 to 10,000 per cent. Carroll's name was brought up during the Indian land controversy.

PUGET SOUND EXPORTS \$19,000,000 IN FEBRUARY

Seattle, Mar. 11.—Exports to the value of over \$19,000,000 were shipped to foreign countries from Puget Sound ports during February.

Exports to Alaska totaled \$806,254.

Imports were valued at over \$12,500,000.

The biggest item in the exports was iron and steel.

TROUBLE AHEAD FOR S. A. D. PUTER

Washington, Mar. 11.—While Irvin Rittenhouse, head of the information bureau of S. A. D. Puter, who has located many settlers on Oregon-California public lands, was testifying before the house public lands committee in the Oregon-California land case today, Chairman Ferris told his fellow members:

"I believe it is essential for the department of justice to apprehend Puter and the abstract company for making an abstract of this sort."

He referred to the abstract under which settlers located by Puter hold their places. The documents were prepared by the Title Guarantee & Trust Company of Marshfield, Ore. The first pages purport to be a full abstract of a portion of the Oregon-California lands, but the documents contain only a certificate showing that the land had been patented to the railroads, and that Puter was the first applicant for holdings.

Ferris declared the purpose of such an abstract could only be to defraud, but Puter denied this. Rittenhouse was scored for allegedly trying to "backfire" congressmen. Ferris said there was a grave moral doubt about such activities.

RECIPROCITY SOUGHT BY CARRANZA

Head of Mexican Government Asks for an Agreement Whereby His Troops May Cross Border After Bandits

Washington, Mar. 11.—General Carranza does not definitely approve or disapprove of the American expedition into Mexico after Villa, according to a message from his foreign minister, Jesus Acuna, received here today. Carranza in this message suggested a willingness for Americans to enter Mexico in case the Columbus attack "should unfortunately be repeated" elsewhere. The communication follows:

"In due reply to your courteous note, dated yesterday, and transmitted today through Mr. John W. Belt, I have the honor to inform you that having brought the above note to the attention of the first chief of the constitutional army and depository of the executive power of Mexico, he has directed me to say to you, to the end that you may in turn transmit it to the department of state of the American government, that he learned with regret of the lamentable incident which occurred in the town of Columbus, N. M., on account of the assault it suffered from the bandits led by Francisco Villa.

"That although there has been a competent number of forces in the state of Chihuahua to re-establish order and afford protection to nationals and foreigners ever since Francisco Villa appeared in the mountains of the above state, at the request of the governor of the state and of the constitutional consul in El Paso, Texas, the first chief ordered the timely departure of 2,500 men, commanded by General Luis Guitierrez, with instructions to actively pursue the bandits who had just crossed the line into American territory, which they undoubtedly did compelled by the tenacious pursuit of the above mentioned forces.

"The above lamentable incident is similar to the incursions which were made in the states of Sonora and Chihuahua by Indians from the reservations of the government of the United States. Incursions into the state of Sonora occurred more or less about the year 1880, when Geronimo, the Indian chief, who died not many years ago in Fort Mount, Ala., led a numerous horde and invaded a part of the north of the state of Sonora, committing many murders and degradations on life and property of Mexican families, until after a long and tenacious chase by American and Mexican forces the band of malefactors was annihilated and its chief was captured.

"The incursion into Chihuahua, led by the American Indian chief, Victoria, commanding about 800 Indians, took place between the years 1884 and 1886. Then the bands of marauders, committing also many crimes, went into the country as far as the village of Teloloche, or Tres Castillos, very near the capital of Chihuahua, and during the first formal encounter between them and Mexican forces, after having lost their chief, they were dispersed.

"On these two occasions, through an agreement between the governments of the United States and Mexico, it was decided that the armed forces of one and the other country might freely cross from the territory of one to the other in pursuit of and for the purpose of punishing the above mentioned bands of marauders.

"Recalling these incidents and the

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RUSH WORK ON SUGAR FACTORY

Site of New Industry Is Busy Place, and Scores of Laborers Are Engaged in Making the Foundations

South Grants Pass is about the busiest place in the northwest these days. The site of the sugar factory is a scene of industry and of activity, and the hand of progress is fast changing the appearance of things there.

Monday the mixing of the concrete for the foundation of the buildings will be commenced, the concrete mixer and its engine having been placed ready for the beginning of real building operations. The first building to be constructed will contain the boiler room, pump house, machine shop and lime kiln. The excavation for the foundation of this structure is completed and the wood forms into which the concrete material will be poured are already in place. This building will be of steel, concrete and brick construction. Paralleling this building on the east, the excavations for the foundation of the main structure are now in progress. This building will be four stories high, of fire-proof construction throughout.

A large wooden building has been constructed just north of the site of the main buildings, which will be used during the period of building as a tool house. All tools and implements used by the workmen will be issued from this building upon requisition. To the east of this building a small but neatly constructed office building has been erected. These buildings are being painted, and everything about the premises is kept in a business-like and shipshape manner. A number of temporary structures have also been built, including the blacksmith shop and material sheds.

The sidetracks from the Twoby railroad to the site are being washed, and steel has already been laid on the principal siding nearly to the factory. Five branches of the siding are to be laid through the grounds to accommodate all the buildings and warehouses. The transportation of the structural steel and iron to the site awaits the completion of these sidings, a number of carloads having arrived late in the week. Seventy-four carloads of materials are now being loaded at different shipping points throughout the United States for use in the factory.

REPULSE ATTACKS ON FORT DE VAUX

Paris, Mar. 11.—A few houses in the village of Vaux were captured by Germans, who attacked again in that region with great strength during the night. It was officially announced today. All assaults against Fort De Vaux were repulsed.

"After a bombardment, German infantry charged between Troyon and Berry-au-Bac," said the communique. "They were repulsed. In successful counter-attacks, we drove Germans from communication trenches they had occupied southeast of Bethincourt.

"East of the Meuse, the Germans made desperate efforts all night to capture Fort de Vaux and the village of Vaux. They seized a few houses east of the church, but elsewhere were repulsed.

BRITISH WARSHIP FIRED SHELL OVER AMERICAN LINER

San Francisco, Mar. 11.—With the arrival in port today of the American liner China, government officials opened an investigation of the seizure from the ship, while flying the American flag, of 38 Germans. Captain Frank Frazier, master of the passenger liner, was notified by wireless off Honolulu to make a full report to Collector of Customs J. O. Davis.

Among the charges made against the British auxiliary cruiser Laurotic, which stopped the China off Shanghai, are the following:

That the China was fired on, though carrying the American flag, and one shell passed over her bow.

That the China was boarded by British troops, heavily armed, despite the fact that Captain Frazier warned the soldiers to come aboard unarmed.

That Germans who had no connection with army or war affairs were taken away from wives and children.

The British expedition was headed by Lieutenant Steele, who declared that every effort was made to stop the China from sailing.

Considerable secrecy surrounds the next move to be taken by Washington. Captain Frazier admitted he had received word to make no statements and hold photographs and statements of certain passengers as evidence.

Collector Davis said Washington had wired him instructions and that the ship officers would be called upon to make a full report.

Tragedy and comedy both figured in the seizure of the Germans. Fathers were torn from wives and children, women were left without money or means of support, and business men of German name face charges of being spies.

Only one German escaped. He was William Strenger, a paralytic, and could not be taken ashore because of his crippled condition.

FOIL MURDER PLAN OF GENERAL VILLA

El Paso, Mar. 11.—General Francisco Villa's plan to massacre American Mormons fleeing from Mexico to the United States has been foiled, Carranza Consul Garcia informed the United Press today.

Carranzistas, Garcia declared, have halted all trains on the Mexican & Northwestern railway by which the Mormons were traveling, pending the result of Villa's new movements. The exact whereabouts of the Mormon party is unknown, but Garcia is confident they will now escape the trap.

The Carranzistas had positive information that Villa planned to intercept the Mormons at Guzman and massacre all—men, women and children. He left L'Ascension at daybreak, it was reported, heading for Guzman, with 300 followers.

No steps toward executing President Wilson's orders to smash Villa are apparent yet. The censorship is evidently in effect. Brigadier-General Pershing stated at 9:30 a. m. today that he knew nothing of any contemplated movements. Pershing said the war department's instructions were going direct to General Funston.

It was reliably learned several garisons have been ordered from Wyoming to the border.

SENATE COMMITTEE ENDORSES ADMINISTRATION

Washington, Mar. 11.—After Senator Stone had given the senate foreign committee official news of what the administration had done with regard to Mexico, the committee unanimously consented to all steps taken.

WOULD BUILD HIGHWAY TO THE CAVES

Congressman Hawley Introduces Bill in House Providing for Apportionment of \$42,000 for Purpose

Congressman Hawley has introduced a bill in congress to provide for the construction of a highway to the Josephine caves. The bill carries an appropriation of \$42,000, which is to be advanced from the forestry receipts of the state, the federal government to be reimbursed with moneys taken in through forestry sources.

The proposed highway goes from the upper Williams creek through to the Sucker creek valley. An estimate of the cost of such a highway was obtained by the department some time ago, being supplied by the office of the Siskiyou reserve in this city. Supervisor Macduff furnished alternative estimates, one of \$42,000, the road to go up Grayback mountain from Williams creek, keeping the caves directly upon the main thoroughfare. By this route all travel passing between the Williams and Sucker creek valleys would have to make the elevation of the caves. Another route proposed by Mr. Macduff would follow Williams creek up to the point on the trail where the three creeks come together, then it would cross the divide and follow Grayback creek down into the Sucker creek valley. From the point where the road left the Williams creek side of the divide a four-mile side road would be built to the caves. This latter road finds most favor with the forestry officials here, and Mr. Macduff expressed the belief that it might even be better if the road was not built quite to the caves. He thought some of the charm might be taken away unless a mile or so of the delightful trail was left for the visitor to negotiate.

If the Hawley bill called for an outright appropriation of \$42,000 for the building of this road, it is likely that it might fail, in view of the democratic policy, but as it is only a loan from the forestry fund, it is expected that it will meet with favor. Twenty-five per cent of the revenues derived from the leases, sales and other sources upon national forests is returned to the state in which it originated, and it is proposed to anticipate this fund in building the caves road. Practically the entire road will be through the Siskiyou reserve, and the forestry department is reported as favoring its building.

SEEK RELEASE OF AMERICAN VESSEL

Washington, Mar. 11.—Confirmation of the capture of the American steamer Edna, formerly the Mexican merchantman Masatlan, by a British cruiser, was received here today. She was taken into the port of Stanley in the Falkland Islands. She is owned by Sudden & Christensen of San Francisco.

The Edna left San Francisco some time ago with a domestic cargo for the west coast of Mexico and South America.

Representative Julius Kahn, through the state department, today requested that the vessel be released. He said the cable to its owners describing its capture was undated and did not locate the scene of the capture.