

# Rogue River Courier

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

## ITALIANS ARE AGAIN BUSY IN AUSTRIA

### Avalanches of Earth and Rocks Are Hurling Down Upon Enemy by the Alpine Troops on Tyrolean Front

Rome, Mar. 13.—After a lull lasting weeks, the Italians are again aggressively active today along their entire front.

Formidable artillery duelling is in progress on the Corson plateau. A renewal of the smash at Goritz is believed imminent.

Daily infantry fighting around Goritz bridgehead is reported. The Italians are attacking Podroga, an entrenched camp before Goritz. They captured several trenches, tightening their steel ring around the bridgehead.

Austrians are rushing reinforcements.

The system of avalanche warfare, inaugurated by the Italian Alpine troops, is now being waged by both sides on the Tyrolean front. Huge masses of earth and rock have been sent hurtling from dizzy heights down mountainsides, burying scores of men with them.

Starting avalanches by exploding mines is dangerous work. The sappers must climb to mountain summits above doomed encampments and set off their mines during the night. These heights always are closely guarded by enemy sentries, who must be evaded or disposed of. The hurling of landslides has proved effective in blocking highways and hindering troop movements.

## EXPECTS NO TROUBLE WITH MR. CARRANZA

Washington, Mar. 13.—President Wilson will be able, the administration believes, to conduct an expedition against "Pancho" Villa without meeting opposition from Provisional President Carranza.

Although no word was to be had from Wilson, officials were convinced Carranza's request for "military reciprocity" would be granted.

The Mexican embassy's assurances that the bellicose-sounding Carranza manifesto suffered in translation, and that his resentment against the invasion is no stronger than was evinced in the more formal note of Saturday, tend to confirm the view that Carranza would not start trouble.

No news that the expedition had moved across the border was forthcoming.

President Wilson will confer with Secretary Lansing at 2 p. m. and frame a reply to Carranza's note. This is to be forwarded at once.

It is believed President Wilson has the right to accept the proposition without senatorial action. Officialdom generally, however, was rather uneasy about Mexico. General Funston's report that he would move deliberately until sure of his ground was accepted as proper procedure in view of the unsettled state of the negotiations. The fear was expressed that should Carranza's note be accepted, Villa will spread reports that the expedition's purpose was to invade and subjugate Mexico. With this slogan, he could undoubtedly rally many to his support.

Miss Vera Holland, who spent several months with her aunt, Mrs. Hyatt, at Santa Rosa, returned this morning, and will return to her home at Holland.

## URGE PROTECTION OF WATER SUPPLY IN OREGON CITIES

Washington, Mar. 13.—Urging that actual settlers on the Oregon-California lands be paid for their holdings, Senator Lane of Oregon told the senate public lands committee today that the homesteaders should be allowed as much as \$200 per acre in timber value to pay the cost of clearing. He suggested that, as protection against speculation, the land be patented as cleared.

Congressman Hawley urged that provision be made for the protection of the water supply of Oregon City, Salem, Eugene, Cottage Grove, Albany, Roseburg, Myrtle Point, Oakland, Medford and Ashland. This provision could be made, he said, by putting the necessary lands in forest reserves or giving cities a preference right of purchase.

Congressman McArthur urged that similar provisions be made for Portland.

## STOP SHIPMENTS OF MUNITIONS TO CARRANZA

San Francisco, Mar. 13.—Federal officials here today were ordered by the treasury department to halt all shipments of war munitions to the Carranza de facto government in Mexico.

## EGYPT AND SUEZ CANAL ARE SAFE

By William G. Shepherd.  
Rome, Mar. 13.—Egypt and the Suez canal are absolutely safe from the Germans for at least one more year.

While in Athens, I obtained this information direct from a reliable source in Constantinople. The Greek censorship prevented it being sent at that time.

February was the last month when the shifting desert sands east of the canal were firm enough to sustain marching columns. The movement of artillery and supply wagons on the desert will be impossible for months.

Stories that the Germans are building railroads and supply roads in the desert are fabrications. They caused great amusement in Constantinople, where the character of the desert region is well known.

German staff experts estimated that camels, traveling from the end of the Damascus railway toward the canal, could carry only five pounds of ammunition each, besides their own forage. This tended to dissolve the Arabian Nights' dream picture of long camel trains moving enormous supplies of munitions toward the canal.

Egypt and Suez are left out of the Turkish-German plans for a year to come, at least. The Germans, however, will continue to threaten the canal, hoping the British will be frightened into keeping 500,000 men idle in Egypt.

## WILL SENTENCE MRS. BOOTH TODAY

McMinnville, Mar. 13.—Convicted Saturday night of plotting the murder of her husband, Mrs. Anna Booth will face the judge and receive her penitentiary sentence at four o'clock today.

When the verdict was returned, Mrs. Booth broke down and wept, exhibiting emotion for the first time during her two trials on this charge.

Mrs. Booth and William Branson were convicted of second degree murder for the death of William Booth near Williams on October 8, 1915.

## CARRANZA SAYS THE U. S. ARMY MAY ENTER MEXICO

### Provisional President of Southern Republic Agrees to the Pursuit of Villa and His Outlaw Band by American Troops, Sec. Lansing Giving Assurance That Intervention in Mexico Is Not Intended

Washington, Mar. 13.—Secretary of State Lansing announced this afternoon the state department had reached an agreement with General Carranza with regard to American troops entering Mexico, and with regard to the "military reciprocity" proposition made by the Mexican first chief.

It is believed the agreement is a modification in some parts of Carranza's proposals in his proclamation issued yesterday. Secretary Lansing gave out the following assurances to Mexicans:

In order to remove any apprehensions which may exist in either the United States or Mexico, the president has authorized me to give in his name public assurance that the military operations in contemplation will be strictly confined to the order already announced, that in no circumstances will they be suffered to encroach in any degree on Mexico's sovereignty or develop into intervention of any kind in the international affairs of our sister republic. On the contrary, what is now being done is deliberately intended to preclude the possibility of intervention."

El Paso, Mar. 13.—Threatened with organized resistance by an aroused Mexico, Uncle Sam's expedition to crush General Francisco Villa was still held in leash today.

Regiments of infantry, artillery, cavalry and engineers and forces of all army branches are en route in special trains to the new "war front," either to participate actively in the invasion or to replace border troops sent across the line.

The hour to "go into" is now expected to arrive Tuesday, although

## MEXICAN SITUATION FRAUGHT WITH MANY POSSIBILITIES SAYS BORAH

Washington, Mar. 13.—"If we think we can whip Mexico in a few weeks, we will be woefully surprised. I believe Francisco Villa will become a national hero there and that sixty thousand men may rally about him."

Senator Chamberlain made this declaration during a warm debate in the senate today.

His remark interrupted Senator Borah's speech joining Senator Fall of New Mexico in opposing a "reciprocal military agreement" with Carranza.

"The United States has entered upon an enterprise the future of which is not to be forecasted," said Borah. "I am not criticizing the president, but we must seriously consider the momentous step taken. We may have started a train of events the result of which we can not foresee. Where the events lead, we must face the consequences. The Mexican situation is not the only one which bids us be prepared. There are situations which it would be neither wise nor proper for me to discuss, but the president says he can not tell us what tomorrow may bring forth. We must prepare."

Doubting the effectiveness of the Mexicans as fighters, Senator McCumber said they were mostly ignorant, blanketed Indians. He asked Senator Smoot where the Mexicans got their rifles.

"From the United States," interposed Senator Warren. "We made a grave mistake in allowing the guns to be sent into Mexico."

## KAISER PLANNING FOR PEACE SHOULD VERDUN BE TAKEN

Washington, Mar. 13.—It was authoritatively stated today President Wilson has been informed of the peace terms Berlin is likely to make if Verdun falls.

Colonel E. M. House, the president's emissary to Europe, was said to have been presented the tentative terms as modified by recent months of warfare. He did not go to Berlin for that special purpose, but while there he did receive an outline of the propositions.

High German officials here testify to the correctness of his outline, which says the kaiser will make the following demands:

Return of all German colonies.

No indemnities.

Montenegro, Serbia and Albania to be divided between Austria, Bulgaria and Greece.

Autonomy for Poland.

Freedom of Turkey from British influence.

Germany to return Belgium and northern France.

Russia to assume possession of Persia.

Great Britain to remain as at present, neither giving nor receiving anything.

High authorities said neither side was in a position to demand indemnities. With regard to the kaiser retaining Belgium, it was said:

"There is no longer any thought of that in Germany."

"We are going to take all you gringos and hang you."

Villa was last reported heading southward from Corralitos toward Can Buena Ventura, near the Mormon settlements. It is evident he is either determined to execute his threat of wiping out the American colony, or else fleeing toward the mountains to hide from the Yankee pursuit.

It is believed the bandit chief has divided his followers into guerilla bands. Some of his men were even reported in northern Durango. At Onejos, north of Torreon, a train of

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## FORT DOUAUMONT AGAIN UNDER FIRE

London, Mar. 13.—Fighting at Verdun entered its fourth week today, with reports of terrific artillery work around Forts Douaumont, De Vaux and Bethincourt, evidently in preparation for more infantry operations.

All day Sunday German cannon searched the French front with a hail of projectiles. The French accepted this as forecasting new attempts against Fort De Vaux and the positions southwest of Verdun. They are prepared to meet whatever the day may bring forth.

Berlin dispatches admit the Germans no longer hold Fort De Vaux. Paris credited the Germans with great bravery, but reiterated that the Teutons never entered the fort itself. According to French accounts, a Posen regiment first charged into Vaux village, then emerged from it and ran toward the fort, which stands 300 feet above the plain.

"French officers say they never saw Germans sacrifice their lives so recklessly," said a Paris dispatch. "They repeatedly debouched from their trenches and attacked in ranks four-deep, smothered by the French fire. Six and eight inch shells exploded right on top of the huddled Germans. When the smoke and dust cleared, nothing could be seen but a mass of tangled bodies. The spur on which the fort stands is in many places almost perpendicular. When they reached its steep sides, the main force of Germans was obliged to halt, but many Bavarian reserves struggled up the slope amid a hail of bullets. They climbed on one another's shoulders, hanging to the sharp angles of rocks and grasping tufts of grass. Repeatedly, however, their human pyramids collapsed into shapeless gray masses."

"Where the slopes were not so steep, the German attack was concentrated and the ditches red with their blood. Finally their officers halted the butchery and the fighting stopped. They must at the very lowest estimates have lost more than two-thirds of their strength."

Mrs. A. J. Ford returned to Roseburg this morning, after spending a few days with Mrs. W. L. McDonald.

## THUNDER OF ARTILLERY AT VERDUN

### Germans Battering at Forts Preparatory to New Dash, But Allies Are Holding Against Bloody Attacks

London, Mar. 13.—Northeast and southeast of Verdun the earth is shaking today under an incessant and ever-growing pounding of artillery.

The fight is extending along a curving front southeast of the forts, according to communications by both sides.

When shells have shattered and destroyed everything not strong enough to withstand blow after blow from high explosives, it is believed German infantry will dash forward again over ground which has already been repeatedly drenched in blood. Paris says the French await the new thrust confidently.

Both Paris and Berlin reported the struggle most severe at La Petre, 45 miles southeast of the citadel. In the Carmes forest the French suddenly leaped from their positions and stormed over 200 yards of trenches, capturing 20 Germans who did not have time to escape before the Frenchmen swarmed upon them, according to Paris accounts.

Aviators resumed operations. A French air squadron swooped down on the Conflans railway station and sent 30 bombs crashing into it. Other bombs were dropped on the railroad yards, but the machines circled upward and sped back to their home base before the German machines got off the ground, declared Paris.

In return, a German aerial flotilla sped over the Clermont and Verdun railway stations, dropping numerous missiles through their roofs. Berlin declared that in the Champagne and Verdun regions four French aeroplanes were shattered by shrapnel and brought tumbling to earth in a single day.

## WILSON OPPOSES WATER POWER BILL

Washington, Mar. 13.—President Wilson today promised to take a hand in the fight over the Shields water power bill, which conservationists denounced as a vicious measure.

President Wilson told Congressman Kent that it was better to let the water power run to waste than wrongly to settle the question of how it should be used. He intimated he would veto the Shields bill unless it was radically amended.

Kent asked the president to have Secretary Baker immediately give his attention to the question involved in the Shields controversy—the control of water power in navigable streams. The war department has jurisdiction over such bodies of water.

"We are making a fight against people who thoroughly realize that immense fortunes are to be gained if they win," Kent wrote the president. "Without fear of contradiction, I again state that for influence and lobbying the water power crowd is the shrewdest and most dangerous lot of people we have to fight in this country today."

The president wrote Kent in reply: "You may be sure I shall call Secretary Barker's attention to this matter at the earliest possible moment, for you know my deep interest in it. I am watching the progress of the legislation with a great deal of anxiety."