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

OFFICERS ARE ELECTED BY CLUB

Commercial Organization Has Annual Meeting, Which Is Largely Attended, and Much Enthusiasm Is Shown

The annual meeting of the Commercial club, held Monday night, at which the election of officers for the ensuing year was scheduled, called out the largest attendance that has been gathered at any similar meeting in the club rooms for a number of years past. The election resulted in the naming of the following officers to direct the work of the club for the year:

President, Wilford Allen.
Vice-president, Daniel Hull.
Treasurer, R. E. Bratton.
Secretary, E. S. VanDyke.
Trustees for two years, F. S. Bramwell and Dr. Ed Bywater.
The holdover trustees are Dr. Macy, A. S. Coutant, and H. L. Troax.
All officers were elected by acclamation except the treasurer, for which office there were two nominees, Mr. Hackett, who served as treasurer for a number of years, being given 22 votes despite his declining to be considered as a candidate. Mr. Bratton received the election with 62 ballots.

Annual Reports Read
Previous to the election the annual reports of the officers were read. The report of the secretary, which is published elsewhere in the Courier today, detailed some of the activities of the club for the year, and showed that excellent progress had been made in getting from under the load of indebtedness that had retarded the work of the organization. The club is now practically out of debt, enough being due from members to balance the account due Mr. Williams for rent, all other claims having been taken care of.

Chairman Bartlett, of the committee that has been seeking to find a solution for the water rate question, recommended that the club give its endorsement to an attempt being made to secure a reduction of rates during the months of June, July, August and September. The proposed reduction is from 17 to 10 cents per 1,000 gallons for water used after the minimum amount. The club, by unanimous vote, gave the endorsement.

Band Gave Concert
Previous to the calling of the meeting to order, the Moose band had played a number of selections upon the street and in the club rooms, and a vote of thanks was tendered the band for its excellent music. Then, as a more substantial testimonial, a motion was made and unanimously carried that the club give the band its best support for its concert being arranged for April 7. A committee was authorized, and the president appointed Messrs. Sam Baker and Daniel Hull as such committee, to solicit the sale of tickets to the concert. Leader Williams of the band stated that it was desired to raise the balance of the funds needed to purchase uniforms at the coming concert. Within a few minutes the special committee reported that members and visitors present had signed up for 196 tickets at 50 cents each.

O. & C. Lands Discussed
A score or more of the members and visitors present made brief addresses. Dr. Smith later spoke upon the O. & C. land grant matter, and suggested that letters be written to individual congressmen setting forth points as they affect the localities in which the lands are located. Upon the doctor's motion, a committee was provided to draft a letter setting

50,000 SPANISH WAR VETERANS WOULD RESPOND

Washington, Mar. 14.—Congressman Dyer, national commander of the Spanish war veterans, today requested state commanders to notify him how many men were available for service in Mexico if President Wilson calls for volunteers. Dyer thinks 50,000 would be raised.

Phoenix, Ariz., Mar. 11.—Captain Charles Alexander, head of the National Spanish War Veterans' association in Arizona, when told today of Congressman Dyer's request as to how many men would be available in case of call, said that every able-bodied member of the organization would respond. He estimates there are about 250 in the state.

San Francisco, Mar. 14.—One thousand Spanish war veterans in San Francisco would be willing to enlist if President Wilson called for volunteers, Charles J. Dutreaux, past-commander of General Miles camp, said today. Three companies are ready to fight.

Portland, Mar. 14.—"There are 600 Spanish war veterans in Oregon who would willingly volunteer for service in Mexico," said State Commander Roy W. Keel today.

Commander Keel says he will open books within two days and ask all veterans who would volunteer to register. Anticipating that National Commander Dyer might ask for figures as to the number of fighting men available in each state, Mr. Keel telegraphed him yesterday.

Seattle, Mar. 14.—In response to Congressman Dyer, national commander of the Spanish War Veterans' association, for information as to the available number of men for service if a call for volunteers is issued by President Wilson, State Commander T. J. Cunningham, of the Washington Spanish War Veterans' association, today said a complete regiment of volunteers could be promptly organized here.

FORMER PRESIDENT OPPOSES BRANDEIS

Washington, Mar. 14.—Former President William Howard Taft, Elihu Root and Joseph H. Choate oppose the elevation of Louis D. Brandeis to the supreme court bench. This became evident today when Austin Fox, testifying before the senate sub-committee investigating Brandeis' qualifications for the office to which he was appointed by President Wilson, produced a letter signed by all three men. In this letter they declared it to be their "painful duty" in view of the "reputation, character and professional career of Brandeis," to express the opinion that he was unfit for the supreme court bench.

SAYS JAPAN WANTS THE PHILIPPINES

Los Angeles, Mar. 14.—"Japan wants the Philippine islands, and is determined to grab them."

This was the statement of former Mayor Rudolph Blankenburg of Philadelphia here today.

"She is backing up this determination by contriving every clever scheme imaginable to annex the territory," he added. "We all know that Japan sympathizes with Mexico in her grievances against the United States, and the first antagonistic step taken by Mexico against our country would be welcomed by the Japanese. It is a critical situation—this invasion of Mexico by American troops.

GEN. CARRANZA'S FORCES SURROUND BANDIT VILLA

Announcement Made From El Paso That the Constitutional Troops Have the Arch-Murderer in a Tight Place in His Rendezvous, and That the Object Is to Forestall American Expedition Now Being Formed Along Frontier

El Paso, Mar. 14.—General Gutierrez arrived at Juarez today and announced that his Carranzista troops are surrounding Francisco Villa in the Galeana district. He said he hoped to capture Villa before the American expedition could enter Mexico.

Gutierrez is in Juarez outlining what is believed to be an effort to forestall the American expedition into Mexico.

"The Carranza government can take care of Villa," he continued. He outlined a comprehensive military scheme for the surrounding of Villa and indicated the Carranzistas already have the bandit chief virtually hemmed in on all sides in the Galeana district.

"We are in touch with Villa," he said. "My scouts will follow him until all my columns can come into action. He has only a small guard with him."

Gutierrez, commander of the de facto government troops in the state of Chihuahua, has been placed in command of the Carranzistas hunting Villa.

"Five cavalry columns of 1,200 men each have been ordered into the field to pursue him," declared Gutierrez. "They will draw a complete ring around Villa. General Jose Casavos will move in from the south, General Herrera from the east; Generals Rafael Maldonado and Benjamin Garza will command the other two

columns. I will have charge of the column from the north. My troops already are moving for this purpose. "I have ordered General Bertani to assist and he will evacuate Palomas shortly. Bertani probably will join our forces at Guzman."

Gutierrez intimated that to offset any further need for an American expedition, Carranza's government would attempt to completely wipe out the Villistas.

"In addition to our five columns," he declared, "we have ordered between 7,000 and 8,000 troops to concentrate at all towns in the territory where Villa's bandits are."

Gutierrez will leave Juarez within a day or two and take charge of the campaign. His statement was interpreted to forecast a further attempt by the de facto government to prevent American troops from entering Mexico.

Galeana, where the constitutionalists are reported surrounding Villa, is in Chihuahua state, about 100 miles due south of El Paso and 50 miles west of the Mexico National railway. It is within two days' ride of the American Mormon colony in the Casas Grandes district.

El Paso, Mar. 14.—"Carranza forces will have Villa before the end of the week," announced General Gutierrez, leader of the constitutionalist forces here, today.

Mormon church here stated the absence of news indicated the churchmen had suffered no disaster.

General Pershing, who will command the American expedition, is at Columbus, N. M. Colonel George Taylor, of the Eighth cavalry, is in command at El Paso, indicating that the main column probably will start from Columbus.

Lieut. Martin Schallenberger, aide de camp and official censor, issued his first bulletin today. He said: "Concentration and mobilization are now being arranged. General Pershing is engaged in studying out a strategic plan of movement."

The army of "war correspondents" here already is having trouble with Schallenberger. They charge he refused to aid them in their work, and that they were obliged to gather their own equipment and even transport their own horses to concentration camps.

Troops from Cheyenne, Fort Leavenworth, Fort Riley, San Francisco, Monterey, Chicago and Chattanooga are reported coming here. Officers believe that practically all the regular army will be used either on the border or in pursuing Villa within a fortnight.

Before night it is expected fully 10,000 men will be mobilized between El Paso and Nogales, ready for any service, and all anxious to "go in."

There are 2,000 soldiers at Columbus and work is being rushed there on a new headquarters building for Brigadier-General Pershing. Four thousand men probably will be concentrated there shortly. In addition to the wireless and the aeroplane, the automobile branch of the army will receive its first real American war trial in this campaign.

RENEW INFANTRY ATTACKS AGAINST FRENCH FORTRESS

London, Mar. 14.—Breaking the long lull in infantry fighting before Verdun, Germans today charged into Haudremont forest only to have their ranks shattered by artillery fire which covered every foot of ground with mathematical precision, according to Paris accounts.

The Germans did not attempt to advance with large forces and those who survived the hail of French shells were forced to flee.

In the La Pretre forest, Paris said the Germans attempted to regain lost ground. Again the French artillery blasted scores into eternity and hurled back the charging Teutons in defeat.

There was a steady artillery bombardment around Vaux, but the expected grand assault against Verdun had not begun, latest dispatches said.

Berlin remained silent regarding all operations around Verdun. The only important infantry work mentioned by the Germans was a repulse of British near Wleitje, in the Ypres district.

Clear weather brought on the aviators, and battles high aloft were frequent. Berlin announced three British and two French machines had been brought down.

MEXICO PREDICTS NO BREAK WITH U.S.

Mexico City, Mar. 14.—All danger of a break between Mexico and the United States has passed, according to evidently inspired articles in today's newspapers.

There was no official statement, but Washington dispatches said America had conceded the justice of Carranza's demands in accepting his informal note.

General Candido Aguilar, newly appointed foreign minister, will handle further American negotiations under Carranza's guidance. It is believed Aguilar will be provisional president before the regular elections, Carranza resigning so that he may become a candidate.

General Obregon's appointment as war minister has long been forecasted.

NO MILITARY OFFICERS FOR TRAINING CORPS

Washington, Mar. 14.—A shortage of army officers, due to the American campaign against Francisco Villa, has resulted in the abandonment of all plans for civilian summer military training camps, the war department announced today.

Scores of light and heavy trucks are being listed for transportation to the border to serve as supply trains when the long "hike" into the bandit country begins. Civilian chauffeurs probably will drive them.

While the mobilization of Carranzistas and Americans has driven Villa from the border region, vigilance on the United States side is greatly increased since the Columbus raid. Light and water plants close to the border are closely guarded. Nearly every foot of railway track skirting the boundary is patrolled by uniformed sentries.

With only single track railroads paralleling the border to the west, the absence of strategic railroads for military concentration is frequently commented on. The delay in arrival of some American regiments from the interior is explained by the lack of rolling stock to move the troops immediately.

As fast as new companies arrive they are distributed "somewhere on the border" according to General Funston's secret orders.

The quartermaster's corps is working day and night keeping a steady stream of supplies flowing toward the many camps. Columbus has become a vast city of tents almost overnight.

FEAR SAFETY AMERICAN COLONISTS

Deserter From Villa Brings News That the Bandit Chief Had Marched Against Settlement of 500 Mormons

El Paso, Mar. 14.—Fears for 500 American Mormon colonists in Chihuahua were renewed this afternoon when a Villa deserter arrived at Casas Grandes, reporting the bandit chief was marching against the settlement, determined to exterminate the colony.

Information to this effect reached Carranzista officials at Juarez over the restored telegraph lines.

Despite earlier constitutionalist claims of Villa being surrounded by Carranza troops, he was said to have arrived at Casas Grandes and to have demanded surrender of the Carranza garrison there as well as of the American colonists. Villa has burned every bridge on the Mexican North-western railroad between Sabin and Corralitas, making it impossible for the train awaiting the Mormons at Pearson to travel toward the border.

According to the deserter's story, Villa became enraged over stories that the Mormons were to act as guides and scouts for the American expeditionary force.

The loss of half of his 600 men at Columbus by the fighting around the town and by subsequent desertions further angered Villa and he swore to kill Americans, men, women and children.

"MILITARY RECIPROcity" ACCEPTABLE TO MEXICO

Washington, Mar. 14.—Jose Acuna, representative of the Carranzista government, formally notified the state department today that the American note regarding the "military reciprocity" agreement with Carranza, and making arrangements for the pursuit of bandits across the international boundary, was wholly acceptable to his government.

THE KAISER'S THROAT IS AGAIN TROUBLESOME

Paris, Mar. 14.—Kaiser Wilhelm's throat is again troubling him, according to an unconfirmed report from Rome today.

EXPECT DISAVOWAL OF SILLIUS SINKING

Washington, Mar. 14.—Trouble between the central powers and the United States over the alleged unwarmed torpedoing of the Norwegian bark Silius with seven Americans aboard as members of the crew is extremely unlikely, according to the best German authority here today.

It was said if it was proved a German submarine sank the Silius without warning, the kaiser would undoubtedly disavow the act and make all reparation required.

The Austrian and German embassies have not received any report on the Silius case. Meanwhile there is doubt that the vessel was torpedoed, in view of the fact that it was an unarmed neutral. Many believe a mine responsible.

The American consul at Havre confirmed the report of one American sailor having been injured. He has not enlightened the government with regard to his previous report that the Silius was torpedoed.

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