

WILSON FIRM FOR WATCHFUL WAITING POLICY IN MEXICAN CRISIS AND HOPES FOR PEACE

FOREIGN NATIONS ARE REASONABLE SAYS PRESIDENT

Executive Refuses to Be Stampeded by Jingoos—Hopes for Peaceful Solution—No Word From Villa or Carranza—Benton Affair Mystery

Administration Grilled in House—Policy Called That of Dreadfully Drifting by Congressman Kahn.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—President Wilson was still standing firmly by his policy of "watchful waiting" in Mexico today. He remained hopeful that existing international complications will be adjusted satisfactorily. To callers he explained that numerous published falsehoods had made matters seem worse than they really were.

In connection with the Benton affair, England, he said, had been most fair and reasonable. It had made no arbitrary demands but had asked merely for an investigation of the cause and circumstances of Benton's death. Consular reports, he added, had disposed of many sensational rumors relative to the case and he trusted it would be entirely cleared up inside of 48 hours.

Ignorance of Benton

The president admitted that the administration did not know where Benton's body was buried or even if it had been buried at all. The state department, he said, had been unable to get into satisfactory communication either with General Villa or General Carranza and the result was that no reply had yet been received to the request that an American physician be permitted to examine the corpse. United States Consul Letcher, at Chihuahua City, was still trying to get a definite answer from General Villa but had failed to date. Not a word had been received from General Carranza, the president said, since Benton was arrested.

The chief executive committee refused to discuss his probable course if Villa or Carranza should refuse to permit the corpse to be examined or if it should develop that it had been cremated. Such contingency, he said, he could not consider until they arose.

No Marines to Be Sent

He explained that the suggestion that United States troops be sent after Benton's body was out of the question, since under international law, such an act would constitute war.

That he intends to send marines to Mexico City, the president again denied, Admiral Fletcher, at Vera Cruz, and Charge d'Affaires O'Shaughnessy at Mexico City, having agreed that it was unnecessary.

Assertions that British Consul Percival of Galveston, now in El Paso to investigate the Benton case, would risk his life if he went to Chihuahua

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NEARLY BILLION POPULATION FOR WORLD FOR 1912

ANTWERP, Feb. 26.—The bureau of universal statistics announced its 1912 figures today. Among the revelations were the following:

"Asia's population is 933,000,000; Europe's 484,000,000; Africa's 188,000,000; America's 187,000,000, and Oceania's 57,000,000, a total of 1,849,000,000 for the world, or 140,000,000 increase in four years.

The world's commerce is handled in 47,714 steamships and 55,800 sailing vessels and amounts to \$40,600,000,000.

There are 625,000 miles of railroads.

The world's national debts total \$42,960,000,000.

A ROYAL SISTER OF MERCY



Grand Duchess Serge of Russia, who is a granddaughter of the late Queen Victoria, is here shown in the garb of a sister of mercy of the Greek church. She entered the convent after the assassination of her husband and now plans to end her days in its service.

WHITNEY'S PLEA NOT LIKELY TO PREVENT TRIAL

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 26.—How J. Parker Whitney's case will be benefited even though he should prove the charges he has intimated against the character of Genevieve Hannan, who accuses him of violating the Mann white slave law, attorneys here who made a close study of the Diggs-Caminetti cases said they could not see.

The charge against him, they pointed out, is that he transported Miss Hannan from state to state for immoral purposes and if it should be established, taking the Diggs-Caminetti verdicts as a precedent, it seemed to them that the law was violated regardless of the young woman's past or present. Her character, they argued, did not at all enter into the case—only the purpose which actuated Whitney in transporting her across state lines from one place to another.

It was expected that the millionaire defendant, at liberty on the \$20,000 bond which he gave before Superior Judge Post at Sacramento yesterday afternoon would be in Sacramento to face the grand jury Saturday. Concerning Miss Hannan's whereabouts there were still doubts. There seemed no question that she bought transportation yesterday for Chicago by way of Los Angeles and New Orleans.

RANCHER RIDES TO DEATH IN AVALANCHE

JACKSON, Wyo., Feb. 26.—Word brought here today by James Fitzmier was to the effect that "Windy" Nickman, a rancher, had gone to his death in the Jackson Lake district while trying to ride an avalanche.

"Nickman and myself were on the Conant trail," said Fitzmier, "when a snowslide struck the trail, carrying us down the mountainside. Nickman laughed with glee.

"Let's ride her," he shouted. "It's the greatest sport in the world." He was shouting like a schoolboy when the avalanche swept him down. When I went under, Nickman was only fifteen feet away from me, balancing on one knee. I was buried, but escaped injury."

CARTER TO COMMAND IN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Major General Carter started today for Honolulu to take command of the department of Hawaii. Major General Bell, commanding the American troops in the Philippines, will succeed General Carter as commander of the Central department here.

DE PALMA WINS VANDERBILT CUP WITH MERCEDES

New Record of 75.5 Miles an Hour Average Speed Made in Ninth Annual Event—Speed Duel With Barney Oldfield, Second, in Mercer

William Carlson of San Diego, Driving a Mason, Takes Third Place From Erri Cooper in Stutz.

SANTA MONICA, Cal., Feb. 26.—Ralph De Palma, driving a Mercedes car, won the ninth Vanderbilt cup race today over the Santa Monica course, establishing a new Vanderbilt cup record of 75.5 miles an hour average speed.

Barney Oldfield, in a Mercer, was second, after a terrific duel with the winner that riveted the attention of the two hundred thousand spectators throughout the last 50 miles of the race.

William Carlson, a dark horse, who drove a Mason car, took third place from Earl Cooper, the sensational California driver, who piloted the Stutz that he has driven in five consecutive victorious races.

George Joerriman, in a Touraine, was flagged from the course in his thirtieth lap. The remaining ten entries had been disabled and had been withdrawn.

Beats Mulford's Record De Palma drove the 295.035 miles of the course in 3:52:41. Oldfield's time was 3:55:47. Carlson finished in 3:58:47.

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PRESIDENT DENIES RUSHING MARINES TO MEXICO CITY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—President Wilson today authorized a denial of a rumor that Admiral Fletcher at Vera Cruz had recommended the dispatch of 1000 marines to Mexico City to protect American interests.

"It is absolutely false," said Private Secretary Tumulty. "No message recommending such action has been received. It is not intended to send marines to Mexico City."

Secretary of the Navy Daniels referred to the story as pure fiction. The news leaked out today that England, Germany and France had unofficially suggested to Washington the recognition of President Huerta. The president, however, it was said, could not consider such a course and continues to oppose intervention despite the Benton incident. It was known he was hopeful that General Carranza would take the field, eliminating Villa.

CASTILLO, MEXICAN OUTLAW, CHARGED WITH FIRING TUNNEL



The capture of Maximo Castillo, the Mexican bandit, who is charged with setting fire to the Cumbre tunnel and causing the death of fifty-one people, including ten Americans, brings up a complicated problem for our government. Castillo, having been taken on our side of the line, cannot be surrendered to any Mexican authorities without such an act involving recognition, and under our laws he cannot be prosecuted in this country. While our state department wrestles with the problem, Castillo will be held at Fort Bliss.

GIRL WITNESS IN KILFOIL CASE IS UNDER GUARD

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Feb. 26.—To preclude any possibility of her being visited or kidnaped by those interested in the defense of Phillip Kilfoil, the Los Angeles man held in connection with the mysterious death of his sister, Mary, January 2 last, Lillian Palmer, the 14-year-old girl whose condition is expected to bring about the prosecution of Kilfoil on a serious charge, is carefully guarded today by Detective Fred Boden of Los Angeles, who refuses to reveal the girl's whereabouts.

According to the officer, only the physician and nurse in charge of the girl and Mrs. Blaine, her mother, will be permitted to see Miss Palmer, whose condition is so precarious that little hope is held out for her recovery.

On account of the girl's weakened state, Detective Boden did not attempt to secure any further information from her for use in the case, but he asked Mrs. Blaine to question Miss Palmer regarding certain dates and details of her relations with the suspected man and the mother will report to the police officer what the girl said.

CARRANZA SAID TO BE WILLING TO SUPPORT HUERTA

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 26.—Following a fierce quarrel with General Villa, General Carranza was reported here today to stand ready to aid President Huerta in crushing the rebellion.

If such a situation really existed, it of course would be highly gratifying to Huerta and the general opinion among foreigners was that the Huertistas merely wished the report was true. Few of them believed it.

War Minister Blanquet promised Charge d'Affaires O'Shaughnessy to investigate the hanging of Clemente Vergarez, an American citizen, near Nuevo Laredo. Messages from the United States indicated that Vergarez was put to death by the rebels but the understanding here that it was the federals who hanged him.

At any rate O'Shaughnessy received instructions from Washington to demand satisfaction. Minister Blanquet said he doubted if the federals were at fault, but telegraphed to Colonel Alvarez, commander at Nuevo Laredo, for a detailed report. It was understood that, after an overnight lull, fighting was resumed today at Mazatlan.

ATTACKS MADE BY CONTRACTORS MEET CENSURE

Grand Jury Probes Anonymous Letters Attacking Bowly and County Court—Evidence Insufficient to Indict.

Alleged Violations of Blue Sky Law Probed, But Evidence Also Insufficient for Indictment.

Condemnation of scandalizing Portland contractors, who launched a campaign of vilification against Major Bowly of the state highway commission and the Jackson county court, because of disgruntlement over failure to secure a Pacific highway contract, is voiced in the report of the grand jury filed with the circuit court this morning.

Letters Were Unsigned

Unsigned letters sent out are classified by the grand jury as "highly scandalous, unkind and attacking the integrity of Major Bowly and the county court," and regret it expressed "that the evidence is insufficient to warrant indictments, yet morally certain" of the guilt of certain Portland parties. The grand jury urges that the next grand jury continue the investigation of the letters and charges.

The grand jury investigated alleged violations of the blue sky law, in which thousands of dollars of local money has been sent into other states and countries, and found there was insufficient evidence to warrant true bills.

The only true bill returned was an indictment against John Doe for stealing a pig.

Grand Jury Report

The grand jury report follows: "We, your jury, respectfully report that we have examined carefully all matters brought to our attention; that under the instruction given by your honor on the subject of libel, we find that a number of highly scandalous unsigned letters have been circulated throughout the county, attacking the integrity of State Engineer Bowly and our local county court, because of the failure of these parties in receiving the award of certain contracts let in Jackson county. Your grand jury is unable to fasten the guilt specifically upon any person, but are morally satisfied that these letters were written by disappointed Portland contractors. An investigation of the letting of these contracts satisfies your jury conclusively they were awarded properly to the lowest bidders and that there was no cause for complaint; and while we regret that the evidence is insufficient at this time upon which to find a true bill, we most severely condemn such cowardly and scandalous practice. "The recent grand jury having just investigated the county offices, we deem it advisable to take this matter up at a later sitting. "Respectfully submitted, "R. C. ROBBETT, foreman."

PEONAGE PROBE IN COAL FIELDS

TRINIDAD, Colo., Feb. 26.—Stirred by charges made before the congressional investigators of strike conditions in Colorado's mines, that peonage exists in the coal fields of the state, Assistant United States District Attorney Daly arrived here today from Denver to conduct an independent inquiry. If he could find evidence enough to warrant them, he said prosecutions would follow.

A quarrel developed in the course of the day between Adjutant General Chase, commanding the militia in the strike zone and State Auditor Keneshan over the troops' payment. Keneshan refused to pay unless the men appeared personally at the state house in Denver.

IN LINE FOR TYPHOID INOCULATION AT FORT BLISS, TEX., THE MEXICAN REFUGEE CAMP



Mexican refugees that have been gathered since the battle of Ojinaga and held at Fort Bliss are being subjected to the same medical treatment given to the men in the United States army. One of the most important treatments is the inoculation against typhoid. During the past year this formerly prevalent disease in the army has been greatly reduced. The typhoid treatment consists of three injections of serum, each about a week apart.