

Forty-fifth Year.
Daily—Tenth Year.

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PURSUIT OF VILLA VEILED BY SILENCE

No Casualties and No Clashes as Yet Reported by U. S. Troops in Pursuit of Bandits—Mormons Acting as Scouts—Crisis Believed to Have Passed Over Invasion—American Settlers Leaving Mexico—Two Columns of Pursuers, One of Cavalry.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 17.—The American expeditionary force has had no casualties and has had no clashes with Villa forces to date, according to reports received today at Fort Sam Houston. There has been no instances of sniping reported. Brigadier General Pershing's dispatches to the southern department headquarters confirm reports that Mormon colonists from Colonia Duhlan and Colonia Morales are acting as scouts for the expedition. Absolute secrecy is maintained here as to the distance the American troops have penetrated into Mexican territory. Colonel Dodd, commanding the seventh and tenth cavalry, makes no reports direct to General Funston, but is in wireless communication with General Pershing. Varying reports have been received at Fort Sam Houston regarding the attitude of Mexicans toward the expeditionary force.

Crisis is Believed Passed. Colonel Robert L. Bullard of the Twenty-sixth infantry at Harlingen, Tex., however, reports there is considerable excitement in the lower Rio Grande region. The Mexican consulate here today received a telegram from Gustavo E. Mirales, governor of the state of Coahuila and former private secretary to General Carranza, in which he said: "I verily believe that this crisis will be solved satisfactorily by both nations. Every Mexican has absolute confidence of the sterling qualities of General Carranza."

Two Pursuing Columns. EL PASO, Tex., March 17.—A few definite facts about the American expedition into Mexico today stood out with considerable clearness as the result of official published reports and the news brought here by Americans who have been in touch with some portion of the American movement. It seemed certain that of the two columns which are "somewhere in Mexico," one was constituted for speed, while the other apparently was moving more slowly. The swift-footed column was the auxiliary army, seemingly mostly cavalry, which went into Mexico fifty miles west of the main army of General J. J. Pershing when his forces crossed at Columbus, N. M.

Uneasiness Growing. EL PASO, Tex., March 17.—Rapidly growing uneasiness among Americans throughout Mexico, especially in the north and west, was evidenced today by reports from various sections that United States citizens were either on their way to the border or were preparing to leave. At practically every point of entry

RUSSIANS STILL IN PURSUIT OF TURKS

PETROGRAD, March 17.—The following official announcement has been issued by the war department: "West front.—In the region of Dalzen island a violent artillery duel has taken place. Below Drinsk, in the region of Blouksh, the enemy threw hand grenades loaded with high explosives. "Caucasia front: During the pursuit of the Turks we took prisoner nineteen officers, of whom two are majors and more than 250 A-karis, and we also took a regimental flag."

TYPES OF FIGHTERS THE BOYS IN BLUE WILL MEET ACROSS THE BORDER; WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARMED



Villa has rallied women and boys to his side as well as men. The women and boys who have shouldered guns are not the least dangerous or determined of the several thousand Villa followers.

HOUSE DEBATES BILL CREATING 140,000 ARMY

Time Limit of Ten Hours for Forty Speakers—Vote Expected by Tomorrow Night—Senate Army Bill Formally Reported and Chamberlain Asks It Be Taken Up Monday.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Both houses of congress worked today on national defense measures. In the house every other issue was put aside while debate on the army bill proceeded under a special rule fixing the time limit at ten hours. An effort will be made to reach a vote tomorrow. In the senate the army bill drawn by the military committee was formally reported and Chairman Chamberlain announced that he would ask unanimous consent to take it up Monday.

Forty Speakers Orate. Forty speakers have asked for time, republicans and democrats being equally represented on the list. When the debate began no opponent of the general plan of preparedness had asked to be heard. Chairman Hay of the military committee and Representative Kahn, ranking republican member, apporportioned the ten hours equally. So far as is known no committee member will favor reduction of the provisions for the regular army or the National Guard, although several are known to favor a larger standing army.

Speaker Clark, who will deliver an address in support of the measure, surrendered the chair to Representative Garret of Tennessee at the beginning of the debate. 140,000 Peace Strength. Representative Gordon, democrat of Ohio, led off for the bill. He had been listed as an anti-preparedness man, but explained today that his opposition was only to a great standing army. Representative Hay told the house the fact that the committee had reached an unanimous report on the bill indicated the feeling of the country on the vital subject of preparedness. In fixing 140,000 men as the peace strength of the army, he said, the committee had gone to what war department officials had testified was the limit of peace time recruitment. A force of 250,000 regulars would mean compulsory service, to which the country was opposed, and an annual expenditure of \$750,000,000 for the army alone.

PRESIDENT TO OPEN SAN DIEGO EXPOSITION

WASHINGTON, March 17.—President Wilson today promised he would personally or have Secretary Daniels touch a button tomorrow afternoon, giving the signal for opening the San Diego exposition for another year.

WILSON'S COURSE MEETS APPROVAL

La Follette Introduces and Senate Unanimously Adopts Resolution Approving President's Course in Sending Expedition to Mexico.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Senator La Follette, republican, today introduced and the senate adopted without opposition a resolution approving President Wilson's course in sending a punitive expedition to Mexico and assuring the Mexican people further that the object of the expedition was merely punitive. The text of the resolution follows: "Resolved, by the senate (the house of representatives concurring) that the use of armed forces of the United States for the sole purpose of apprehending and punishing the lawless band of armed men who entered the United States from Mexico on the ninth day of March, 1916, committed outrages on American soil and fled into Mexico, is hereby approved; and that the congress also extends its assurance to the de facto government of Mexico and to the Mexican people that the pursuit of said lawless band of armed men across the international boundary line into Mexico is for the single purpose of arresting and punishing the fugitive band of outlaws; that the congress in approving the use of the armed forces of the United States for the purposes announced, joins with the president in declaring that such military expedition shall not be permitted to encroach in any degree upon the sovereignty of Mexico or to interfere in any manner with the domestic affairs of the Mexican people."

Word of the senate's action was immediately sent to the white house and President Wilson directed that his appreciation be conveyed to Senator La Follette. GERMANY SUFFERS FROM COFFEE SHORTAGE. BERLIN, March 17.—Much interest has been aroused in Berlin by the announcement of the first instance of a limitation in the purchase of coffee which has been put in force in a town of Brandenburg, where roasted coffee may be bought only in half pound lots and unroasted coffee may not be sold at retail. In Berlin, coffee prices have been advancing for some time and it is believed some housewives have laid in considerable stocks in anticipation of possible limitation orders. The visible supply has thus been notably reduced and many think it may now be too late to rectify matters by administrative orders.

PURSUIT OF VILLA COSTS UNITED STATES \$40,000 EACH DAY

EL PASO, Tex., March 17.—The United States pursuit of Villa, under present arrangements, is costing the government \$40,000 each day, according to estimates made here today by army officers.

GENERAL ROQUES WAR MINISTER TO SUCCEED GALLIENI

PARIS, March 17.—General Pierre Auguste Roques, whose appointment as minister of war in succession to General Gallieni was announced yesterday, is best known for his work as inspector general of aeronautics. He occupied this position from 1910 to 1912, at a time when the military importance of aviation was beginning to be realized fully. General Gallieni sent his resignation to Premier Briand on the following letter dated Versailles, March 16: "Mr. Premier: "As I explained to you last week, my strength, which I have devoted exclusively and uninterruptedly to the service of the country, now fails me. The doctors consider that I am not at present in a condition to perform with the necessary activity the duties of the high office entrusted to me. They declare that to make it possible for me to resume active work a complete and lengthy rest and careful treatment are indispensable. I therefore ask you to accept my resignation as minister of war. "With great respect, sincerely yours, "GALLIENI."

CONSULS ORDERED TO PROBE TUBANTIA CASE

WASHINGTON, March 17.—American consuls in Holland have been instructed to investigate the sinking of the Dutch liner Tubantia with Americans aboard, said to have been torpedoed. Consular agents of Gibraltar and Lisbon have been instructed to investigate the reported unsuccessful attempt to torpedo the French liner Patria. Mark Ferns, of Fern Valley, transacted business in Medford Friday.

CRISIS PASSES WITH MEXICO

Danger of Active Opposition From Carranza Forces Decreasing—Silliman Wires No Trouble to Be Expected From First Chief.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Very satisfactory assurances regarding the attitude of the Carranza government toward the entrance of American troops into Mexico were conveyed to the state department today by Consul Silliman, who is with General Carranza. He reported no trouble from the Carranza forces was to be expected. Overnight dispatches received by Acting Secretary Polk of the state department and Secretary Baker, were optimistic. The text of none was made public. The administration believes the danger of active opposition by Carranza forces is decreasing. The Mexican situation was discussed fully at today's cabinet meeting and Secretary Baker read reports received from General Funston. Cabinet members agreed that danger of serious clashes with the Carranza troops probably had passed. Secretary Daniels told of the ordering of 500 marines to Pensacola, Fla., on the naval transport Hancock, but later the president authorized the statement that the movement had nothing to do with the Mexican situation. Secretary Wilson at today's cabinet meeting told of a marked increase in immigration from Mexico since the recent outbreak. Many of these Mexicans are destitute, he said. Each case is being handled individually on its merits by immigration authorities at the border.

DEFEATED BRITISH IN MESOPOTAMIA CHASED BY TURKS

BERLIN, March 17 (by wireless to Sayville).—The British forces on the Tigris below Kut-el-Amara began a general retreat after their defeat near Fehle on March 8, with the Turks in pursuit, according to today's headquarters report from Constantinople received here. The official statement follows: "The enemy after his defeat near Fehle on March 8, while preparing for a general retreat, attempted to attack by surprise the Turkish right wing, but under the pressure of the center was forced to desist from the plan and begin a general retreat."

TUBANTIA HIT BY TORPEDO SAY SHIP'S OFFICERS

Captain and Crew Sign Affidavits That Holland Liner Was Struck Amidships at Night—Undoubtedly Loss of Life, as Four Aboard Vessel Have Not Been Landed.

LONDON, March 17.—A Reuter dispatch from The Hague says the Dutch ministry of marine has announced that affidavits made by the first and fourth officers and the lookout man of the Tubantia show that the steamer was hit by a torpedo. These men declare they saw in the water a white streak made by the torpedo and that at the moment the streak reached the side of the steamer amidships the explosion occurred. "Richard Schilling, an American, who, with his wife and daughter, arrived here with other survivors of the Tubantia, expressed the opinion that the liner struck a mine."

Finest Dutch Vessel. AMSTERDAM, March 17.—The Tubantia, sunk off the Dutch coast, valued at \$1,000,000, was the newest and finest steamship sailing under the Dutch flag. Although it is not positively established whether the sinking was due to a mine or a torpedo, there is a singular unanimity on the part of those who were on board in attributing it to a submarine's act. The crew base their belief in this regard chiefly on the intense violence of the explosion and on the fact that it occurred amidships. The vessel was bound from Amsterdam to South American ports, carrying a crew of 294 and 82 passengers, the latter mostly neutrals, including, it is said, three Americans. The ship bore the usual identification marks of her neutral character, including an illuminated name and flag. The disaster has created a profound sensation throughout Holland. The press comments reflect anger and indignation. There were undoubtedly some casualties as a result of the disaster. Men from the crew have been landed by Dutch torpedo boats and say that the vessel was struck amidships in dense darkness, owing to a mist on the high sea. The explosion was so terrific that lifeboats on deck were shattered.

ESSEN UNINJURED BY AIRSHIP BOMBS

BERLIN, March 17.—Foreign newspapers are spreading reports that Essen (the home of the Krupp works) has been damaged badly by an enemy aeroplane attack and that the railroad station at Essen has been attacked with bombs. "These reports are pure inventions, as is stated by competent German authorities."

5 ASSAULTS ON VERDUN REPULSED

German Drive Against Fortress Again Shifts Its Direction—Violent Night Attacks Made in Vaux Region—Bombardment Continues in Region of Dead Man's Hill, Infantry Attacks Not Renewed—Russian Activity Along the Southern Part of Front.

The German drive at the Verdun defenses has again shifted its direction. Strong assaults were made by the Germans on the lines east of Verdun during the night, five successive assaults in the Vaux region being repulsed by the French, Paris announced today. The German attacks were for the most part of a violent character, but were broken up by the French curtain of fire, the Paris war office declares. Although a bombardment has been continued in the region of Dead Man's hill, the infantry attacks there have not been renewed. Important operations may be developing along the southern part of the Russian front, as Vienna reports increasing activity by the artillery on both sides.

Vienna's latest report declares that Italian attacks on the Austrian lines have decreased in violence. The German official bulletin today does not mention the fighting east of the Meuse in the Verdun region. It reports, however, two unsuccessful attacks by the French "on our positions on Dead Man's Heights."

Paris, March 17.—Important infantry assaults on the French lines east of Verdun were made by the Germans during the night. Five successive onslaughts in force were repulsed by the French. The text of this afternoon's war office statement reads: "West of the Meuse the bombardment diminished last night in the region of Bethincourt and Camiers. After the bloody check to the attack of yesterday the enemy has not resumed his movement on Mort Homme. "East of the Meuse a recrudescence of the bombardment was followed at 8 o'clock last night by violent offensive actions, directed against our positions at the village and the fort of Vaux. Five attacks in large numbers were directed by the Germans in this region, but without success. Two of them were started against the village of Vaux; two others against the slopes leading up to the fort, and the fifth was an effort to emerge from a protected roadway southeast of the village of Vaux. "Every one of these attacks was broken up by our curtains of fire, and the fire of our machine guns cost the enemy heavily. "In the Woivre district there is nothing to report further than artillery exchanges in all sectors west of Pont-a-Mousson. A surprise attack against a salient of the enemy lines at the wood of Mort made it possible for us to bring back some prisoners and to inflict some losses on the enemy. "The night was calm on the remainder of the front."

MEXICANS KILLED BY MUNITION EXPLOSION

LAREDO, Tex., March 17.—Fourteen Carranza soldiers and ten civilians were killed in an explosion of a carload of grenades and artillery ammunition in the yards of the national railroad lines at Monterey, Mex., last Tuesday, according to passengers reaching here today from Monterey. The news was suppressed by the Carranza authorities because of the tension existing between the United States and Mexico.