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BRITISHER EXECUTED BY VILLA

William H. Benton, Wealthy Rancher, Put to Death on Charge of Plotting.

CROSSED BORDER TO DENOUNCE GENERAL

Angered by Damage to Mexican Property and Upbraided Rebel Leader.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] El Paso, Texas, Feb. 20.—News that William H. Benton, the English ranchman, had been shot by a Mexican firing squad at Juarez reached here today. It was stated that he was executed Wednesday night, but it was not until today that his widow was notified of it by Thos. D. Edwards, United States consul at Juarez. He was understood to have been tried by a court martial and found guilty of complicity in a plot to kill General Villa. The latter, who had previously denied knowledge where Benton was, left for Chihuahua City today.

Villa Told of Killing. It was just before his departure that Villa asked Consul Edwards to inform Mrs. Benton of her husband's death. Edwards himself had previously been ignorant of it. Questioned by newspaper representatives, he refused to give details of the Englishman's death, saying he had promised Villa not to publish them, though he had telegraphed all he knew to Washington.

The court martial which condemned Benton to death was said to have been held Tuesday night, with Federico Gonzales Garza presiding, and one account was that the execution followed it immediately, Tuesday night instead of Wednesday.

May Allege Self Defense. If England or the United States demands explanations, it was believed Villa would say Benton entered his office and threatened him with a revolver, compelling him to shoot in self-defense. William Benton, the victim's cousin, asserted, however, that although his relative went to reproach the rebel commander for depredations by rebels on the Benton properties in Chihuahua, he was unarmed.

Benton was last seen alive in Juarez Tuesday, headed for Villa's headquarters.

Bryan Admits Story True.

Washington, Feb. 20.—That W. H. Benton, the British mine owner and ranchman who recently crossed from El Paso to Juarez to denounce General Villa to his face, undoubtedly was dead was admitted today by Secretary of State Bryan. Whether Villa had him executed or not, however, the secretary did not know. If he did, it was confessed that serious complications were possible.

Benton, angered by damage to his Mexican property, made no concealment of his intention, when he left El Paso, to tell Villa what he thought of him. He never returned.

El Paso dispatches said Mrs. Benton remained there, prostrated by anxiety.

Discussed By Cabinet. Bryan gave out the news of Benton's death on his way to a cabinet meeting. Later he owned that the president and the cabinet members had discussed the matter, but would not tell what was said. Neither did he reveal whether an effort would be made to appease English anger at the killing of a Briton by the Mexican rebels.

The text of a telegram announcing Benton's death was also kept secret. One cabinet member intimated that the message indicated Villa himself had shot the Englishman.

Protests His Innocence.

El Paso, Feb. 20.—Maximo Castillo, the Mexican bandit, accused of responsibility for the Cumbre tunnel tragedy, arrived here this afternoon under a

Dewey Declines to Enter Controversy

ADMIRAL HAS NOTHING TO SAY AS TO GERMAN COMMENT ON ASSERTION IN BOOK REGARDING DIEDRICH.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Washington, Feb. 20.—If, as German Minister of Marine Von Tirpitz told the reichstag yesterday, Admiral Dewey was shortly to issue an explanation of his story of friction with Admiral Von Diederichs at Manila at the time Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet there, no indication of it could be found here today. Dewey certainly did not confirm Von Tirpitz's statement.

The commotion in the reichstag was the sequel to the publication by Count Veon Reventlow, the German naval writer, of an article questioning the accuracy of the assertion in Dewey's book that the American commander fired a shot across the German warship Cormorant's bows, because Diederichs disregarded his blockade.

Says Dewey Will Explain. In the reichstag the point was raised by Herr Erzberger, a clerical member, who wanted more particulars. It was in response to his question that Von Tirpitz said he understood Dewey was soon to issue an explanation, "showing that the conduct of Admiral Von Diederichs and his subordinates was absolutely correct."

The only explanation forthcoming from Dewey up to date was: "I have no remarks to make on Count Von Reventlow's report to have said."

CAPTAIN DENIES HIS MEN WERE DRUNK AND BEAT YOUTHFUL MINER

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Trinidad, Colo., Feb. 20.—Pointblank denial was made today before the congressional investigators of strike conditions in the Colorado coal fields by Captain Edward Smith of the boy-Gustavo Westkinsky's story yesterday that two militiamen, one drunk, maltreated him at his home near Saffield February 10 and robbed his mother of \$200.

He had himself investigated the boy's charges, he said, and found them false. He denied emphatically that militiamen were habitually drunk.

Bryan Orf, a striker, testified that Captain Linderfelt, with a squad of militiamen, molested the strikers' tent colony at Ludlow December 31 and that when he protested Linderfelt said: "I'm Jesus Christ and those men on horseback are Jesus Christ's men, and you want to obey us."

COOK IS ARRESTED FOR THREATENING TO KILL WILSON

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] West Orange, N. J., Feb. 20.—George Bernhardt, a cook, was arrested here today on a charge of threatening to kill President Wilson. The threats were voiced in letters, Bernhardt signing himself "George's Son." Bernhardt was arraigned before Recorder McLaughlin, and held in \$1000 bail.

NEGRO PROBLEM BOTHERS.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Washington, Feb. 20.—President Wilson was seriously concerned today over the negro problem. Almost every mail is bringing him demands of various Democratic negro leagues in Northern states for recognition. The president recently nominated Robert Terrell, a negro, for a seat on the municipal court bench here. Senator Vandeman, of Mississippi, warned the president that he intended to try to defeat Terrell's confirmation, and the nomination was side-tracked.

SEARCH FRUITLESS.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Norfolk, Va., Feb. 20.—After 48 hours vain search for the missing five-masted schooner Kineo, of Bath, Me., last reported in distress off Cape Hatteras, the revenue cutter Osceola put in here today for supplies, when it will resume the search, though it was generally believed the Kineo had sunk.

PRESIDENT WILSON'S PLAN TO REPEAL TOLL EXEMPTION APPROVED

Goethals Says He Has Always Favored Making All Vessels Pay.

CANAL OPEN ON JULY 1

Defenses Completed, Project Is Adequately Protected and There Is No Danger of Slides.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Washington, Feb. 20.—President Wilson's plan to repeal the exemption clause of the Panama canal tolls act met with the approval here today of Colonel George W. Goethals, builder of the great waterway. Goethals arrived in Washington today from New York.

"I always have favored a plan to make every vessel, whether American or foreign, pay canal tolls," Goethals said. "I am glad the president feels the same way about it."

"We have every expectation of opening the canal July 1. There is no danger of slides close to the waterway, though geologists say minor slides may be expected when the water rises to its full level in the cut."

Defenses Are Finished. "The defenses of the canal have been completed, and statements that the project is inadequately protected can be denied."

Colonel Goethals said he expected to remain in the United States several months, spending most of his time visiting his son. It was understood Colonel Goethals will ask an appropriation of \$23,500,000 to complete the canal—\$75,000 more than the appropriation as fixed at present—though he expects to save about \$5,000,000 by a reduction in the construction force.

Cannot Use Machinery.

Colonel Goethals admitted that he was trying to work out a problem of disposing of the canal machinery. He is opposed to the plan to transfer it to Alaska for use in the construction of the government railroad there, asserting that new equipment could be purchased cheaper than the cost of transporting the canal machinery to Alaska.

In Not in Politics. Colonel Goethals declared he was not in politics when asked about the efforts of certain democrats to induce him to run for the governorship of New York.

USES CHLOROFORM FOR INSOMNIA AND IS NEAR DEATH

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] San Francisco, Feb. 20.—With an uncooked bottle filled with chloroform lying close to his head, Dr. Franklin P. Lord, owner of a private hospital, was found unconscious in bed by his wife here today. Lord's condition is critical.

STORM BREAKS RECORDS.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] San Jose, Cal., Feb. 20.—That the electrical storm which visited the Santa Clara valley Wednesday was the most severe on record is indicated by reports received here today. The dome of Mount Hamilton observatory was struck by lightning twice, the motor which rotates the dome being burned out. Many other freaks were played by the lightning.

TRIES TO END LIFE.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] San Francisco, Feb. 20.—F. J. McGuire, aged 50 years, head of the firm of McGuire & Sons, attempted suicide here today by swallowing a solution of bichloride of mercury and carbolic acid. His condition is critical. Relatives said recent financial reverses were responsible for his act.

NEWSPAPER HUNT FOR CATHERINE WINTERS HAS BIG PROPORTIONS

Notice of Probably 20,000,000 People Called to Mystery Recently.

MOVIES ARE ALSO AN AID

Little Girl's Picture Thrown on Screens and Gypsy King Is Appealed to by Cleveland Paper.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Chicago, Feb. 20.—The newspaper hunt for Catherine Winters, the little girl lost or stolen from her home in New Castle, Ind., had assumed great proportions today. Probably 50 additional newspapers have joined the quest on their own account since 75 Scripps and associated newspapers opened the campaign Monday.

At the office here of the Newspaper Enterprise association, which initiated the movement, it was stated today that the mystery of 10-year-old Catherine Winters' disappearance had been called to the notice of probably 20,000,000 people in the United States and Canada in the past four days.

Reports of supposed clues were coming in from every section of the country. In four days more than a score of gypsy camps have been searched.

Picture Printed. Newspaper which began the campaign of publicity have printed the child's picture, with offers of reward or some interesting feature of the hunt daily since the search has been in progress, so that a total of 10,000,000 copies of newspapers have been issued, calling attention to the case in some striking form.

Moreover, these same newspapers have issued more than 100,000 posters, reciting the main facts of the case, asking people for information and offering rewards in sums of from \$300 to \$1000 for the missing child's recovery. These posters are reaching even the most sparsely settled parts of the United States.

Seen in Moving Pictures.

Another feature of the hunt is that moving picture managers have begun to throw the little girl's photograph on their screens in various parts of the country, notably in Ohio and Indiana.

In some cities editors have won the interest of their local school managements. In Toledo, for example, the News-Bea, containing a large picture of the lost child, is exhibited by their teachers to all school children.

The Oklahoma City News succeeded in gaining co-operation in Oklahoma of the farmers' unions, and the county postmasters.

Appeals to Gypsy Chief.

The Cleveland Press has appealed to "King Mitchell," chief of all American gypsies, and to his wife, "Queen Jess," to send scouts to all gypsy camps for the missing little one.

Many other newspapers engaged in the hunt have adopted original methods in their various local districts.

The plan adopted by the largest department store in Sacramento, Cal., of wrapping the poster issued by the Sacramento Star around all parcels was copied in many cities.

Police officers, sheriffs and constables are also everywhere taking a deep interest in the hunt and, while no trace of the child has been found up to today, it was believed that if she still lives, it will be found impossible for the kidnapers to hide her many days longer.

WOMEN COLLECT TAXES.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 20.—Los Angeles has appointed eight women deputy tax collectors, the city assessor believing that the women will prove better collectors than men.

STARVING MAN STEALS MILK

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Portland, Or., Feb. 20.—Caught stealing bottles of milk from the residence of A. L. Mills, president of the First National bank, Domingo Glacidi, a Spaniard, admitted he had been taking the milk for two weeks to keep from starving. Fined \$25.

BEATS MAN WHO CONVICTED HIM

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] San Francisco, Feb. 20.—Ralph Patterson, sentenced today to seven years imprisonment in San Quentin penitentiary, broke away from two detectives as he was being led from the court room and knocked down J. P. Harrold with his manacled hands. Harrold, who owned the building which Patterson fired, was badly injured.

Samuel Tilden's Centenary is Remembered by Nation



Samuel J. Tilden at His Best and His Residence.

New York, Feb. 20.—Much interest centered in the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Samuel J. Tilden, ex-governor of New York, famous statesman and once Democratic candidate for president. Many prominent men accepted invitations to attend the celebration of the event in New York on Feb. 10. One of the principal speakers was William F. McCombs, chairman of the democratic national committee.

DILLON'S BOND APPROVED FLOOD WATERS RAPIDLY AND WEDDING TO MISS LLOYD IS DUE SOON

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Portland, Or., Feb. 20.—According to a telegram received by British Consul Douglas Erskine today the bond deposited by Miss Marie Lloyd with United States immigration authorities for the entry of Bernard Dillon, her manager, into this country has been approved. Dillon is expected to arrive in Portland tonight or tomorrow, when his marriage to Miss Lloyd will be consummated.

They were to have been married Thursday, but legal complications in the approving of the bond prevented Dillon's departure from Vancouver.

According to an order issued by Commissioner-General Caminetti the couple must be married not later than Sunday, or Dillon will be deported.

GRANDDAUGHTER OF LOWELL LOVES HUSBAND'S FRIEND

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Boston, Feb. 20.—The suit for divorce instituted by Mrs. Lois Burnett Rantoul, granddaughter of James Russell Lowell, from Edward L. Rantoul, was resumed here today. Mrs. Rantoul only admitted that she loved her husband's chum, Chester Ewariil, but that she had kissed him, received presents from him and corresponded almost daily with him. She denied, however, that she had taken other liberties with Rantoul.

VICTIM OF LIGHTNING.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Watsonville, Cal., Feb. 20.—James Redman, a wealthy rancher, stunned by lightning yesterday, was believed dying here today. Redman was thrown into a ditch of water, but was rescued by two other ranchers. The home here of John T. Coward was fired by a bolt of lightning and badly damaged. Its occupants escaped injury.

SOON LOSES HIS LOOT.

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 20.—After collecting \$12 from passengers he ferried across a flooded street in an automobile truck, Angus Tucker was compelled to shell out the whole wad to get help when his engine went dead in mid-stream.

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MOVE IS ON TO DO AWAY WITH OFFICE

Bill to Consolidate Boards and Abolish State Engineer Planned.

WOULD BE ONE BOARD INSTEAD OF THREE

Claimed State Engineer's Office Is Costly and Movement Is for Economy.

One of the greatest causes of expense in running the state, according to Governor West, is the ever increasing demand for more boards with more clerks and secretaries, and an eternal demand for more and bigger salaries.

The people east of the mountains call attention especially to the state engineer's office, with which there is considerable dissatisfaction. It is proposed by them that the state water board, the desert land board and the state engineer's office be combined and all put under one board, doing away with an extra lot of secretaries and clerks, and giving the board power to appoint the state engineer.

Office Is Expensive. It is claimed the state engineer's office is costly and that it receives money through special legislation for this or that purpose and that these special funds, while really a charge against the engineer's office, do not show as such, coming as they do from special acts.

A movement is on foot to submit a bill by the initiative to consolidate these boards as above suggested, and it will probably materialize. If this should be done and the bill pass, it will do away with the state engineer's office as a separate department, and put the office under control of a board to take the place of the Desert Land, Flood, the Water Board, and the Engineer's office, having the one board instead of the three as at present.

Those interested in the irrigation projects are unanimous in urging that this be done.

MILL OWNERS WILL FIGHT 8-HOUR DAY AND UNION PROPOSITIONS

[UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE.] Raymond, Wash., Feb. 20.—In an open letter to the public today the mill operators of Willapa harbor threw down the gauntlet to labor unions and declared their intention of standing unitedly against the 8 hour day and the closed shop. The letter read:

"To the public: On account of the prevailing agitation relative to running our mills and camps 8 hours a day, at the same wages we are now paying for ten hours, we deem it advisable to state our position both as to the hours of work, and the unionizing of our plants.

"We will operate our mills and camps in the future as in the past, ten hours per day, or as many hours as we consider it advisable according to conditions that may arise from time to time. We will operate in the future, as the majority have in the past, strictly upon the open shop policy."

The issuance of the letter which was signed by the owners of 15 large mills, is the direct result of a controversy between the shingle weavers employed by the Case Shingle and Lumber company and the management. All of the shingle weavers walked out Thursday when the foreman of the mill demanded that union men operate the three machines left idle.

President Brown of the shingle weavers union was expected here late today and it was believed that three other mills of the Case company will be declared unfair.

The Weather

The Dickey Bird says: Oregon, tonight and Sunday cloudy, probably rain, southeasterly winds.

(Continued on page 5.)