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THIRTY-NINTH YEAR—NO. 195

SALEM, OREGON, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1916

PRICE TWO CENTS ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS—FIVE CENTS

GERMANS FORCED BACK ALONG SOMME FRONT

Many Important Positions Taken by British Troops in Last Night's Fighting—Strong Position at Thiepval About to Fall—Russo-Rumanian Army Stops Retreat and Prepares for Battle—Germans Fight Stubbornly and Their Loss Is Appalling

By Ed L. Keen,
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

London, Sept. 18.—The most desperate Teutonic counter attacks have failed to stop the onward sweep of the Anglo-French armies on both sides of the river Somme. The German war office this afternoon admitted the loss of Berny, Deniecourt and positions between Barleux and Vermandovillers in the new French drive south of the river. The capture of Deniecourt has not yet been announced from Paris though an official statement issued at noon reported the village surrounded. The French war office last night reported the capture of Berny and Vermandovillers.

North of the Somme the British closed in on Thiepval last night after repulsing German attacks, General Haig reported, and captured enemy positions south of the town. Aside from the allies' success on the Somme, the word that the Russian and Rumania forces have halted their retreat in southeastern Rumania and are now making a stand against the Teutons was the most encouraging news from the allied standpoint reaching London this afternoon. The German war office announced that the Russo-Rumanians have been reinforced and are now preparing to give battle to protect the important Constanza railway line which guards Rumania's communications via the Black sea.

A dispatch from the Rome bureau of the United Press reported that the Italians have broken through the Austrian third line east of Monfalcone and are now within less than thirteen miles of Trieste, chief goal of the Italian armies.

Thiepval Seems Doomed.

London, Sept. 18.—British troops began closing in upon Thiepval last night, after capturing Mouquet farm and took several German trenches south of the village, General Haig reported this afternoon.

West of Mouquet farm, the Germans, resisting desperately the advance of the British pioneers, entered a British trench by a heavy counter attack, but were later driven out.

Thiepval village position which has held up the progress of the British left wing since the Somme offensive began July 1, was made most precarious for the Germans by the loss of the well fortified Mouquet farm yesterday.

North of Martiniel, Haig's men improved their positions last night and east of Courcellette a minor attack on enemy trenches was successful. The Germans bombarded various parts of the British line with great violence last night, as if in preparation for a counter attack.

Forty thousand Germans have been killed, wounded or captured since the Anglo-French armies resumed the offensive on the Somme with battering blows that bent back the Teutonic lines.

Fighting in Flanders.

The fighting continued last night north and south of the river with the greatest fury. The Germans were still clinging desperately to the village of Deniecourt, under heavy French fire, and making counter attacks against Berny and Vermandovillers, lost to the French yesterday afternoon.

North of the river British artillery checked one German counter attack after another with storms of shrapnel and high explosive shells.



Who remembers when our Presidents were rarely ever in Washington? The consumers are full of grievances, but they'll be no strike.

CHANGES TO BE MADE IN CAMPAIGN PLANS

Republican Leaders Hold Conference—Stone at Headquarters

Chicago, Sept. 18.—Radical changes in speaking plans for the western republican presidential campaign were expected as a result of the conference of the national advisory committee of the republican party here today.

Alvi T. Hart, western manager, was back after a conference with eastern political leaders and Frank H. Hitchcock reported on his personal examination of the situation in Illinois.

Among those present were Theodore E. Burton, Ohio; James Wilson, former secretary of agriculture, Iowa; J. H. Hitzcock, New York; Victor Rosewater, Nebraska; James B. Garfield, Ohio; Nicholas Murray Butler, New York; James N. Hemenway, Indiana; and William R. Wilcox, national chairman, is expected tonight.

Senator William Joel Stone, of Missouri, arrived at democratic western headquarters today as a member of the senatorial campaign committee. He will spend most of the time here until election.

Two special cars are to carry democratic women to the Springfield state fair Thursday, it was announced at campaign headquarters today.

General Mills Passes Very Suddenly Today

Washington, Sept. 18.—Major General Albert L. Mills, chief of the division of militia affairs, U. S. A., died at his home here today of pneumonia. He had been ill only twelve hours.

General Mills was chilled while motorizing yesterday afternoon and was stricken during the night. His wife and daughter, Mrs. Laurson, wife of Lieutenant E. L. Laurson of the Eleventh cavalry, were with him when he died.

General Mills was only recently promoted to the rank of major general. For two years he was president of the army war college.

He was awarded the congressional medal of honor July 28, 1902, "for distinguished gallantry in action near Santiago, Cuba, July 1, 1898, in encouraging near him by his bravery and coolness after being shot through the head and entirely without sight."

In addition to a wife and daughter, General Mills leaves a son, Lieutenant Chester Mills, Ninth U. S. cavalry, now stationed in the Philippines.

COLD WAVE HITS IOWA

Des Moines, Sept. 18.—Seven Iowa points today reported freezing temperatures last night. Iowa City and Keosauqua registered 28, the coldest reported in the United States. Light to heavy frosts occurred Sunday night over central and eastern Iowa. Warmer weather is predicted for tomorrow.

VILLISTAS LOSE MANY IN RAID ON CHIHUAHUA CITY

Claim Made That Bandits Lost 200 Killed in the Attack

COMMANDER TRÉVINO SHOT BY ONE OF HIS MEN

One Third of Garrison Joins Villa—Attack Arouses Enthusiasm

El Paso, Texas, Sept. 18.—Eighty-seven Villistas captured by Carranzistas after the bandit attack on Chihuahua City Saturday were lined up before firing squads Sunday morning and executed. Among the prisoners was Colonel Mariano Tames, who mutilated from Jurez with 100 men and joined the Villistas.

El Paso, Texas, Sept. 18.—All northern Mexico is in turmoil today as reports of Villa's attack upon Chihuahua City early Saturday spread throughout the country. Four thousand de facto troops from Monterrey are being rushed to Chihuahua City and other points, while two columns of cavalry are pursuing the flying bandits toward Santa Clara canyon, according to reports given out by General Gonzalez, Carranza commander at Jurez. Despite reports given out by Carranza officials that Villa was badly defeated, the effect of his attack following his threat to shout "grito" in the city of Chihuahua on independence day was to rouse the enthusiasm of the people. In Jurez troops are patrolling every street in order to prevent an outbreak of pro-Villa feeling.

Three Carranza officers who deserted when the bandit attack on Chihuahua commenced and rode north to catch a train are in El Paso early today. According to their story, the Villistas attacked the town in two columns one marching straight to the penitentiary without a shot being fired upon them, the other column driving the Carranzista soldiers before them to the palace. When it was seen that the penitentiary was doomed to fall, Carranza officers ran through the corridors, shooting political prisoners through the bars. About 20 were killed in that manner. Then the doors were broken down by the Villistas who rushed in and rescued General Salazar.

General Trevino Shot.

General Trevino, Carranzista commander, was shot by one of his own men, these officers declare and about one-third of the garrison mutilated and went into the bandit lair.

The Villistas lost about 200 men, according to best estimates while the Carranzista losses were not announced but were said to be very heavy.

As the Villistas left the prison and started to cut their way through the government troops, hand to hand fighting took place in the streets. The streets were swept by shell fire, killing de facto soldiers and bandits alike. For an hour after Villa had evacuated it, cannon fire was kept up on the palace.

The Carranzistas did not immediately pursue when the bandits finally cut their way through the lines. Once outside the city, the Villistas reformed and marched away in good order across the Rio Churiscar, proceeding northward toward Santa Clara canyon.

By military men here it is believed Villa did not intend to occupy Chihuahua City but that his purpose was to make a demonstration for its effect upon the American-Mexican mediation conference. Villa's men started evacuating the prison before shell fire was opened on them. The bandits suffered their heaviest losses on the retreat as the cannon of the garrison got the range. At Mexico City it was announced that six hundred Villistas had been killed or captured. This is about three times the actual casualties.

Villistas losses were 153 dead and 89 wounded, according to a message received by General Gonzalez at Jurez. Carranzista losses were not announced but were said to be much heavier.

Villa Shows Carranza's Weakness

El Paso, Texas, Sept. 18.—Military officials here view Pancho Villa's attack on Chihuahua City as entirely successful in its purpose because it demonstrated the helplessness of the de facto government to control the bandit chief's activities. For weeks Villa has been hovering around the city while Carranza authorities announced they had him surrounded and were about to crush the bandit and his followers.

Early last week Villa made open cancellation. The North German-Lloyd has 107 passengers booked for the first vessel to sail after the close of hostilities.

The International Mercantile Marine, which controls the American line, the Atlantic Transport, the White Star and the Red Star lines, is making preparations for record traffic both east and west bound, according to J. B. Lindsay, booking agent. Uncertainty as to rates, however, and dates of sailings, prevents maintenance of a passenger list.

Trans-oceanic passenger and freight rates may take a jump after the war, Lindsay says, because of conditions which will increase the cost of operation.

Expect Great Rush.

"However, this is a matter of speculation," said Lindsay, "and it is too early to give it great consideration."

The International Mercantile Marine now has four ships under construction and tentative plans are ready for the construction of several more. It is handling the anticipated rush of traffic from America to Europe, and the flood of European goods which will be thrust upon the American market.

Cunard and Anchor line officials said they were prepared to handle heavy traffic and that their vessels were being kept in shape that they may be put in service immediately an armistice or peace is declared.

Inquiries coming to the office of C. B. Steek of the Cunard line, indicate that many of those desiring to return to Europe immediately after the close of the war are foreigners who have come to America, become wealthy and now want to go to their home countries and aid in the work of rehabilitation. Applications for first class passage have been received in several instances from aliens who came to this country in the order of receipt and are subject to

Secured Million Dollars.

Chicago, Sept. 18.—Over a million dollars in said by government agents to have been secured from rich men and women all over the United States by four men and three women held here today on federal warrants under prohibitive bail.

The members of the blackmailing band will be arraigned before the federal authorities here Tuesday for proceedings seeking to return them to

COMMISSIONER HITS STUMP ON STEPS TO GUARD BORDER

Mexican Commissioners Fail to Meet Requirements in This

WANT WITHDRAWAL AND THIS UNCONDITIONALLY

Pershing's Forces Cannot Be Recalled Until Protection Is Provided

New London, Sept. 18.—The American and Mexican commissioners in session here today faced the first situation resembling a row which has arisen since their sessions opened.

It was learned that General Bliss definitely recommended to the commissioners the withdrawal of the American expedition from Mexico, concurring with General Funston. But the commissioners came near to a split over what steps should be taken as regards a border patrol after the American withdrawal.

Mexican Commissioner Caberera told the Americans he could not discuss collateral issues on which they have insisted. They must take up withdrawal first and finally, he said.

Resuming work after the week recess the American group found that its evidence failed to show conclusively Carranza's ability to do all the United States would have him do for protection of American interests. The Mexicans on the other hand held that early withdrawal of the American troops is essential to progress in quieting and reviving Mexico.

Carranza, Caberera indicated, has seen stories to the effect that stress was being laid on internal affairs. Both Carranza and Caberera are displeased at this, though as a matter of fact the American commissioners have sought to settle the basic problems of Mexico before determining upon border matters.

Caberera insisted that his powers were limited to the discussion of withdrawal and protection of the border. He indicated to newspaper men that matters are not altogether hopeless and that the afternoon session may clear the atmosphere. The American group of commissioners were silent, though apparently disturbed.

Indications are evident that the Mexican commissioners failed to meet in any sort of a satisfactory degree requirements as to their share of the burden of future protection although the American arbiters professed no intent of being arbitrary.

HUGHES STARTS OUT ON SECOND CAMPAIGN

Accompanied by Mrs. Hughes Will Keep Busy Until Election Day

By Perry Arnold.
(United Press staff correspondent.)

New York, Sept. 18.—Invigorated by a five days rest, Charles E. Hughes left New York at 8 a. m. today on his second campaign tour, and from now on will be on the road almost constantly until election day, November 7.

Mrs. Hughes found at the last moment that she could arrange her affairs so as to accompany her husband, and was with the candidate when their train pulled out for what will be one of the most energetic campaigns ever attempted by a presidential candidate. Hughes will spread his doctrine of republicanism in Illinois, Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York when he returns here September 29. The schedule calls for an average of 15 speeches a day. The Hughes party left in the car "National," attached to a special train. The entire train was made up of five cars to care for the party of 35, including secretaries and newspaper men.

During the trip the nominee will attend three state fairs and will wind up his trip at the informal state republican convention at Saratoga, N. Y., September 28.

Eleven Stage Stars to Make Perfect Woman

New York, Sept. 18.—Take the legs of Anna Pavlova, the body of Charlotte, Hippodrome skater, hands of Elsie Ferguson, eyes of Jane Cowell, mouth of Billie Burke, hair of Margot Kelly, neck of Mary Garden, Martha Hedeman's nose, the chin of Mae Marsh, Dixie Gerard's shoulders and Anna Pennington's feet and you would have a perfect woman. At least this is the opinion of a majority of the chorus girls at the Hippodrome. A ticket to the world's series was hung up as a prize for the best selection made from eleven stage stars to form an ideal composite woman.

Pavlova's legs ran far ahead in the contest.

Annette Kellerman's body was a close second to Charlotte's and Anna Held, Maxine Elliott and Julia Marlowe crowded Jane Cowell for the eye honors.

FOOD PRICES IN VIENNA

London, Sept. 18.—Food disorders have broken out in Vienna, said a Geneva dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph today. Beef is selling at \$4 a pound and rice at \$2 a pound. There is terrible distress among families of working men, the dispatch added.

WITNESS SWEARS HE SAW BILLINGS PLACE SUIT CASE

Says He Thought from Action He Had Stolen It So Watched Him

PUT CASE ON WALK JUST BEFORE EXPLOSION

Prosecution Will Call Other Witnesses to Corroborate This Story

San Francisco, Sept. 18.—Efforts to impeach the testimony of important state witnesses by showing that they may have been offered or received money by the police created a sensation during today's session of the trial of Warren K. Billings on charge of murder in connection with the preparedness day bomb explosion.

This is believed to be the "bomb shell" which counsel for the defense have been intimating they would explode in the case. Attorney McNutt intimated this course of action by the defense while cross examining John McDonald, a state witness who testified that he had seen Billings place a suitcase at Stewart and Market streets just prior to the explosion.

McDonald testified that his attention was called to the man, whom he identified as Billings by the man's peculiar actions. He declared he saw Billings come down Stewart street from the direction of Mission. He was carrying a suitcase and was continually glancing about. Witnesses said he believed at the time the man had stolen the suitcase so he watched his actions closely.

After placing the case near the saloon on the corner, Billings, according to the witness, entered the saloon and later emerged with a man, whom the witness identified as Thomas Mooney, also charged with murder.

Stuck to His Story.

The two then separately testified McDonald, Billings going back toward Mission street and Mooney disappearing into the crowd nearby.

Cross examining the witness, Attorney McNutt vigorously assailed the testimony.

"Do you know a barber named Frank Sunday?"

Witness said he did.

"Did you ever tell Sunday that, as though in a dream, you had seen a man plant the suitcase and later, when talking with Sunday and a laborer named Beach, say 'when these fellows go over the road I'll get mine and I'll go east in parlor cars.' And another day didn't you say you were getting paid for the work \$3 a day, which you thought the state was paying for?"

To both of these questions McDonald answered "no."

McDonald denied he told Captain Rockway of the Salvation Army "I'll go back to Baltimore on cushions when I get mine and these guys, Billings and Mooney are railroaded."

It is now believed that Sunday will be the first witness called by the defense, which will attempt to refute the testimony of McDonald.

Rockway will also be called.

Will Corroborate Story.

San Francisco, Sept. 18.—The strongest evidence yet presented by the state in the trial of Warren K. Billings, dynamite bomb suspect is expected this morning, following the announcement of the district attorney's office that it expects to close its direct case by noon. John McDonald and others said to have been seen placing a heavy suitcase at the corner where an explosion causing nine deaths are to be placed on the stand this forenoon.

The defense does not expect to introduce all of the 100 witnesses subpoenaed, according to Chief Counsel McNutt, McNutt's success in barring certain phases of the prosecution's theory from the case renders these witnesses unnecessary, says Billings' attorneys.

Strong rebuttal and sur-rebuttal on both sides is certain, both seeking in this way to weaken the witnesses opposing them.

THE WEATHER

SCHOOL OPENS TODAY

Oregon: Tonight and Tuesday fair, northerly winds.

BLACKMAILING GANG CAUGHT IN CHICAGO HAD "EARNED" MILLION

Chicago, Sept. 18.—Additional arrests of members of the alleged national blackmailing gang were expected today by United States operatives and police working here on the big plot.

H. C. Woodward said by investigators to be the brains of the gang, is being sought and H. S. Clabough, federal investigator, said today that federal authorities have positive clues that will lead to his arrest and that of another woman, in a few days.

Clabough also announced that Richard Barrett and Edward Thompson, whom he says were formerly members of the gang, have agreed to testify for the state. Their stories are said to have caused Sunday morning's raid.

The federal authorities stated today that they had in their possession names of a number of Chicago men and women, many of them rich who have been victimized by the band. They will be called into court to testify tomorrow if their stories are deemed necessary to the government's case in securing the removal of the eight under arrest.

Clabough said he had been advised that two men under arrest had been allowed to give bond in Philadelphia and New York and had shipped away.

Wire tapping schemes of magnitude, as well as blackmailing operations, are said to have been worked by those under arrest.

Philadelphia for Trial.

The charge on which removal will be sought is the kidnaping of a government witness at Philadelphia.

Mrs. Edward A. Klipper of Philadelphia who is said to have given \$400 to the swindlers was notified by the federal district attorney she would be called as a government witness. The wire had been tapped and before the marshal arrived a man representing himself to be the deputy marshal, called and asked Mrs. Klipper to go with him to the train. She awoke in Montreal, where she was detained. Mrs. Klipper is expected in Chicago late today to testify tomorrow.

The tango parlors, hotels and clubs of New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Atlantic City and other large cities and said to have been the favorite hunting grounds of the band. They have engaged Charles E. Erbein, a well known criminal lawyer and expert to have a strong fight for liberty.

Women Were the Bait.

The women of the party are alleged by government authorities to have been used to entrap rich men into compromising positions and then blackmail them. The men are said to have been similarly entrapped rich women.

The persons held in the county jail on federal warrants are: Edward Donahue, alias "Doc" Donahue; Mrs. Edward Donahue, Mrs. Helen Evers, alias Mrs. George W. Brown, Henry Russell, James Christian, alias H. J. Cross, George Bland, Mrs. Frances Allen, alias Mrs. Frances Chapman.

The number blackmailed in Chicago is estimated at from 75 to 100. Hauls

Blackmailing Gang Caught in Chicago Had "Earned" Million

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