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THE DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL

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MIXED MEXICAN SITUATION.

The present Mexican government, according to reports from Mexico City, refuses to be worried by the activities of the anti-Carranzistas so long as they confine their activities to "paper armies." But a perusal of the press reports emanating from the southern republic would indicate that the "paper army" to which the reports unquestionably refer--the unknown armed strength of the revolutionary movement recently launched by General Aurelio Blanquet--may easily develop into something far more substantial than the Carranzistas anticipate, or admit openly.

Carranza claims a well-equipped and loyal army numbering 100,000 men, while the Blanquet forces, with which are combined the few hundred bandits under Diaz, are said to be about 40,000 strong. The size of the opposing forces, however, is not a safe ground upon which to base a forecast of what the revolution may eventually amount to. Mexican soldiers, as past experience has demonstrated, are easily led and loyal to the leader who pays best for their loyalty. And General Blanquet may bid high for such troops of the government forces as he thinks he needs. Blanquet is not a second Villa, or even of the same cast. Besides having a record as a soldier behind him--he holds the rank of field marshal in the Mexican army--he is popular as a statesman of the conservative type and holds the sympathies of the land holding class of the country. Hence, his financial backing may be as substantial as that of the Carranza government. He is, one might say, a popular, though somewhat aged, idol of the land-holding class and picturesque enough to gain a following among the adventurers who make up the professional soldiery of Mexico.

Blanquet's chief strength lies in the probability that he will gain the solid support of the reactionary party of

the old pre-revolutionary regime, and the reactionaries, largely the political and military chieftains of Porfirio Diaz, have gradually gained power at Mexico City and now hold many important posts under Carranza. Added to this, the reactionaries practically control the military organization of Mexico and the loyalty of the troops depends, in a large measure, upon the loyalty of the reactionaries to Carranza. Former Diaz soldiers are said to hold practically half of the commissions in the present Mexican army.

Little heard of during recent months, but perfectly alive and waiting only the opportunity to turn his bandits loose in the northern part of the country, is friend Villa. It is not likely that Villa would join directly with the Blanquet forces, but with Blanquet entertaining the Carranzistas in the south, Villa could be counted on to start some fireworks in the north.

In spite of the press-agented calm of Carranza over the situation, it is not at all hard to believe that Mexico is becoming slightly jealous of the European revolution monopoly and preparing to stage a bolshevik tea-party of its own, minus the bolsheviks.

SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE FILIPINOS.

If it is admitted that the Filipinos are now ready for complete independence--and that is a question which will doubtless be fully debated in congress when it meets--there could hardly be a more opportune time for granting them their freedom.

There is no question, of course, regarding the policy to which the United States is committed. By repeated and explicit declarations the Filipinos have been promised their independence as soon as they proved themselves capable of self-government. Those pledges were given voluntarily, before the United States became involved in the world war, and before there was any of the current talk of "self-determination of peoples," as the only democratic and legitimate basis for settling the world's affairs.

In the last few weeks this principle, previously agreed to in theory by all the powers engaged in the war, has been finding trouble in its practical application. France and Italy are balking in the matter of letting the inhabitants of certain desired territories do their self-determining. So are all the enemy countries and most of the new republics risen out of the war's ruins. Great Britain, though apparently in a reasonable mood as regards new accessions of territory, finds the Irish problem more embarrassing than ever. Japan frankly demands certain islands by right of conquest and is in trouble over her domination of Korea.

In the midst of all this mess the United States is the only belligerent that asks nothing for herself. It is this disinterestedness that has done more than anything else to give the American delegation its prestige and power at the peace conference. Our material assets, our manpower and our good will are important factors, but the chief factor is our moral strength.

Obviously, we should add to that strength, if, at the very moment of insisting that the other powers allow small nationalities to determine their own destiny, we proceeded to exemplify the doctrine by freeing the one nation subject to American rule which wants its freedom.

Salem newspapers are bigger and better now than they ever were before, because Salem is a bigger and better town than ever before. Newspapers and the communities in which they are published grow together, except that the newspaper generally keeps a few laps in advance and points the way to progress. No one ever saw a dead community that possessed a live newspaper.

RIPPLING RHYMES

By Walt Mason

WATCHING AND WAITING.

Watchfully we all are waiting; how will things come out at last? Will the Germans quit their hating and live down their ugly past? Will they see that hate's an error, will they fully realize that to rule the world by error isn't possible or wise? Will the German love his neighbor in the golden days of peace, or be anxious to belabor 't' other fellow with a creese? Oh, I do not trust the German, though he act like Sunny Jim, though he hand me out a sermon or put up a pious hymn; he is great at talking virtue, he has morals by the stack; but he'll take a club and hurt you if you chance to turn your back. I'm afraid the German's hating with more passion than before; while he cringes he is waiting for another whirl of gore. Now he is of humble seeming, speaking in remorseful tones; but I fear he's always dreaming of more corpses and more bones. He is ready with his pledges, he will spring them with a will; but the German always hedges when he comes to pay the bill. "I'll be true and good," he belches, "I'll be pure, already yet;" but the German always welves when it's time to pay a bet. Oh, I hope he'll be a winner, that his virtue won't grow faint; but I never trust the sinner who becomes a sudden saint.

Wilhelm and von Hindenburg were not the only bluffers among the Prussian war lords. Documents recently found in the archives of the Austrian foreign office tell of an interview between Count Czernin, then Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, and General Ludendorff. When Czernin told Ludendorff that internal conditions in Austria were so bad they would have to sue for a separate peace, the latter is said to have replied, "If you try that I will march on Vienna." Several hundred thousand Austrians were killed in battle after that.

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company made more money last year than ever before. And in face of the excessive dividends it is paying it now asks for a raise in rates. There is not the slightest ground for asking or reason for granting, this request, taking the company's own statements of its operating receipts and expenses.

Wonder if it wouldn't be possible to end the peace conference by some kind of an armistice by which the talk would end at a certain hour and minute?

Aside from the prospects for an extra session of congress the outlook for after-the-war reconstruction is decidedly rosy from every standpoint.

This is going to be Salem's biggest year of growth, making up for the past five years of comparative inactivity.

We ought to have a local baseball team as conclusive evidence that things are normal again, if for nothing else.

THE PROMOTER'S WIFE

BY JANE PHELPS

BAE'S INDIGNATION IS ALL DIRECTED AGAINST BLANCHE ORTON.

CHAPTER XVI

I was terribly indignant with Neil. Nothing, I told him, could exceed the business of his proceedings. That he should make Blanche Orton, a widow, the repository of his business affairs, was scandalous. There were clubs, restaurants and hotels where he could take such men as we could not receive in our home. It wasn't necessary to take them--and incidentally himself--to her. He listened for a while in silence. He had exhausted himself before I had a chance to say all that was in my mind. Then he broke out:

"You refused to help me. You ever thought you are angry because of Blanche's kindness to me have not offered to do what she is doing--help me. You are too high and mighty to make yourself agreeable to men who mean success to me, money for you. Yet you object to my having a friend who cares enough for me to make herself attractive to my business acquaintances that she helps me already more than you ever have in all the years we have been married."

I recalled what she said about getting rested so she could properly entertain and interest some one who hurried her.

She did this for Neil.

The full significance of this action on her part rushed over me. She was in love with Neil and had taken this way to make him care for her. She had been in love with him before Orton died. I thought bitterly, as I recalled many little things which were unnoticed at the time because I had thought of her as married, and so not free. Now

they fairly glared at me. Had Neil also loved her? Did he care for her now as a woman, or only as a means to an end? That, I must know at all hazards, and--at once.

Jealousy of her was the predominant feeling now. I cared nothing about the business, her connection with it. It was Blanche Orton, the fascinating widow with whom I was occupied.

"What did you do after you finished eating?" I asked. "You certainly didn't stay at the table until one o'clock? I recall distinctly that was the hour you came in."

"No, if you feel interested, we played cards." His sarcasm nearly made me cry, but I winked the tears back and asked:

"Bridge?"

"No, poker--Haltman wouldn't play bridge. He calls it a woman's game."

"Unconsciously I registered that name for future use," Haltman said.

"Did you play for high stakes?"

"Fairly high."

"Can't you tell me things without my having to pry everything out of you?"

"And so when you the great pleasure you seem to find in questioning me I would not be so cruel."

I rushed from the room at this answer, and threw myself upon the bed, sobbing and crying bitterly. I wanted him to tell me all about that dinner, and while he had not refused to answer my questions, he HAD refused to talk about it or to satisfy my curiosity in any way.

He had gambled too! Was that something else men had to do to get business from those common men? I didn't believe it any more than I believed it was necessary that they should be entertained in our home.

"I suppose she was all dressed up in some of her queer gowns?" I said to myself when I grew more calm. "They are only intended to make men stare anyway!"

I realized, long after, that all my indignation that day was directed toward Blanche Orton, instead of toward Neil. What right had she to even ally him to make her home a business rendezvous?

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vous? How dared she invite him and his business friends to dinner and slight me, his wife? No! that I wanted to go if those horrid men were there; but was it her place to give me the chance to refuse, if she asked my husband?

That she knew I had refused to entertain men of Haltman's stamp and had offered to help Neil by having them at her home, would have angered me still further had I known it.

(To Be Continued)

EASTERN STAR AT TURNER

Victoria Chapter, No. 76, O. E. S., held a very interesting and enjoyable meeting in the Masonic lodge room Wednesday night.

Visitors from Salem and Aumsville were present, and the work put on by the different officers of the lodge, in the initiation, was perfect and called forth much praise from the members of the Salem Star.

A program was given, consisting of vocal and instrumental music, the beautiful, new piano being used for the first time. A recitation was also given by Miss Luella Gray.

At a late hour the members and guests, joined the friends who were waiting in the room below, where all then became seated at the beautifully decorated tables and proceeded to enjoy the usual acts which were set before them. Short talks were given and a social time enjoyed. The genial atmosphere was so keenly felt that the company seemed loath to leave until the wee small hours of the morning.

Tribune.

TURNER PARENT TEACHERS

A large and enthusiastic audience was present at the Parent-Teachers' meeting last Friday night. The program arranged was splendid and each participant did exceedingly well. The address of welcome by Prof. Blough was commendable.

The recitation delivered by Miss Luella Gray was one of the best that our people have ever had. The possession of hearing. The vocal and instrumental music was very fine and well rendered. The violin solo by Miss Ruby Lister was highly appreciated by the audience and showed great talent for one of her age. The reading by Miss Jewel Steele was well given, and the pupils of Mrs. Maranda and Miss Smith's rooms, usual, pleased the onlookers.

The talk of Mrs. M. L. Fulkerson on primary work was not unfavorably approved by those present. Ideas not put into practical use are null and void. Many suggestions made were impractical. Farmers should know when they need the labor of their children, not the teacher. Her talk could have been more harmonious and not so critical.

All the present teachers have been reappointed for another year.

Tribune.

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Dort owners and others should send for the "War Memorial Number" of our periodical, DORT DOINGS, published January 15. It tells a graphic story, mostly in pictures, of this company's activities during the war and will prove a valuable souvenir to those interested in the big part played by the automobile industry in the great conflict. Yours for the asking.



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