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Villa's Spectacular March On Torreon Nearing An End

Not Long Before His Army of 12,000 Will Begin Siege of Torreon—Gen. Villa is Confident That Fight Will be Short.

Cavalry Charges Against Federal Outposts Have Been Disastrous to Federals—In one Charge 106 Were Left Dead—The Latest Dispatches.

By Associated Press. Bernalillo, Mexico, March 23.—Officers from the extreme front returned today after viewing some of the federal fortifications through field glasses. They reported the defenses were elaborate and laid out according to the latest approved methods so that troops might move from trench to trench without exposing themselves. Fresh earth was said to mark the lurking places of the enemy's big guns. Some of the barbed wire entanglements were visible. Troops continued to pour into Bernalillo from the north today. Nearly all of the supplies from Yermo now are here.

Spectacular March Near End. Bernalillo, Durango, Constitutional Field Base, March 23.—Marked by sharp brushes with the enemy, General Francisco Villa's spectacular march against Torreon which began last Friday was nearing an end today. Only a few haciendas and suburban towns remained between his army of 12,000 and the beginning of the actual siege of Torreon. At no point does the rebel leader expect to meet strong resistance unless it be at Lerdo, a short distance north of Torreon. Reports are that a more or less formidable garrison of federals has been placed by General Refugio Velasco in Lerdo to check the constitutionalists.

Cerro La Pila, a huge mountain which overlooks Gomez Palacio and which is supposed to be fortified by the federals is the only other matter of concern to General Villa but he does not believe that any considerable body of soldiers would detach themselves from the main army at Torreon more than three miles from the mountain.

With the possible exception of the reported garrison at Lerdo, a defending party on La Pila would have no support and General Villa believes it would have to fall back on Torreon after a long range defense with the big guns which are said to be planted on the mountain side.

Villa is confident that only a few days and little fighting will pass before his army is investing Torreon proper. He maintains that his force is so great as to completely overwhelm any outposts which they may meet before reaching Torreon, believing that General Velasco has kept the Torreon garrison intact.

The skirmishes which the rebels have already engaged in have been more like play than a part of war. They have seemingly delighted in cavalry charges against the federal outposts. At this little city the rout was having lost 106 dead in one of the cavalry charges over in troops, they were sent to the heart of Bernalillo, where the rebels finally halted.

Reports of Attack Unconfirmed. El Paso, Texas, March 23.—Published reports that rebels began an important suburb of Torreon, yesterday today. The last word received at El Paso today was the Juarez telephone office closed was that there had been no fighting.

The Parleys at Vera Cruz. Washington, March 23.—Information has been received by President Wilson that the parleys at Vera Cruz between John Lind and Senator Francisco Rojas, United States minister for affairs, have not reached the point of formal negotiations or definite proposals.

Interest in official circles was aimed entirely on fighting at Torreon, where negotiations will crystallize after the battle.

General Bites, commander of the border forces, reported today that a detachment of a battle below Cuernavaca, opposite Zapata, had been dispatched from Michoacan to Zapata.

Surrender to Border Patrol. Rio Rio, Tex., March 23.—Twenty-five constitutionalist soldiers of the Cuernavaca, Mexico, opposite Zapata, had been dispatched from Michoacan to Zapata.

MOTHER MARY JONES TODAY FACES REARREST

By Associated Press. Denver, Colo., March 23.—"Mother" Mary Jones, labor leader who returned to Trinidad last night where coal miners are on strike faced rearrest today by military authorities. Governor Ammons said that he had issued no instructions for her arrest but that he feared her presence in Trinidad at this time would result in bloodshed. A week ago today "Mother" Jones came to Denver after three months imprisonment in San Rafael hospital. At the time she declared she would return to Trinidad at once to urge her "boys to fight and to encourage the wives of the striking miners."

If she is rearrested at Trinidad atorneys for the mine workers said habeas corpus proceedings would be taken up at once. Again a Military Prisoner. Walsenburg, Colo., March 23.—After a week's freedom "Mother" Mary Jones is again a military prisoner in the strike zone. She was taken from a south-bound Colorado & Southern train today by Captain H. C. Nicker under military guard.

"Mother" Jones is held incommunicado. Captain Nicholson left Trinidad last night under orders from Adjutant General Chase to arrest "Mother" Jones at Walsenburg. The officers boarded the train at Pueblo and as it neared Walsenburg ordered "Mother" to alight.

"I protest against such treatment," declared the strike leader, "but I am not surprised." "I am acting under orders," replied the officer.

"Well, I'll get off," she retorted. Calls it Kidnapping. Trinidad, Colo., March 23.—"It's a plain case of kidnapping, nothing else," declared John R. Lawson, international board member of the United Mine Workers when advised that "Mother" Jones had been taken from a train at Walsenburg by military officers.

"Mother" Jones was going through the place and so far as I know there is absolutely no charge against her," declared the officer.

DREADNAUGHT OKLAHOMA LAUNCHED TODAY

By Associated Press. Philadelphia, March 23.—The superdreadnaught Oklahoma, one of the largest and most powerful battleships afloat, was launched today from the yards of the New York Shipbuilding Company at Camden, N. J. The giant sea fighter was christened by Miss Lorena Jane Cruce, daughter of the Governor of Oklahoma, who crashed a bottle of champagne against the ship's great prow as the hull began to glide into the Delaware river. Miss Cruce was surrounded by a dozen girl friends from Oklahoma.

Surrounding the christening party were Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Daniels; Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, members of the congressional naval committee, the Oklahoma delegation in congress, state officials and other Oklahomans.

Governor Cruce, of Oklahoma, was detained at home. Tugs warped the great hull into a dock near the Argentine battleship Moreno and the Chinese cruiser Fiehungs.

In honor of the ceremony the flag of Oklahoma waved today over historic Independence Hall.

LAST LAP OF CHICAGO CAMPAIGN

By Associated Press. Chicago, March 23.—With election day scarcely more than a fortnight distant, Illinois today started on the last lap of a political contest which has developed much interest because of the woman vote.

EQUIPMENT OF ROOSEVELT PARTY LOST

While Trying to Explore the "River of Doubt" All Equipment Was Swept Away in the Rapids—No Lives Lost.

Brief Message Bears This News—The Colonel Was Going Deep Into Brazilian Wilds—May Be Some Time Before Complete Story is Known.

By Associated Press. New York, March 23.—Col. Theodore Roosevelt's family and friends were anxiously awaiting further news today about the accident by which his party lost its entire equipment in the rapids of a Brazilian river. While no concern, it was stated, was felt for the colonel's safety, yet his family wanted to learn details of the accident and whether the expedition would be abandoned, especially as the party was so far from an equipment base.

News of the mishap came in a brief message from Anthony Flala, a member of the party. It was dated at Santarem, Brazil, yesterday and read: "We have lost everything in the rapids. Telephone my wife of my safety."

Santarem is in Para state at the confluence of the Tapajoz river with the Amazon and the dispatch was probably sent there by courier. The accident in all probability occurred on an unknown river which Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., today said his father had called "River of Doubt."

Col. Roosevelt in a letter written on January 16 from Tahiraopan in Mato Grosso, a province in the south central part of Brazil, received last week by Frank M. Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History, said that he expected to explore this unknown river. He wrote:

"We are now about to go into the real wilderness where we shall have to travel light and can hardly collect any big animals. In a month or six weeks we shall reach the headwaters of an unexplored river. If my health continues good, as I expect, I think it possible that I will go down this river to try and find out where it comes out, taking Kermit, Flala and Cherrie with me as well as Col. Randon and one or two of the Brazilians."

Meanwhile the rest of the party, including Miller, will go straight to Madeira and come down that to Manaus. Miller will then collect around Manaus or elsewhere until Kermit, Cherrie and I turn up. It is not possible to give a forecast as to the time that will be required."

Headwaters of the unknown river which Col. Randon at one time crossed, according to Col. Roosevelt's letters, are in Mato Grosso, between the Madeira and Tapajoz rivers, two great streams which flow northward to join the Amazon.

What equipment was necessary to make the trip down this unknown river is largely a matter of conjecture. Col. Roosevelt does not state in any of his letters what means of transportation he would use in descending the stream. It is believed that nothing heavier than canoes could have been carried on the 500 mile journey on horseback to the "River of Doubt."

The great danger in descending the streams that flow northward to Brazil to join the Amazon is in the many rapids and falls. The plateau, extending through Paraguay and Brazil for 2,000 miles, which is on the average 2,000 to 4,000 feet above sea level slopes abruptly to the floor of the Amazon valley. For this reason some of the greatest waterfalls in the world are found in these tributaries.

It is possible that after the expedition lost the equipment the members continued on their way down stream on rafts or on foot. It is probable that their journey took them to the Tapajoz and that some members of the party went on down the river ahead to that place.

The specimens of natural history collected by the party on its trip up the Parana and Paraguay rivers are safe, it is understood here, as the colonel had indicated he would ship them before he entered the Brazilian wilds. The loss in the rapids, outside of food, arms, camp material and instruments, undoubtedly includes the birds and animals killed and photographs from the time the party started on the horseback trip over the plateau.

Col. Roosevelt has planned to arrive next month at Manaus. From there he was to start for Madrid to attend the marriage of his son Kermit to Miss Belle Willard, of Virginia, daughter of the American ambassador.

MME. CAILLAUX, SLAYER OF PARIS EDITOR, AND HUSBAND SHE AVENGED



Paris, March 23.—The trial of Mme. Joseph Caillaux for killing Gaston Calmette, editor of Figaro, will be the most important since the Dreyfus case. Politics has already begun to play a part in the intense drama behind the cabinet soon after the shooting, and Ernest Monis, minister of marine, followed. It is certain that Calmette's friends will try to unearth all the secrets of Caillaux's political life. The case is bound to attract international attention for months.

MANY RUMORS OF FALL OF THE FRENCH CABINET

By Associated Press. Paris, March 23.—Many rumors were current in political circles today as to the probable fall of the French cabinet as a sequel to revelations of government influence having been brought to bear to procure a postponement of the trial of Henri Rochette, alleged swindler.

In "obstacles of the chamber of deputies and the senate it was said that announcements would be made shortly of the resignations of Albert Lebrun, minister for the colonies, Rene Viviani, minister of public instruction, and Andre Maginot, under secretary of state for war.

It was argued among members that in case the cabinet continues in office it will probably be only because the opposition groups are unwilling to form a government until after the elections in April.

CAPT. HOLLERBACH DROWNED

By Associated Press. Evansville, Ind., March 23.—Captain Arch Hollerbach, 69 years old, a government contractor, was drowned today when the steamboat Old Reliable sank in the Ohio near Galconda, Ill. Nine of the crew escaped. A barge of rock towed by the boat sprang a leak and before the crew could cut the tow ropes it sank, dragging the steamer down in thirty feet of water.

News Advertising Facts

In C. W. Allison's advertisement today he says: "Two weeks ago a party gave me his home to sell—been trying to sell it for over a year. I advertised it in THE NEWS and sold it this week."

'NUF 'CED.

BIG N. Y. BANK ENDORSES DUKE PLAN

Officers of Bank Say They Will Advance as Much as Fifty Millions on Duke Warehouse Cotton Receipts—Endorse the Duke Plan Heartily.

Declare it Will Greatly Facilitate the Financial Operations of Spinners and Declare That it Will Create Excellent Commercial Paper.

The National City Bank of New York is willing to advance \$50,000,000 on cotton warehouse receipts when the Duke warehouse corporation is in operation.

Directors of that bank have met and heartily endorsed the Duke plan as will be seen from the following story taken from Saturday's New York Journal of Commerce:

James B. Duke's plan for the organization of \$5,000,000 warehouse company, which is to operate a chain of cotton warehouses in the South, has the endorsement of the National City Bank, of which he is a director. Officers of the bank who have studied his "proposition said yesterday that the scheme would not only facilitate the financing operations of spinners and manufacturers but would create excellent commercial paper, which would be sought for by leading banks under the new federal reserve system.

"In his undertaking Mr. Duke has the support and co-operation of Stuart W. Cramer and other members of the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association, who are to be the principal beneficiaries of the proposed warehouse plan. The \$5,000,000 warehouse corporation is not only to build new storage houses but will take over a number of warehouses now owned, or controlled by the big spinner, interests. This corporation is to operate the warehouse, inspect the cotton as to weight and grade and issue warehouse receipts. These receipts are to be guaranteed either by the company itself or by some responsible surety or banking institution. According to the best view, these receipts will be the very best kind of collateral for loans, a certain allowance for fluctuations in price being made, of course.

"It was pointed out yesterday that at the present time mill owners are frequently unable to get the cash they need, and under the circumstances are obliged to make 'hand to mouth' purchases to meet current demands. With his cotton stored either in a small local or big warehouse, the spinner is compelled to borrow money on the cotton in a narrow local market and must in consequence pay comparatively high interest rates. On the other hand, with the cotton stored with a large concern of country-wide reputation, the spinner could sell his paper, practically any market and this would mean that he could borrow nearer the limit and at lower interest rates.

"It was stated yesterday that the National City Bank alone would advance \$50,000,000 on such collateral. It is to the spinners' interest to buy cotton early in the season, when they are likely to get better grades; but owing to difficulties in financing, they are unable to do so. With a warehouse system along the lines proposed by Mr. Duke, the spinner could buy their cotton at a time and in quantities most advantageous to them, store the staple, and get money from the bank on the warehouse receipts. Notes secured by member banks are eligible for rediscount by the federal reserve bank.

"The precise details of Mr. Duke's plan are not available. It is expected that upon his return to New York next week, Mr. Duke will hold a conference with banking interests here, following which a statement will be issued describing all the features of the undertaking."

IMPORTANT DECISION ON FREIGHT TRAFFIC

By Associated Press. Washington, March 23.—The interstate commerce commission today announced this principle, which applies to all freight traffic: "A carload minimum weight which is reasonably adapted to the needs of the carriers and the great majority of shippers will not be increased because one shipper, by the expenditure of exceptional effort and expense, finds himself able to load more heavily than can his competitor; neither will this commission under such circumstances prescribe a lower rate per 100 pounds conditions upon the use of a higher minimum weight as the measure of the carload."

Motion to Quash Indictment Denied. Houghton, Mich., March 23.—A motion to quash the indictment charging conspiracy against President Charles H. Moyer and thirty-seven other officers and members of the Western Federation of Miners was denied today by Circuit Judge O'Brien.

CONSUL SAYS BENTON WAS STABBED

Declares That the Movement of Troops Was Only a Precautionary Step to Protect Government Property—As to Resignation of Officers.

Sir Edward Carson Declares Unionists Will go Ahead With Their Organization, Being Determined Not to be Put Under a Government They Detest.

By Associated Press. Washington, March 23.—British Consul Perceval's official report on the killing of William S. Benton by General Villa at Juarez received at the embassy here today says: "No pistol shots were fired in the fight which ended in the ranchman's death, leaving the inference that he was stabbed."

Consul Perceval's report was the result of his investigation conducted at Juarez, British ambassador. It does not make any definite charge as to the manner of Benton's death further than to establish that it was not by shooting as was first said by Villa, who explained that the Englishman had been executed by a firing squad after court martial. Friends of Benton on the spot charged that Villa himself had shot his ranchman with a pistol.

The broad inference that Benton was stabbed is regarded as especially significant in connection with other information received here that the consular commission which investigated the affair has found that Benton was stabbed by one of Villa's officers who is expected to be tried.

Consul Perceval's report also states that Benton went to Villa unarmed to protest against the theft of his cattle and that finding agrees with the contention of Benton's friends.

WILSON ENDORSES THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT

Special to The News. Raleigh, March 23.—The special committee of which Clarence F. Johnson is chairman, heading the movement for a convention of progressive democrats, received today from President Wilson, a letter in which the president heartily endorses the movement for progressives for a state-wide primary system in this state and says he is surprised that so progressive a state as North Carolina has not already adopted it.

Mr. Poe makes public the names of about hundred endorsers of the progressive committee movement.

LINGERING SNOW MEANS BIGGER AND BETTER CROPS

By Associated Press. Washington, March 23.—Prospects for big crops in 1914 are particularly bright at this time as the result of the almost continuous succession of snowstorms over the country. In the opinion of officials of the department of agriculture, the longer the snow blanket lingers, they declare, the more grows the assurance of big crops of more stock feed and lower prices.

"If this snow blanket will only take its time in departing," said Dr. J. A. Bonesteel of the bureau of soils today, "we will have a better crop start this year than for several seasons. To date conditions could hardly be more ideal."

CHAMPS TO PLAY SAVANNAH INDIANS.

Savannah, Ga., March 23.—The first team of the world champion Athletics arrived here this morning from Jacksonville. They will play the Savannah Indians of the South Atlantic League this afternoon and will leave at midnight tonight for Charleston for a game with the Charleston team tomorrow. Secretary John Shibe is in charge of the team with the exception of Chief Bender.

Premier Asquith's Statement Relieves Situation Somewhat

Declares That the Movement of Troops Was Only a Precautionary Step to Protect Government Property—As to Resignation of Officers.

Sir Edward Carson Declares Unionists Will go Ahead With Their Organization, Being Determined Not to be Put Under a Government They Detest.

By Associated Press. London, March 23.—Misunderstanding was the keynote of Premier Asquith's explanation today of the crisis resulting from resignations of army officers when their regiments were ordered to prepare to proceed to Ulster. Speaking in the house of commons, the prime minister made it clear, however, that officers and men refusing to obey orders in connection with the opposition of Ulster to the introduction of home rule for Ireland were liable to dismissal.

Details of the revolt of the army of officers against service in Ulster had been awaited with strained expectation by the whole country. Only brief statements were forthcoming from the secretary of war and the premier, and the gist of these was that the whole affair was due to "misunderstanding," and that all the officers had now returned to their duty.

As far as the minister's statements can be interpreted, the "misunderstanding" arose through General Sir Arthur Paget placing a wrong construction on the orders given him by the war office and telling his subordinates they were to be employed in quelling an uprising in Ulster. The number of officers who resigned their commissions, the extent of the construction in the army, and other details were not disclosed.

Colonel Seely was desirously jeered during his explanation. Andrew Bonar Law, leader of the opposition, had stated that "nothing can save the army now except a declaration that officers will not be compelled to engage in civil war against their wish." Sir Edward Asquith refused to serve against Ulster were only doing their duty, the labor members shouted. "How about strikers?"

The whole affair is generally accepted as demonstrating that the army cannot be compelled upon to fight Sir Edward Carson's volunteers if such a contingency should arise. Opposition politicians declare that this means the collapse of the home rule project and express their belief that the government may soon relinquish office by its own choice.

London, March 23.—Interest in disaffection in the army arising from the newest phase of the home rule situation was displayed in the house of commons this afternoon when the house was crowded to listen to a statement from Colonel Seely, secretary of state for war.

The communication made by Colonel Seely was brief and utterly vague. The gist of it was that some officers had informed General Sir Arthur Paget, commander-in-chief in Ireland, that they could not serve in certain contingencies. There was, he said, a misunderstanding in these officers had been ordered to rejoin their regiments. The movement of troops, he concluded, was solely in order to protect the stores of government arms and ammunition.

Both Premier Asquith and Andrew Bonar Law, leader of the opposition, recognized the widespread anxiety for an exhaustive debate on the subject by agreeing to a motion for the adjournment of the house immediately after the secretary for war had spoken in order to discuss the "Irish situation." The leader of the opposition declared the government's procedure was a most amazing instance of paltering with the house of commons. The danger of the British army being destroyed before the country's eyes had, he said, come on the government like a bolt from the blue. He had, he declared, received proof from other quarters apart from the cavalry regiments that resignations of officers had occurred.

The opposition leader read a letter stating that officers who would not fight against the Ulstermen would be dismissed from the service.

The action of the government in moving troops, Mr. Law declared, was foolish as there was no new situation in Ulster nor any threatened outbreak.

The opposition leader read a letter in which General Sir Arthur Paget had stated to the commanding officers of regiments that active operations were to begin against Ulster and that it was expected the country would be in a blaze by Saturday. The Irish commander-in-chief wrote that he was in close communication with the war office and had received instructions from headquarters. Mr. Law asserted: "It will be difficult for the prime minister to convince the public that with or without his knowledge some movements of troops as part of a concerted plan to provoke or intimidate Ulster."

Mr. Law asked whether General Hu (Continued on Page Nine.)