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Reports Indicate That Fighting Is Progressing At Torreon

Brief Dispatches Reaching Juarez Indicate That Battle is Still Raging—Constitutionalists Believe Villa Will Soon Win.

Mexican Embassy at Capital Declares Torreon Has Not Fallen and Will Not Fall—Reports Show Heavy Death List.

By Associated Press. Juarez, Mexico, March 31.—Fighting continues at Torreon, according to information given by rebel officers at Juarez today.

Rebel leaders contend that the main battle for supremacy was fought last week at Gomez Palacio where soldiers of both sides fell by hundreds in the desperate conflict.

Losses at Gomez Palacio were so heavy, it was said, that neither side was now capable of repeating so determined a battle. In Torreon, the fighting is said to be from building to building without any open charges or concentrated assaults.

Gomez Palacio was taken by storm after three sanguinary assaults, according to the brief reports thus far received. A report that reached Juarez last night when some correspondents arrived from the front indicated that the federalists might have driven Villa's army back in confusion if they had known how to follow up their advantage.

Confidence in General Villa's ultimate victory was restored among constitutionalist sympathizers here today by receipt of various semi-official reports that the rebel leader had forced General Velasco's federal army to its last stand in the general barracks at Torreon. Opinions were freely expressed, even by army officers here, that fighting cannot last much longer and that it has continued thus far in an extremely desperate manner.

General Villa, it is suggested, thoroughly understands the hazard he would run in withdrawing his forces toward Chihuahua subject to attack from the rear from the federalists. General Velasco's army is as bad a plight as ever. It would have to cross an uninhabited desert devoid of natural defense to reach Torreon. Driven from the barracks in Torreon the federalists would be subjected to whatever measure of slaughter General Villa chose to mete out to them.

It is believed here that the week's fighting has left the rebel army better provisioned, both in arms and supplies, than it has the federalists and that repeated reports have been received that the federalists are making their last stand leads to hope among constitutionalists that news of a rebel victory will soon be forthcoming.

Desperate Resistance. Chihuahua, Mexico, March 31.—While rebel officers are optimistic about the outcome of the battle at Torreon they said today that the absence of official reports indicated General Villa was meeting with stubborn resistance.

The telegraph office is accepting telegrams addressed to Gomez Palacio care of General Villa but thus far none addressed to newspaper men has been replied to.

Torreon Has Not Fallen. Washington, March 31.—The Mexican embassy here today received the following message from the foreign office in Mexico City: "Torreon has not fallen and the government is quite confident that it will not fall, according to the latest reports received by the government from the front."

Trying to Weigh the Moon. Chicago, March 31.—Experiments for weighing and measuring the moon are being conducted by scientists at the University of Chicago. Continuing observations which satisfied them that the earth is a rigid body offering enormous resistance to the attraction of planets. The effect of the sun on the tide will be compared to the effect of the moon and by interpreting the results the scientists hope to determine the weight of the moon compared with that of the sun.

Pistol Toters Sentenced. New York, March 31.—As a warning to persons who either through carelessness or willfulness violate the law against carrying concealed weapons, Judge Roskelly today sentenced 25 persons who had pleaded guilty to carrying revolvers, blackjacks, slingshots or razors, the sentences ranging from fine of \$5 to terms from three years and one month to six years and six months in Sing Sing.

Many of these sentenced were charged with having a revolver in their possession or in their place of business. This is a violation of the law.

NEW TARIFFS FILED BY ROADS ARE SUSPENDED

By Associated Press.

Washington, March 31.—All new tariffs filed by railroads eliminating allowances to industrial railroads were suspended today by the interstate commerce commission until July 30th, with the exception of those affecting the United States Steel Corporation and other iron and steel companies, which were permitted to stand.

Approximately 4,000 tariffs were suspended. They were submitted in compliance with the commission's findings in the industrial railroads case in which it was held that allowances and divisions of rates made by trunk lines with certain industrial railways operated by iron and steel companies in Eastern territory were in effect, rebates and should be discontinued. No tariffs affecting the industrial railways covered by the decision in the industrial railroads case that have not had their "day in court" are granted a suspension of the tariffs affecting them.

Elimination of allowances and divisions with the industrial roads operated by the United States Steel Corporation and other iron and steel companies in the East were permitted to stand. That will mean that, unless the courts enjoin the trunk lines from discontinuing the allowances or the commission should give a hearing of the industrial railroads case the tariffs will be effective against those of other iron and steel companies. It is estimated by experts of the commission that elimination of such payments would mean an annual loss to the Steel Corporation alone of about \$3,000,000.

New York, March 31.—Henry Siegel, bankrupt banker and merchant under indictment for grand larceny and violation of state banking laws, is named as defendant in a suit for absolute divorce which counsel for Mrs. Marie Vaughn Siegel said would be filed today. It is understood two correspondents are named.

Mrs. Siegel was the widow of Geo. M. Wilde, brother of Rear Admiral Wilde, U. S. N., when she came to New York from her home in Virginia in search of work. She was employed as a newspaper writer and was assigned to write a story about the Siegel stores when they opened. There she met Siegel. She resigned from the staff of the newspaper and went to work for Siegel. In 1908 they were married.

Until four years ago Siegel and his wife maintained luxurious establishments in New York, Mamoroneck and London.

Four years ago Mrs. Siegel went abroad. Then the fact that the couple was said to be paying his wife \$25,000 a year. These payments, however, some time ago after Siegel's affairs became involved.

Mrs. Siegel arrived in New York from Paris about five weeks ago. She consulted her attorneys and they began preparation of the complaint against the merchant-banker.

By Associated Press. London, March 31.—After a week of sensational developments in connection with the Ulster situation, the House of Commons today started the debate on the second reading of the home rule bill for Ireland. It is expected the measure will occupy the House for at least three days.

The absence of Mr. Asquith, who was in charge of the bill, was bitterly complained of by the Unionists. It is reported from Dublin that Premier Asquith is to be opposed in the House by Lord Curzon, who is head of the transport workers' union, was leader of the strike in Dublin last autumn. In connection with the strike, Mr. Larkin was sentenced to seven months imprisonment in October for inciting to riot, but was later released.

Viscount Morley, Lord President of the council, today abandoned his intention of resigning from the cabinet, intimated in the House of Lords yesterday.

The cabinet met today and the strongest pressure was brought to bear on Lord Morley not to add to the difficulties of his colleagues by giving up his office.

A WHOLE COVEY OF POSTMASTERS. Washington, March 31.—Congressman Webb today recommended the appointment of the following for postmasters, following the fourth class examination and they will probably be appointed: Drexel, C. S. Berry; Cranberry, D. W. Mackie; Sherrill's Ford, C. W. Brown; Henry, C. L. Havner; Stackhouse, Henry; Stackhouse; Paw Creek, T. M. Beatty; Hot Springs, Thomas Frisbee; Minneapolis, R. Z. Burleson; Caesar, Andrew Brackett; Bellwood, Thad C. Ford.

Congressman Page recommended the appointment of J. E. Muse at Carthage as postmaster, a presidential office. He also recommended the appointment of the following fourth class postmasters: Coolee, Jacob C. Foster; Denton, J. L. Varner; Franklinville, Louis F. Sentris; Gibson, Wm. Z. Gibson.

COL. J. D. B. SEELY. Col. Seely, who yesterday resigned as British secretary of war, and was succeeded in that position by Premier Asquith, himself.

THE WEATHER.

Forecast for North Carolina: Cloudy tonight and Wednesday probably showers in west portion. Moderate to brisk northeast and east winds.

CHAMP CLARK MADE NO ATTACK ON WILSON

He Disappointed Those Who Had Expected Him to Assail Administration—There is no Break in the Party, He Says.

Calls Article in New York World on His Attitude "Scurrilous and Slanderous"—Idea of Losing the Speakership, Does Not Worry Him.

By Associated Press. Washington, March 31.—Speaker Clark, closing debate against the repeal, disappointed those who expected him to attack President Wilson. He disclaimed any personal issue with the president, declared he believed Mr. Wilson was actuated by the highest patriotic motives and that there was no breach in the democratic party.

He argued at length against the president's contention and declared that "the amazing request of the president for a repeal, like the peace of God, passeth all understanding." He disclaimed any personal issue between the president and himself and added that if the president had reasons "which are not utterly unobjectionable and which compel him to make this request," he would not give them to the house. He differed with the president's statement that the exemption was "a mistaken economic policy" but admitting dispute on that point, proposed that the exemption was repugnant to the Hay-Pauncefote treaty.

"We want war with no nation," said the speaker, "but rather than surrender our right to complete sovereignty over every square foot of our globe encircling domain we will cheerfully and courageously face a world in arms." He attacked the attitude of house democrats who have offered the president's fight for the toll exemption repeal. Referring to published declarations that his opposition to the president was the "opening gun of his fight for the nomination in 1916," the speaker declared he had

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OKLAHOMA MOB LYNCHED NEGRO WOMAN

By Associated Press.

Muskogee, Okla., March 31.—Mary Scott, a negro woman who killed Lemuel Peace, a young white man, Sunday, by driving a knife into his heart, was taken out of the Wagoner county jail early today and hanged to a telephone pole. The mob overpowered the jailer, threw a rope over the woman's head and dragged her out of the jail.

A knock at the jail door aroused the sleeping jailer, alone in the office. A voice outside said an officer was there with prisoners. The jailer opened the door and faced 12 revolvers. He was bound quickly and his keys taken from him.

The mob pulled the screaming woman from her cell, tied a rope about her neck and dragged her to a telephone pole, a block from the jail. An hour later the sheriff cut down the dead body.

The county attorney has started an investigation of the lynching.

FREIGHT RATE REVISION FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

By Associated Press.

Columbia, S. C., March 31.—Revision of freight rates as affects shippers of South Carolina is expected by trunk lines operating in this state, according to returns of railroad officials to the railroad commission in reference to charges of discrimination in favor of North Carolina and Georgia points. The proposed adjustment will include revision by the interstate commerce commission of rates from the east to southern points and a revision by the interstate commerce commission in this state discriminate in favor of North Carolina and Georgia shippers, filed with the railroad commission, are held by Secretary Darby of the commission to be tacitly admitted in the return of the railroads to the complaint.

DEATH OF WILLIAM CHURCHILL OASTLER.

New York, March 31.—William Churchill Oastler, noted as an engineer and a collector and connoisseur of Japanese and Chinese porcelain, died yesterday of heart disease at his home here.

Last Day of Great Struggle Over Tolls Question

INVESTIGATING SUGAR BEET INDUSTRY

By Associated Press. Washington, March 31.—Investigation of the sugar beet industry in the United States has begun by the bureau of corporations to determine whether the industry has been injured by the new tariff.

THE ERIE ROAD LAYS OFF MEN

New York, March 31.—The Erie Railroad, through A. J. Stone, general manager, today announced the enforcement of a general retrenchment order including a reduction in the clerical force, wage cuts and lessening of working hours to aid, according to the statement, in offsetting declining revenues. About 6,000 men have been laid off since December.

"Usually at this time of the year we increase our maintenance force gradually until we get to the maximum in the middle of the summer but we will not do that this year," Mr. Stone said. "We now have about 15,000 fewer men at work than at the height of our maintenance work last summer. Our retrenchment is shown better by the fact that we are putting on less men than in laying them off. While we are anxiously studying the Pennsylvania Act."

Pittsburg, Pa., March 31.—Retrenchment on the Pennsylvania lines west was extended today with the announcement that ten passenger trains were to be taken off the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad next Sunday, six of them suburban trains. Shop forces also are being reduced.

NOT SO ENCOURAGING TODAY; THE TEAM REPORTS

Washington, D. C., March 31. "D. L. Probert, Gen. Secretary, Y. M. C. A., Charlotte, N. C., hearty congratulations on your splendid run, couldn't do better myself. W. J. BRYAN. Washington, D. C.

Hardwood Forest No. 10, Brazil. "D. L. Probert, Y. M. C. A., Charlotte, N. C., Fully for Charlotte. De-lighted at the news. Put Charleston and Mobile in the Ananias club. THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

The above telegrams were read at the Y. M. C. A. dinner this morning and created some interest which quickly passed away as the "job" was realized. The dinner would rather have gotten a telegram from Mobile saying that as their white male population had become members of the Y. M. C. A. they had decided not to bring in the men of other towns.

The report today was not so encouraging as the one yesterday. The weather may have been the cause of this. More teams scored but not as many points were brought in.

Table with columns: Committees, Captains, Points. Rows include names like J. A. Duram, D. H. Anderson, Willis Brown, etc.

The score of yesterday was 1123 points. The number of points today brings the total up to 1645 points. The boys have not reported yet and they will bring the total up higher.

Try to Settle Strike. Buffalo, N. Y., March 31.—Negotiations between the Gould Coupler Works and its striking employees were resumed today. The workmen besides agreeing to return to work in an open shop are willing to work on short time provided all strikers are reinstated without prejudice on account of union affiliation.