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MEXICAN BANDITS CROSS THE BORDER

SMALL DETACHMENT OF CARRANZA MEN AID IN TRAPPING BAND.

ATTACKED BY U. S. TROOPS

Two Americans Killed and One Wounded in Battle Near Fort Hancock, 55 Miles From El Paso.—Only Two Escape.

El Paso, Texas.—American soldiers reinforced by a small detachment of Carranza troops engaged Mexican bandits who had crossed the Rio Grande into the United States about five miles below Fort Hancock, Texas, 55 miles east of here. Two Americans were killed and one wounded. Only two of the outlaws escaped across the river into Mexico where they are being pursued by Mexican troops and Carranza customs guards.

Upon receiving reports from Robert Wood, a United States customs inspector, that the bandits who had committed numerous depredations on the Mexican side of the frontier recently, had crossed the border, six men of troop F, Eighth United States Cavalry and a hospital corps orderly under Sergeant Lewis Thompson with Wood and Customs Inspector Beane, rode to an adobe hut where the bandits were in hiding. The bandits opened fire from the building killing Wood and Private John Towney and wounding Sergeant John Towney in the shoulder. Beane, fearing that the Mexicans would escape the small American detachment called upon the Carranza commander on the other side of the river. He responded with a score of soldiers, crossing into the United States to cut off the outlaw's retreat, the incident marking the first time Carranza soldiers have co-operated in pursuit of bandits on American soil.

DUTCH SHIP WRECKED WITH AMERICANS ABOARD.

41 Passengers and Crew of 60 Take Boat When Ship Strikes Mine. London.—The Dutch mail steamship Koningin Wilhelmina has struck a mine near the North Hinder Lightship, says a dispatch from The Hague to Reuter's Telegraph Company.

Frank W. Mahin, the American Consul at Amsterdam, and his wife, Mrs. Abbie Mahin, were the only American passengers on board the Dutch mail steamer Koningin Wilhelmina. Both were saved.

Reuter's correspondent at Flushing, Holland, reports that the Koningin Wilhelmina had on board 41 passengers and a crew of 60. All of them are believed to be now on board boats from the lightship, which have not yet arrived. Among the saved are some wounded soldiers.

THERE'S MILK A PLENTY FOR BABIES IN GERMANY

Washington.—Ambassador Gerard sent to the state department a report from Dr. Alonzo E. Taylor, an attaché of the American embassy at Berlin, saying no German babies were suffering for lack of milk; that there was an ample supply of milk and milk powder for infants, only adults feeling the shortage.

DROUGHT BROKEN WHEN \$200,000 STORM COMES.

Peoria, Ill.—Damage estimated at \$200,000 was done here when a terrific thunderstorm, breaking the 33-day drought swept over the business and factory sections of the city. Roofs were torn from several buildings and many others were struck by lightning.

COFFEE CARGO SEIZED IN BRITISH PRIZE COURT.

London.—Holding coffee to be a foodstuff, Sir Samuel Thomas Evans, president of the prize court, condemned in that court 3,000 bags of coffee shipped from America to Gothenburg.

BRITAIN AGAIN BARS RED CROSS SUPPLIES

Washington.—Great Britain in a note just made public reiterates her refusal to permit Red Cross supplies to enter territory controlled by the Teutonic Allies unless assigned to Red Cross units.

The communication was accepted as virtually closing the negotiations in which the United States has endeavored to get the supplies through despite the recent withdrawal of the Red Cross units.

EXPLOSIONS CAUSE \$25,000,000 DAMAGE

AMMUNITION AWAITING SHIPMENT EXPLODES AT BLACK TOM ISLAND.

LOSS OF LIFE NOT LARGE

Fire on Barge Believed to Have Ignited Great Stores of War Supplies For the Entente Allies.—Shock Felt in Five States.

New York.—Property losses estimated at \$25,000,000 were caused by a series of terrific explosions of ammunition awaiting shipment to the Entente Allies and stored on Black Tom Island, a small strip of land jutting into New York Bay off Jersey City. The loss of life still was problematical. It will not be determined definitely until there has been opportunity to check up the workmen employed on the island and on boats moored nearby.

The detonations, which were felt in five States, began with a continuous rapid-fire of small shells, then the blowing up of great quantities of dynamite, trinitrotoluene and other high explosives, followed by the bursting of thousands of shrapnel shells which literally showered the surrounding country and waters for many miles around.

Fire that started soon after the first great crash which spread death and desolation in its wake, destroyed thirteen of the huge warehouses of the National Storage Company on Black Tom Island, in which were stored merchandise valued between \$12,000,000 and \$15,000,000. The flames, shooting into the clouds were reflected against New York's "sky line" and towering office buildings, which only a few moments before were shaken to their foundations as by an earthquake. Miles of streets in Manhattan were strewn with broken glass and shattered signs.

Early reports of heavy loss of life were impossible of verification, and the authorities asserted the number of deaths probably would be small. It was said that owing to the extent of the wreckage, it might be several days before the exact figures could be obtained.

Three are known to be dead and at least two more are missing. Scores of persons were injured, some of them probably mortally.

BRITAIN WARNED IN U. S. PROTEST OVER BLACKLIST

Declares it is Manifestly Out of Question That This Government Should Acquiesce in Such Methods.

Washington.—Great Britain is warned in the American note of protest against the blacklist made public by the state department of the "many serious consequences to neutral right and neutral relations which such an act must necessarily involve.

Already in the hands of the British foreign office, the note declares "in the gravest terms" that it is "manifestly out of the question that the government of the United States acquiesce in such methods" and that the United States regards the blacklist as "invariably and essentially inconsistent with the rights of all the citizens of the nations not involved in any war." It reminds the British government that "citizens of the United States are entirely within their rights in attempting to trade with the people or the governments of any of the nations now at war, subject only to well defined international practices and understandings which the government of the United States deems the government of Great Britain to have too lightly and frequently disregarded."

HIGH COST OF PAPER RAISING SELLING PRICE

St. Louis.—The St. Louis Globe-Democrat announces an increase in the price of its daily edition in St. Louis effective August 1. The high cost of print paper is given as the cause of the increase.

200 REPORTED DEAD FROM FOREST FIRES IN ONTARIO.

English, Ont.—Forest fires raging in northern Ontario are believed to have resulted in the loss of from 150 to 200 lives. Other scores of persons have been injured and it is feared many of them may die. Several small towns have been wiped out by flames that have been raging for 48 hours. Reports thus far received show that 57 perished at Muskoka, a French Canadian settlement, and 34 at Matheson.

U. S. AGREES TO REFER MEXICAN PROBLEMS TO JOINT COMMISSIONERS

Washington.—Following is the full text of Acting Secretary of State Polk's note, delivered to Eliseo Arredondo, Mexican Ambassador designate, after it had been approved by President Wilson and his Cabinet:

"Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of July 12 last, in which you transcribe a note addressed to me by the Secretary of Foreign Relations of your Government and to request that you will be good enough to transmit to him the following reply:

"Mr. Secretary: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Your Excellency's note transmitted under date of July 12 by Eliseo Arredondo, your Government's confidential agent in Washington, informing me that Your Excellency has received instructions from the Citizen First Chief of the Constitutional Army charged with the executive power of the Union to propose that each of our Governments name three commissioners who shall hold conferences at some place to be mutually agreed upon and decide forthwith the question relating to the evacuation of the American forces now in Mexico and to so draw up and conclude a protocol of agreement regarding the reciprocal crossing of the frontier by the forces of both countries, also to determine the origin of the incursions to date, in order to fix the responsibility therefor and definitely to settle the difficulties now pending or those which may arise between the two countries on account of the same or a similar reason; all of which shall be subject to the approval of both Governments.

"In reply, I have the honor to state that I have laid Your Excellency's note before the President and have received his instructions to inform Your Excellency that the Government of the United States is disposed to accept the proposal of the Mexican Government in the same spirit of frank cordiality in which it is made. This Government believes and suggests, however that the powers of the proposed commission should be enlarged so that if happily a solution satisfactory to both Governments of the question set forth in Your Excellency's communication may be reached, the commission may also consider such other matters the friendly arrangement of which would tend to improve the relations of the two countries, it being understood that such recommendations as the commission may make shall not be binding upon the respective Governments until formally accepted by them.

"Should this proposal be accepted by Your Excellency's Government I have the honor to state that this Government will proceed immediately to appoint its commissioners and fix after consultation with Your Excellency's Government, the time and place and other details of the proposed conference.

"Accept, Mr. Secretary, the assurance of my highest consideration.
"FRANK L. POLK,
"Acting Secretary of State."

WILSON NOMINATES FOUR MORE PAY FOR SOLDIERS

PRESIDENT WILSON NOMINATES BOARD TO ORGANIZE LAND BANKS.

C. E. Lobell of Kansas, G. W. Norris of Pennsylvania, W. S. A. Smith of Iowa, and Herbert Quick of West Virginia, are Board Members.

Washington.—Division of the country into 12 Federal land bank districts and location of Federal land banks in each of them under the new rural credits law, will be undertaken soon by the Federal farm loan board, four of whose members were nominated by President Wilson, Secretary McAdoo, who is an ex-officio member, completes the board, said, however, that he believed it would be impossible to conclude organization of the system in less than six months, and that it might not be in actual operation before next spring.

The four men nominated as members of the board, are Charles E. Lobell of Kansas, George W. Norris of Pennsylvania, W. S. A. Smith of Iowa and Herbert Quick of West Virginia. The President is expected to designate either Mr. Morris or Mr. Quick the Democratic members of the board, to act as farm commissioner and executive head of the farm loan system.

Until the Senate acts on the nominations no date for a meeting can be set, but it was believed probable that the members would get together within two weeks.

Hearings on the designations of districts and the location of banks will probably begin some time in September. The first of these is expected to be held here and most of the state capitals probably will be visited before they are concluded.

SENATE SETS A NEW HIGH MARK FOR DEFENSE.

Passes Army Bill Appropriating Nearly \$315,000,000.—Measure Goes to Conference.

Washington.—Nearly \$700,000,000 for national defense for the fiscal year of 1917 is the aggregate of proposed appropriations reported in the senate by passage of the army bill carrying in round numbers \$314,000,000.

This grand total for preparedness still is subject to revision, however, because the army bill will follow the naval bill into conference where reductions are probable despite the firm attitude of President Wilson in supporting the liberal response of the senate to the call for adequate defense.

As it passed the senate the Army bill exceeded the appropriations made by the house by more than \$131,000,000.

SENATE PASSES BILL INCREASING OFFICERS' PAY 10 PER CENT, PRIVATES 20 PER CENT.

Also Vote to Improve Camp Conditions and Make Arrangements for Soldier Vote in the Coming Presidential Election.

Washington.—Increased pay for officers and men of the regular army and National Guard in active service for the Mexican emergency, improved camp conditions to safeguard their health and authorization for them to vote in the field at the coming presidential election were provided in the amendments to the army appropriation bill agreed to by the senate.

By a vote of 44 to 13 the senate also suspended the rules to adopt an amendment changing the age minimum for enlistment in the regular army from 18 to 21 years without the consent of parent or guardian. Under the provision boys under 21 now serving in the army would not be retained in the service unless they filed within 30 days the written consent of their parents or guardians. The amendment was adopted without a roll call.

Senator Reed of Missouri offered the amendment which would make the existing provision for increased pay to the army when in service on foreign soil apply also to service on the Mexican border. Under it officers will receive a 10 per cent and enlisted men 20 per cent increase in pay. In adopting it the senate also increased the house appropriation for pay from \$1,050,000 to \$14,178,204.

The amendment giving the soldiers in Mexican service authority to vote in the field at the National election passed without opposition.

COLONEL BUTLER'S NAME IS ENTIRELY CLEARED.

San Antonio, Texas.—The official report made by Col. J. A. Gaston on the killing of Col. M. C. Butler at Alpine, Texas, by Harry Spannel, completely clears the name of the dead officer.

ADMINISTRATION IS FOR INCREASED NAVY.

Washington.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels informed Chairman Padgett, of the House Naval Affairs Committee, that the Administration is standing behind the naval bill with its increases and desires the House to pass it. The conference with Secretary Daniels is to be followed by a conference with President Wilson. "Little Navy" men have indicated a desire to oppose the increases in the ship building program.

GERMANS EXECUTE BRITISH CAPTAIN

CAPTAIN FRYATT ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTING TO RAM A SUBMARINE.

TRIED, CONVICTED AND SHOT

London Government Asks American Ambassador at Berlin to Procure Details of Case.—Many Difficult Problems Involved.

Berlin.—Capt. Charles Fryatt, of the Great Eastern Railway Steamship Brussels, convicted by a German court martial at Bruges, Brussels, of attempting on March 28, 1915, to ram a German submarine near the Maas lightship, when he did not belong to an armed force, has been executed by shooting. The Brussels was captured by German destroyers last month and brought into Zeebrugge.

Captain Fryatt and the first officer and the first engineer of the Brussels received from the British Admiralty gold watches for "brave conduct" and were mentioned in the House of Commons.

The submarine U-32 according to the official account of the trial had signalled to the British steamer to show her flag and to stop but Captain Fryatt did not heed and, it is alleged, turned at high speed toward the submarine which escaped only by diving immediately several yards below the surface.

Captain Fryatt, the official statement says, admitted that he had followed the instructions of the British Admiralty. Sentence was confirmed and the captain was executed and shot for a "franc tierur crime against armed German sea forces."

Washington.—Germany's execution of Capt. Charles Fryatt, master of the British steamship Brussels, for an alleged attempt to ram a submarine, is regarded in allied quarters here as a brutal violation of international law likely to result in prompt retaliatory measures by Great Britain. They contend that if a hostile submarine approached the Brussels it was in effect an attack and Captain Fryatt in making a counter-attack by attempting to ram subjected himself only to treatment as a prisoner of war in event of capture.

AUSTRIANS LOSE TOWN OF BRODY UNEXPECTED.

London.—Brody, a great railway junction, in Galicia, 58 miles north-east of Lemberg, which it was expected the Austrian troops would retain at all costs, has been captured by the Czar's forces, in a new and unexpected stroke administered by the Russians. The taking of this important town, it is believed, may lead to the capture of Lemberg, itself. News of the fall of Brody is coincident with reports that the Somme battle is continuing successfully for British forces under Gen. Sir Douglas Haig.

The Russians, according to a report from Petrograd, also have broken the whole Austro-German front west of Lutsk. In this success they are reported to have captured two generals, 9,000 prisoners and 45 guns.

WASHINGTON SENDS NEW NOTE TO CARRANZA.

Washington.—General Carranza was informed in a note handed to his Ambassador here, that the Washington Government is prepared to submit to a joint international commission the task of seeking a solution of border problems. The proposal of the de facto Government for a commission is accepted, however, with the suggestion that the powers of the commissions be enlarged beyond the limits proposed in the Mexican note of July 21.

Agreement to this suggestion is expected and it was stated officially that the American members would be appointed and the commission be assembled at some point in the United States at an early date.

EX-GOVERNOR AND GENERAL UNDER VILLA EXECUTED.

Laredo, Texas.—Santiago Ramirez, a former Governor of the Mexican State of Coahuila, and later a Villa general, was publicly executed on the plaza at Saltillo, Mexico, according to news reaching Laredo.

Ramirez, it was stated, had left Mexico with the dwindling of Villa's power, and had returned recently to offer his services to General Carranza when war between the United States and Mexico seemed imminent.

APPORTION FUND FOR FLOOD RELIEF

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO VISIT DEVASTATED SECTIONS AND REPORT NEEDS.

MANY SECTIONS IN NEED

John Sprunt Hill, Durham; A. M. Scales, Greensboro, and Dr. B. W. Kilgore, Special Committee.

Raleigh.—Governor Craig's general state committee for the relief of western Carolina sufferers, made definite appropriations for immediate relief work in the various counties that report need for outside help and appointed John Sprunt Hill, Durham; A. M. Scales, Greensboro, and Dr. B. W. Kilgore, Raleigh, a special committee to visit the flood-swept sections, make personal investigations and report as to later aid that they deem deserved.

The committee appointed a special committee of which J. W. Bailey, Raleigh, is chairman, expressing gratification at the liberal response the people have already made to the call for contributions and insisting that much more is badly needed and can be expended among deserving sufferers.

The general committee meeting was held in the executive offices of Governor Craig. The committee provided for a central committee of five, with the Governor as chairman, to act for the general committee in the relief work in interim of general committee meetings, which are to be held at the call of the Governor and the chairman.

Governor Craig arrived from Asheville, where he has been marooned since the storm and immediately took charge of the relief work.

The Governor is to appoint this central committee. The Governor was further authorized to designate any other persons in addition to John Sprunt Hill, A. M. Scales and Doctor Kilgore to inspect and report on needs in any localities or sections. The expenses of these investigators are to be provided for by order of the general committee.

E. B. Crow was made treasurer of the general committee and Sanford Martin, of Winston-Salem, was made secretary. The view was expressed that fully \$50,000 or \$60,000 will be needed if permanent relief and aid for rehabilitation, especially of farm tenants and others of the poorer sufferers, is to be undertaken.

A resolution by James H. Pou that was adopted by a vote of four to five provides that \$3,000 be placed at the disposal of the Winston-Salem and local committees for immediate relief work in Wilkes, Ashe, Yadkin, Alleghany and Surry counties and \$500 to Mr. Chatham for relief in the Elkin section. Opposition to this arose because other sections were not included, but the committee provided immediately, through further motions by Pou and others, to provide \$500 each for any other of 10 or more counties that are believed to have suffered disaster from the floods. It was ordered that \$1,000 be placed at the disposal of Judge M. H. Justice for relief in the Rutherford and Bat Cave sections. Burke county was allowed \$500 to be sent to R. T. Claywell to be expended through proper channels. A like sum was ordered out for Caldwell county, if needed, J. W. Pless to be advised of the appropriation. Caldwell, Catawba and other counties that are understood to be asking no aid were provided for in the event it turns out that there is need for outside aid. Also \$500 was sent each to Alexander and Watauga for immediate relief.

Durham Sells Bonds.

Durham.—The city of Durham has sold \$320,000 worth of water and refunding bonds for a grand total of \$340,279, a record breaking price. Out of 16 bids, that of the Bernhard-Scholls Company, of New York City, was accepted. The average per bond was \$107.7625 for the water issue of \$250,000, and \$101.2725 for the refunding bond issue of \$70,000. A previous sale of \$250,000 water bonds brought \$104 and one-eighth.

Iredell Crops Damaged.

Statesville.—Considerable corn was sold here at 90 cents a bushel. With reference to this year's crop, farmers in Iredell county assert they will not make more than one-quarter of a normal crop as a result of the storms and floods. Bert Bristol stated that his crop would ordinarily amount to about 5,000 bushels of corn, but this fall he doubted if he would be able to harvest more than 500 bushels. This is a typical case of the amount of damage done in Iredell county to crops.