

173 DIE IN SICILY FROM EARTHQUAKE

SEISMIC DISTURBANCE BRINGS DEATH AND RUIN TO VILLAGES NEAR MT. AETNA.

TERROR IS NOW PREVAILING

People Working in Fields See Their Homes Crumble and Families Perish.

Catania, Sicily.—A great earthquake brought death and destruction to many villages near Mount Aetna. The number of dead up to date was officially placed at 173, with about 350 injured. A large part of the devastated territory has not been inspected. The affected zone extends from Zaffarna, the highest village on Mount Aetna, to the sea, between Airre Reale, on the south, and Glarre on the north. It includes Linera, the center of the disturbance, Pisanio and Santa Veronina. In Linera alone 110 persons were killed and 300 injured. In Bongardio 13 dead and 27 injured have been taken from the ruins. At Constantini 16 were killed and many injured.

These villages and many smaller places were leveled.

The entire district presents a spectacle of desolation, ruin and death. Many of the injured had not been taken from the debris. All train service has been abandoned owing to the collapse of bridges, broken tracks and obstructed tunnels.

MEDIATORS MEET MAY 18

Judge Lamar and Joseph W. Lehman Will Represent United States. Washington.—The opening of the Mexican mediation conference at Niagara Falls on the scheduled date—May 18, was assured when word was received of the departure of the Mexican delegates from Mexico City for the conference.

Preparations for dispatching reinforcements to General Funston at Vera Cruz should such a movement become necessary, went forward steadily, work on twelve transport to carry troops, horse and supplies being pushed, but no warlike development occurred. The military apparently is being held well in leash to avoid the possibility of embarrassing the mediation negotiations.

A threatening cloud disappeared from the diplomatic horizon, when the German steamer Kronprinzessin Cecille, reported to be carrying arms and ammunition for Huerta, returned to Vera Cruz, without debarking her war stores at Puerto, Mexico, and it was announced that the munitions on this and a second German steamer, the Bavaria, would be returned to Germany. The possibility either of a seizure or blockade of Puerto, Mexico, or of an act, perhaps interpretable as a violation of the military status quo, in favor of Huerta, thereby was eliminated.

Justice Joseph P. Lamar, of the United States Supreme Court, and Frederick W. Lehman, of St. Louis, formerly solicitor, will represent the United States in the conference.

Suffragists Move on Capitol.

Washington.—Several thousand women, from virtually every state in the Union, paraded along Pennsylvania avenue from the White House to the Capitol and presented to members of Congress petitions adopted at meetings all over the country a week ago. Five hundred and thirty of the marchers carried these petitions, one for each member of the senate and house, asking the adoption of the Bristol-Mondell resolution, amending the Constitution to enfranchise women. Marching themselves on the east steps of the Capitol and with several bands and a chorus of 100 girls at the entrance to the building, the enthusiastic paraders sang "The March of the Women" by Dr. Ethel Smyth of England and only heard once before in this country. This demonstration was witnessed by thousands of persons who filled the immense plaza.

Millionaire Post Kills Self.

Santa Barbara, Cal.—With a bullet from a rifle which he had concealed, Charles W. Post, millionaire manufacturer of cereal foods, killed himself at his winter home here. Evading the nurse who had been attending him since he returned from the east a few weeks ago, he went to his apartment, placed the muzzle of the rifle in his mouth and pulled trigger with a toe. Mr. Post was convalescent from an illness which necessitated a major operation some time ago at Rochester, Minn.

Dewey and Daniels Thank Padgett.

Washington.—Secretary Daniels and Admiral Dewey, on behalf of the entire American Navy, have written to Representative Padgett of Tennessee, chairman of the House Naval Affairs Committee, expressing thanks for the defense by Mr. Padgett and other Representatives against attacks made in the house against naval officers. The unusual letters are an echo of the light on the naval bill which has just passed Congress. Both congratulated him on his success.

MEDIATORS OF THE MEXICAN TROUBLE



ROMULO S. NAON DOMICIO DA GAMA EDUARDO SUAREZ MUJICA

These are the three South American diplomats who are acting as mediators in the Mexican imbroglio. They are Ambassador da Gama of Brazil and Ministers Mujica of Chile and Naon of Argentina.

MEXICAN EVENTS HOLD THE CAPITAL

SITUATION WAS SOMEWHAT OBSCURED, HOWEVER, BY THE WHITEHOUSE WEDDING.

FEW FOREIGNERS KILLED

Two British Subjects and One American Reported Slain by Bomb at Guadalajara.

Washington.—Developments in the Mexican situation went steadily forward although the White House wedding somewhat eclipsed other events in official Washington circles.

The two chief reports from Mexico announced the killing of two British subjects and one American at Guadalajara; and continued heavy fighting at Mazatlan on the Pacific coast where the rebel airplanes dropped a bomb which killed four persons and injured eight in the streets of the beleaguered city.

The state department also was informed by Consul Hamm at Durango that the movement of the Constitutionalists had begun with marching against Saltillo and Zacatecas.

Information from the Argentine, Brazilian and Chilean mediators showed that they were preparing to begin work in Niagara Falls, Ont. They declared that despite General Carranza's self-elimination, the Constitutional side of the Mexican problem would be fully considered by the mediators at the coming conference.

A man close to the president said it would not be surprising if a Justice of the supreme court of the United States should be one of the representatives of the American government. Justice Mahlon Pitney, though a Republican, is a close friend of the president and may be chosen. Justice Day was a member of the Paris conference and is a former supreme court judge.

Gen. Young Chosen Commander.

Jacksonville, Fla.—After the election of a commander-in-chief, adjournment was taken, when officers of the Army of Tennessee and of the Army of Virginia and other divisional organizations will be elected. General Young received approximately 1,100 votes and General Robertson 800. Texas cast its entire 343 votes for Robertson. One hundred survivors of General Forrest's famous cavalry offered their services to President Wilson in the event of war with Mexico.

THE NAVAL BILL IS PASSED.

Appropriation Measure Adopted Without Roll-Call Gives Navy \$199,560,334.

Washington.—The house passed without a roll-call the annual naval appropriation bill, carrying \$199,560,334 and providing for the entire Administration naval construction program. The building program includes two battleships, one to be built in some Government navy yard; six torpedo-boat destroyers, one sea-going torpedo-boat, three coast defense submarine torpedo-boats, to be constructed on the Pacific Coast and four submarines.

Guilty of Forgery.

Augusta, Ga.—James P. Armstrong entered pleas of guilty in the Superior Court to five indictments charging forgery and one indictment for being cashier of a bank which became fraudulently insolvent and was sentenced to serve an aggregate of eight years in the penitentiary. Armstrong was cashier of the Irish-American Bank, which failed last December. He is also under indictment for embezzlement, but he did not plead guilty to that charge. The report shows a deficit of about \$100,000.

FIGHTING STILL GOES ON IN MEXICO

THE CONSTITUTIONALISTS CONTINUE TO WIN VICTORIES OVER FEDERALISTS.

PLANS TO STOP WARFARE

The Rebels Have Three Armies at Different Points All Within 30 Miles of Capital.

Washington.—While the Mexican situation was outwardly calm pending the formal opening of the conference of South American mediators at Niagara Falls, Canada, on May 18, there continued an active undercurrent of discussion and preparation for the peace plans and at the same time definite reports reached the Constitutional headquarters here of sweeping victories of their forces near San Luis Potosi and other points far South of Saltillo, where it was thought their next big battle would occur.

The news of Constitutional successes reached here in dispatches from Gen. Carranza to Raphael Zebarán, minister of the interior in the Constitutional cabinet, who had a direct wire set up to the headquarters of Gen. Carranza in Chihuahua today. General Carranza's messages showed that three converging campaigns were in active operation, each within 300 miles of Mexico City. General Obregon with 15,000 men was operating from the Pacific coast side, had captured all the intervening territory, was besieging Mazatlan and was threatening Mexico City from the west.

Another division, General Carranza reported, had fought a battle at Pecos, near San Luis Potosi, which is 300 miles north of Mexico City. This is the southernmost point which the Constitutionalists have reached in central Mexico and with the army now attacking Tampico, they declare that the general advance on the Mexican capital is to be made within a few weeks from these sides. The significance of these Constitutional victories lay in the fact that the territory is far South of Saltillo and only 200 miles from Mexico City on the South.

BECKER'S TRIAL BEGUN ANEW.

Araigned For Second Time Charged With the Rosenthal Murder Plot. New York.—Charles Becker, former police lieutenant and head of the famous "strong arm squad" began his second battle to save himself from death in the electric chair at Sing Sing prison as the instigator of the plot to murder Herman Rosenthal, the gambler.

Will Not Extend \$25,000,000 Notes.

New York.—The latest attempt to reaudit the finances of the Gould railroad system came to naught when Kuhn, Loeb & Co., bankers, refused to extend the \$25,000,000 of Missouri Pacific Railway three-year notes, maturing June 1. The bankers stated no reasons for their conclusion.

New York Wants "War Loan."

Albany, N. Y.—A bill to authorize the governor to negotiate a "war loan" not exceeding \$100,000 for the use of the National Guard was introduced in both houses of the state legislature. The bill would permit the governor to order the loan whenever "it shall appear to the satisfaction of the governor that on account of war either in actual progress or impending between the United States and a foreign enemy it is necessary or advisable for the national guard to be in a state of preparedness."

Huerta Clings to Presidency.

Vera Cruz.—Americans arriving here from Mexico City say that General Huerta shows no intention of abandoning the presidency of Mexico. The president, they assert is popularly credited with having made the statement that he would see the capital in ashes before he would quit. The American forces at Vera Cruz are violating the armistice by landing more troops, ordnance and supplies, according to Mexican papers, under the domination of Huerta.

MORE TROOPS MAY GO TO VERA CRUZ

REPORTED THAT WAR DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO REINFORCE GEN. FUNSTON.

MOSTLY FOR A PRECAUTION

Huerta Claims That Landing of Additional Soldiers is Violation of Armistice.

Washington.—High tension marked the Mexican situation both on the military and the diplomatic side.

The War Department was the chief center of activity and while no authoritative statement was made beyond Secretary Garrison's formal reply that "no orders for any National troop movements have been sent," it became known that the Administration was considering the question of sending additional troops to Vera Cruz, and probably would do so. This step would not be intended as an aggressive measure, but as a precaution. An evidence of the seriousness of conditions was contained in a report that two German merchant vessels were about to arrive at Puerto Mexico with arms and ammunition for Huerta. It was realized that this, if true, would present an incident similar to the arrival of the Ypiranga at Vera Cruz, which led to the American occupation of that port.

Huerta's protest to the mediators that the United States had broken the armistice by landing additional troops at Vera Cruz, was considered by the Cabinet and later Secretary Bryan announcing the reply of this Government stated that no aggressive steps had been taken by the United States forces and that nothing had been done to violate the suspension of hostilities. The American reply was delivered to the mediators. The mediators themselves also took the view that the question raised by Huerta over the observance of the armistice could be cleared away, and that Huerta could be convinced that the United States had not violated in spirit at least, the armistice.

The Cabinet meeting brought out a general discussion of the situation. It was said after the meeting that there was little doubt as to the sending of additional forces, wholly for precautionary purposes. It also became known that inquiries had been made of the governors of states to ascertain the condition of National Guards and how soon they could be prepared for active service. This also is a precautionary measure. Indications are that if National Guards are called on they would not be sent out of the country, but would be used on the Texas border.

VETERANS ENDORSE WILSON.

Old Soldiers in Jacksonville Approve President's Policy By Resolution.

Jacksonville, Fla.—Endorsement of the policy of President Wilson in handling the Mexican situation was one of the last of the actions of the twenty-fourth United Confederate veterans reunion. A general exodus of veterans and visitors began immediately.

Approval of the policy of the President was continued in the following resolution adopted by the veterans:

"Whereas the present unsettled condition in the Commonwealth of Mexico appears likely to involve some action on the part of the United States be it resolved:

"That this convention of the Confederate veterans recognizes the discretion of the President of the United States and will heartily support such action as he may take in every possible way."

Big Warehouse Burns.

Anderson, S. C.—Fire originating from the explosion of gasoline totally destroyed the warehouse and contents belonging to J. S. Fowler, entailing a loss of \$33,000 with insurance amounting to \$22,500. The warehouse was used for storing automobiles, wagons, buggies, carriages, bagging and ties and farm implements. Forty-eight second-hand automobiles were destroyed. One end of the building was used as a garage, and when the keeper attempted to crank an automobile the explosion occurred.

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