

# VILLA IS AGAIN REPORTED DEAD

DE FACTO GOVERNMENT SETS OUT TO PROVE DEATH OF BANDIT LEADER.

ARE INCLINED TO ACCEPT

Reports from Chihuahua Are Regarded as Confirmatory By American Officials at El Paso.

El Paso, Texas.—Francisco Villa is dead and his body, disinterred some days after his burial, is in possession of the Carranza troops, according to a series of telegraphic messages received in Juarez by the Mexican officials.

For more than a week reports that Villa had died from wounds have been current here and in Juarez. Latest accounts were the most circumstantial and apparently reliable yet received. They were accepted with reserve by American officials including General Bell, but Mexican officials expressed confidence in their reliability.

The dispatcher of the Mexican Northwestern Railroad at Juarez reported to General Gavira, Carranza commander at Juarez, that he had heard a conversation on the telegraph wire to the effect that Villa's body was in the hands of the Carranza troops.

General Garvira notified Consul Garcia here who rushed messages to the telegraph operators at Madera and Cusihuiriachi asking for confirmation. The Madera and Cusihuiriachi answered confirming the report and stating the body was being taken to Chihuahua.

The telegraph operator at San Antonio, 50 miles west of Chihuahua, telegraphed Consul Garcia that Villa's body was in possession of Colonel Carlos Carranza, nephew of General Carranza, who was taking it in a special train to Chihuahua.

IF VILLA IS DEAD U. S. WILL WITHDRAW.

Washington Makes Unqualified Statement When Report of Bandit's Death is Heard.

Washington.—American troops will be withdrawn from Mexico if Francisco Villa is dead. Administration officials made this unqualified statement, commenting on reports from Mexican sources that the bandit's body had been discovered and was being taken to Chihuahua City by special train.

The State and War Departments were without confirmatory advices on the subject from American sources. Reports reaching El Paso and other border points were forwarded for information, but neither American consul nor military authorities in Mexico were heard from.

Every message received was closely scrutinized at the State Department and sent to the White House. In some quarters there was a disposition to credit them, despite the fact that border reports generally have been viewed with much suspicion since the pursuit began.

AT VERDUN WAR MUST END SAYS THE EMPEROR.

Paris.—A semi-official note just issued reviews the recent operations about Verdun and gives an order of the day of General Pétain, commanding at Verdun, in praise of the resistance of the French troops to the recent offensive of the Germans. The note concludes:

"The Emperor some days ago reviewed one of the divisions engaged in the region between Douaumont and Vaux and it was there that he said: 'The war of 1870 was decided at Verdun.' The present war must end at Verdun."

General Pétain's order follows: "The ninth day of April is a glorious day for our arms. The ferocious assaults of the soldiers of the Crown Prince have been everywhere broken. Infantrymen, artillerymen, sappers and aviators of the Eleventh Army were rivals in heroism. The honor to all.

"The Germans, without doubt, will attack again. Let every one work and watch to obtain the same success as yesterday. Have courage. We will get them."

U. S. MOTOR TRUCK TRAIN ATTACKED BY BANDITS.

San Antonio, Texas.—General Pershing reported to headquarters that a motor-truck train carrying aeroplanes was attacked by 40 bandits, 15 miles north of Satevo. The Mexicans were driven off and one of their number was killed.

MORE MACHINE GUNS SENT TO THE MEXICAN BORDER

San Francisco—Maj. General J. Franklin Bell, commander of the western department, ordered the despatch of the machine gun corps, including 30 men of the Twenty-first Infantry stationed at Vancouver, Washington, to Calexico, California, on the Mexican border. No change in Mexican situation has caused the despatch of the machine gun corps of the Twenty-first it was said at army headquarters.

## BRIG. GEN. ROBERT K. EVANS



General Evans is in command of the Second brigade of the army on the Mexican border.

## VILLA BAND TAKES TOWN

REPUTED DEAD COMES TO LIFE AND SACKS TOWN OF SIERRA MOJADA.

Believe Villa Himself Lead the Raid and is 200 Miles From the American Troops.

El Paso, Texas.—A band of Villa followers numbering several hundred and possibly a thousand, have sacked Sierra Mojada, five miles across the Coahuila line and 80 miles east of Jimenez, destroying many thousands of dollars' worth of American property and looting the town of everything of value.

This news, which may prove to be of the highest importance as it is believed possible Villa himself was among the raiders, was received here by the representative of one of the largest mining concerns in Mexico and is accepted by him as authentic.

The bandits made their attack on the town on April 5. They came from Escalon, a junction point on the Mexican National Railroad, 60 miles southeast of Jimenez and about an equal distance southwest of Sierra Mojada, which has its connection by the Mexican Northern Railroad. On their way to Sierra Mojada they sacked the small town of Corralito.

The belief that Villa himself may be directing the operations of the bandits is supported by a report received from Ojinaga stating that Colonel Rojas, the commander, had information that Villa had doubled in his tracks and was 200 miles southwest of that town.

Sierra Mojada is 140 miles east of the nearest point at which American troops are known to be.

It is on the eastern side of a vast desert, known as the Bolson Mapimi and south of another dreary, waterless waste called Bolson de Los Lipanes. Its only connection with the west is by the Mexican Northwestern Railroad along which the bandits advanced, burning bridges, destroying telegraph lines and tearing up tracks.

FUNSTON NEEDS NO ORDERS TO KNOW WHAT TO DO.

He Can Move Any Troops in Southern Division Into Mexico, Says General Scott.

Washington.—Further increase of the United States forces in Mexico is again prominent in official consideration.

In this connection it was officially stated that General Pershing's future movements in the hunt for Villa would include adequate preparations for any eventuality. Strengthening of the line of communication, for which troops are needed principally, has proceeded with that end in view.

General Scott, chief of staff, while denying that any orders to send more troops into Mexico had yet been issued, declared General Funston did not need such authority from Washington and had carte blanche to move any force in the southern division.

RESOURCES NATIONAL BANKS \$13,838,000,000.

Washington.—Financial prosperity and strength is greater in the United States than ever before and is rising rapidly to new levels, according to the interpretation placed by Comptroller of the Currency Williams on figures made public showing conditions March 7 in the country's national banks.

The returns show: Total resources of National banks \$13,838,000,000, an increase of \$2,271,000,000. Total deposits \$10,750,000,000, within a year, and an increase of \$411,000,000 since December 31 last. Surplus and undivided profits of \$1,021,278,000, an increase of \$18,500,000.

# HUNT FOR VILLA TO BE CONTINUED

PENDING OUTCOME OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CARRANZA GOVERNMENT.

NO NEW ORDERS ARE ISSUED

Carranza Military Forces Must Prove Their Ability to Stop Brigandage on the Border States.

Washington.—The United States is prepared to treat with General Carranza as proposed in his note for the withdrawal of American troops from Mexico. Pending the outcome of the diplomatic negotiations, however, the status of the expedition will remain unchanged and the pursuit of Villa continue.

This was the situation officially stated after President Wilson and his Cabinet had considered the new phases of the Mexican problem raised by General Carranza's communication. Secretary Lansing said he was prepared to take up the matter with the de facto government, but would not indicate when a reply might be sent. Secretary Baker said no new orders had been sent to General Funston and that none were under contemplation.

Both Secretaries said there had been no change in the policy of the Administration which prompted the pursuit of Villa.

Secretary Lansing would not say whether he was prepared to negotiate with the de facto government for the possible fixing of a date for withdrawal of American troops. He indicated that the time element of any agreement would be based on what developed in the pursuit of the bandits. As the Administration's attitude is understood here, a satisfactory demonstration by the Carranza military forces of their ability to stop all brigandage in the border states would see the object of the American expedition accomplished.

Senator Stone, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, is thought to have voiced the Administration view to the senate, speaking after a conference with Secretary Lansing.

"The problem confronting this government," the Senator said, "is how long it would be wise to keep an expeditionary force in Mexico. If we adhere to our policy towards Mexico, we cannot keep the army there. To my mind the only alternative to withdrawing the troops sooner or later is intervention."

SENATE VOTES 43 TO 22 FOR BIG NITRATE PLANT.

Smith Amendment Carries \$15,000,000 For Government's Proposed Venture. Washington.—The senate adopted the army bill amendment of Senator Smith, South Carolina, appropriating \$15,000,000 for a government nitrate plant. The vote was 43 to 22.

This action disposed of the second big fight in the Senate over the senate substitute for the house army reorganization bill.

Senator Smith's amendment provides for the sale of Panama Canal bonds for raising the required \$15,000,000 and the president is authorized to designate not more than five water-power sites for power plants. When products of these plants, which will be operated exclusively by the government, are not needed for manufacture of munitions of war the surplus could be disposed of by the secretary of war for fertilizer.

RUSSIANS CLAIM DEFEAT OF GERMANS IN EAST

Except for the artillery wings of the contending armies there has been no fighting at any point on the long front in France and Belgium.

Several days now have elapsed since the Germans launched a heavy attack on the positions in dispute before Verdun, but their artillery has continued vigorously to shell the LeMort Homme sector northwest of Verdun and the second line positions of the French to the east of the Meuse.

In the Argonne the French continue to operate with their guns against German points of vantage and in the region of Pont-a-Mousson they have shelled convoys of Germans.

On the Russian front the Germans essayed attacks between Lakes Sventen and Izen, but were repulsed with heavy casualties. In Galicia, southeast of Bouchache, the Germans also took the offensive, but here again were repulsed. The Russians claim the capture in the Stripa region of a German position and the putting down of counter-attacks launched with the intention of recapturing it.

BOLL WEEVIL TO INFEST ENTIRE COTTON SECTION.

Washington.—The boll weevil will infest the entire cotton section of the South before its progress is checked, according to the report of a special committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States just made public.

Attempts to destroy the weevil by spraying and poisoning have met with scant success because the weevil bores into the plant. The annual rate of advance is said to vary from 40 to 70 miles, according to conditions.

## MAJ. MELVIN W. ROWELL



Major Rowell of the Eleventh cavalry now on duty with the troops in Mexico.

## PASS FREE SUGAR REPEAL

SENATE FAVORS HOUSE REPEAL RESOLUTION BY A VOTE OF 40 TO 32.

Four Democrats, Broussard, Ransdell, Newlands and Lane, Join Republicans in Opposition.

Washington.—The Senate passed its substitute for the house free sugar repeal resolution, extending the present duty of one cent a pound on sugar until May, 1920. The vote was 40 to 32.

Four Democrats, Senators Broussard, Ransdell, Newlands and Lane joined the Republicans in voting against the substitute. They favor the flat repeal passed by the house. A sharp controversy in conference between the two houses is predicted. Anticipating that the house would insist upon its resolution, Senators Simmons, Stone and Lodge were named as the senate conferees.

Unless a conference agreement is reached and approved before May 1 sugar will go on the free list until such time as the repeal of extension of the duty can be made effective.

Most of the tariff discussion was devoted to an amendment by Senator Works of California to increase the tariff on lemons and other citrus fruits to one cent a pound. This was defeated by a vote of 44 to 29. Senator Phelan of California being the only Democrat to support it.

Senator Vardaman said he would vote for the senate substitute sugar resolution but would not give his consent to the house measure.

MORE TROOPS NEEDED IN MEXICAN EXPEDITION.

Or New Base With Shorter Line of Communication Must Be Given.

San Antonio, Tex.—Staff officers at Fort Sam Houston were of the opinion that by the end of this week additional troops will have to be sent into Mexico to reinforce the punitive expedition, or a new base and line of communication, much shorter than that now maintained between Columbus, N. M., and the front, must be established.

General Funston said that so far General Pershing has not asked for reinforcements.

FORTY MILLIONS CARRIED IN RIVERS AND HARBORS BILL.

Washington.—The rivers and harbors appropriation bill, carrying \$40,000,000 was passed by the house by a vote of 210 to 133.

The bill now goes to the senate. Just before the final vote an effort led by Republican Leader Mann to reduce the total to \$20,000,000 failed 200 to 149.

The entire appropriation, except for a \$700,000 item to deepen the approaches to the Brooklyn Navy Yard, is for continuing work on improvement projects already authorized and under way. The single new project was urged by President Wilson and Secretary Daniels as part of the preparedness program.

Russians Check German Attack.

Petrograd.—In the Russian theater an attempt by the Germans to take the offensive in the region of the Ik-skull bridgehead was stopped by the Russians. The big guns of both sides have been busy at various points elsewhere along the front. The official communication reports Russian gains against the Turks in the region of Erzerum. Unofficial advices are to the effect that the Turks have regrouped their forces and now are retreating stubbornly the three Russian main lines of advance.

# MEXICAN MOBS ATTACK TROOPS ACTUAL CONFLICT

SEVERAL ARE KILLED AND WOUNDED IN FIRST ACTUAL CONFLICT.

## MACHINE GUNS USED ON MEXICAN BANDITS

Carranza Wires Admission That Situation Threatens to Get Beyond His Control.—Troops in Anti-American Territory.

Washington.—American troops in Mexico have had their first battle with the natives at the moment General Carranza is urging their withdrawal.

While General Carranza's note asking for withdrawal of our troops was on its way to Washington, troopers of the Seventh Cavalry under Major Tompkins were fired upon in Parral, a Villa stronghold in eastern Chihuahua; were pursued to the suburbs while the Carranza garrison took a doubtful part in the affray, and our troops were attacked again during the night.

Complete information regarding the losses to the American troops or to the Mexicans had not reached Washington. Secretary Baker informed President Wilson that a brief dispatch to the war department said that according to unofficial reports, one American cavalryman was killed and that the troopers used a machine gun against the Mexicans.

Mr. Baker announced later that he had ordered General Funston to take any steps necessary to prevent further trouble. Asked whether this might mean the enforced use of Mexican railroads for the movement of soldiers and supplies, he said General Funston was on the ground and would act as an emergency required.

General Carranza directed his embassy here to point out that the clash proved his contention that the presence of American troops in Mexico is leading to a situation which threatens to be beyond his control and telegraphed that "many deaths had occurred on both sides."

Foreign Minister Aguilar, in a dispatch sent before that from General Carranza, said one American trooper was killed and several civilians were wounded.

Consul Garcia, Carranza agent at El Paso, wired the embassy that "several persons were killed on both sides."

EL PASO ANXIOUSLY ASKS WHAT WILL WILSON DO?

Other Riots Reported Due to Starvation Among Mexicans Across Border.

El Paso, Texas.—El Paso is in a state of intense anticipation. "What will Washington do?" was the question on every lip, every other topic faded into insignificance.

The news of the clash at Parral between American soldiers and Mexicans was followed by reports of serious rioting at other points in Chihuahua but in none were American soldiers said to be involved. The riots were said to be due principally to scarcity of food. In many cities of northern Mexico the masses of the people are said to be on the brink of starvation.

The worst rioting was reported far to the south in Aguas Calientes, Capital of the state of that name. Spasmodic food riots during the last two days were described in a message received from a mining concern with large interests in Aguas Calientes.

As far as this section of the border is concerned the news of Carranza's request for the withdrawal of the troops has not caused an open disturbance. Juarez maintained its customary placid attitude and the Mexicans on both sides of the river seemed far less excited than the Americans.

British Bark Torpedoed.

London.—The British bark Inverlyon has been sunk by a submarine, according to a report received by Lloyds. Twelve members of the crew were rescued.

Hopewell Celebrates Anniversary.

Hopewell, Va.—Hopewell the city which has grown from a village to a city of 35,000 people within a year, and which has twice during that time been wiped out by fires, celebrated its first anniversary.

Favor Big Navy.

Washington.—Agitation for a greater navy at the expense of army increases marked the last day of general debate in the Senate on the army reorganization bill. Chairman Stone of made a plea for a navy big enough to fight offensively on the high seas to defend American rights anywhere in the world, and Senator Borah on the Republican side urged that the Federal volunteer and National Guard provisions of the Chamberlain bill both be sacrificed in order to add to the extension of the naval forces.

# THE EUROPEAN WAR A YEAR AGO THIS WEEK

April 17, 1915.

French made progress in the Vosges, in Champagne, and at Notre Dame de Lorette.

Germans defeated French at Filirey.

Russians repulsed attacks in direction of the Stry.

Czar of Russia left for the front. Turkish torpedo boat attacked British transport in the Aegean, 100 being lost, and Turkish boat was destroyed by two warships.

Greek steamer Ellispontis torpedoed in North sea.

French airship bombarded Strassburg and German aeroplanes attacked Amiens.

April 18, 1915.

Germans repulsed English attack near Ypres and took position in the Vosges.

French had successes at several points in France and Alsace.

Russians made gains on the heights of Teletotch.

British submarine E-15 ran ashore in the Dardanelles, and was destroyed by British picket boats.

Bread riots occurred in Vienna and Bohemia.

April 19, 1915.

British took Hill 60 and pushed their line south of Ypres forward three miles.

French made gains along Fecht river and took summit of Burgkorpfeld.

Germans repulsed French at Combres.

British and French forces landed on Lemnos.

Von der Goltz made commander of Turks.

Russian squadron shelled Turkish coast and sank many vessels.

French airmen raided Rhine towns and Germans bombed Belfort.

Garros, famous French aviator, captured by Germans.

April 20, 1915.

Heavy artillery fighting in Champagne and the Argonne.

Germans stormed and retook Emmerhenil.

Russians repulsed heavy German attacks east of Teletotch.

Severe fighting for possession of the heights near Oravozil.

Two Turkish torpedo boats blown up by Russian mines at Bosphorus entrance.

German aeroplane squadron bombarded Bialystok, Russian Poland. Great air battle over the Rhine won by allied airmen.

April 21, 1915.

German attacks on Hill 60 and Hartmannswellerkopf repulsed.

French lost ground at Filirey and in Forest of Le Pretre.

Russian advance in Carpathians stopped.

Twenty thousand French and British landed near Enos, on Gulf of Saros.

Germans in the Kameruns and Central Africa forced back.

British aviators bombarded German aviation harbor at Ghent.

Bulgarian irregulars invaded Serbia.

American government informed Germany it would not prohibit shipment of arms.

April 22, 1915.

Great battle near Ypres, Germans forcing way across the canal and capturing several villages.

French made gains farther south.

Russians defeated Austrians in Bukovina but lost heavily at Uzkok pass.

Allied fleet bombarded Dardanelles forts.

General Joffre retired 29 generals.

April 23, 1915.

French made progress at Forstat and near St. Mihiel.

Russian cavalry invaded East Prussia near Memel.

Severe fighting in Uzkok pass region.

Blockade of Kamerun, German West Africa, declared by Great Britain.

Russian aeroplanes bombarded Mlava and Plotsk.

## TAKEN FROM EXCHANGES

A farm in England is devoted exclusively to raising butterflies, of which upward of 30,000 are sold each year.

The total value of fish caught in Canadian waters in 1914 was \$2,207,748.

The bottling trade of the British Isles requires 70,000 tons of cork annually.

China has established a double standard of weights and measures that includes the metric system and a native one.