

NO ACTION BY GREAT BRITAIN

English Policy Toward Mexico Has Not Been Changed As Result of Benton Execution.

PUBLIC FEELING IS GETTING MORE ACUTE

More Aggressive Attitude May Be Demanded of United States by British Government.

London, Feb. 21.—The British government up to noon today had not taken any action over the execution of Juarez by William S. Benton, the British ranchman, beyond instructing Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British ambassador, to obtain from Secretary Bryan all possible information. Although the tragedy has created a sensation throughout the British Isles, it has not aroused any disposition on the part of responsible members of the government to change their policy in regard to Mexico. There is no concealment of the fact, however, that murder of British subjects in Mexico unless followed by punishment of the murderers and the payment of indemnities is likely to arouse public opinion here to the point where it will demand that the government take a more aggressive attitude. This fact has been impressed upon the state department at Washington by Sir Cecil Spring-Rice before any British lives had been lost in Mexico.

In its official attitude Great Britain is looking to the United States government to protect British subjects and has no doubt that the United States will do its best. The state department at Washington has already informed the British government that where there are no British consuls in Mexico the consuls of the United States will look after British interests.

The British government has no communication with the Mexican constitutionalists. Members of the British government consider that the recognition of the constitutionalists as belligerents would be a mistake. The Evening Standard says: "The execution of Benton emphasizes the fact that some kind of international compulsion will soon be necessary to stop Mexico from wallowing in this style of corruption and cruelty."

Threatened Villa is Aport.

Washington, Feb. 21.—White House officials stated today that reports from General Villa and his friends declare William S. Benton, the British ranchman, was executed because he entered Villa's camp armed and threatened the life of the constitutionalist commander.

In view of this latest report there was a disposition at the White House to await a full investigation before expressing an opinion. It was stated that Great Britain was holding in abeyance any representations pending the completion of a report on the affair by the American government.

Late official dispatches to the state department containing Villa's version of the affair were brought to the White House but a complete account of the killing as personally explained to Consul Edwards is on its way by mail.

Powers' Attention Attracted.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Attention of world powers interested in the Mexican situation was turned today upon the investigation into the killing of William S. Benton, the British ranchman at Juarez.

Secretary Bryan and Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British ambassador were awaiting official reports with details and pending that development the situation apparently was unchanged.

Great Britain's usual attitude toward treatment of her subjects in foreign lands surrounded the Benton case with more than ordinary interest. Intimations in El Paso that other Englishmen, friends of Benton's were unharmed from, increased the tenacity of the situation.

One outcome of the situation which was thought more probable, was expected to be a warning by Great Britain to her subjects in Mexico to leave isolated places and retreat to localities where they could place themselves under the protection of the British flag.

PREPARES REFERENDUM ON ANTI-TRUST BILLS

Washington, Feb. 21.—A committee of the chamber of commerce of the United States will prepare a nationwide referendum on the administration's trust bills. Preparations will be made at a meeting here February 24. Three bills were named: R. G. Elwell, Charleston, S. C.; President Charles R. Van Hise of the University of Wisconsin; G. E. Tripp, of the Westinghouse company; and W. L. Baugher, of New York.

THREE PASSENGERS KILLED IN HOLD-UP

Shot Down as They Sprang at Bandit on Great Northern Train.

Bellingham, Wash., Feb. 21.—A trail leading along the water front to a boat landing was the clue followed today by possees seeking three bandits who killed three passengers on a Great Northern train near here late last night. The bandits boarded the train at Burlington, a few miles south of here, and passed from the smoking car into the day coach, tying white handkerchiefs over their faces. One stood on the platform of the day coach, a second stepped just inside and a third walked the length of the car. As the robber started to lock the door the three men sprang at him. While he shot them down the robber at the other end of the car began shooting on the light. His companion then ran the length of the car, snatching as he ran purses offered by frightened passengers. The train slowed down in response to a pull at the bell cord and the three disappeared.

5 LOST LIVES IN CALIFORNIA FLOOD

Rural Mail Carrier Drowned

Flood Sections Draining But Rain Threatens.

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 21.—While rain was threatened again today for stormy weather, southern California, yet it was believed that some estimate could be made of property losses because flooded sections rapidly being drained.

Scattered papers showed today where J. H. Rosewood, a rural mail carrier from Santa Barbara, was drowned in seeking to discharge his duty. He was survived by 11 children.

The daughter of Santa Barbara increased to five the number of fatalities by storm reported from that vicinity. The private car of Lord and Lady Decies (formerly Vivian Gould) which was marooned in the town two days ago, was pulled out yesterday but advised early today reported it stalled again not far from Los Angeles.

Rain and wind swept over the north central part of the state. At Leland Stanford Jr. university the wind broke the library windows. Fearing that the great stained glass dome would follow, students of the university fled.

STOCKHOLDERS WILL MEET NEXT TUESDAY

Baseball Situation Relative to Coming Season to Be Discussed.

There will be a meeting of the stockholders of the Asheville Baseball club on Tuesday night, March 3, at which time the matter of discussing the coming season will be taken up and several matters of interest to the club will be passed upon.

It is also the purpose of the officers of the club to have Manager Louis Cook present at the meeting and give him a chance to see the stockholders and fans who may be present. Manager Cook is due to arrive here next week, about Wednesday, according to the last letter received from him by T. M. Duckert, secretary of the club. It is expected that Manager Cook will get acquainted with a large majority of the baseball enthusiasts of the city before he goes to Mars Hill college to take charge of the baseball team of that school.

Submarine Missing.

Hiroshima, Japan, Feb. 21.—A Japanese submarine attached to the protected cruiser Hiyado has been missing for three days. Naval authorities believe she has met with disaster and that all on board have been drowned.

3 OTHER MEN ALSO MISSING

Following Execution of Benton In Mexico Fear Is Felt For One American and Two Englishmen

AMERICAN BAUCH ARRESTED AS A SPY

Believed to Have Been Shot—Curtis and Lawrence Had Gone in Search of Countryman.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 21.—Official announcement that William S. Benton, a British subject, had been executed by Mexican rebels at Juarez Tuesday night; the adoption of resolutions at a mass meeting here condemning the United States government for its handling of Mexican affairs; exchange of shots between members of the thirteenth United States cavalry and a score or more of Mexicans and uncertainty as to the fate of Gustav Bauch, an American, and two Englishmen, John Lawrence and a man named Curtis, were startling Mexican developments of the last 24 hours. Following in rapid succession, these incidents served to bring public feeling to a high pitch and today every official agency was engaged in bringing to light further details.

The official report of Benton's death came yesterday through Thomas D. Edwards, American consul at Juarez. Almost immediately General Francisco Villa and staff hurriedly left Juarez for Chihuahua. Consul Edwards watched close at the station, hoping to catch a glimpse of Benton or any American prisoner but saw none.

That there was a real court martial in Benton's case, none on this side of the border pretend to believe. It was known that Benton started for Villa's headquarters to voice a protest against the repeated raiding on his ranch in Chihuahua by the Mexican rebels. Here, at least, the killing of Benton has wiped out whatever confidence was felt in Villa's promises.

These and other disclosures in the Benton case speedily crystallized public sentiment and a mass meeting of protest took place. Former Governor Curry of New Mexico outlined the purposes, and resolutions were adopted with a shout. They characterized as "cold blooded and heartless" the assassination of Benton, charged that the state department at Washington had "persistently suppressed facts concerning true conditions in Mexico" and declared that "at the present moment our government is harboring General Ynez Salazar, who has committed outrages against our people," as well as Maximo Castillo, for many months head of a bandit band in northern Mexico. Villa was denounced in strong terms.

The clash between cavalrymen and Mexicans occurred last night shortly after Captain Harry Coates had received word that filibusters might attempt to rush his barracks. After exchanging a few shots in which two Mexicans were wounded the other intruders escaped.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 21.—William S. Benton of El Paso, Scotchman, subject of Great Britain, is dead. That was confirmed by General Pancho Villa and was officially conveyed to the widow here by United States Consul Edwards of Juarez.

Mystery surrounds the report of the death. William Benton, a cousin of the dead man, confirmed the report.

"Consul Edwards told Mrs. Benton," he said, "that her husband was dead in Juarez. The consul said Villa had confirmed this but said that Villa had asked him not to make public the details except in official dispatches to his government."

Benton was executed Tuesday night after a trial in Juarez by a military court of which Frederico Gonzalez Garza was the head, according to what appears to be a correct version of the affair. The charge against Benton was that he was implicated in a plot to take Villa's life.

Villa left for the south yesterday. Benton was last seen alive in Juarez Tuesday morning. He was going to Villa's home and said he was going to "tell Villa what he thought of him," for the manner in which his ranch, "Los Remedios" in western Chihuahua, had been looted by rebel soldiers.

Instructions had been sent by the American state department Thursday to Consul Edwards, it was reported, to see that no harm should come to Benton, the orders being sent at the request of the British ambassador. The warning, it now appears, came too late.

It is supposed that Villa's defense will be that the man was shot because he entered Villa's office and started to draw a gun, although the cousin says Benton did not go to Juarez armed.

quaintance for many years Benton knew him when as an outlaw more or less accepted as part of the Mexican social fabric, the then bandit crossed the Benton ranch west of the city of Chihuahua. The ranch of 100,000 acres is considered one of the best in Mexico. It was well watered, contained fine pasturage and the owner was particularly proud of his orchard which succeeding bands of revolutionists cut into fire wood. Benton paid \$15,000 for it but improvements were said to have brought the value close to \$1,000,000.

It was with the assurance of this acquaintance behind him that the Scotchman went to Villa with complaint of the depredations. Yesterday Villa, who has consistently denied that he had Benton in custody, told a reporter that Benton was armed when he made his visit.

Friends of the ranchman assert that Benton, while of fiery temper and ready to use fists, was of sober habit and never known to carry a gun. His great reason for going unarmed was his own knowledge of his temper.

In the course of the interview Benton and Villa quarreled and Benton was lost to view of his friends.

James Hamilton, one Englishman, and others, including reporters exhausted every means of ascertaining the fate of the missing man but everywhere were met with evasions and denials.

Consul Edwards was the first to learn the true fact. He gave Mrs. Benton only a bare outline of the case.

"I have telegraphed all details at my command to Washington," said the consul, "and if made public it must be from there. I pledged my word to Villa not to make the details public."

Asked what disposition had been made of the body, Edwards replied: "I do think it will be seen on this side of the border!"

Villa's sudden departure is regarded as flight from the storm of indignation which was presaged in the interest manifested in Benton's disappearance.

As the forenoon wore on talk of a mass meeting grew but took no definite shape. Excited groups of American, English, French and German refugees who have lost their property in Mexico, or were compelled to abandon it temporarily, asserted that the time had come for foreigners to protest against treatment being dealt out to them.

Since the revolutions began they have never had such a meeting but accepted their burdens stoically.

It is understood among border newspaper men that names of foreigners who divulge news are not to be made public for fear of consequences when they set foot on Mexican soil again.

The fate of Gustav Bauch, the German-American charged with being a spy, is still unknown. According to official report, he is said to be held incommunicado, but for all his friends know, he may be dead.

Think Villa Killed Benton.

The fact that the alleged execution of Benton took place Tuesday night is thought to mean by many that Villa's court martial report was given out to cover the fact that Villa personally shot his visitor during their quarrel. The disagreement, the court martial and the execution, all in part of one day, is thought to be too rapid for legal procedure across the river. Villa's sudden departure is also considered in connection with this theory.

Talking with a reporter over the telephone, Consul Edwards made a remark: "I have officially reported Benton dead because his death was officially reported to me. Personally, I may have my hopes and my doubts. I will say nothing more."

Washington, Feb. 20.—Secretary Bryan, after a cabinet conference, ordered an immediate investigation of the killing of W. S. Benton, the English ranch owner at Juarez, Mexico.

In commenting to the British ambassador the news of Benton's death, Secretary Bryan added that he had ordered a thorough investigation. Pending this has been done entirely on the part of officials not only of the state department, but also of the British embassy, to maintain a judicial attitude.

Facts so far developed have been reported to the British foreign office by Ambassador Spring Rice, who has been moving energetically since Benton's arrest was brought to his attention. It was said at the embassy that the action of the state department had been gratifyingly prompt and thoroughly.

U. S. Not Responsible.

It was pointed out that the American government cannot be held responsible in any sense for Benton's death. While the state department has undertaken to extend protection to British subjects in Mexico where necessary, this has been done entirely by courtesy. The situation of the British in Mexico is precisely the same as that of Spaniards whom the United States tried to protect in the face of threats of wholesale killings, and for the failure of its efforts it cannot be held responsible.

Although it will be for the British foreign office to decide what shall be done after investigation establishes the facts in the Benton case, the understanding is that an immediate result will be formal warning by the British government to all its subjects in the country occupied by the constitutionalists immediately to repair to places of safety.

Three Killed in Wreck.

Rome, Italy, Feb. 21.—Three passengers were killed and six seriously injured in a railway collision today near Crocetta. There were eleven Americans on one of the trains but none of them suffered any injury.

USED THREATS TO GET PASS

Correspondence Discloses John T. Denvir Demanded Personal Pass of C. B. & Q. Railway.

REPRESENTED THAT HE WAS LEGISLATOR

Intimated He Would Urge Investigation of Roads' Affairs When the Pass Was Denied.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Correspondence between "John T. Denvir," who represented himself as a member of the Illinois legislature, and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad in which Denvir demanded from the railroad a personal pass and threatened legislative action because it was not supplied, was disclosed by the interstate commerce commission today in a supplemental report upon the inquiry into the issue of free transportation by western railroads.

There was a John T. Denvir in the Illinois legislature. He informed the commission that he did not sign the letter and that it was not sent by his authority.

Denvir requested an annual pass for himself on account of the "legislative public utilities commission." The Burlington road declined. A letter subsequently was received by the general counsel of the road written on the official letter head of the committee and signed "John T. Denvir." It said in part:

"As chairman of the public utilities commission you can look for legislation that will work hardship to your company and I wish to assure you that when our commission gets through with you that you will find your road in the hands of a receiver, for you certainly are violating the laws of the state in a great many respects and we know it, but have gone along and been friendly with you; but inasmuch as you are inclined to be so diplomatic in your statement that you would not like to violate the custom you have indulged in, I feel inclined to think that a little resolution with respect to a committee for a thorough investigation of your gross negligence with regard to your methods of procedure will be well to adopt at the next meeting of the senate."

The report of the commission says in part:

"Although opportunity for a full explanation was afforded Mr. Denvir, it was not forthcoming, and we deem it our duty to make this record of the matter. It is well to add that our investigations of the records of other carriers at Chicago show that many requests have been made in the past for free transportation for the use of 'John T. Denvir.'"

14 DROWN IN TRYING TO RESCUE CREW OF BARK

Life Savers Lose Lives in Attempt to Rescue Men on The Mexico.

Queenstown, Feb. 21.—Fourteen men were drowned when they went out from Redhurd to rescue the crew of the Norwegian bark Mexico, driven on the rocks near the Saittee islands, Newford, last night. Two lifeboats answered the distress call of the Mexico, bound from Laguna, Mex., to Falmouth. The first to reach her was stove in, but the life savers were able to scramble on board the wrecked Mexico where they remained all night.

When the crew of the bark and the life boat men landed safely on one of the islands today they found that the second lifeboat had sunk with her crew of 14 men.

ASHEVILLE POST OFFICE TO BE CLOSED MONDAY

Next Monday, February 23, will be observed as a legal holiday by the Asheville postoffice. All windows at the postoffice will be open from 8 to 12 o'clock in the morning and will then be closed for the remainder of the day. There will be only one delivery of mail by city carriers, while the rural carriers will not go out on their routes at all. All patrons along the R. F. D. routes, however, may secure their mail at the office by calling there between the hours of 9 and 10 in the morning.

The banks of the city will likewise be closed Monday in observance of the birthday anniversary of George Washington.

SLAY PRIEST IN BIG MASSACRE

PEACE TREATIES TO BE RATIFIED

Senate Leaders Confident Arbitration Agreement With Eight Nations Will Be Ratified Today.

Washington, Feb. 21.—The senate today ratified the eight pending arbitration treaties.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Senators of the foreign relations committee were confident today that the general arbitration treaties with Great Britain, Japan and six other nations would be ratified before adjournment.

Administration leaders asserted that further argument seemed useless. Those who opposed arbitration as a national policy, they said, had exhausted their field for argument in the debate of the last two days, while others who sought to amend the treaties had made their fight and lost by a decisive vote.

As an argument against further delay, champions of the treaties pointed out that to amend any of the conventions at this time would be discriminatory inasmuch as a similar treaty with France was ratified by the senate last summer and renewed.

The decisive vote yesterday against any amendments was referred to as an indication of the futility of pressing further changes.

FIVE CHILDREN OF A LUMBERMAN ARE BURNED TO DEATH

DIAZ LEFT HAVANA FEARING HUERTISTAS

Ashland, Maine, Feb. 21.—Five of the six children of Joseph Smart, a lumberman, were burned to death when their house at Eagle Lake was destroyed by fire early today.

New York, Feb. 21.—Felix Diaz who helped bring about the downfall of Madero, but later had to flee from Mexico arrived here today from Havana. He declared that he had no intention of allying himself with Carranza and Villa and declined to discuss what plans, if any, he had for regaining power he once had. Friends who accompany him said he left Havana because he feared the hostility of the Huertistas, who had already made one attempt to kill him since he fled from Vera Cruz.

INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL PASSES HOUSE

Washington, Feb. 21.—Notice was received by the senate today of the passage of the house Indian appropriation bill carrying \$5,619,737. The measure went to the committee on Indian affairs. The bill shows a reduction of \$2,165,127 from estimates of the department of the interior.

Father Rich, Jesuit Missionary, Put to Death When White Wolf Killed 1300 People.

TROOPS MARCHING ON CHINESE BANDIT

Feared He Will Form Another Rebellion Unless He and His Followers Are Exterminate.

Peking, Feb. 21.—Thirteen hundred men, women and children were massacred by the bandits led by "White Wolf" when they sacked Luau-Chow, province of Ngan-Hwei on January 29. On that occasion they murdered Father Rice, a French Jesuit missionary, and captured and held two other foreigners for ransom.

An army of 25,000 Chinese troops is now converging on "White Wolf's" strongly entrenched position in the vicinity of Cheng Yang-Kwan, province to the north in the same province. "White Wolf" has a force of 6000 bandits, half of whom are armed with modern rifles.

Opinion is expressed here that unless the opportunity is seized of exterminating "White Wolf" and his followers they will form another rebellion. Government troops, however, show strong disinclination to get to close quarters with bandits.

SEN. THEODORE FLEES FROM CAPE HAITIEN; REBELS ARE ROUTED

Cape Haitien, Haiti, Feb. 21.—Senator Davilmar Theodore, rebel leader, and the members of his staff fled today from Cape Haitien. The city was later occupied by the government troops. The rebel army was routed yesterday. The streets of the city are patrolled by American marines.

Gorgas killed the mosquitoes so Goethals could dig the ditch—Read about it.

COUPON Save it for a Copy of THE PANAMA CANAL by Frederic J. Haskin Author of "The American Government" Gazette-News Saturday Feb. 21 Colonel Goethals says: "Accurate and Dependable"

HOW TO GET THIS BOOK On account of the education value and patriotic appeal of this book, The Gazette-News has arranged with Mr. Haskin to distribute a limited edition among its readers for the mere cost of production and handling. It is bound in a heavy cloth. It contains 400 pages, 100 illustrations and diagrams, an index, and two maps (one of them beautiful bird's-eye view of the Canal Zone in four colors). IT IS ACTUALLY A \$2.00 VALUE. Cut the above coupon from six consecutive issues of the paper, present them with 50 cents at our office, and a copy of the book is yours. Fifteen cents extra if sent by mail. OUR GUARANTEE: This is not a money-making scheme. The Gazette-News will not make a penny of profit from this campaign. It has undertaken the distribution of this book solely because of its educational merit and whatever benefit there is to be derived from the good will of those who profit from our offer. The Gazette-News will cheerfully refund the price of the book to any purchaser who is not satisfied with it. Present Six Coupons of Consecutive Dates FIFTEEN CENTS EXTRA IF SENT BY MAIL