

The Asheville Gazette-News.

Weather Forecast
FAIR AND WARMER.

VOLUME XIX, NO. 9

ASHEVILLE, N. C., SATURDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 21, 1914

PRICE FIVE CENTS

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 Apeared.

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 have been proposed: 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. Saunders, of New York.

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 Maximiliano 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 Federico 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.

Benton had been in Mexico for about 25 years. He was about 45 years old. Benton and Villa have been acquaintances 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.

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 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 life savers were drowned when they went out from Redhurd to rescue the crew of the Norwegian bark Mexico, driven on the rocks near the Saltee Islands, Westford, 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 9 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

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

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

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.

DIAZ LEFT HAVANA FEARING HUERTISTAS

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.

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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.

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.

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"

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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.

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