

TESTING POWER  
OF CARRANZA

EDUCATIONAL MEN  
HAVE A BUSY DAY

FISCALETTI CASES  
ARE THROWN OUT

BECKER INTENDS  
TO GO ON STAND

SOUTHERN SNOW  
IS DISAPPEARING

**Benton Incident Promises to Show Extent of Authority Of Chief of the Constitutionalists Over Villa.**

**EVERY PRESSURE TO BE EXERTED ON LEADER**  
**Estimation of Carranza by Washington Depends on His Power to Cause Clear Explanation of Affair.**

Washington, Feb. 26.—The American government today was exerting every influence to obtain from General Villa the surrender of the body of William S. Benton, British subject, executed at Juarez. No reply had been received to instructions sent to Consul Letcher yesterday to find Benton's grave and Secretary Bryan was surprised by news dispatches quoting Villa as saying Benton was buried in Chihuahua City. There have been persistent reports here, too, that the body was cremated.

Official denial came from the White House of one published report that Rear Admiral Fletcher had recommended the landing of marines at Vera Cruz.

Attention was chiefly centered on the Benton investigation and high officials conceded that future development of the American policy toward Mexico hinged largely on the outcome of the inquiry.

Another feature which loomed as of commanding importance was the fact that the Benton incident promised to develop into a test of Carranza's authority as chief of the constitutionalist movement. Every sort of pressure, it is understood, is being brought to bear on Carranza, both by Americans and Mexicans, who have the confidence of Washington officials, with the purpose of impressing upon him the necessity of a clear and convincing explanation of all the circumstances surrounding the death of Benton.

If Carranza cannot obtain that from Villa, the power of the so-called "first chief of the constitutionalists" will fall in the estimation of the Washington government.

Persons in a position to know the view point of the president and the cabinet say the disposition of the administration is to insist upon the facts of the Benton episode and possession of the body for medical examination, but that there is nothing yet to indicate a critical stage.

Another report which attracted attention was that the American embassy in Mexico City had been equipped with machine guns. The only arms there is, it was said, are several rifles imported just before the street fighting that ended in Madero's downfall.

Possibly that Great Britain, Germany, France and other powers may follow the lead of the United States in warning their subjects to leave Mexico, was discussed in official circles as a likely effect of Benton's execution.

The Washington government, it was understood, would render any assistance possible to foreigners desiring to leave Mexico. Those in official circles here who believe foreign countries generally ought to ask their subjects to leave, think such a move would be an added precaution in case the Mexican question developed more serious aspects in relation to the American policy.

**Villa Reiterates Declaration.**

Chihuahua, Feb. 26.—General Villa today reiterated his would permit the examination but not the removal of the body of William S. Benton, which he asserted he buried here. He said that representatives of the American and British governments and of the wide-awake along would be permitted to view the body.

**Go to Scene of Execution.**

Laredo, Texas, Feb. 26.—United States Consul Garrett and E. J. Hill of Laredo, brother-in-law of Clemente Vergara, were to reach the scene of Vergara's execution by Mexican federalists near Hidalgo, Mex., today.

The consul's visit was largely to demand that Vergara's body be surrendered to the family for burial. Opposition to this was not expected. Personal responsibility for Vergara's death, however, scarcely will be fixed until an extensive investigation is made. Colonel Alvarez, commander of Nuevo Laredo, has assured Consul Garrett that the guilty men will be punished.

**Diaz "Watching and Waiting."**

New York, Feb. 26.—General Felix Diaz, nephew of former President Diaz of Mexico and himself a recent presidential aspirant, has no intention of taking part in Mexican politics at present. Under existing conditions, he declared today, he did not see what he could do to help matters. "To borrow the phrase of another, I may say that my policy is one of watching and waiting," said Diaz. "I am of course, very anxious to help my country in any way I can, but I can do nothing at present."

**Want News of McCarthy.**

San Jose, Cal., Feb. 26.—The family

here of George W. McCarthy, a railroad engineer, were waiting today for word from Secretary Bryan as to whether a report that McCarthy had been slain in Mexico more than a year ago had been verified. McCarthy was reported to have been dragged from a train on the Texas and Pacific railroad, en route from El Paso to Mexico City, and killed two years ago.

Washington, Feb. 26.—General Villa's proposal for an American examination of the body of W. S. Benton, the English ranchman executed at Juarez, without permitting its removal from Mexico, has been accepted by this government, without waiving, however, any further movement to demand its delivery on American soil.

British Consul Perceval at Galveston has been ordered to proceed to El Paso at once, where he is expected to arrive tomorrow, to go to the grave in Juarez with a delegation of Americans. Major General Scott, commanding the United States troops there, will detail an American army surgeon and any other officers to accompany the British consul. A member of Benton's family will be taken with the party.

That course has been decided upon pending the outcome of efforts to secure the surrender of the body to Benton's family, which will not be abated in the least.

Further complicated by dispatches telling of official confirmation received by Consul Garrett at Nuevo Laredo of the hanging by Huerta troops of Clemente Vergara, an American near Hidalgo, the Mexican situation took on more tenacity, if it could be said there was any change at all.

Will Try to Locate 10 Americans.

Later dispatches from Consul Letcher said General Villa had given assurances that he would endeavor to locate the ten Americans whom he says he rejected as recruits for his army. Villa says when he offered them a special train to Juarez they said they preferred to remain in Chihuahua.

There are no Americans in prison at Chihuahua, according to the consul's report.

General Villa reiterated to Letcher that Gustav Bauch had not been brought to Chihuahua and that he knew nothing about him.

**England Still Waiting.**

London, Feb. 26.—The British government, it was announced today is still awaiting an answer from the state department at Washington to its request to the United States government to secure a safe conduct from General Villa to enable Consul Perceval of Galveston to participate in the investigation into the death of William S. Benton, at Juarez.

Francis Dyke Acland, parliamentary secretary for foreign affairs, stated today in the house of commons that the foreign office was not prepared to order Consul Perceval to leave El Paso for the dangerous districts of Mexico until it had received some assurance that he would be safe.

**Ban on United States Papers.**

Mexico City, Feb. 26.—A ban appears to have been put on the delivery in Mexico of newspapers from the United States. By the last mail or two almost none have reached the addresses. News dealers here declare they have no doubt the deliveries are being impeded by the officials.

**Interest in Perceval's Arrival.**

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 26.—Interest in the case of William S. Benton, who was executed by General Villa at Juarez, centered today in the arrival of Charles Perceval, British consul at Galveston, who was expected here today to make a thorough investigation. His efforts to find out just how Benton was killed it was expected would bring a definite statement from General Villa at Chihuahua as to what may be done with the body. Reports of Villa's intentions were varied last night, ranging from a flat refusal to deliver the body to permission to relatives to visit the grave. It was reported also that he would permit an examination of the body later.

**Plain Talk.**

"We must clear up these matters no matter how black they may turn against us," Cabrera told his fellow revolutionists. "Delay only makes things worse."

As a result of this conference two rebel officials left Juarez last night on a special train and arrived at Chihuahua this morning. Cabrera's representations will be placed before Villa today, if plans do not miscarry.

Consul Edwards at Juarez and George C. Carothers, special agent of the state department were without definite information as to Bauch and as to Benton's body today.

**Vergara's Hanging Confirmed.**

Laredo, Tex., Feb. 26.—Official confirmation of the hanging of Clemente Vergara, American citizen, by Mexican federalists near Hidalgo, Mex., was received today by United States Consul Garrett at Nuevo Laredo. The report said Vergara's body remains hanging three miles from Hidalgo. Consul Garrett immediately left Nuevo Laredo for the scene.

**Lacy Crawford Dies.**

Springfield, Mo., Feb. 26.—O. Lacy Crawford, part owner of the St. Louis National club at his home here today from a throat affection. He was 42 years old.

**Association Gives Attention to Many Subjects and Considers Reports.**

Richmond, Va., Feb. 26.—The sun's bright lances routed the mists of morning and gave the National Educational association a brilliant winter day for its convention work.

The department of superintendence opened its session with a discussion of "The Foundation of Educational Achievement," a paper read by Edward L. Thorndike of Teachers college, Columbia university.

H. B. Wilson, superintendent of schools, Topeka, Kas., delivered the report of the committee on economy of time in education, participated in by J. F. Housh, Chicago Normal college, and W. A. Sessup, University of Iowa.

The annual business meeting open to active members only, completed the morning and early afternoon session. The "Round Table," opened at 3 p. m., was participated in by J. M. Gwinn, superintendent, Philadelphia, David Snedden, state commissioner, Boston, and other college presidents, school superintendents and state commissioners.

J. J. Doyno, president of the State Normal school, Conway, Ark., was a leader in the department of Normal schools, conference.

**AUTOMOBILE SPEEDERS ARE WARNED BY COURT**

**Substitute Police Justice Stevens Threatens to Impose Heavier Fines.**

Substitute Judge H. B. Stevens in Police court this morning issued a warning to drivers of automobiles in the city that speeding will have to come to an end, or else very heavy fines will be imposed on all convicted of this offense. He stated that he made this warning in view of the large number of speeders that have faced him during the last few days that he has presided at the court.

The court went on to say that, while to some it seems that the present fines imposed on speeders are excessive, that it does not seem to check the number that appear in Police court. He stated that a large number of complaints are continually coming in from people in all sections of the city that automobilists are speeding, but that in a number of the cases it is utterly impossible to tell who they are or to get the numbers. Especially true does this seem to be on Southside avenue, the court stated. Only recently several speeders have been arrested on Southside avenue by members of the police department.

The police use more or less of a system in catching the speeders. First they stake off about 100 yards, put a man at one end with a stop watch and flash light and the other man stands about one hundred yards away. When the speeder passes over the "deadline" the policeman with the flash gives a signal that he has passed over, if the limit is exceeded, and the other man steps out into the street and hails the driver. Sometimes the speeders fail to slow down at the signal from the policeman and then an effort is made to get the number of the machine.

Following out the court's orders the members of the police department will make more strenuous efforts to get the speed fiends and they think that some relief will be effected.

**SIXTEEN CARS ENTER VANDERBILT CUP RACE**

**Drivers Have Record of 78.72 Miles an Hour to Beat in Events.**

Santa Monica, Cal., Feb. 26.—With a course record of 78.72 miles an hour to beat, sixteen big cars plotted by some of the best known drivers in the country started at 10 o'clock today in the first Vanderbilt cup race run on the Pacific coast. The best time heretofore made in a Vanderbilt event was 74.07 miles an hour.

The distance is 294.685 miles or 85 laps of the 34.31 mile course which ought to be covered by the winner in less than four hours. Oldfield, De Palma and Earl Cooper were favorites.

**Found That no Complaints Were Filed in Sensational Italian Cases.**

Yesterday afternoon, when the cases of Pietro Fisaletti, an Italian, against Sarah A. Owenby and R. A. and Lee Owenby were called in Superior court, it was found that no complaints had been filed in the cases by the plaintiff and Judge M. H. Justice ordered that the actions be dismissed for failure to file complaints. This ends, so far as the court is concerned, cases that have attracted great interest in western North Carolina.

According to the records of the cases, Fisaletti came to this country from Italy; went to Graham county, the home of Owenbys, and there fell in love with Miss Sarah Owenby. They entered into a marriage contract in 1911. It is alleged, to guarantee the faithful performance of the contract, Fisaletti was asked to deposit the sum of \$1200, which he alleges that he did. He further claims that the father, R. A. Owenby, used this money to purchase lands, that he made a trip to Italy and upon his return went to see Miss Owenby to marry her, which she refused to do, nor would she deliver his money back to him.

It was further claimed by Fisaletti that on January 10, 1913, in Cherokee county, he was set upon by R. A. and Lee Owenby and beat up and finally shot, seriously wounding him. For this he thought suit against them for \$10,000 damages.

**A. T. & T. PLANS TO SELL STOCK ARE APPROVED**

Will Dispose of \$29,000,000 of W. U. T. Stock Through Kuhn, Loeb & Co.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Plans by which the American Telephone and Telegraph company will dispose of its \$29,000,000 of Western Union Telegraph stock through Kuhn, Loeb and company of New York, have been approved by the department of justice and, according to information here, the stock will be transferred within short time.

The underwriters will dispose of the Western Union stock to parties other than the American Telephone and Telegraph company, so that the separation of the two concerns shall meet the idea of Attorney General McReynolds.

**EQUITABLE TO RESIST DISTRIBUTION OF STOCK**

Will Oppose Plan of Union Pacific For Disbursing B. & O. Stock.

New York, Feb. 26.—The Equitable Life Assurance society, which was authoritatively learned today, will institute legal action to restrain the Union Pacific railroad company from distributing its holdings of Baltimore and Ohio stock and a cash dividend of \$3 to holders of Union Pacific common. Such a disbursement plan was recently announced. The Equitable holds \$1,618,000 par value of Union Pacific preferred. Other holders of the same stock have instituted suits against the Union Pacific.

**TREATY ACCEPTABLE TO GREAT BRITAIN**

London, Feb. 26.—Draft of a treaty establishing a peace commission at The Hague which was recently submitted to Great Britain by the United States is regarded by the British foreign secretary, informed the house of commons today, however, that the treaty would have to be considered in connection with the "self-governing British dominions as certain special provisions in regard to them would be required.

The foreign secretary expressed hope that the ratifications of the arbitration convention between Great Britain and the United States renewed on May 31, last year, would be exchanged shortly.

North to Mr. and Mrs. Frederick A. Woodcock, a son, Frederick Richard.

**Behalf—Sensation Promised When Webber Testifies, By Becker's Counsel—Wife Visits Becker.**

New York, Feb. 26.—The last hours of Charles Becker's stay in the death house at Sing Sing was saddened today by a visit from his wife. Owing to the death of her mother, whose funeral was held yesterday, Mrs. Becker was prevented from going to the prison on Tuesday when news of the decision granting her husband a new trial for the murder of Herman Rosenthal, was announced.

Today's meeting between the couple, who for 16 months have conveyed through bars, was pathetic, although each attempted to keep back any outward display of feeling. It was expected that Sheriff Griffen Hagen would take Becker back to the tombs late today or tomorrow morning, where he will be confined pending final disposition of his case.

Whether Becker will be tried again remains problematical. Even District Attorney Whitman, it is said, is as yet undecided. His desire is to have a second trial on the murder charge, but before he reaches a decision he wishes to make a thorough study of the opinion of the court of appeals.

**Launching Of Leviathan Marks New Development**

Belfast, Ireland, Feb. 26.—The launching today of the Britannic, the 50,000-ton White Star liner, marked an important development in construction safety, so far as engineering ingenuity can ensure it.

The Britannic, intended for the trans-Atlantic service, had just been laid down when the Titanic disaster occurred. Immediately the plans of the new liner were almost completely remodeled.

She is a triple screw steamer, 900 feet in length, and there has been introduced into her construction every device possible to prevent a recurrence of disaster which overtook the Titanic. A complete inner-skin extends to a considerable height above the load line, the most vulnerable portion of the vessel, and the height and number of bulkheads has been increased.

It is claimed the Britannic will be able to float with six compartments flooded. The inner-skin consists of heavy plating, which extends for more than half the length of the vessel, from the water tight bulkhead in front of the forward boiler room to the after end of the turbine engine room. It is connected to the outer-shell by longitudinal tubes and angles with especially strong connections at bulkheads and watertight divisions. In addition an extra watertight bulkhead has been introduced and the existing bulkheads have been carried up to the bridge deck.

**MILITANT SUFFRAGETTES BURN HOLY LAND RELICS**

**Many Priceless Curios Destroyed in Burning of Historic Building.**

Dunbar, Scotland, Feb. 26.—Militant suffragettes today burned to the ground the historic parish church of the village of White Kirk. Many priceless relics and curios of the Holy Land were destroyed. The church was erected in the sixteenth century and contained many relics of the battle in which the Scots were routed by Oliver Cromwell's forces in 1650. In the vicinity is the famous battleground of Dunbar, where the English defeated the Scots in 1296 and caused John Balliol to give up the crown of Scotland.

**Will Not Be Deported.**

London, Feb. 26.—Confirmation of the statement that no steps are being taken by the British government for the deportation of Miss Zelle Emerson, militant suffragette, of Jackson, Mich., was given Reginald McKenna, home secretary, in a printed reply to a question put to him in the house of commons today. The home secretary added: "However, if Miss Emerson again commits an offense bringing her within the provisions of the aliens act, the question of applying to the court for a recommendation for her expulsion will be considered."

**CONTINENTAL SHIPPING POOL AGAIN RENEWED**

Hamburg, Feb. 26.—The continental shipping pool in which the Hamburg-American and North German Lloyd lines are the principal parties concerned was renewed today for five years.

**Killed in Duel.**

Metz, Germany, Feb. 26.—Lieutenant Haase, of the 98th infantry regiment, was killed today in duel with Lieutenant Von La Vallette Saint George, of the same regiment. The encounter was brought about by a "gross insult" according to the official report.

**Hebrew Authority Dies.**

Oxford, England, Feb. 26.—Rev. Samuel Rolles Driver, Regius professor of Hebrew at Oxford university and canon of Christ church, died here today aged 88.

Professor Driver was probably the greatest authority on Hebrew.

**Clearing Conditions Prevail in South and Southeast, After Unusual Fall of Snow Yesterday.**

**WIRE COMMUNICATION IS INTERFERRED WITH**

**In Some Cities Traffic Is Impeded and Business Suspended—11-Inch Snow in Columbia.**

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 26.—Clearing conditions prevailed generally throughout the snow covered south and southeast today. The storm which yesterday left a white layer of snow from the Carolinas and Tennessee almost to the gulf of Mexico, today was moving southeastward. Over southern Georgia and Florida it had turned to sleet and today that district practically was cut off from wire communication with the north and west.

Under a clear bright sun, the snow which in many districts had reached a new record depth for years when it ceased to fall late yesterday, slowly disappeared today. Railroad and street traffic, crippled by sleet and snow, improved hourly. In many cities inconvenience was experienced by the bursting of water mains, due to the low temperatures reached last night, but with the warmer weather today little additional trouble from this cause was expected.

**10.1 Inches in Augusta.**

Augusta, Ga., Feb. 26.—A total fall of ten and one half inches of snow was recorded in Augusta. Snow began falling at 6 o'clock yesterday morning and did not cease until midnight last night. Accompanying the snow were temperatures ranging from 23 to 31, the latter being the lowest temperature that has been reached here this winter. The snow was nearly four inches greater than the next to the largest snow which was on February 12, and 13, 1889, when 6.9 inches were recorded. The street cars on the belt line, which reaches Augusta's largest suburban residence section, were not running up until noon today, having gone out of commission last night. Hundreds of people are not at their downtown places of business in consequence.

**Snow 11.7 Inches in Columbia.**

Columbia, S. C., Feb. 26.—The snow fall in Columbia and vicinity reached a total of 11.7 inches last night. (Continued on page 9)

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