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PRICE FIVE CENTS

DECLARE VILLA WAS DEFEATED

Federals Assert Rebel General Was Surprised North of Torreon and Badly Beaten.

CLAIM HE STILL IS IN PRECARIOUS POSITION

Strict Censorship of The Wire Lines Prevents Authentic Information of Important Mexican Battle.

El Paso, Tex., March 18.—Thousands of persons in this section of the country whose fortunes are involved in military and political developments in Mexico today awaited authentic information of the reported battle north of Torreon. In the last 24 hours 15 words of a press dispatch seeped through the censor and over the single telegraph line connecting Juarez with the war zone. It was so restricted as to be scarcely more than an index of what it is assumed the censor removed.

Meanwhile federal agents here asserted that General Villa, moving confidently in the direction of Torreon, had suddenly come up on the enemy a hundred miles north of where he had expected them and was defeated at Escalon on the main line of the railway, and at Rosario.

If the federal claims are correct, General Villa had to battle for his life and is still in a precarious position, with an enemy in front and another threatening by a flank movement to occupy his rear. Federals assert, and there were rumors to the same effect in the rebel camp at Juarez, that the first federal detachment moved out of Torreon west of a range of mountains beyond which lies Escalon and the railroad. This column, proceeding in the direction of Parral, was said to have come upon the rebel general Urbina at Rosario and the latter was forced to retreat pending the arrival of reinforcements. Rosario is 110 miles west of Jimenez and the latter city is directly in the rear of Escalon. The federal attack at Escalon apparently was delayed until the western column on the other side of the mountains had engaged Urbina. Exact information as to the fortunes of this general were eagerly sought but not confidently awaited today. Federals here claim that not only was the rebel western column defeated at Rosario but that it was unable to prevent the entry of the Huerta troops into Jimenez. If this proves true Villa's army has been cut off from retreat with an enemy in front and behind and mountains and the desert on either side.

That feature of the story received little credence here. Reader belief was found for the report that the federal forces were defeated at Escalon, but it was asserted the constitutionalists by retreating a few miles to Belana could occupy rifle pits and trenches constructed in the course of previous revolutions and there make a fresh stand.

The number of men engaged in the alleged battles can only be guessed at and even rumor omits to mention dead and wounded except in the case of General Benavides reported by Huertistas here to have been killed at Escalon when his column, the Zaragoza brigade of 1800 men, was said to have borne the brunt of the federal attack. It is pointed out that the revolutions of the last four years have shown consistently that it takes more than one engagement to decide a Mexican battle.

Request Passed On.

Washington, March 18.—Secretary Garrison today forwarded to Major General Arthur Murray, commanding the western department, Governor Johnson's request for additional troops to protect the southern California border from Mexicans. The secretary will take action entirely to General Murray's discretion.

SWANSON AND WILSON DISCUSS GOOD ROADS

Washington, March 18.—Chairman Swanson of the subcommittee on post-offices and post roads and Secretary Houston talked with President Wilson today about federal aid for good roads. They said afterward that some of the ideas of the president would be reflected in legislation being prepared by the subcommittee.

The Virginia senator declined to say what the president's position was on the Shackelford good roads bill which has passed the house and provides \$15,000,000 for good roads.

Traffic Conference.

Berlin, March 18.—A subcommittee to negotiate the allotment of transatlantic traffic was appointed today by the conference of British and continental companies. Other lines represented assert the Cunard and Hamburg-American will not make sufficient concessions.

RULING MADE ON THE "LONG HAUL"

May Not Be Observed If It Works Detriment to The Shippers.

Washington, March 18.—The interstate commerce commission held today that a railroad could not "reserve to itself the long haul if it do so works unduly to the detriment of the shippers."

That principle was laid down in a decision of the case of the Paducah board of trade against the Illinois Central and other roads in which allegations of discrimination against Paducah and in favor of Cairo in freight rates on lumber were made. As to the rates the commission held:

That lumber from the Mississippi valley does not meet such competition at Cairo as would justify the maintenance of lower rates there than to Paducah from equidistant producing points;

That rates to Paducah from substantially equidistant points in Mississippi and Louisiana east of the river should be no higher than to Cairo;

That rates to Paducah from points west of the river and south of Memphis should be no higher than to Cairo;

And that railroads should "either charge a bridge toll on traffic in both directions at every Ohio river crossing or not charge it at any crossing."

EMPEROR OF GERMANY HAS ANOTHER GRANDSON

Son Born to Duke and Duchess of Brunswick—Also British Prince.

Brunswick, Germany, March 18.—A battery of artillery fired a royal salute in honor of the birth of a son to the Duke and Duchess of Brunswick today while the counsellor of the British embassy in Berlin was drawing up the birth certificate of the newly born prince, who is also a prince of Great Britain and Ireland.

Holiday Ordered.

Berlin, March 18.—Emperor William today ordered a general school holiday in Berlin in celebration of the birth of his sixth grandson at Brunswick this morning. The young Duke of Brunswick who is the only daughter of the emperor, was reported to be doing well.

The emperor will go to Brunswick tomorrow to see his latest grandson before departing for his annual trip to Corfu on March 22.

BIND STORE KEEPER AND SET FIRE TO BUILDING

Lives of 30 People Endangered—Merchant Attacked When He Refused Money.

Laconia, N. H., March 18.—Three men bound James Doubilas with rope in his grocery store early today and set fire to the place, endangering the lives of 30 people on the upper floors. Doubilas rolled to the door and called for help. Passersby pulled him out and the fire department extinguished the blaze.

THE CITY OF SYDNEY STILL IS ON ROCKS

Halifax, N. S., March 18.—The bow of the steamer City of Sydney, abandoned yesterday after running aground 25 miles east of Halifax, was still clinging to a jagged edge of Embro rocks today. The constant pounding had shattered the bottom of the steamer and in the after part the water was almost up to the decks. There was no hope of saving the vessel.

Captain McDonald said the City of Sydney was enveloped in fog during the whole of her run up the coast from New York. He was trying to pick up the Lightship Halifax, south-east of Embro island, when the steamer struck the rocks. She was several miles out of her course.

"NAVAL HOLIDAY" PLAN MODIFIED

Churchill Says, "Every Delay By Next Strongest Power To England Will Be Matched by Us."

ESTIMATES INCREASED \$17,700,000 OVER 1913-'14

Statement of First Lord of Admiralty Indicates Expansion of the Navy of Great Britain.

London, March 18.—A variant on the "naval holiday" suggestion was produced by Winston S. Churchill, first lord of the admiralty, in the house of commons yesterday in introducing the naval estimates for 1914-'15, amounting to \$257,700,000, he said:

"Every delay, accidental or deliberate, by the next strongest power to England, will be matched by us."

Admitting that the naval estimates were the largest that had ever been submitted to the house, Mr. Churchill gilded the pill by making the prediction that in the absence of any new departure the estimates for 1915-'16 would be substantially lower than the present ones which show an increase of \$17,700,000 over those of last year.

Mr. Churchill reiterated that it was the policy of Great Britain to complete eight battle squadrons by the time Germany had established five, without calculating ships on foreign stations. He explained that the development of the German fleet had not been so rapid as had been anticipated owing to difficulties in manning the vessels. Great Britain, therefore, had been enabled to postpone the completion of her Gibraltar squadron which now consists of only four battleships. The increased expenditure, he said, was largely attributable to the change to oil fuel, to the establishment of a naval flying corps, and to the increased pay of the bluejackets.

PRESIDENT WRITES IN FAVOR OF PRIMARY LAW

State-wide Movement in Indiana is Endorsed by Wilson and Bryan.

Washington, March 18.—Letters from President Wilson and Secretary Bryan endorsing the movement for a state-wide primary law in Indiana have been made public by Senator Kern. The subject will come up at the Indiana democratic convention of which Senator Kern is to be permanent chairman. Both letters referred recent published interview with the senator on the subject.

President Wilson wrote:

"I have noticed with unusual interest your interview the other day about the absence of a law for State-wide primaries in Indiana. I was very much surprised to learn that so great and wide-a-wake state was so far behind the procession in a matter of such capital importance, and I want to express my deep interest in your efforts to bring about the necessary legislation. It would hearten democrats everywhere to see this done by Indiana."

"It is remarkable that you should have time and energy to devote to matters of state policy, deeply important as they are, in the midst of your work as chairman of the senate caucus. I am sure all democrats are indebted to you for the intelligence and conscience you have put into that great task."

VIOLENT STORM BREAKS DIKES IN BELGIUM

Brussels, Belgium, March 18.—A violent storm broke down the embankment along the river Scheldt, near Termonde yesterday and greater part of the city was flooded. The inhabitants of Termonde fled panic-stricken into the country seeking shelter.

Communication Interrupted.

Paris, March 17.—Wire communication between Paris and many of the continental cities was almost wholly interrupted today by the storm which has raged since yesterday.

GRANTS HABEAS CORPUS FOR MEXICAN REFUGEES

Fort Worth, Texas, March 18.—Judge Edward Neek in the federal district court yesterday granted a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of the 5,000 Mexicans held as prisoners by the United States government at Fort Bliss, El Paso.

WILSON OBJECTS OF NEW ATTACK

Senator Jones Alleges President's Demand for Tolls Exemption Repeal Resulted From Carden Conference.

REPEAL THE PRICE OF NON-INTERFERENCE?

Result of Non-Success of Mexican Policy, He Declares—Calls Repeal An "Economic Blunder."

Washington, March 18.—The board charge that President Wilson determined to ask congress to repeal the Panama tolls exemption as a consequence to his recent conference with Sir Lionel Carden, British minister to Mexico, and that the president's action was the culmination of negotiations with Great Britain for preservation of the Monroe doctrine threatened by the Mexican situation, was made in the senate today by Senator Jones, republican of Washington. He was speaking on his pending resolution calling on the president for full information on the tolls controversy.

Senator Jones intimated that a repeal of the tolls exemption was the price of non-interference in Mexico by other foreign powers. He further declared that "it is reported as one of the conditions that Great Britain will seek reparation on its losses through confederate bonds issued during the war of the states by a plan sanctioned by this government under which, if successfully applied, the burden of reparation will fall upon the southern states."

"For that report," Senator Jones maintained, developments have shown there was a basis.

"What is the foreign policy that requires such humiliating, cowardly, craven action on our part?" the senator demanded. "What are the delicate matters that demand this humiliation, this price? Have we become so inert, so weak, so supine, so servile that the Monroe doctrine must be sustained and invigorated by the very powers against which it was invoked? Are we so weak or so entangled in the meshes of our own diplomacy that the demands of England based upon the selfish interest of the Canadian Pacific railroad company, must be granted right or wrong? Have any nations besides England objected to the legislation it is proposed to repeal? These are questions that must be answered to the satisfaction of the American people."

Senator Jones quoted from President Wilson's pre-election speeches in an attempt to show that the chief executive then favored the exemption.

Senator Jones argued that a repeal would be "a great economic blunder," that it would "benefit the Canadian Pacific railroad, Canadian interests and the transcontinental railroad lines and no others, and injure more or less every other interest in this country."

He contended that the exemption contravened no treaty obligations either in letter or in spirit and therefore no question of national honor was involved.

CONVENTION TO AMEND CHINESE CONSTITUTION

Pres. Yuan Shi Kai Sketches The Ill Effects of Provisional Constitution.

Peking, China, March 18.—A convention opened here today to amend the provisional constitution of the Chinese republic. Sun Pao-Chi, acting premier and minister of foreign affairs, presided. Out of the 60 elected delegates 44 were present. Sun Pao-Chi read to the convention an inaugural address by President Yuan Shi Kai sketching the ill effects of the provisional constitution on both internal and foreign relations owing to its restrictions on the government and its restrictions on the government and the president added that he felt assured the convention would result in rectifications of the constitution so as to bring about peace and prosperity for China.

SEVEN INJURED WHEN CAR JUMPS TRACK

Woburn, Mass., March 18.—Seven persons were badly injured when an electric car containing 90 passengers jumped the track on a sharp curve at the foot of a steep hill here today. The car plunged forty feet across the street into an embankment.

TRADE BOARD BILL DEFENDED

Chairman of Committee That Framed U. S. Trade Commission Measure Answers Criticisms.

INSISTS COMMISSION IS GIVEN AMPLE POWER

Says Independent Initiative Is Preserved in Every Part Of Bill Except One Section.

Washington, March 18.—The bill creating the interstate trade commission gives to the commission ample powers of independent initiative, according to Representative Covington of Maryland, chairman of the subcommittee that framed the measure. Some senators have criticized the bill on the ground that it did not sufficiently preserve the initiative rights of the proposed new body.

Mr. Covington states that an analysis of the bill will show the contrary. He said: "The independent initiative of the commission is preserved in every part of the bill except the article section in which the commission is made the investigating agent of the president, the attorney general or either house of congress to report to them the facts found as to alleged violations of the anti-trust laws. There is nowhere in the bill any restriction on the independent powers which may be constitutionally exercised by the commission to make investigations of any sort and to make public the facts disclosed in its discretion. In fact, this discretion is simply to safeguard the public by withholding information which discloses such violations as will warrant prosecution through the department of justice and when the publicity might prejudice the government's case."

Mr. Covington made it clear that the section of the bill providing for punishment of persons unlawfully making public information of the commission is not intended in any manner to curb the power of newspapers to disclose in any way they please information coming into their possession. "That section," he said, "is simply to punish officials or employees of the commission who may, without authority, betray information which happens to be a proper trade secret or the disclosure of which would impede the government in trust prosecutions."

The bill is the first of the so-called administration anti-trust and commerce regulation measures to go to the house.

W. H. SWIFT SPEAKS AT CHILD LABOR CONFERENCE

What Should Be Done With Children at Home, Is Considered.

New Orleans, La., March 18.—What should be done with children at home was discussed at the concluding sessions today of the Child Labor conference here. Speakers emphasized the necessity of educational work among parents to teach them the kind of work best suited to their children.

Wiley H. Swift, of Greensboro, N. C., said that "southerners are not indifferent to the rights of childhood but we have allowed ourselves to be deceived because our manufacturers have said things were all right and we have respect for the opinions of men of influence and wealth."

100 STRIKING PUPILS ESCAPE PUNISHMENT

Savannah, Ga., March 18.—The 100 striking pupils of the Savannah high school who refused to attend classes yesterday and participated in the St. Patrick's day parade, escaped threatened severe punishment by persuading the principals to debate the matter with them. They had been confined to a class room and the principal went there to penalize them when they won him to their cause. They adopted a resolution stating that they were lured from school by the band playing "The Wearing of the Green."

No Additional Bodies Found

St. Louis, March 18.—No additional bodies were found today in the ruins of St. Louis Seed company's building which was crushed yesterday by a falling wall of the burned out Missouri Athletic club. The bodies of three men were found and 12 persons were hurt by the falling walls.

EXCITEMENT IN PARIS IS TENSE

BUCKET SHOPS ARE AGAIN OPERATING

Authenticated Reports Cause Considerable Agitation in Stock Exchange.

New York, March 18.—Authenticated reports that so-called bucket shops had resumed operations in northern New York and some of the New England states caused considerable agitation today in stock exchange circles, particularly in view of the fact that a new contract is soon to be signed between the exchange and the Western Union Telegraph company for distribution of stock quotations.

The Western Union has had the sole right of the sale of quotations to outsiders for many years, paying the exchange \$100,000 annually for the concession.

The exchange purposes in its new contract to bind the Western Union not to sell its quotations to any individual, firm or corporation until the exchange has approved the application. The telegraph company has expressed its willingness to comply with this stipulation, which in the judgment of the exchange officials, would effectually stop stock quotation operations of an illicit character and speedily drive existing offenders out of business. The old quotation contract between the stock exchange and Western Union expired over five years ago, since which time it has been conducted on a day-to-day basis.

GLYNN'S PLAN SO FAR NOT VERY SUCCESSFUL

Fonda, N. Y., March 18.—Fifty of the seventy unemployed who came here yesterday as the first installment in Governor Glynn's campaign to place the city's workless people on upstate farms were lodged today in the village engine house. Only 20 of the 70 arrivals accepted offers of employment with farmers, although the wages offered were those generally paid to farm hands here.

The city of the idle are dependent on townspeople for shelter and food. The neighborhood farmers do not appear enthusiastic over their new help as the men are ignorant of farm work.

The many friends of Mrs. Pincus Witcover of Weaverville, formerly Miss Mae Morgan, will regret to know that she is seriously ill at the Meriwether hospital.

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Armed Detachments Patrol the Streets to Quell Disturbances Caused by Edition's Assassination

CROWDS REASSEMBLE AS SOON AS DISPERSED

Madame Caillaux Referred to As Husband's Instrument In Th Killing of M. Calmette.

Paris, March 18.—Armed detachments of republican guards appearing at strategic points of Paris today added to the tense excitement among political factions by the assassination of Gaston Calmette, editor of the Figaro. At every point where there was likelihood of trouble the police were supported by soldiers. The offices of the Figaro, the chamber of deputies; the residence of M. Caillaux and the St. Lazare prison, where Madame Caillaux has occupied a cell since she killed the editor to clear her husband's name—all were magnets which attracted the populace. At each point strong bodies of police and soldiers were on duty prepared to act sharply in quelling disturbances.

In the southern part of Paris, in the Latin quarter and in the working class districts where it is only necessary for a turbulent individual to shriek "death to Caillaux," or "assassinate" for him to be joined by dozens of others, the police kept zealous watch. Several times they cleared away noisy groups who, however, reassembled as soon as the police had passed.

Madame Caillaux seems today to have become a popular heroine amid all the turmoil. Among the crowds of excited, gesticulating people her name is heard constantly. She is talked of as the victim of her love for M. Caillaux, and as his instrument in committing the crime which has robbed the press of a prominent writer and the French cabinet of its leading spirit.

The crowds have adopted as their own assertion of Deputy Delahaye in the chamber last night—that "cabinet ministers nowadays send their wives to kill those obstructing their path."

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