

## Sending of Troops into Mexico to Punish Bandits Seriously Considered By Cabinet

### EXPEDITION TO ROUND UP VILLA'S FOLLOWERS IS URGED BY FUNSTON

#### NEGOTIATIONS WITH CARRANZA

President Wilson Represented as Determined on Punishment of Bandits Who Raided Town.

STATE DEPARTMENT ACTING WITH VIGOR

Regret Expressed by Some Administration Officials That American Troops Left Mexican Soil.

Washington, March 10.—After early conference today between Secretary of War Baker and General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the army, it was announced that the Columbus, N. M., massacre was a closed incident so far as the war department is concerned. General Scott said that unless it was decided to have American troops cross the border again, there was no likelihood of further initiative activity on the part of the army.

Major General Funston, in an overnight dispatch urgently recommends that he be authorized to send troops over the border to finally clear out the Villa bandits. The state department will pass on the recommendation.

General Funston's dispatch added that "so long as the border is a shelter for the bandits, they will continue to harass our ranches and towns to our own chagrin."

General Pershing reported that the Mexican consul at El Paso thinks there would be no objection to American troops entering Mexico in pursuit of the Villa bandits and has wired his government recommending co-operation.

with the Carranza government. No official statement was made by the view was generally expressed that steps would be taken by the government to punish Villa and his band. When the cabinet assembled no order had been given for dispatching American soldiers into Mexico. Influential administration officials expressed the hope, however, that such an order would come as the result of consideration of the situation by the cabinet.

President Wilson was represented as being determined that steps should be taken to punish the raiders. The return of the American troops from Mexico complicates the situation somewhat, because the United States would be confronted with the necessity of issuing orders for the troops to go again across the border. Officials openly said that they hoped that once the troops crossed the border on a good pretext, they would remain until Villa and his band were put down.

Washington stood squarely behind Colonel Slocum in sending cavalry into Mexico in pursuit of Francisco Villa and his band of outlaws. Secretary Lansing last night informed the defunct government of Mexico through Eliseo Arredondo, its ambassador designate here, that he trusted no objection would be made to the action of the American troops, they having followed what is known in military circles as a "hot trail."

Shocked indignation occasioned by news of Villa's outrage was fully succeeded by undisguised satisfaction in official and congressional circles over the knowledge that after three years of patient forbearance United States troops actually were on Mexican soil to avenge the death of their comrades and bring to justice the outlaws whose depredations have terrorized Americans on both sides of the border.

Formally there was no authority for the presence of the American troops in Mexico. In fact the patrols along the border have from the beginning of the disorders there been under orders not to cross under any consideration. If the provocation had not been so great the officers responsible for the action of yesterday would face court-martial. Suggestions that Colonel Slocum in command at Columbus might be court-martialed, however, were scouted by some officials, while at the war department itself the subject was not discussed.

Administrative leaders will seek to curb debate on the subject, but they may have difficulty in restraining some members. Senator Fall, of New Mexico, long an ardent advocate of intervention, has announced his purpose of introducing a resolution to provide for recruiting five hundred thousand volunteers to intervene in Mexico at the earliest possible moment. It is known too that other republican senators, among them Senator Gallinger, have in contemplation resolutions with respect to aggressive action toward Mexico.

#### NEW SHIFT IN GERMAN DRIVE SEEMS LIKELY

A momentary let-up in the desperate infantry fighting about Verdun, is reported from Paris today. The Germans have not again attacked on either bank of the Meuse, it is announced, but the violent bombardment of the defenses continues indicating that the respite will probably be brief.

Where the next heavy German blow will fall, military commentators do not attempt to predict. The recent shift of the attack from the region of Bethincourt and Goose Hill to the battle grounds of Douaumont and Vaux came with seeming unexpectedness, and according to Berlin achieved substantial results in the capture of Vaux.

Particularly violent have been the attacks of the Germans to the north of Verdun, around Douaumont, the village of Vaux and Fort Vaux, but according to Paris they went for naught.

The Germans were thrown in solid formation against trenches of the French bordering the foot of the ridge dominating Fort Vaux which the latest German official report said the Germans had captured but the French drove back the attacking force with "heavy losses."

Northwest of the fort the Germans essayed an assault against the village of Vaux from which they previously had been driven by the French but here also they were repulsed with heavy casualties.

To the west of the Meuse, midway between Bethincourt and the river the French have continued on the offensive in the Corbeaux wood and are officially reported to have driven the Germans from almost all of that important salient.

In the eastern theater the Russians at various points have taken the offensive against German advanced positions, but Berlin declares they nowhere met with success.

The Russians on the Black sea coast continue to press toward Turkey's principal port, Trebizond and also are making progress against the Ottomans in the Persian sector.

The Russian foreign office categorically denies that Turkey has made peace proposals of any kind.

#### DO YOU WANT TO STAR IN A FILM PLAY TO BE TAKEN IN ASHEVILLE?

Only Eleven More Days Remain for Nominations of Young Men and Women For Leading Roles.

Only eleven more days remain in which prospective movie players may enter in The Times Popularity Contest conducted to secure local talent for "A Romance of Asheville." Nominations for the leading man's and leading lady's roles continued to pour in, and there is every indication that brisk voting will be the rule.

No more nominations are to be received after March 20th. Anyone who wishes to withdraw after seeing his or her name in print may do so by immediately notifying the Contest Editor. The list will be divided into two classes—female and masculine. The voting will continue from today until 6 p. m. Saturday, March 25, and the young woman and young man receiving the most votes will be assigned to the big roles in "A Romance of Asheville."

The Times' Popularity Contest offers the movie followers of Asheville their first big opportunity to appear before the camera. Who knows? Perhaps those winning the leading roles will later procure lucrative positions in the movies thereby. Perhaps it will open the way to fame and fortune.

The Hudis-Film company of New York City, under the direction of The Times is to bring its workers to Asheville and use local talent in the portrayal of scenes for "A Romance of Asheville." The Hudis forces will direct the filming of the production, and will assign as many roles as possible among those who have been candidates in the Contest. There are to be several big scenes, requiring many people so that every contestant will have an opportunity to appear before the camera.

All nomination blanks and votes should be addressed to the Movie Contest Editor, The Times, Asheville, N. C. The standing of the nominees will be printed daily. Anyone is permitted to enter, and the candidate for leading man and leading woman receiving the greatest number of votes will be given the star parts in the photo-play.

#### TUG GOES DOWN IN COLLISION WITH LINER

Newport News, Va., March 9.—The Old Dominion line passenger steamer Madison, New York for Norfolk, and the tug Daniel F. Willard collided in Hampton Roads near Bushbluff light this morning. The tug was cut in two and sank immediately. There was no loss of life.

#### BRYSON CITY MAN TAKEN HERE YESTERDAY

Claude Conley, wanted at Bryson City on charges of abandonment, was arrested here yesterday afternoon by members of the police department. He was turned over to W. B. Thomas, to report to the sheriff of Swain county today.

#### DIAM IN NEW ORLEANS.

Washington, March 10.—State department agents have information that Felix Diaz, the Mexican revolutionary leader, is hiding in New Orleans, and on this information the department is satisfied that Diaz has not landed in Mexico with an armed expedition, as has been reported.

#### DEMOCRATS GO BACK CONFIDENT

Meeting of State Executive Committee Was Such as to Put Courage Into Committee Members. FOUND NOTHING OVER WHICH TO QUARREL. Democrats Credit the Weeks' Money With Being Responsible for Big Attendance at Republican Convention.

(By W. T. Rost.)

Raleigh, March 10.—The democrats here to attend the executive committee meeting returned to their homes yesterday taking candidates, campaign managers and courage back with them.

The committee did not experience half the trouble with the primary of last year that had been promised. Chairman Charles A. Webb offered a resolution that would have committed the party representatives here to some effort to perfect important details left out when the bill went to the floor of both houses. Mr. Webb's measure would in all probability have gone through a convention. The committee meeting shied at giving advice.

The meeting was the best one in many years in point of attendance and the democracy had nothing over which to quarrel. It found time in the excess of leisure allowed it to wonder where all the republicans came from last week, and unanimously concluded that Senator Weeks is a mighty rich man.

The most interesting party rumor that went the rounds during the conference of the big fellows was the Weeks currency. "Senator Weeks is many times a millionaire," one of the Washington appointees said, "and if he spent \$50,000 it was just half what he was willing to spend. I'll tell you, if you newspaper fellows are alert you will be able to find that the republican convention last week was a convention of hired delegates. And they are the never failing kind."

"Don't you know that this radical convention would never have sent J. S. Lewis to the national convention with a bigger vote than Tom Settle, Britt and Judge Robinson received? Lewis is all right I reckon, but he is unknown. Of course Marion Butler did present him but how could Butler put who did not have to pay their expenses? Talk about Butler ruling the convention? It's both. Weeks' money ruled it and that's the way Butler did it. Anybody could have done it."

What Bickett Men Did. The first conference of the Bickett men was an incident to the meeting here Wednesday night of the executive committee.

The Bickett rooms at the Yarbrough had much the aspect of a candidate's headquarters at an exciting convention in which the primary had made no decision and it was up to the convention—only Bickett's rooms didn't have a drop. All day the rooms were full and one of the conferees yesterday said that two lines of action were planned.

It was first of all decided that this year there is fighting ahead no matter whether the republican convention was subsidized by Weeks' money, as many democrats have been contending, or whether the \$50,000 campaign fund is to be duplicated nationally or not. The democracy expects to fight. The fifty decided that they must send their sharpest shoolet to the firing line. They turned to Bickett.

#### U. S. TROOPS AT COLUMBUS, N. M. STRENGTHENED

#### 2 TORPEDO CRAFTS SUNK; 45 DROWNED

French Liner Sunk Off French Coast Presumably by Submarine.

London, March 10.—The British torpedo boat destroyer Coquette and the torpedo boat No. 11 have been sunk by striking mines, it was officially announced this afternoon. The official announcement says that the number of casualties in connection with the sinking of the two vessels was 45.

Liner Sunk. Paris, March 10.—A Havas dispatch from Havre says that the French line steamer Lousianien was sunk last night at 11 o'clock. All the members of the crew were saved. There were no passengers aboard. It is presumed that the vessel was sunk by the same submarine which has been operating along the coast between Boulogne and Havre, which torpedoed the Hermatrice.

#### OFFICERS CHASE NEGRO ALL NIGHT

Bloodhounds Put on Trail of Negro Who Escaped by Swimming River.

Somewhere in Buncombe county or in one of the adjoining counties there is today a negro who is "some" runner, if the testimony of Sheriff E. M. Mitchell and Deputies Revis and Penland are to be believed. Last night information was sent to Dick Penland, superintendent of the Reform school, on the Swannanoa, that a negro wearing convict stripes had been seen near there. Mr. Penland communicated with Sheriff Mitchell and that officer with Deputy Revis hit the trail for Swannanoa.

Arriving at the school they met Mr. Penland and with the two county bloodhounds started on the trail of the negro. He was chased around that section for awhile, after which he hit the railroad and traveled for sometime, finally ending the trail by jumping into the Swannanoa river and swimming across. It is stated that the negro had escaped from Henderson county.

Mrs. Dr. E. L. Ashworth of Marion is visiting her sister, Mrs. A. D. Stoner of Biltmore.

Federal Forces in Increased Numbers Patrolling Border Where Bandits Crossed For Massacre.

#### ANOTHER POSSIBLE RAID IS RECOGNIZED

Small Force Pursuing Bandits Returned to U. S. Territory When Villa Showed Determined Resistance.

Columbus, N. M., March 10.—Federal troops in increasing numbers today are patrolling the Mexican border near Columbus as a precaution against further invasion of American territory by Villa's bandit army, which yesterday, in a surprise attack on this town, killed 16 American citizens and soldiers, wounded many, burned buildings and looted stores before they were driven back into Mexico by American troops. Over 100 Mexicans were killed and about 200 wounded.

Villa, at the head of the main body of bandits, was reported early today 15 miles south of the international line, where he had halted after the running fight yesterday with the pursuing American troops. Signal fires which gleamed along the border south of here last night are believed to have been placed by bandits; and the report that armed raiders were in the vicinity of Hachita, N. M., led the American military authorities to rush reinforcement to the border patrols there.

The possibility of further raids is admitted by army officers, and armed civilians, state militiamen and cowboys are co-operating with the federal

(Continued on page two.)

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(Continued on page two.)