

## American Troops Preparing to Move Today Into Mexico to Exterminate Villa Outlaws

### FUNSTON IS PERFECTING PLANS FOR EXPEDITION WITH STRICT SECRECY

**Carranza Asks Permission to Send Troops Into U. S. In Pursuit of the Mexican Outlaws.**

**REQUEST REGARDED AS FAVORABLE INDICATION**

**Such Arrangement Would Likely Prevent Armed Intervention—President's Action Is Endorsed.**

Washington, March 11.—While American troops were preparing to move across the Mexican border to exterminate the Villa bandits, General Carranza in an official communication delivered through American consul Silliman, asked the United States for permission to send Mexican troops into American territory, if necessary, in pursuit of outlaws. The administration officials regarded the proposal as favorable, as it seemed to indicate that Carranza would not protest against American troops going into Mexico, as had been feared. Practically such a reciprocal arrangement would probably never result in a single Carranza soldier crossing the line, as the possibility of outlaws taking refuge in the United States was considered remote. In reality, such an arrangement, however, would go far to satisfy Carranza and permit him to comply with popular sentiment in Mexico.

The senate foreign relations committee today unanimously endorsed the action of the president in sending American troops into Mexico to capture the Villa raiders.

Washington, March 11.—Instructions conveying full authority to Major General Funston in the disposition of the defensive expedition into Mexico in the pursuit of Francisco Villa and his band of outlaws, today were in General Funston's hands. Secretary of War Baker announced that General Funston would have full discretion as to the number of troops he would use and the route he would take into Mexico.

Major General Funston, in command of the American troops on the Mexican border, has orders from President Wilson to send armed forces across the border into Mexico to take Villa and his bandit band, dead or alive, and the Washington government expects him to execute them. The actual details of carrying out the plans will be left to General Funston, who is expected to have American troops moving into Mexico before nightfall.

General instructions were sent to General Funston last night, after a long conference between officers of the army

### Captured Villa Bandits To Be Tried For Murder

Columbus, N. M., March 11.—Seven wounded Villa soldiers were captured in Thursday's battle here. They will be charged with murder in killing eight American soldiers who were slain in the fight, according to E. B. Stone, special agent of the department of justice. The prisoners include a boy twelve years old and two officers.

Mr. Stone said the charges would probably name Francisco Villa. Stone stated that it was probable that charges of murder would also be filed against the prisoners in the state courts in connection with the killing of nine civilians by the bandit raiders.

Pablo Sanchez, arrested while signaling Mexican soldiers across the border yesterday was held as a spy

staff and war department, when plans for the movement of troops were formulated.

The strictest secrecy is being observed by officials in regard to the plan for the capture of the bandits, in accordance with the urgent request of General Funston, the object being to prevent Villa from learning about the movements of the expedition.

Administration officials made it plain that the expedition is purely punitive, for the suppression of the Mexican outlaws and that as soon as the forces of the de facto government were in control of the situation, any American soldiers that might be in Mexico would be withdrawn.

Steps to prevent the discussion of the Mexican question in congress and to forestall any action that might interfere with President Wilson's plans were to be taken at a meeting today of the senate foreign relations committee.

The meeting was called by Chairman Stone late yesterday after the president had outlined to him his position.

President Wilson today was aboard the naval yacht Mayflower on a week-end cruise down the Potomac, keeping in touch by wireless with the white house and war department for any developments that might take place. Unless some unusual development occurs, he will not return to Washington until Monday.

Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, announced that the expedition would consist of not less than 5,000 men, all of whom are available on the border under Major General Frederick Funston.

**White House Statement.**

The following statement was issued at the white house: "Adequate forces will be sent at once in pursuit of Villa with the single object of capturing him and putting a stop to his forays. This can be done and will be done in entirely friendly aid and the constituted authorities in Mexico and with scrupulous respect for the sovereignty of that republic."

**Dead Or Alive.**

It was explained at the

### BELIEVE GREAT VERDUN BATTLE IS NEAR CLOSE

The second great effort in the Verdun drive apparently is near a close. The latest German attacks have been directed at comparatively a small section of the front east and west of the Meuse. Whether the present lessening of intensity in the operations marks merely a lull before another onslaught, or a return to the conditions of trench warfare is open to question, but military opinion in France is that the great battle is ended. In Paris it is believed that the diminished intensity of the German assaults was influenced by the heavy losses the assailants sustained, but Berlin dispatches report the belief that the German losses were limited to a few thousands.

Signs of renewed activity on the eastern front are apparent as spring approaches. The Russians and Germans have been feeling out each other's strength at various points in small isolated engagements. The most important movement on the northern end of the line seems to have been the German effort to cross the Dvina river near Dvinsk. Considerable forces were engaged in the efforts which were dispersed by the Russian fire, Petrograd claims.

### LEAGUE MEETING LARGELY ATTENDED

Monthly Meeting of Asheville District Epworth League Union at First Methodist.

With a large attendance the regular monthly meeting of the Asheville District Epworth league union was held last night at the First Methodist church on French Broad avenue. In the contest for the banners, the Haywood street chapter was awarded the banner for the best monthly report and the Biltmore Methodist church chapter was given the banner for the largest percentage at the monthly meeting.

### THE SMITH-WHITE CASE IN COURT

Damage Case Was Called Yesterday Suing for \$2,500—Other Cases.

When Superior court recessed at noon today in order that the memorial services for the late Captain J. M. Gudger, sr., could be held in the room, the case of H. M. Smith and wife against Sidney L. White and wife, was still before the court. The case was called yesterday and has consumed all of the court's time since then. The plaintiffs seek to recover \$2,500 as damages. It is contended by them that they paid the defendants a certain sum of money for which they were to receive a card for life and that later they were ejected. The case will be taken up again this afternoon.

**Attorney For Christy Asks Gov to Set Same Date as For Mrs. Warren.**

Raleigh, March 11.—Fred M. Parrish, attorney for Samuel Christy, has requested of Governor Craig that the hearing for commutation of the death sentence of his client be held on March 20, at the same time as that of Mrs. Ida Bell Warren. Both are sentenced to be electrocuted on March 31, for the murder of the woman's husband in Winston-Salem in 1914.

Though Mrs. Warren and Christy are still in jail at Winston-Salem, they are no longer Forsyth county prisoners. The fact that they have not been delivered at the state penitentiary has been the source of much comment. Forsyth county officials are said to have asserted that they have received no orders to deliver the prisoners to the state. State officials are said to have stated that such orders were unnecessary as the sentence automatically rendered the couple state prisoners.

### N. C. HAS MUCH GRAIN ON HAND

Reports Show N. C. Farmers Had Large Amount of Corn and Wheat Unconsumed March 1.

### STATE PECAN TREES BEGINNING TO BEAR

Three Hundred Trees Yield About \$300 Worth of Nuts—Increase Ten-Fold Since the 1914 Crop.

Special to The Times.

Raleigh, March 11.—Major W. A. Graham, commissioner of agriculture, has received from the department of agriculture at Washington official estimates on North Carolina's unconsumed crops, placing, on March first, the corn crop at 20,744,000 and the wheat at 2,622,000 bushels.

This means that after fattening their meat and feeding their families and their animals, besides the grain marketed, North Carolina farmers have on hand almost as much corn as they grew seven years ago. Then the entire corn crop was only 24,000,000 bushels. The present crop now being fed was estimated at 56,000,000, a gain of 30,000,000 in six years.

March 1 of 1914 the government found that 26,535,000 bushels had not been disposed of. The wheat remaining over at that time was 1,932,000, or 130,000 bushels less than the present month shows. This shows unquestionably that the state is raising its bread. Major Graham at his December report to the board of agriculture demonstrated that North Carolinians are allowed upon a basis of 24,000,000 population, 150 pounds of our to each individual. As a well-fed gentleman who has eaten a few car loads of biscuits, Major Graham calculates that 100 pounds of our will feed the average man. That would give 80 pounds surplus and make North Carolina a world feeder.

"I am most gratified," Major Graham said, "because our people are making their own bread. It is the thing that I have tried to bring to an independent people until we are able to supply the foodstuffs for ourselves and our animals. The state has been doing this in remarkably earnest way recently and of course we shall continue to raise even more grain."

Major Graham about 50 years ago began to watch the corn farmer and he does not recall that he ever saw one in great distress. "All the sheriff sales that I ever attended about a farm were without full corn cribs," he says, and he has asked other observant men to say whether his observations are true.

**Increase More Than Tenfold.**

State Horticulturist W. H. Hutt after selling out the state's crop of pecans, finds that the farms on which he has been growing the nuts made a profit of \$1 to each tree and the state has 300.

The Fender and Edgcombe farms have pecan trees now eight years old. The crop for 1914 yielded about 60 pounds. These trees were then seven years old. They quickly went from 60 to 800 pounds, the difference of one year being 740 pounds. The large portion of the crops was sold for 40 cents a pound and that was under the market.

The circumstance is a triumph for the department which had not undertaken anything of this character until eight years ago. But a few years prior to that time the pecan was held in suspicion. It rarely bore any fruit within a generation so that the planter labored solely for posterity. The state's 200 trees are in beautiful shape and within a few years should be making several hundred pounds each.

Hr. Hutt finds that some of the earliest varieties of peaches have been touched pretty severely by the frost recently and estimates the damage at 25 per cent. He does not think that the later blooms have been hurt. He is unwilling to cry calamity at this distance from the fruit season. The mixed weather, enough of cold to prevent too early blossoming, he hopes will stop further damage.

**WITHOUT WARNING.**

Washington, March 11.—Consul sul Osborne at Havre, France, reports that when the Norwegian bark Illius, from New York City to Havre was torpedoed without warning in Havre Roads March 9, seven Americans aboard the vessel were rescued.

### STATE MILITIA READY FOR WAR

Adjutant General Says North Carolina Could Muster 3,245 Men For Service Immediately.

### PEACE STRENGTH 225 OFFICERS AND 3020 MEN

Declares That Guard Could Be Recruited to War Strength in Ten Days—Other State News.

(By W. T. Bost.)

Raleigh, March 11.—North Carolina could send immediately to Mexico 225 officers and 3,020 enlisted men for immediate service and could within ten days recruit her forces to war strength, according to Adjutant General Lawrence W. Young.

General Young replied to a telegram sent Governor Craig by the New York Sun wishing to know in the event of intervention what could be done by the national guard. Governor Craig was not in Raleigh but General Young answered for him. He declared that the entire national guard with its one infantry brigade, six companies of coast artillery, two troops of cavalry, one ambulance company, and a field hospital corps, would be immediately available.

The peace strength is 225 officers and 3,020 men. The fact that the state troops can be mobilized within ten days for war will be surprising to those who thought it would take 90 days to move the war forces when the guard had gone to the front. The Sun's inquiry was the first to come to Raleigh and every little outbreak hitherto has been attended by considerable excitement in New York.

The police court will give the four prisoners held as pickpockets a hearing today at which time it will be determined whether the state has enough evidence to proceed against them.

The prisoners have discussed a habeas corpus but will first take their chances in the preliminary. Pinkerton detectives are said to be in Raleigh. Detective Fred Jones of Asheville has been here and he says the man McNeelis is much wanted in Asheville and can be identified by several people. McNeelis declares that not only has he never been to Asheville but he outraged the town pride of Mr. Jones by pretending never to have heard of the mountain city.

### SENATOR DAVIS PASSES AWAY

Venerable West Virginia Statesman Dies in Washington After Brief Illness at Age of 93.

### VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE IN 1904

Long and Active Political Career Began Just After War, In Which he Fought—Democrat and Democratic.

Washington, March 11.—Former United States Senator Henry Gassaway Davis of West Virginia, and vice presidential candidate on the Parker democratic ticket in 1904, died here this morning at 1:45 o'clock, after a brief illness. He was 93 years of age.

Senator Henry Gassaway Davis witnessed and participated in the great political epochs of American progress for more than three-quarters of a century. He was the "old fashioned gentleman" in the senate. His utterances were those of old Jeffersonian days.

It is significant that he was born in the same year, 1823, at Woodstock, Md., that the Monroe doctrine became a fundamental principle in American politics. During his distinguished career he fought to maintain it. He later represented the United States at two Pan American conferences at which by his personality and speeches he strove to strengthen the bonds of friendship between North and South America.

Senator Davis' active political career began the year after the war of the states. He was elected a member of the House of Delegates of the new state of West Virginia, and next served as state senator.

A familiar figure in presidential conventions, Senator Davis led his delegates from West Virginia to the nomination hall on seven occasions, probably a record for such service.

A year after he had retired voluntarily from the senate, he was urged to become candidate for vice-president on the ticket with Grover Cleveland. He declined. He accepted the nomination, however, as running mate with Alton B. Parker and thus became the oldest candidate, aged 81, ever selected for the office.

The venerable senator was not only a democrat in politics, but he was a democrat in nature. He was the champion of liberty.

### CARRANZA MAKES REQUEST

Washington, March 11.—General Carranza through Consul Silliman has asked the American government for permission to send Mexican troops across the border into the United States in pursuit of Mexican bandits.

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