

FIRST FORCE OF U. S. TROOPS IS READY TO MOVE ACROSS BORDER

Mobilization Has Made Such Progress That Americans Are Ready to Enter Mexico Any Moment.

SITUATION REGARDING CARRANZA ADJUSTED

United States Has Agreed to Carranza's Plan of Reciprocal Arrangement for Troop Movements.

Washington, March 14.—Administration officials today momentarily awaited word from Major General Funston that the first detachment of American troops had moved into Mexico in pursuit of Villa and his band of outlaws. The latest official information from the border indicated that the mobilization of troops had made such progress that the first force was ready to cross the international line at any time.

Officials were confident that the situation, so far as Carranza himself is concerned, has been adjusted by the acceptance by the United States of Carranza's proposal for a reciprocal arrangement by which American troops may pursue the outlaws on either side of the border line.

The published reports that that the United States officials were expecting trouble from Carranza are understood to be resented by the administration officials, including the president, some of whom say that the reports are being circulated purposely in order to bring about war with Mexico.

Officials made it clear that steps already taken were with the deliberate intention of precluding the possibility of armed intervention, and they are seriously considering taking action to stop the publication of reports of an alarmist nature.

Official reports thus far received from interior points in Mexico and along the coast are all to the same effect—that there has been no outbreak of ill feeling against the United States because of the announcement that American troops will hunt down Villa.

There is further talk at the capital in regard to the proposal to lay aside for the present other legislation in order to dispose of the preparedness bills, and it is believed that an agreement on this point may be reached by the two houses.

President Wilson is particularly anxious for action on the preparedness measures.

Secretary Lansing made public the text of a note, accepting Carranza's proposal for a reciprocal arrangement between the two governments, and announcing that the United States held this arrangement to be now in force and binding upon both parties. General Funston will carry out his task under this agreement.

Mr. Lansing also made public a statement issued in the name of President Wilson, reiterating that every step being taken by the administration was based on the deliberate intention to preclude the possibility of armed intervention in Mexico. The statement follows:

"In order to remove any misapprehension that may exist either in the United States or Mexico, the president has authorized me to give in

President Urges Early Action on Defense Bills

Washington, March 14.—President Wilson today urged Chairman Padgett of the house naval committee to hurry the naval bill. Chairman Padgett told the president that the hearings on the bill would probably be concluded in two weeks. Representative Padgett assured the president that a working majority of the committee favored the strengthening of the navy and that he expected no trouble in getting through the house a naval program which would meet the approval of the administration.

Situation Is Such That Lansing Can Take Rest

Washington, March 14.—Secretary Lansing was on his way today to Pinehurst, N. C., for a week's vacation from the many weeks of work. The strain has been heavy in the press of diplomatic affairs and he felt the need of rest.

His name the public assurance that the military operations now in contemplation by this government will be scrupulously confined to the object already announced, and that in no circumstances will they be suffered to infringe in any degree upon the sovereignty of Mexico or develop into intervention of any kind in the internal affairs of our sister republic.

Done Deliberately. "On the contrary, what is now being done, is deliberately intended to preclude the possibility of intervention."

The note to Carranza defines the terms of the agreement beyond the possibility of misconstruction. In brief it provides that where conditions arise on the American side of the border similar to those at Columbus, which led to the orders to General Funston to enter Mexico, the same privilege will be accorded to the Mexican de facto government where the necessity of a further exchange of views. It is clearly stated, however, that the bandits to be pursued on American soil by Mexican troops must have come from the American side, committed depredations on the Mexican side and fled back again to United States territory. There is no such instance on record in recent years.

BONDS ARE VOTED FOR NEW BUILDING

Woodfin School District Will Erect \$17,000 Structure for School Purposes.

Reports received by Superintendent W. H. Hipps at noon today showed that Woodfin school district has voted a \$17,000 bond issue for the erection of a new school building. At that hour 41 citizens out of a registration of 75 had cast ballots affirmatively. The officers for the election are W. J. Gentry, registrar; W. F. Bryant and John Wyatt, judges. This district is estimated to have within its limits taxable property to the amount of \$700,000. This insures that the assessment will be low enough to be a burden on none.

The county board of education is much gratified at the enthusiasm shown in the various communities in favor of better buildings and longer terms for the schools. It is expected that Biltmore and West Asheville will be the next districts to vote bonds for modern structures.

STILL DESTROYED IN POLK COUNTY

Revenue Officer J. A. Galloway yesterday destroyed a fine copper still in Polk county about five miles from Saluda. The raider found approximately 2,000 gallons of beer ready for distillation; this he poured out without any regard for the loss involved to the owners of the factory. The operators were found at their place of business.

BIRTHDAY OF VICE PRESIDENT

Washington, March 14.—Vice President Marshall was a recipient of congratulations today on the occasion of his sixty-second birthday anniversary. Among the senders of greetings were many of his political friends in Indiana, his home state, whose delegation to the St. Louis convention have just been invited to vote for Mr. Marshall's renomination as President. Wilson's running mate.

HARTNESS NOT DOING IT ALL

J. Bryan Grimes Not Exactly Inactive While Opponent Lines "Em Up," Says Prominent Republican.

STATE BANKS ARE IN SPLENDID CONDITION

Signs and Statements Show State Institutions Are in Fine Health as Are the National Banks.

Raleigh, March 14.—"You may think Jim Hartness is doing all the work that is being done in the name of rotation, and that he has Bryan Grimes in distress," yesterday declared one of the state republicans so high up that he is positively meticulous, "but you don't want to take your eye off Jule Mann."

"I have had an extended visit through the east several times recently and if you fellows who are writing so much about the inactivity of Mann care to get the truth, just take a little trip. I know Hartness is busy and I know Bryan Grimes is not sitting back in an easy chair and watching this thing slip away from him. Perhaps the political workers think they have turned the trick, but they haven't."

"The truth is, no campaign ever saw finer work than Jule Mann's friends are doing. Jule is at work on his job like Grimes, but believe me, the still hunt that he is conducting hasn't been matched in many campaigns and when the race is over North Carolina people will have heard something about it."

"It's not my fight," he said when asked what possible objection one could raise to his talking over his own signature. "But it isn't right to let the public get the idea that Mann has about quit. There is this difference—Hartness moves in one way, Mann in another."

Col. Isaac M. Meeking, of Elizabeth City, was a business visitor to Raleigh yesterday afternoon, but would not talk politics.

Colonel Meeking was one of the shipwrecked parties in the late convention, did have it committed about 1,000 to 3 on the first count. But the filibustering of McCaskill interrupted the beautifully working piece of machinery and Senator Butler came in and spoiled the thing slightly.

Persons with innocent but active imaginations have been wondering if Colonel Meeking had been running that convention as chairman how he would have disposed of that delicate, not to say, desperate proposition of his. It is at least fair to guess that the sergeant at arms would have had a job when McCaskill broke up the harmonious workings of a convention that afterward killed itself.

Call For Bank Statements.

The corporation commission yesterday called for state bank statements at the close of business March 7. The commission is making five annual statements. Its last for December 31 showed splendid bank health, rarely have the signs been so good.

The usual statistics show creditable growth in all departments and the communities in which the banks prosper are themselves successful. National bankers declare that they are experiencing the same fortune.

Dr. James Y. Joyner has returned from Kennesaw where Friday he attended the first county commencement held in the state during the 1916 term. Dr. Joyner spoke at this occasion which was attended by more than 1,500 school children. He was struck with the presence of fifty-odd automobiles, a large number of them owned by the farmers of that community. The usual exercises, recitations, declamations, debates and demonstrations were of high order, he said, and the school spirit superb.

Dr. Joyner expects more counties to enter into the commencement exercises this year than did last and there were 62 of them. From now on the counties will be celebrated often.

Withdraws Extradition.

Governor Craig has withdrawn the extradition granted to the Ohio state government for John Webb Taylor who was charged with desertion of his baby.

Governor Craig's investigation led him to believe that Taylor is not a fugitive from justice in Ohio. Mrs. Taylor and he had lived in Rocky Mount and she left this state for Ohio. Governor Craig declares that he has not been to Ohio in three years and that he cannot be prosecuted for his alleged wrong in that state. Taylor has been in Fayetteville and was held there for the officer from Ohio who has returned.

The state board of health is giving publicity to the national fight being made against tuberculosis and to the plan of the national anti-tuberculosis campaign which the national board of health is making to create a division in the United States board of health department for the study of tuberculosis and the standardizing of its treatment.

CAPLAN TRIAL GOES OVER

Los Angeles, Cal., March 14.—The case of David B. Caplan, originally docketed for trial today, has been continued until April 3, when it will be tried before Judge Frank R. Willis in the Superior court. Caplan is the last of those to be tried on a charge of murder for the alleged participation in the dynamiting of the Los Angeles Times building five years ago. It is expected his trial will occupy from six to eight weeks.

CAMPAIGN STARTED FOR NEW MEMBERS

Y. M. C. A. Boys Launch Campaign Which Will Continue Until March 25.

The annual membership campaign by the younger members of the Y. M. C. A. was launched last night at a meeting at the association and was started this morning. The contest will continue until March 25, and it is the plan to secure 100 new members. While only the boys of the association can participate in the contest, they will be allowed to solicit memberships from men or boys.

Besides the prizes offered by the association to the winning teams in the contest, season passes to the Galax and Princess theaters will be offered by S. A. Lynch and the Asheville Baseball club will give passes to the games here this summer.

As fast as the boys join the association during the contest, they will be signed for the baseball season of the association, which will start on April 14. On March 27, at the close of the present contest, the teams which will compose the associations leagues, will be selected.

A large thermometer will be placed in the lobby of the association and each day the progress of the teams in the contest will be registered on the face of it. By this means it can be readily seen any day just what each team is doing in the contest. It is believed that this novel method will stimulate interest in the campaign.

LIEUT. COX WILL INSPECT TROOP B

Annual Event Tomorrow Evening to Be Followed by Supper For Cavalrymen.

With interest stimulated by recent military events along the Mexican border, in which the cavalry of the regular army are taking the leading part, members of troop B, North Carolina National guard, will assemble for an annual meeting tomorrow evening at 7:30 o'clock in the Armory.

Lieutenant C. E. Cox, United States army, inspector of cavalry organizations, will conduct the drills for Captain Frederick Rutledge's men and the maneuvers will be followed by a supper given to the troop by Captain Rutledge.

If the grave complications expected by Senators Chamberlain and Borah should result from the expedition into Mexico, it is probable that troop B, with other militia organizations, would be mobilized and ordered to the border and perhaps into Mexican territory.

The men have made good records for attendance at drills and it is thought that Lieutenant Cox will be pleased with the annual review.

BIG LEGAL BATTLE TO COME UP NEXT WEEK

New York, March 14.—The hearing on the application to foreclose on the International Mercantile Marine company's collateral trust bonds, which was to have taken place today has been postponed until next week. It is expected that the trial of the famous case will start next Monday. The New York Trust company, as trustee for the mortgage on which the default was made, will press the foreclosure. Big financial interests and men of international reputation will figure in the testimony. The alignment of legal forces has been completed, and Wall street is looking forward to a very interesting court battle. From the point of view of legal talent represented, it is probable that the case will be as prominent as the recent case against the New Haven Railroad directors.

FOUR SLANDER SUITS AGAINST EVANGELIST

Wilkesbarre, Pa., March 14.—The four slander suits of \$50,000 each against Dr. Henry W. Stough, the evangelist, as the result of utterances during the campaign in Hazelton in 1914, are to be tried at the term of court beginning here today. The Hazelton plaintiffs, in the order in which the suits will be called are: W. J. Cullen, director of public safety; Harry W. Jacobs, manager of a brewing company; Max Friedlander, county assessor and wholesale liquor dealer; and John Mayo, alderman and city magistrate. Dr. Stough's attorneys appealed to court last summer after three arbitrators had made an award of \$2700 in favor of Cullen.

Aberdeens to Visit M. A. C.

Amherst, Mass., March 14.—Lord and Lady Aberdeen of Ireland are to visit the Massachusetts Agricultural college today, and both will speak at a public meeting to be arranged for the occasion. Lady Aberdeen has been prominent in work in her native country in behalf of farm women, while her husband has been a leader in various agricultural movements in Ireland.

JEWISH LADIES TO MEET TONIGHT

Will Perfect Plan For Auxiliary to Y. M. C. A.—Meeting at 8 O'clock.

A committee of Jewish ladies, which was appointed at a recent meeting of the Young Men's Hebrew association, will meet this evening at 8 o'clock in the hall in the Bondley building for the purpose of perfecting the arrangements for organizing an auxiliary to the association. At tonight's meeting it is planned to adopt a constitution and by-laws which will govern the auxiliary.

It has been the plan of the association for sometime to gradually broaden its work until after awhile it will take in all the Jewish societies in the city and form a congress of Jewish organizations here. By doing this it is believed that the Jewish colony here will be much benefited, as concerted effort can be made towards the betterment of all members of the organizations.

Permanent officers of the auxiliary will probably be elected at tonight's meeting.

SAYS PRISONER SHOULD NOW BE IN DEATH CELL

Governor Construes Law as Requiring Condemned To Be Taken to Capital.

Raleigh, March 14.—Governor Craig has notified counsel for Mrs. Ida Ball Warren and Samuel Christy that as he construed the law, it was the duty of the sheriff of Forsyth county to deliver the prisoners at the state prison twenty days before the date set for their execution for murder. Since they are sentenced to die March 31, they should have been brought to the state penitentiary not later than Saturday, March 21.

The governor made it plain that it was not the custom for the chief executive to notify the sheriffs over the state to bring to the state penitentiary prisoners who had been sentenced to death, but that it is the duty of the sheriff under the law to deliver the prisoner twenty days before the date set for the execution or earlier if he sees fit.

The hearing of petitions for commutation of the death sentences of Mrs. Warren and Christy will take place March 20. The hearings are to be treated as separate cases.

"13" IS LUCKY NUMBER FOR HOME RUN BAKER

New York, March 13.—"Home run" Baker, who is to wear a Yankee uniform this season in place of the Athletics' regalia which he sported for five years, is a baseball player for whom 13 appears to be a lucky number. Baker was born 30 years ago today, on March 13, 1885. He began his big league career with the Athletics in 1908 and developed into one of the most formidable batsmen in the game. He was the star in the world's series in 1911, when he bore out his reputation as a home run hitter by making two circuit drives which virtually gave his team the championship. In 1914 his batting average was .319. Last season Baker remained out of the game because of his failure to agree on terms with Connie Mack. It is said that the New York American league club has come across with more than \$25,000 to secure the services of the famous "home run" hitter.

TO DEMAND WAR BY U. S. AGAINST TEUTONS

New York, March 13.—To make a plea for the United States to abandon its policy of neutrality in the war and "take a far advanced position in opposition to the Teutonic Allies" is the announced purpose of tonight's mass meeting in Carnegie hall. The announcement has created widespread public interest. The demonstration has been arranged by the American Rights committee, which claims to be the first organization of highly responsible men which has come out flatly in support of a belief that the United States should enter the war as an active opponent of the Teutonic Allies. Bainbridge Colby, George Haven Putnam, James M. Beck, ex-attorney-general of the United States, and other men of wide prominence are listed among the active members of the organization.

Will Make Amends. Washington, March 14.—Unofficially received here today indicate that Germany will make complete amends to the United States, if it is found that a German submarine torpedoed the Norwegian bark Silius, from which seven American waters were rescued, in Havre Roads, French waters.

NEW YORK COTTON.

New York, March 14.—Cotton futures opened firm:
May 13.54
July 13.25
October 13.32
December 13.28
January 13.20

GERMAN DRIVE AT VERDUN NOT YET RENEWED

No Infantry Action Has Developed on Front Where French Expected Resumption of Assault.

INTENSE BOMBARDMENT CONTINUES, HOWEVER

Signs of Increasing Friction Between Greece and Entente—French and Greek Soldiers Clash.

Vigorous artillery fighting continues on the Verdun front, but no infantry attacks by the Germans have developed along the Meuse, where signs of a renewal of the drive are in prospect. The German effort, indeed, seems again to have shifted in its most intense form to the other bank of the stream, where reconnaissance in force in the Haudromont wood is reported by Paris to have been checked by the French curtain of fire.

In the region of Vaux and Damour violent German bombardments continue, while in the Woerwe region both the French and German guns are pounding the opposing positions.

There is increasing friction between Greece and the entente powers, according to advices from German sources. These declare that the Greek premier Skouliodis has notified the entente representatives that the Greek premier Skouliodis has notified the entente representatives that the Greek government is not disposed to transfer to the entente the administration of the railways in northern Greece and Macedonia, to withdraw Greek troops from Macedonia or to meet other requests made by the entente.

Greek and French soldiers are reported to have clashed on the island of Mytilene.

Small engagements have occurred in the La Petrie forest where the French are reported to have penetrated 200 yards of trenches and to have withdrawn after destroying the German saps.

French aviators have bombed the railroad station at Conflans, where fires were seen to break out.

Reports come from Dutch sources that the Dutch-Belgian frontier, which has been closed for several weeks coincident with the attacks on Verdun, has been re-opened at one point. The comment on this in Holland, according to news dispatches through London, expressed the belief that this probably indicates that the Germans consider their offensive near an end.

The British Mesopotamian forces under General Aylmer suffered casualties to the number of 5000 in the battle of March 8, when they tried to advance up the Tigris toward Kut-el-amara and were reported to have been defeated and obliged to retreat, according to estimates by the Turkish war office.

In Arabia, according to Constantinople, the British forces trying to advance from the Gulf of Aden, were driven back by the Turkish forces to the protection of the warships in the gulf.

THE WEBB CASE STILL IN COURT

Evidence in the case of W. A. Webb, administrator, against Joe Webb and others, was being tried when Superior court recessed for noon today. The case was called yesterday afternoon and will probably occupy all of today in being tried. The plaintiff is suing for \$1,700 which he claims is due for debts of the estate of which he is administrator. The case is being hard fought and many witnesses have been summoned to testify.

A verdict for the plaintiff was returned in the case of John E. Patton against John R. Herron. The plaintiff was suing for \$250.

TO HAVE BY-PRODUCT PLANT

New York, March 14.—The directors of the Stow-Sheffield Steel and Iron company at their spring meeting here tomorrow are expected to authorize the construction of a by-product plant in the Birmingham, Ala., district to cost \$1,900,000. The building of the plant is attributed to the scarcity of coke and the almost prohibitive prices now quoted.