

Whole of Northern Mexico Declared to Be Seething in Open Revolt, Favoring Villa—Augusta and E. Nashville Ravaged By Fire

POWERFUL COMMANDER HAS DECLARED AGAINST CARRANZA AND THE U.S.

BORDER PEOPLE FEAR OUTBREAK

Private Advices Confirm Report That General Herrera

With 2000 Men Has Joined With Villa Forces.

DRASTIC STEPS BEING PLANNED AT EL PASO

Mexican Affairs Fraught With Far-Reaching Consequences.

That May Prove Serious For This Country.

El Paso, Tex., March 23.—Private advices today confirmed

the report that General Luis Herrera at Juarez had revolted from Carranza and had joined the Villa forces at Chihuahua and left little doubt that Mexican affairs had reached a point fraught with far-reaching and perhaps serious consequences to this country.

Not only was it accepted as definite that Herrera had declared against Carranza and the United States, but it was asserted with equal confidence that Torreon was also in the hands of Villa forces and that all northern Mexico was seething in open rebellion against the de facto government.

So grave was the situation here that military authorities planned to take drastic steps to relieve all Mexicans in El Paso of any arms that they might have concealed in their homes, and to enforce what would practically be martial law in "Little Chihuahua," the heart of El Paso's Mexican section.

Strong Recommendation. It is understood that government officials here have sent to Washington a recommendation couched in strongest terms urging the disarming of all Mexicans this side of the border, taking the right of forcible entry, and search of necessary.

The Washington authorities heretofore have opposed such steps on the ground that it would be misinterpreted by the Mexicans as a discrimination against them.

It is now insisted by the local authorities that the time has passed for any delicacy in handling the situation.

Grave Apprehension. Washington, March 22.—Grave apprehension regarding the outcome of the American expedition into Mexico in pursuit of Villa was evident for the first time tonight after re-

Resents Publication Of Peace Movement Rumor

President Wilson Authorizes Denial of Story That Ambassador Gerard Postponed Vacation to Await Proposal For Peace by Germany.

Washington, March 22.—President Wilson was represented at the white house today as being resentful of the published stories that Ambassador Gerard had stated that Germany was about to move for peace. The publication of the reports was characterized as being based on inferences.

The following statement was issued: "The president through Secretary Tumulty has authorized the denial of the stories that have appeared in newspapers to the effect that the purpose of Ambassador Gerard in remaining in Berlin was to await Germany's proposal for peace."

"There is no justification for this inference being drawn."

Yesterday the state department took notice of the publication by denying that Germany had intimated to the United States that the time was ripe for the United States, as the greatest neutral, to renew its friendly offices

cept by the war department of a dispatch from General Funston saying a report had reached him that two thousand Carranza troops at Chihuahua under General Luis Herrera had revolted and aligned themselves with the bandit chief.

General Funston did not disclose the source of his information so far as could be learned; no confirmation had reached the state department or the Mexican embassy, but developments were awaited with tense anxiety. If Herrera and his troops have joined Villa, some officials believe other Carranza commanders and troops may quickly follow the example. In such an event the United States and the de facto government of Mexico would find themselves confronted with a situation so serious that its possibilities hardly could be estimated.

The troops under Herrera are described here as probably the best equipped in northern Mexico. Luis Herrera at one time was one of Villa's most active aides, as was his brother Maelovio.

Rumors concerning doubtful intentions of the Arrieta brothers, leading a force in Durango, also have tended to increase disquiet here.

Rebellion in Carranza's army would make it necessary to rush every available American soldier to reinforce the advancing columns.

Grave Concern.

San Antonio, Texas, March 23.—Reports that General Luis Herrera, commanding two thousand men at Chihuahua, had aligned himself with Francisco Villa against the United States, was received with grave concern by General Funston and his staff. Officially and unofficially the opinion here was that with Herrera joining forces with Villa the international situation might easily be made so complex that by comparison the pursuit of Villa would be regarded as incidental. The long intervals between reports from the field commander of the American expedition already had key-

ed the tension a bit, although General

Funston and his chief of staff continued to profess the belief that all was well with the troops below Casas Grandes, but the report from Chihuahua made insignificant any anxiety they might have felt concerning General Pershing's operations.

According to the version reaching here, Herrera was removed Monday from command and immediately took steps to alienate his garrison. That Carranza has enough loyal troops in northern Mexico to drive him from the city of Chihuahua, if he aims to hold the place, was believed by military men here, but it was not thought that the holding of the city was his plan.

Military observers here see a possible connection with Herrera's reported action in the interruption of wire service between Casas Grandes and Juarez Tuesday and the wire cutting yesterday between Torreon and Ojinaga, opposite Presidio, Texas. It was suggested that those who cut the wires between Casas Grandes and Juarez might have thought they were being used by General Pershing for communicating with General Funston.

If Herrera desired to, it was pointed out, he could embarrass greatly the United States in its efforts to run down Villa. Cutting of the Northwestern railway at certain points would make it impossible for the Americans to use it for many days, even if the Carranza government decided to grant permission. It was also feared Herrera might go north and east along the trail of Ojinaga and emulate Villa by attacking Presidio. The small American force there now probably will be strengthened. Such a raid would not be so simple as that effected at Columbus, since between Presidio and Ojinaga is the Rio Grande instead of an imaginary line.

Herrera's reported defection caused surprise to those who know his former relations with Carranza. Aker his son, Machlovio Herrera, one of Carranza's most dashing army officers, was killed, he, although an old man, offered his services.

One Reached Casas Grandes. San Antonio, Tex., March 23.—One of the aviators missing from the squadron which left the border to join General Pershing's base at Casas Grandes, descended somewhere south of Casas Grandes, it was learned at Gen. Funston's headquarters yesterday. The name of the aviator was not given.

Earlier reports had indicated that both of the missing aviators came down somewhere along the line of communication established by General Pershing between the border and Casas Grandes, where he has his advanced base.

Late reports explained that one of the men reached Casas Grandes and was sent south over the country in which the three detachments of cavalry are operating. No details relative to his disappearance were received here.

Believe Villa Has Escaped.

General Pershing's failure to report an encounter with Villa forces and the absence of news from Mexican sources relative to the outcome of the fighting between the Carranza troops and the Villa bandits in the vicinity of Mamiquipa caused army officers at Fort Sam Houston to believe that Villa had escaped.

5000 BURNED OUT OF HOMES IN NASHVILLE

Movement Started For Relief of People Made Destitute By Flames Which Swept East Nashville.

AREA OF 35 BLOCKS ENTIRELY DESTROYED

Property Loss Estimated at \$1,500,000; One Death—Many Fine Residences Were Consumed.

Nashville, Tenn., March 23.—Citizens, civic and church organizations of Nashville, today were caring for 5000 persons made homeless by the fire which swept East Nashville late yesterday, destroying 600 residences and causing the death of one man and a property loss, estimated at \$1,500,000.

The one fatality was that of a negro. Many other persons were injured, but not seriously. The blaze started from a lighted ball of yarn thrown into a grassy vacant lot by a small boy.

A planing mill was first destroyed. The flames next raced into an extensive negro settlement, where, fanned by a high wind, they quickly consumed every house in the quarter.

The fire then broke out into two distinct blazes, one going east on Seventh street and the other down Fifth avenue.

An area of 35 blocks was swept clean. Many costly residences several churches and one charitable institution were burned.

The wind which aided the fire was one of the fiercest felt in Nashville in a long time, at 1 o'clock yesterday it was blowing at a rate of fifty-two miles an hour and during the entire day continued at between forty and fifty miles. It twisted through the streets, picking up large gravel and hurling it like hail.

A witness said that he saw a boy light the end of a small ball of yarn and throw it into the dry grass on a vacant lot at First and Oldham streets. Others saw the grass in flames and in a moment more a pile of shavings at a nearby planing mill were ablaze. The mill was soon in flames and the wind-borne embers set fire to a large group of frame houses, occupied by negroes.

In the meantime all the engines of the Nashville fire department had been fighting desperately, but the wind toyed with the flames. Streams of water were lifted aside, and the conflagration stirred into a tremendous furnace.

The drive of the wind, the falling of walls and the screaming of frantic women and children made a terrific din.

The heat from the burning buildings was terrific. One of the fire engines caught fire and was quickly consumed. Bucket brigades in several sections poured water on the roofs and sides of the residences and on the burning embers which were being hurled among them. Residents in all sections of the city were ordered to put out fires in stoves and furnaces, for fear that another fire might start while the engines were engaged in East Nashville.

BRYANT URGED FOR N. C. ATT'Y.

Friends of Popular Durham Lawyer Grooming Him as Candidate for Attorney Generalship.

Special to The Times.

Raleigh, March 23.—Victor S. Bryant's friends are grooming him for the attorney generalship race, according to Durham reports received here today, and it appears one of the most satisfactory rumors that Raleigh people have nursed since Judge Frank Carter started the trouble a year ago.

Mr. Bryant's followers had long ago thought of sending him to congress, but Major Charles M. Stedman is there and the Major and Bryant have long been too friendly for either to contemplate with great pleasure a contest between themselves. It was Bryant's Greensboro speech in nomination of Major Stedman for governor in 1904 that gave that body a complete sensation and a dozen or so such things took place that week.

Baldy Boyden's terrific castigation of Governor Ward's terrible castigation of Grover Cleveland alone prevented the Bryant speech from standing out in colossal solitariness like Adam's recollection of his fall.

Before the Bryant boom a suggestion in one of the local papers that Judge George W. Connor, who is sitting here as trial magistrate this week, might allow himself to contemplate the attorney generalship, gave momentary hope to the many who do not appear to feel satisfied with the situation.

Judge Connor is believed by a few friends in Raleigh to be perfectly willing to make the race under any sort of assuring conditions. The Judge trusts them further than he does these smasher of idols, these unmaskers of solemn faces; these annihilators of pretense; these destroyers of incipient bluffs; these diviners of hell's next eruption, these men on the spot known as the "Press." To them he has declared that he has no thought of such a race.

The Durham lawyer stands at the very top as a lawyer. He has always been among what is known as the progressive democrats. In Durham where commercial interests are so great he has always been on the outside, notwithstanding which fact he is one of the richest lawyers in the state and is yet young.

Mr. Bryant was state senator in the 1913 general assembly. He did not seek a return. It was his first taste of public life. He has been an incredibly hard worker and having settled the problem of income years ago it is declared by Durham people that he would enter politics and that the attorney generalship would be greatly to his liking.

The Supreme court has handed down opinions in the following cases: Starling vs. Selma Cotton Mills, Johnson county, new trial; Cory vs. Booker, Pitt, affirmed; Huff vs. Norfolk Southern Railway company, Craven, affirmed; West vs. Redmond, Pitt, no error; Shaw vs. Express company, Duplin, no error; Gainey vs. Gedwin, Sampson, no error; Lawrence vs. Telegraph company, Lenoir, no error; Robinson vs. Daughtry, Simpson, affirmed; Johnson vs. Robinson, Sampson, affirmed; Mann vs. Allen, Franklin, reversed; Pfifer and company vs. Drug store, Wake, no error; Lee vs. Thornton, Wake, reversed; King vs. McCracken, Columbus, petition dismissed; Bramham vs. City of Durham, affirmed; Blue Ridge Interurban Railway company vs. Hendersonville Light and Power company, Lenoir, petitioned to rehear allowed, no error in ruling of the Superior court.

WAR NEWS.

The French are still clinging to a part of the little hill of Haucourt, southwest of Malancourt on which the Germans gained a foothold last evening in an attack on the French front between Avocourt and Malancourt, northwest of Verdun.

Paris announced today that the German infantry attacks in this sector were not resumed during the night and that even the fire of the heavy artillery had diminished in violence.

26 BLOCKS IN AUGUSTA LAID WASTE BY FIRE

BUTLER RECORD WILL BE USED

Democratic Historians Working on Newspaper Files of 1895 and 1897 For Material on Butler's Conduct

Special to The Times.

Raleigh, March 23.—Historians are working on newspaper files of 1897 and 1895 getting ready for early use all the material that Senator Martin Butler's conduct can provide.

The year that appears to be richest in Butler issues was 1897 when that gentleman was fighting Senator Pritchard and working for the election of a populist to succeed the late Senator Zebulon Baird Vance. Senator Butler abused the republican party of that date as he does the democrats of today and prophesied that in 1900 a populist would be elected president of the United States.

Just what the democratic historians propose doing they do not say, but they have found an abundance of utterance from Senator Butler, some of which is not creditable to the fusion legislature. Typewriters have been clicking and memories of old inhabitants have been requisitioned for mean things that the careful toiler and pen of Senator Butler made current in those days. It is presumed that Mr. Butler will be the beneficiary of all this and that his party connections and official record will receive proper "oration."

This has begun early and its preparation now negatives the thought that it is to be used in the handbook of 1916. It must be admitted that the files of the papers contain some vastly interesting reading matter, and that Senator Butler thinks for mean things that the careful toiler and pen of Senator Butler made current in those days. It is presumed that Mr. Butler will be the beneficiary of all this and that his party connections and official record will receive proper "oration."

Standing by the Governor. The burden of the messages received after Governor Craig commuted Ida Ball Warren and Sam P. Christy, was gentle and sympathetic.

With very few exceptions the governor was credited with having "nerve." Nearly all the people talked to since the commutation have thought it took more nerve to commute than to put it on former judges and jurists. Traveling men about the state declare that it will make Governor Craig more popular though temporarily it will cause criticism.

The Biltmore Saw Mill, incorporated, was chartered with \$5,000 of its capital paid in.

The stockholders are H. G. Etherton, Benjamin Starbuck and J. E. Rector of Biltmore.

The Auto Repair company of Winston-Salem, \$25,000 authorized capital and \$3,100 paid in by H. W. Masten, E. E. Swain, and C. H. Swain, will do a general automobile and repair business.

The High Point Stone company, incorporated, is a \$50,000 corporation and was chartered today by D. H. Roper, J. C. Bouldin and J. H. Weant.

The Medwood Realty company of Spencer was incorporated with \$50,000 of its capital paid in by E. C. Jones of Spencer, N. B. McCantless, Salisbury, and Walter M. Paul of Charlotte.

DEFENDANT APPEALS FROM COURT SENTENCE

At this morning's session of the police court Fannie Leventrop, colored, was found guilty of an assault on Hattie Blair and Cora McDowell, colored, with a deadly weapon, and was sentenced to the county home for eight months. She gave notice of appeal and was placed under a \$200 bond. The next heaviest punishment was meted out to Will Roland, colored, who was fined \$7 and the costs for assaulting Arthur Siler, colored, with a knife. Among the other cases disposed of were those of five speakers and one drunk.

Twenty Residence Blocks Are Swept Clean and Six Business Blocks Guttered By Wind-Driven Flames.

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT \$5,000,000 TO \$7,000,000

Three Thousand People Left Homeless—Firemen Powerless Until Heavy Wind Had Subsidied.

Augusta, Ga., March 23.—Twenty blocks in the residential section of Augusta today presented the appearance of a wind-swept prairie and the bare walls of six business blocks bear silent testimony of Augusta's most serious disaster of recent years. The fire which raged for over nine hours last night, causing a loss estimated at from \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000, was brought to a halt early today, after it had crossed Green street. An area of about one and a quarter square miles was ravaged by the flames which were driven by a heavy gale.

Augusta Firemen Powerless. Augusta's firemen were powerless to control the fire and apparatus was sent from Columbus, Charleston, Atlanta, Macon, Savannah and other cities to assist the local fire department.

The wind subsided just after 1 o'clock this morning and it was not until then that the firemen were able to gain in the fight.

The fire was started in the Dyer building at the corner of Eighth street and Broad street. The flames spread rapidly to "Cotton Row" in the rear, whipped around the Empire Life building and by leaps and bounds destroyed block after block, except the Sixth on Broad street.

The flames cut a path two or three blocks wide for eight blocks on Broad street down to the east boundary of the city. The flames leaped across Broad street to Southside at Elbert street and cut their way through to Green street.

Estimates today placed the number of residences destroyed at between 600 and 700, including some of the finest old homes in Augusta. No estimate can be placed in the value of the contents of the houses. The owners saved practically nothing.

Today more than 3000 people are homeless. Many spent the night walking the street, while others slept in the halls of hotels.

Leading citizens early today began to lay relief plans. The city council was called to meet at 10 o'clock to consider making some action for relief, and a general mass meeting was called to meet at noon.

Many Narrow Escapes. There were many narrow escapes, but no one was seriously injured. Several firemen were sent to hospitals suffering from burns and bruises. Officials of the fire department today began an investigation of the cause of the fire, but as yet no explanation as to its origin has been offered.

The 12-story building occupied by the Augusta Chronicle was practically destroyed. The Herald building was also burned.

Cotton factories today estimated that the fire destroyed about \$2,000,000 worth of Cotton stored in warehouses on the river front.