

NOT LET TIME TO CHANGE POLICY

President and Official Family Decide To Continue Attitude In Mexican Situation

DEMANDS PUNISHMENT OF VERGARA'S SLAYERS

Execution of American Ranchman Regarded As of Serious Moment and Secretary Bryan Wires O'Shaughnessy To Seek Reparation of Huerta. Benton's Body To Be Examined By American and British Representatives

(By the Associated Press.)
Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—Two hours of discussion of the Mexican situation in all its phases by President Wilson and his Cabinet today developed a unanimity of opinion that the time had not yet arrived for any change in the policy of the Washington government.

Though still reserving judgment on the facts surrounding the execution of William S. Benton, British subject, the President and his Cabinet, it was learned authoritatively, were inclined to regard as of serious moment the hanging by Mexican Federalists of Clemente Vergara, an American citizen. Immediately after the Cabinet meeting, Secretary Bryan cabled Charles O'Shaughnessy, demand of the Huerta government the punishment of those responsible for Vergara's death. An investigation will be sought by the American government of why any harm befell Vergara, who was reported to have been given to the American consular representatives that he was safe. Incidentally, the memorandum circulated by the Huerta government among diplomatic representatives in Mexico City, pointing out to the United States that the Constitutionalists were unable to protect foreigners and therefore ought to be deprived of the rights to get arms in the United States, did not reach the State Department. Secretary Bryan said it had not been received, and there were intimations from high officials that the memorandum meant little in view of the wanton murder of Vergara.

Every Move Discussed.

Virtually every move that has ever been suggested for the protection of American and foreigners in Mexico and for the restoration of peace in that country was discussed by the Cabinet. No conclusion was reached, as far as could be learned, except that there should be aggressive pursuit of facts in both the Benton and Vergara deaths.

Late in the day Secretary Bryan conferred with Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British ambassador, whom he informed that General Villa had consented to allow the British to examine the body of Benton. Two representatives of the American government, two physicians and the widow and any relatives of Benton who desired to accompany the party.

Mr. Bryan's decision today that a special train had been promised by Villa to take the party to Chihuahua, where the body had been located and that a start probably would be made tomorrow at the next day. It had not been decided whether the body would make up the party, but it is regarded as certain that the British consul, Charles A. S. Perceval, and his secretary, George C. Carothers, American consular agent at Juarez, and Major Fletcher, American consul at Chihuahua, will meet the body along with two army sergeants.

Benton Indiscreet.

The news that General Villa had issued an order, requiring that American consular representatives in Mexico be advised of any movement of the body, was received with satisfaction here. Discussion of the Benton case in an informal way among administration officials had developed the view that primarily Benton committed an indiscretion in going to Villa, with whom it is admitted, he was on unfriendly terms. For Benton to go into Villa's camp under such circumstances, high officials here think, was to unnecessarily risk his life. They contrast the affair with the killing of Vergara, who did nothing to provoke Mexicans, but, as an innocent ranchman, was kidnapped by Federalists and later hanged.

Thus far the State Department has received no satisfactory advice concerning the whereabouts of the body, but reports that he saw him in the Juarez jail February 18, but that since then his whereabouts have been unknown. Villa denying that Bauch was in Chihuahua City. Further inquiry has been made.

Speeches critical of the administration's Mexico policy continued today in the House. Representative Mondell, Republican, of Wyoming, making the principal speech of attack. Administration leaders believe a big majority of the Republicans in Congress are inclined to leave the question in the hands of the executive department of the government.

Secretary Bryan said today he had no information concerning the report of Villa's confession that he ordered Benton's execution without a court martial.

MARINES HELD READY FOR INSTANT SERVICE

Transport Prairie, with 700 Men Aboard, Prepared to Sail For Mexican Waters.
Pensacola, Fla., Feb. 27.—The United States Navy transport Prairie, with 700 marines on board, tonight was prepared to leave here for Mexican waters at 10 o'clock. The vessel today was hurriedly completed and 400 marines from the naval station were added to the 300 already on board. Several tons of supplies, which today reached here for the transport Hancock, tonight were reshipped to that vessel at New Orleans, special request being made to the railroad for quick dispatch.

VERGARA KILLED IN COLD BLOOD

Ranger Captain Reports To Texas Governor Details of American's Death

COLQUITT WIRES BRYAN ASKS SECRETARY OF STATE WHAT METHOD SHOULD BE FOLLOWED IN EFFORT TO APPREHEND PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MURDER—MAY MAKE REQUISITION ON MEXICAN GENERAL

(By the Associated Press.)
Austin, Texas, Feb. 27.—Ranger Captain J. J. Sanders, reporting to Governor O. B. Colquitt in today, made the direct charge that Clemente Vergara, an American ranchman, was shot to death while in the custody of Mexican Federal troops, ostensibly en route from the jail at Hidalgo to Federal headquarters at Piedras Negras, Mexico. Tonight Governor Colquitt again telegraphed Secretary of State Bryan, asking what method should be followed in an effort to apprehend those responsible for the killing of Vergara.

Captain Sanders' Report.

"Will advise that on the morning of February 11, five Federal soldiers, under command of Apolonio Rodriguez, crossed the Rio Grande to an island belonging to the United States, taking therefrom 11 horses belonging to Clemente Vergara, carrying them to the Mexican side of the river. In passing the house of Vergara, which stands on the banks of the river on the Texas side, one of the men went to the river and called to Vergara, requesting him to come across the river, as the captain wanted to arrange with him about paying for the horses. Vergara and a nephew of his crossed in a skiff to the Mexican side, where two men struck him three blows on the head, with a pistol dragging him to the bank and carrying him to Hidalgo. On Sunday, Feb. 13 a. m. he was taken from the Hidalgo jail and started with guards on the Mexican side, but was shot to death after passing only a short distance. Vergara was born and reared in Webb county, Texas, and I am informed that he had a pass to cross the river, signed by Sheriff Earles, of Webb county, and by Garza Galvan."

Colquitt's Telegram.

The text of Governor Colquitt's telegram to Secretary Bryan follows: "Your telegram in answer to the one sent by me to the President is received. I do not want to invade Mexico with a military force. I asked your co-operation in maintaining the rights and dignity of this State and your consent to allow me to send State rangers, who are peace officers, to pursue those who are constantly transgressing our laws. Again, I ask the President to advise me who is recognized by him as the constituted authority in Mexico. I repeat the inquiry and ask whom you recognize as consisting in the State of Nuevo Leon, as I desire to present regulations to the proper authorities of that State for the surrender of fugitives from Texas justice, notably those responsible for the theft of Clemente Vergara's property and for his murder. The telegram explained that this request was based on rights of extradition, which Governor Colquitt claims were granted border States in a treaty between the United States and Mexico. Attorney General E. F. Leoney, in an opinion given the Governor today, held that requisition may properly be made for Rodriguez and the five men with him, who are charged with the capture of Vergara. Such requisition, he held, should be upon the military chiefdom who may at this time be located in the district where Vergara was captured. Inasmuch as Vergara was killed outside of Texas, Mr. Leoney said the governor could not requisition on the ground of extradition, but only for horse theft which occurred on Texas soil.

VERGARA INVESTIGATION.

Texas Rangers Conducting Inquiry Into Ranchman's Death.

(By the Associated Press.)
Laredo, Tex., Feb. 27.—Federal and State authorities today continued their investigation into circumstances surrounding the hanging of Clemente Vergara, an American ranchman, by Mexican Federalists and his subsequent disappearance. The State investigation centered around Palaflo, Texas, the locality of the Vergara ranch, across the river from where he was arrested. Texas rangers are conducting the inquiry.

BEGIN INQUIRY.

Partial Representative Investigating Circumstances of Benton's Death.

(By the Associated Press.)
El Paso, Tex., Feb. 27.—Charles Arthur Perceval, of the British consular service, sent here to investigate the death of William S. Benton, plunged into the inquiry independently today. General Scott late today called formally on the British visitor, who learned from an apparently reliable source that Perceval did not broach the subject of his mission here, and for that reason it did not come up at all.

No information as to the departure of the commission to examine the body of Benton was available here today. Consul Edwards was without advice from Chihuahua and was bending his energies toward investigating the case of Harry Compton, an American, said to be imprisoned at Ojinaga.

SACHEM FLOATED.

British Steamer Being Towed to Dry- Dock For Examination.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 27.—The British steamer Sachem, which stranded near Hog Island Sunday morning, was floated at 8:30 o'clock tonight and is now en route to Newport News in tow of the tug J. J. Merritt.

Such of the Sachem's cargo consisting of wheat, etc., was loaded on barges and a big portion was thrown overboard. The vessel will go into dry-dock at Newport News to ascertain the damage to her bottom.

THE WRONG NAME IN AN EDITORIAL

As a Result Congressman Page Feels He Has Been Done Irremediable Wrong

WRITING MAN APOLOGIZES WILL MAKE ALL POSSIBLE AMENDS. REBUKED THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST SENATOR OVERMAN WHEN IT WAS MR. H. A. PAGE WHO HAD OCCASIONED THE EDITORIAL

(By W. E. YELVERTON.)
Washington, Feb. 27.—Representative Page made public today the following telegrams with the single comment that the messages would be self-explanatory:

"Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 27, 1914.
"To Hon. Robert N. Page,
"Washington, D. C.
"Substitution of your name for Henry A. in Observer editorial this morning was a bad blunder on my part. Explanation and apology will be made promptly."
"(Signed) WADE H. HARRIS."

"Washington, D. C., Feb. 27, 1914.
"To Wade H. Harris,
"Editor Charlotte Observer,
"Charlotte, N. C.
"Telegram received. Such blundering seems to me inexcusable. No explanation or apology can possibly make amends for the wrong done me."
"(Signed) ROBERT N. PAGE"

The occasion of the Observer editorial was the receipt by that paper of a letter from Mr. Henry A. Page giving the information that he was preparing to write a series of letters for the purpose of undertaking to convince Robert N. Page, a Democratic Senator from North Carolina, that Senator Overman ought not to be renominated, and inquiring if the Observer would care to publish the letters. The editorial, which was headed "Page's Mistake," represented Congressman Robert N. Page as having written the letter. Editor Harris stated in his editorial that the letters opposing Senator Overman would not be published by the Observer and that the mistake of using Congressman Page's name for that of his brother and warning them against assuming, on the strength of his editorial, that it was Congressman Page who had written the letter to the Observer.

Immediacy on discovery of the error.

Editor Harris telegraphed the error papers notifying them that he had made the mistake of using Congressman Page's name for that of his brother and warning them against assuming, on the strength of his editorial, that it was Congressman Page who had written the letter to the Observer.

TO MAKE COMMENCEMENT ADDRESSES.

Secretary Josephus Daniels today accepted the invitation of Davidson College to make the commencement oration there on May 18. He will speak on Monday morning. Shortly afterwards he will address the Charlotte public schools at their closing exercises. While in Charlotte he will be the guest of the Greater Charlotte Club. He will be the honor guest, May 20, at the closing exercises of the College of Charleston, Charleston, S. C.

UNABLE TO SEE REDFIELD.

Representative Godwin was unable to see Secretary Redfield today about his complaint against United States Fish Commissioner Hugh M. Smith, but has an engagement for tomorrow. It was Cabinet day and for that reason also Senator Simmons and Mr. Godwin failed to see Secretary McAdoo regarding the resignation of B. F. Keith, Collector of Customs for North Carolina. Mr. Keith said during a visit here several months ago that he was ready to resign any time the Department desired to name a successor to him.

WALKER TAYLOR RECOMMENDED.

Col. Walker Taylor, of Wilmington, has been recommended by Senator Simmons for the Collectorship. No trouble in having him named within the next few days is anticipated. Senator Simmons is making no effort to have Keith removed, but is acting on Keith's statement that he is ready to quit any time. He and Mr. Godwin will call on Mr. McAdoo tomorrow to see if Keith is ready to vacate.

NAME POSTMASTERS.

The Postoffice Department will send in the names of E. S. Yarborough for postmaster at Duke and V. G. Pleasant at Rowland in the next list to the White House. The Treasury Department will close the deal for the Townsend site for the Lamberton Federal building in the next few days.

INTERESTING HEARINGS EXPECTED.

Representative Godwin will call a meeting of his committee next week to consider his resolution of inquiry into Republican office-holding in government departments. He confidentially expects to hold hearings at which much interesting information will be sought.

North Carolina visitors here today included B. A. Anderson, of Fair Bluff, and James A. Hartness, of Statesville.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Woodard, of Wilson, who have been guests of Secretary and Mrs. Josephus Daniels for several days, left today for home.

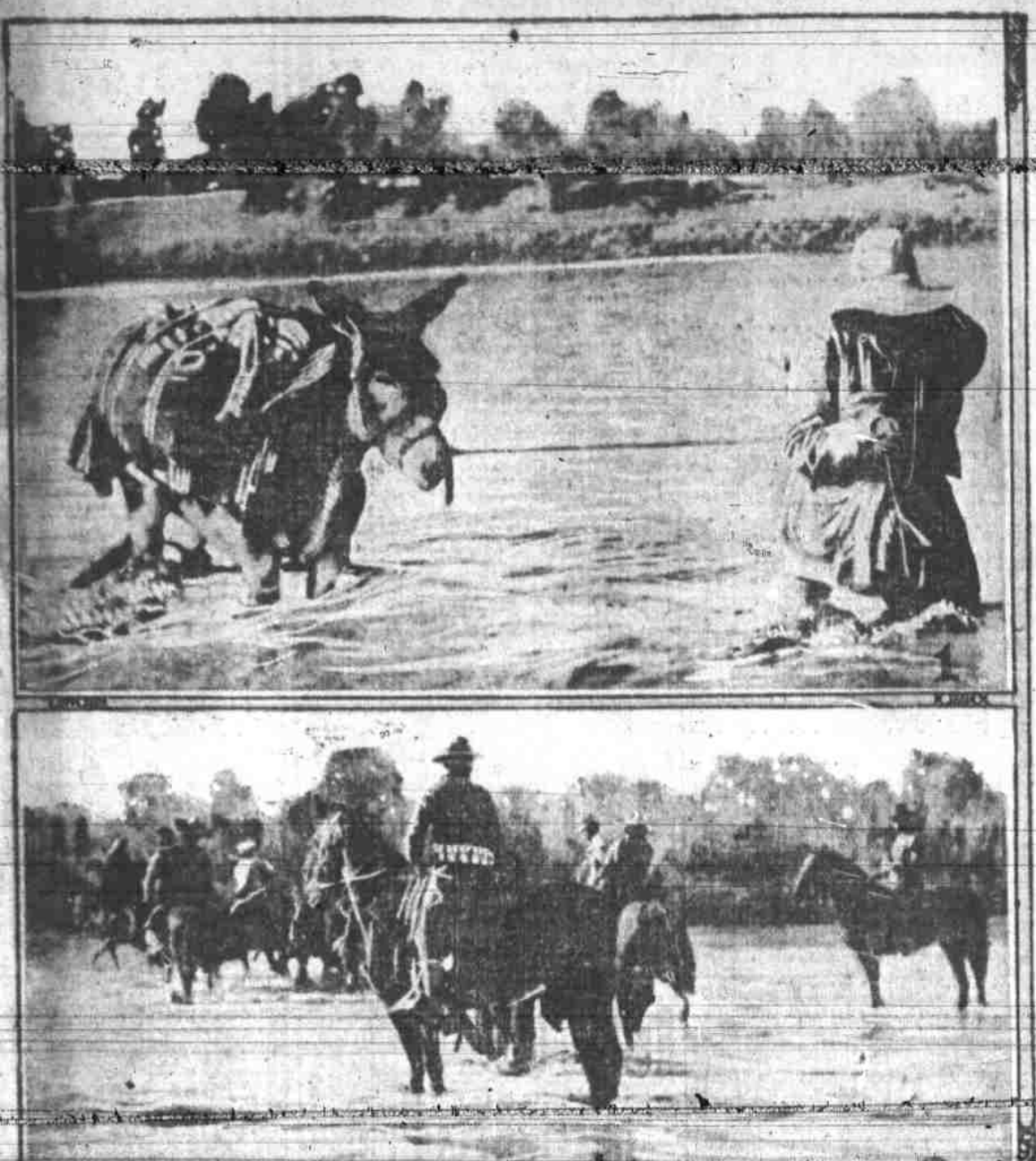
Wade H. Cooper, the Washington bank president who made sensational charges against a Washington judge yesterday, won his suit today out of which the charges against the judge grew. The suit was a bank fight over control of the institution.

WEBB OFFERS AMENDMENT.

Deprive Retired Officers Who Act as Agents of Pay.

(By the Associated Press.)
Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—Retired army officers who act as agents of any manufacturer or dealer selling supplies to the government would be deprived of their retired pay under an amendment introduced today by Representative Webb, of North Carolina, and adopted by the House. Debate on the bill was still in progress when the House adjourned.

UNITED STATES BORDER PATROL BUSY DRIVING BACK MEXICANS WHO CROSS RIVER



1-MEXICAN FORDING RIO GRANDE TO TEXAS
2-U.S. TROOPERS CHASING MEXICAN DESERTERS BACK ACROSS RIO GRANDE

These pictures show one constant source of trouble along the Mexican border. Deserters from both sides in the Mexican imbroglio are driven back across the Rio Grande by mounted troopers whenever caught on United States soil. Noncombatants often ford the Rio Grande with all their belongings on the backs of little burros and are passed by the border patrol.

ELIMINATE BOND ISSUE FOR ALASKAN RAILROAD

Conferees Decide on \$35,000,000 to Be Spent on Government Enterprise To Come From Treasury.

(By the Associated Press.)
Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—Practical agreement was reached late today by the conferees on the Alaskan Railroad Bill. Senate conferees accepted the House amendment eliminating provision for a bond issue to finance the project and fixing the amount to be spent at \$35,000,000, instead of \$40,000,000. The money will be appropriated from the Treasury as needed. There remain only some matters of phraseology to settle and it was announced that the conferees would be ready to report the bill for final action Monday.

PANAMA COAL BUSINESS.

Miners Want Government to Handle It Exclusively.

(By the Associated Press.)
Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—Congressmen from Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Kentucky today asked Colonel Goethals to urge the government to handle coal supplies exclusively at the Panama Canal. Colonel Goethals suggested that the question lay with Congress and not Canal Zone officials. The members from the coal states are pressing the appropriations committee of the House to have the sundry civil bill provide that only American coal shall be used, and Representative Edmunds has a bill pending before the interstate commerce committee to carry out the idea urged today.

FORMER PRESIDENT TAFT LUNCHEONS WITH WILSON.

Second Visit to White House Since
Last March.
Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—The President and Mrs. Wilson today had as their luncheon guests, former President Taft, Senator Root, of New York, and Miss Mabel Boardman, director of the American Red Cross. It was the second time the former President had taken lunch with President Wilson, since last March. He came to Washington to appear before the House Judiciary committee to urge simplification of Federal court procedure.

THROWS TRAMP OFF TRAIN.

Wisconsin Conductor Must Serve
Sentence in Penitentiary.
Lancaster, Wis., Feb. 27.—Harry French, of Lacroix, a conductor on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, today was convicted here of manslaughter in the third degree at the conclusion of his trial for killing Edward Murphy, a tramp, who was thrown from French's train. The conviction carries a penalty of from two to four years in the penitentiary. The jury held that the conductor had no right to put a man off a moving train.

WOMAN MURDERER.

New York Woman Convicted of Poisoning
Her Husband.
Little Valley, N. Y., Feb. 27.—Mrs. Cynthia Buffum was found guilty tonight of murder in the first degree in having poisoned her husband, Willis Buffum.

BECOMES CANDIDATE FOR CLERKSHIP.

Salisbury, Feb. 27.—Former County Treasurer J. B. Nichols, of Rowan county, announced today that he will be a candidate for clerk of Superior Court in the next election, opposing J. P. McCubbin, the incumbent, for that office.

FOR SIMPLICITY IN COURT PROCEDURE

Former President Taft Heads Delegation Appearing Before House Committee

(By the Associated Press.)
Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—An appeal for simplification of court procedure to facilitate the administration of justice today was made to the House Judiciary committee by a delegation of noted lawyers, headed by former President Taft. Speaking as president of the American Bar Association, Mr. Taft said lawyers of the United States were practically a unit in believing simple rules of practice should govern in all courts, Federal and State, and he strongly urged passage of a pending bill introduced by Representative Clayton, chairman of the committee.

FAVORS CLAYTON BILL

Representing American Bar Association, Head of That Organization Tells Committee Lawyers Are Practically a Unit For Simple Rules of Practice In All Courts

The Clayton bill would empower the Supreme Court of the United States to lay down rules for the conduct of common law practice in Federal district courts, as it has already done in equity procedure. The procedure of States where these courts are located, now governs them, and today it was pointed out that usages and rules of procedure built up by the legislatures of the various States have obscured the purpose of law in intricate masses of technicalities that have served particularly to protect men of wealth from prosecution.

English Justice Rapid.
Mr. Taft said to the committee that there was nothing in the Constitution to prevent administration of justice in the United States with the same dispatch that marked English court business.

During the discussion the former president departed from specific consideration of the pending bill and dealt with the popular outcry against the judiciary, as it is now constituted. He believed, he said, that the Federal court system was the bulwark of American liberty, and that appointment for life was fundamental in maintaining that system, but he admitted that defects had arisen, all of which he thought could be cured by legislative enactments such as that before the committee. A study of this subject, he suggested, might be made by a paid commission, with the approval of the Supreme Court.

Referring to the investigations of several Federal judges now in progress, Mr. Taft declared it was a disheartening thing for Congress to exercise this power.

Judicial Families.
"I think it is an admirable thing," he said, "for these judges to under-

GET EIGHT GALLONS IN DRAYMAN'S TRUNK

Elizabeth City Police Arrest Negro Found With More Than Legal Quantity of Liquor.

(Special to The News and Observer.)
Elizabeth City, Feb. 27.—The police examined a trunk which was being hauled by a negro drayman yesterday afternoon and found that it contained eight gallons of liquor. The trunk had been shipped at baggage. The drayman, named Patton, could not give a very straight account as to the owner of the trunk and he was arrested as being the owner of the whiskey. The case has been continued against him to give him time to find the owner of the trunk.

ORDERS THE INTERLOCKER

Corporation Commission Asks Safety Device For Pembroke Junction.

The Corporation Commission yesterday made an order that the Seaboard Air Line and the Atlantic Coast Line railways install an interlocking switch at Pembroke Junction. A recent wreck at that place moved the commission to take up this matter and urge its completion. Two years prior to the recent collision at this place, a wreck was caused by a dense fog and several passengers badly hurt. Each railway has offered to install a switch, but each will be allowed to contribute to the cost.

SUPERINTENDENTS ADJOURN.

General Education Board Discussed at Final Session Yesterday.

(By the Associated Press.)
Richmond, Va., Feb. 27.—The Department of Superintendents of the National Education Association, in session here, held its final session today, discussing the work of the general education board, led by Wallace Buttrick and Abraham Flexer, of New York, and rural schools, led by Edward P. Cubberley, of Stamford University, and Edward C. Elliott, University of Wisconsin.

AFTER MACHINE GUNS.

Federal Sympathizers Ready to March on Sonora When Deserted.

(By the Associated Press.)
Douglas, Ariz., Feb. 27.—It was learned today that Mexicans identified with the Huerta contingent have been negotiating here for the purchase of two machine guns.

Huerta sympathizers here say several hundred former Federal soldiers, supposedly deserters from Ojales command, who retain their Federal sympathies, have a secret organization ready to take the field when Northern Sonora is stripped of defenders by the March to Chihuahua.

ANOTHER DRY VICTORY

Prohibitionists of Cove, Oregon, Win Case in Court.

(By the Associated Press.)
Salem, Ore., Feb. 27.—Miss Fern Hobbs, private secretary to Governor Oswald West, today said another victory for Oregon prohibition forces had been won, when she received word that the Union county court on March 4 would declare the town of Cove "dry." Miss Hobbs previously was instrumental in closing the saloons at Copperfield.

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DENIES GREAT TO SEND TROOPS ACROSS BORDER

Colquitt Says His Efforts Were Only To Protect The Lives of His People

CHARGES EFFORT TO MAKE HIM APPEAR RIDICULOUS

Texas Governor Declares U. S. Government Gives Him Scant Encouragement In His Attempts To Co-operate In En- forcing The Neutrality Laws Along The Border—Scores Federal Officials For Alleged Failure To Act

(By the Associated Press.)
Austin, Texas, Feb. 27.—Governor O. B. Colquitt, of Texas, today issued the following statement:

"The Associated Press dispatches from Washington, referring to my telegram of yesterday addressed to the President concerning conditions on the Texas-Mexican border, make the following statement:

"A similar situation arose in Texas in February, 1912, and February, 1913, when border trouble caused Governor Colquitt to declare he might send Texas rangers into Mexico, either to prevent or punish in American territory or protect Americans."

"And again the Associated Press dispatches from Washington stated: 'When on February 11, 1914, Governor Colquitt ordered four companies of militia to Brownsville, the War Department telegraphed General Steever, then in command for the Department of Texas, 'under no circumstances permit their crossing the river except under specific orders of the Secretary of War.'"

"The statements quoted above are positively untrue insofar as they allege that I have threatened to send rangers or State militia into Mexico."

"I did send a telegram in 1912 to the President asking him to grant the Mexican revolutionaries and Federal soldiers at Juarez from shooting into El Paso, Texas, and thus endangering the lives of Texas people. And in that telegram the correspondence I stated that if the Federal government did not take steps to protect the Texas people that I would. And I gave orders to my Adjutant General to be ready to proceed with State troops to El Paso for that purpose."

"I know that I had no authority to invade Mexico and was not foolish enough to make such a threat. But, if the Mexicans stood on their side and shot down Texas, the State of Texas would be in a desperate straits, to have afforded these Texas all the protection that could be lawfully given them."

Mexicans Demand Money.

"In February, 1912, after the American consul at Matamoros had telegraphed to the captain of the Steever company at Brownsville and also to the county judge and sheriff of Cameron county, Texas, regarding the threat of the Mexican troops against American citizens in Matamoros and their demand for \$25,000, the county judge of the night, these public officials called upon me to protect the people of Texas living in Brownsville."

"Recognizing it to be the duty of the Federal government to afford this protection, I communicated the telegram received from the captain of the militia company at Brownsville to General Steever at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio. Subsequently, when a request came to me from the county judge and sheriff of Cameron county, Brownsville, in the county seat thereof, appealing to me to protect the people of that vicinity against disorder in Matamoros and probable violence in Brownsville, I immediately called upon General Steever and read him the telegram from the county judge and sheriff."

Acts On Own Initiative.

"I asked General Steever if he could not send Federal troops to Brownsville to give the protection which the county judge and sheriff asked for. At that time the Federal troops to Brownsville were at Fort McIntosh, near Laredo, which is approximately 286 miles from Brownsville by rail. He addressed me over the telephone, that in pursuance of my request for a border patrol on the Mexican border, he had asked the War Department's permission three weeks prior to this time to send troops to Brownsville, but that his request had not been acted upon. Whereupon, I advised General Steever that the situation at Brownsville and Matamoros seemed dangerous and that I would undertake to give the protection myself."

"I then called the Adjutant General of the State of Texas to my office and directed that two cavalry and two infantry companies of the Texas National Guard be sent to Brownsville without delay, by special train, my determination being to defend and protect the people of this State, whom I considered the national government to be neglecting."

"It was never my intention to order or permit the Texas troops to go beyond the borders of this State."

"The telegram of the captain of the National Guard at Brownsville stated that the American consul had communicated with him by telephone and asked if the American consulate was attacked if he, the captain of the Texas National Guard, would cross the river and give him and the consulate protection. The American consul afterwards denied making this request, but the matter is one of veracity between him and the captain of the National Guard and the county judge and sheriff of Cameron county. 'Having been called upon by the county judge and sheriff for protection, it was my duty to send troops to their aid, and I did so without waiting to inquire into the question

(Continued on Page Three.)