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## IMPORTANT NEWS THE WORLD OVER

Happenings of This and Other Nations  
For Seven Days Are  
Given.

## THE NEWS OF THE SOUTH

What is Taking Place in the South  
land Will Be Found in  
Brief Paragraphs.

### Mexican News

What are regarded as evidences of activity of powerful influences to force intervention in Mexico through the spreading of alarmist reports were discussed at a cabinet meeting in Washington, and resulted in the preparation of a formal statement on the subject by Secretary Lansing.

Three Americans, two women and one man, were killed near Gibson's Line ranch, on the New Mexico-Mexico boundary, eight miles west of Columbus, N. M., presumably by Mexicans.

Gen. Luis Herrera, until recently Carranza military governor of Chihuahua, has renounced Carranza, and announced himself in favor of Villa, taking the field in west Chihuahua with two thousand troops.

Carranza troops stationed at Casas Grandes and other points of that section at the time General Pershing began his march into Mexico now are located at Juarez, opposite El Paso and in the rear of General Pershing's columns, it was authoritatively stated. No reason has been assigned for the transfer of troops from points inland to the border.

### European War

With 386 passengers, probably some of them Americans, and a crew of about fifty on board, the cross-channel steamer Sussex, plying between Folkestone, England, and Dieppe, France, met with a mishap in the English channel off Dieppe. Unofficial reports say that the vessel was torpedoed. At last reports rescue boats were standing by.

The Austrians have abandoned Cernowitz, capital of Bukovina.

The Russian war office announces the capture of Ispahan, in Persia, after an engagement.

The Austrians are delivering surprise attack against the Italians at various points.

Bad weather has broken over the Austro-Italian front, but it has not interfered with violent bombardments.

The Galopier lightship at the mouth of the Thames, England, has been torpedoed and sunk. This ship was one of four vessels marking the entrance to the North sea.

The French are vigorously contesting a further advance eastward, which not alone would bring the German line nearer the fortress, but, spreading fanlike northward, would put in jeopardy the French in the region of Le Mort Homme.

In their attempts to flank Verdun, on the west, the Germans, having succeeded in working their way through the Malancourt wood and the Avocourt wood, have begun a heavy bombardment of the village of Esnes, about eight miles northwest of Verdun.

In the Argonne forest, in Lorraine and in upper Alsace, the French guns have been active against German positions and marching columns.

On the river Somme the Germans have entered a British trench, but it is stated by the British that they have been finally driven out.

There has been lively fighting between the Russians and the Germans west of Jacobstadt, along the Dvina river and in the lake region between Dvinsk and Vilna, with the Russians generally on the offensive.

Berlin reports that Russian attacks have been repulsed, but admits that a German salient near Lake Narocz was withdrawn in order to escape the encircling Russians.

Heavy battles have been in progress northwest and northeast of Verdun and on the northern part of the Russian front, where the Russians are keeping up their strong offensive against the Germans. In all these zones the losses have been large, while the changes in position have been relatively unimportant.

With the slackening of the fighting around Verdun, the Russians have started a big offensive movement against the Germans on the eastern front. The Russians made an attack of great violence around Driswity Lake and Lake Narocz.

The Germans in the Vaux-Damloup sector, northeast of Verdun, began another spirited attack against the French, but were driven back, and did not continue further, but intermittent bombardments took place.

London admits the capture by the Germans of three mine craters at the Hohenzollern redoubt.

Bombardments are going on in the Champagne district, especially around the depot of St. Mihiel.

In battles in the air around Metz, the French and Germans have each lost three or four machines.

A German airship attacked the allied fleet around Saloniki, Greece, but the result has not been ascertained.

Nine persons were killed and 31 injured in a raid of four German seaplanes over the east coast of Kent, England. A British airman brought down one raider over the sea.

The French torpedo boat destroyer Renaudin has been sunk in the Adriatic by a submarine. Three officers and 44 of the crew were lost. Two officers and 34 of the crew were saved.

### Domestic

Col. Theodore Roosevelt and wife returned to New York from the West Indies. The colonel is silent on the Mexican situation and politics, but says he has found a new bird, which, he says, the natives call "guacharo." Dr. Arthur Warren Waite confessed in New York City that he bought the poison believed by the authorities to have caused the death of his father-in-law, John E. Peck, of Grand Rapids, Mich., but he asserted that he made the purchase at the request of the millionaire, who wished to commit suicide.

Thirty blocks of Augusta, Ga., two miles long and four blocks deep, were destroyed by fire. Five hundred homes were destroyed, and three thousand people are thrown on the streets, which are paroled by the National Guard. The property loss is estimated at eight and a half million dollars.

Atlanta, Macon, Columbus and Waynesboro, Ga., and Columbia, S. C., sent fire-fighting apparatus to help subdue the big fire that swept over Augusta. The Columbia, S. C., mayor went with his company and personally aided in fighting the flames.

A small ball of yarn, lighted and thrown by a boy into dry grass in a vacant lot, started a conflagration in East Nashville, Tenn., that was not under control until 35 residence blocks had been swept away by the fire, three thousand people thrown on the streets and a million and a half dollars' worth of property destroyed.

Every train running into Paris, Texas, carries provisions, clothing and tents to the approximately eight thousand homeless people, rendered practically destitute by the fire which destroyed nearly two thousand residences and practically every business building in the city.

Clover Leaf passenger train No. 5, the "Commercial Traveler," was blown from the track four miles east of Marion, Ind., by a cyclone. The train was overturned and wrecked while going at a high rate of speed. Twenty-five persons were reported injured.

Cole Younger, famous outlaw of border days, a member of the famous Quantrell band during the Civil war and a member of the Jesse James band of outlaws after the war, died at the age of 72 at his home in Lees Summit, Mo. He for a number of years had professed Christianity and had been on the lecture platform.

William Jennings Bryan opened the campaign in Nebraska, speaking in favor of a state prohibition amendment. Mayor Charles W. Bryan of Lincoln, brother of the former secretary of state, is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor.

"Immediate peace is in sight," is one sentence in a cablegram received from London by a Galveston, Texas, firm, cancelling arrangements made for chartering a considerable amount of tonnage.

### Foreign

A Melbourne, Australia, dispatch says that the Shackleton Antarctic expedition has been damaged and is proceeding to New Zealand for repairs. Several members of the party were left behind, and their fate is unknown.

Great Britain's annual income has increased 600,000,000 pounds since the beginning of the war, and the total has reached 3,000,000,000 pounds, declared Sir George Parish, the financial authority.

The English nation, it is authoritatively announced in London, has succeeded in maintaining its productive power despite the withdrawal of 4,000,000 men from its industries.

Great Britain has called in a half billion pounds of its capital since the opening of hostilities, which money is being used to make fresh loans in foreign countries.

Fifty troops were killed and more than one hundred wounded in a railroad accident at Sapula, Mexico, situated on the west of Guadalajara, on the Pacific coast extension of the Mexican railway. The train, owing to a loose or removed rail, went over a precipice.

Germany has lost 600 vessels sunk, captured or detained since the war began; Great Britain 500; Austria 80; and Turkey 124.

Dispatches announce that the German government is holding £6,000,000 deposited in a Berlin bank which belongs to Sao Paulo, a state of Brazil.

### Washington

It is understood in Washington that the administration has under consideration tightening the censorship on Mexican news, and warning army officers all along the border against giving out reports unless they have been fully verified.

Southern railroads in creased their net earnings more than fifty per cent within the last twelve months; eastern railroads have virtually doubled theirs, and western roads have added about sixteen per cent.

The 1915 cotton crop of the United States aggregated 11,059,430 running bales or 11,193,182 equivalent 500-pound bales, exclusive of linters and counting round bales as half bales, the census bureau announced in its final ginning report of the season.

Governors of the 12 federal reserve banks will meet in Washington, on April 12, it was announced, to discuss with the reserve board a proposal to adopt a standard clearing house system for the entire United States under which checks may be cashed at par in any part of the country.

The de facto government of Mexico proposed to the United States the drafting of a protocol, under which the American and Mexican troops may operate in running to earth Francisco Villa and his bandits, without danger of misunderstanding or conflict.

## VILLA ESCAPES MEXICAN TROOPS

BANDIT LEADER HAD NO TROUBLE IN LICKING CARRANZA'S TROOPS.

## U. S. CAVALRY IN PURSUIT

Americans are Handicapped—250 Miles From Base and Hunt in Mountains is Difficult.

San Antonio, Texas.—Francisco Villa has escaped from the Mexican troops that had checked him near Namiquipa and three columns of American cavalry are pursuing him.

Already they are almost 250 miles south of the border and unless Mexican forces bring the elusive bandit to a stand, this distance will be greatly increased by the close of the week.

Villa's success in extricating himself from the dangerous position into which he had been driven by the American punitive force was related in a detailed report by General Pershing that reached General Funston.

General Funston forwarded the report to Washington without making public any but the essential features. Colonel Dodd is commanding the advanced columns that are riding hard after Villa and his men and General Pershing has divided his forces so as to provide supporting columns along the thinly stretched lines of communication from his most advanced base at El Valle.

From El Valle another line is being maintained back to Casas Grandes from where communication with the border is maintained. General Pershing himself is somewhere south of Casas Grandes directing the work of holding together his forces and directing so far as possible the operations of Colonel Dodd.

Cavalry is being used along the lines communicating with El Valle where a detachment of infantry is stationed. Three aeroplanes are at El Valle and will be used in scouting as soon as the high winds that have been sweeping that part of Mexico for almost a week subside.

These winds, according to General Pershing, have made effective assistance by the aeroplanes impossible. Of the eight machines that went into Mexico two are still out of commission. Details of the operations about Namiquipa that concluded with the escape of Villa were not revealed, but there is little reason to believe that he was badly whipped or even weakened by the fighting directed against him by the de facto government troops.

## IMPATIENT WITH CARRANZA.

Delay in Granting Use of Railroads is Not Pleasing.

San Antonio, Tex.—Carranza's delay in permitting the movement into Mexico over the Mexican Northwestern Railway of supplies for the American troops has created impatience at army headquarters that was hardly disguised.

The quartermaster department has sent to El Paso a quantity of stores for immediate shipment and officers here did not credit an unofficial report that General Obregon had declared that no permission for use of the line would be given.

Failure to send supplies over the railroad would not stop the campaign, it was said, but it was admitted that it would materially retard General Pershing's activities. Already the change in the position of the United States forces, observers here pointed out, would make the line of National Railways of Mexico, which goes straight from Juarez to Chihuahua, the logical one to use.

Whether General Funston requests the government to get permission to use the National, however, will depend upon the answer to the request already made, he said.

## Another Grand-Daughter For Wilson.

Philadelphia.—A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Bowes Sayre here. She is the second grand-daughter of President Wilson and will be named Eleanor Axson Sayre, for Mrs. Sayre's mother. Mother and child were reported to be doing well.

## Jess Willard is Still Champion.

New York.—Jess Willard is still the heavyweight pugilistic champion of the world. In 10 rounds of fast fighting he defeated Frank Moran of Pittsburgh here on points. A crowd of about 13,000 persons paid approximately \$150,000 to see the fight and went away apparently satisfied with the result.

It was the greatest gathering Madison Square Garden had ever seen. Willard broke his right hand in the third round but blows from his fighting left kept Moran at a distance.

## Norfolk Has Big Fire.

Norfolk, Va.—Two fires of unknown origin, caused damage estimated at \$262,000 in this city. The Progress building, in the heart of the wholesale district in Water street was completely destroyed, the loss being placed at \$237,000. The plant of the Colonial Cereal Company in Brambleton Avenue, was also destroyed, the loss being \$25,000. The fire at the cereal plant had just been gotten under control when the Progress building situated in the western end of the business section was discovered on fire.

## THREE AMERICANS REPORTED KILLED

TWO WOMEN AND ONE MAN VICTIMS OF MEXICAN RAIDERS IN NEW MEXICO.

## U. S. TROOPS GO IN PURSUIT

Band of Mexican Bandits Cross Border to Gibson Ranch Where the Three Were Killed.

Douglas, Ariz.—Three Americans, two women and one man, were killed near Gibson's Line ranch on the New Mexico-Mexico boundary, eight miles west of Columbus, N. M., presumably by Mexicans, according to the story brought here by a party of five Douglas people, who said they arrived on the scene shortly after the bodies had been removed by soldiers.

A command of United States soldiers stationed at the Gibson ranch was said to have crossed the line in pursuit of the slayers.

Samuel Collins, automobile dealer; Mr. and Mrs. Russell T. Childers, Miss Lottie Milnowski and Edward Freeman, all of Douglas, were the automobilists who told of the alleged killing.

The names of the persons said to have been killed were not learned. According to the story told by the party, the four motorists had been to El Paso on a pleasure trip. They decided to visit Columbus to view the ruins left by the raid of Villa's men, instead of returning here through Deming and Lordsburg, N. M.

After leaving Columbus they were stopped at Hermanas by the railroad section foreman, they said, who warned them that something was wrong at the Gibson ranch, a few miles farther on. He said that he had been watching through a pair of binoculars and had seen a mounted band of 100 or more men, supposedly Mexican bandits, cross the border near the ranch and ride to a water hole a mile and a half north.

After watering their horses, they rode back across the line. He added that within a short time a number of troops of the Twelfth Cavalry had come to the ranch house and moved about in an excited manner.

## HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES.

German and French Keep up Vigorous Bombardment.

London.—It is still in the French and Russian war theaters that the heaviest battles are in progress, but fighting also is continuing in the Austro-Italian zone, in Serbia near the Greek frontier and in Asiatic Turkey.

The French are keeping up their vigorous bombardment of the woods of Malancourt and Avocourt, northwest of Verdun, which are held by the Germans, and also are hammering away with their guns at German lines of communication in the eastern fringes of the Argonne forest.

To the north and east of Verdun an intermittent bombardment by the Germans of French second line positions is still going on with the French replying energetically.

All along the Russian front from the region of Friedrichtstadt to the district around Vlna the Russians and Germans are hard at grips. Petrograd says that near Widsy, between Dvinsk and Vlna, the Russian forced all the German lines and barricades and repulsed a vigorous German counter-attack.

Berlin, however, says that here the Russian attacks failed with heavy losses before the German entanglements.

## Tells of Navy's Needs.

Washington.—Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske declared before the house naval committee that regardless of how many ships were built, it would be impossible to carry out the general board's plan for making the American navy equal to any afloat by 1925, because it would take ten years longer to develop and train the personnel necessary to man the navy in first rank.

## Agree on Speed-Up Plan.

Washington.—House Democrats adopted a resolution outlining a plan for speeding up the administration legislative program with a view to adjournment before the national political conventions in June as urged by President Wilson. They pledged themselves to co-operation in earlier daily meetings and to such light sessions as may seem advisable. The plan is to handle at night sessions the business of all special days in the week except the so-called calendar Wednesday.

## All Powers Agree on Plan.

Washington.—All of the Entente powers, through their embassies here, have handed to Secretary Lansing formal responses to the proposal made by the state department in its circular memorandum that they enter into a modus vivendi and disarm all of their merchant ships with the understanding that the United States government would endeavor to secure from the Central powers a pledge not to attack any such unarmed ships without warning and without providing for the safety of the passengers.

## HAY ARMY BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

ONLY TWO MEMBERS VOTED AGAINST NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MEASURE.

## PEACE STRENGTH OF 140,000

Britten of Illinois Opposed Bill Because he Favored Greater Increase; London Favored No Increase.

Washington.—The Hay army increase bill providing for a regular army peace strength of 140,000 fighting men instead of the present 100,000 passed the house by a vote of 402 to 2. It goes to the senate for immediate consideration virtually as drafted by the house committee.

The negative votes were cast by Representative Britten, Republican of Illinois, and London, Socialist of New York.

Mr. Britten opposed the bill because he favored a still further increase in the army and London because he favored no increase.

The bill is the first of President Wilson's great national preparedness measures to pass either house, although various related measures have been approved. It was finally adopted only after Representative Kahn, ranking Republican member of the military committee again had met defeat—this time 213 to 191—in his effort to increase the authorized strength of the regulars to 220,000.

During the debate Chairman Hay of the committee that drew the bill referred to it as "the President's own bill." It was explained at the White House, however, that while the president approved the ground plan of the measure, he was not committed to its details. The conference on the senate and house plans, to come after the senate acts, is expected by administration officials to produce a bill which will have the president's full support.

## HEAVY FIGHTING IN EAST.

Masses of Russians Are Pressing Germans From Riga District.

London.—Except on the front near Gomecourt and the Bethune-LaBasse road, where the British gained some advantages in fights against the Germans, no infantry engagements have taken place along the line in France and Belgium. Heavy fighting, however, continues between the Germans and Russians on the Eastern front from the region of Riga southward.

The Germans northwest of Verdun are continuing their violent shelling of the Malancourt sector and again have trained their guns on the French front of Bethincourt, Le Mort Homme and Cumieres probably preparatory to fresh infantry attacks in an effort to break through the line when the moment seems propitious.

The French have not slackened their bombardment of the Malancourt wood from positions in the Argonne forest, and also are shelling heavily German positions and the roads and railways held by the Germans in the eastern part of the Argonne.

The bombardment to the northeast of Verdun, as well as in the Woivre region, to the east of the fortress, has increased in intensity.

Heavy masses of Russians are pressing the Germans from the Riga district southward for a distance of 70 miles. While they have gained some advantages, the Russian War Office admits that south of Lake Dreswalty the Germans recaptured trenches that the Russians had taken the previous night.

## 3,000 Homeless in Augusta.

Augusta, Ga.—With six business blocks levelled by fire and more than 600 houses destroyed, Augusta was feeding and housing its 3,000 homeless, without aid from the outside world.

Estimates of the fire loss remained at \$5,000,000 tonight, but citizens who discussed the disaster expressed the view that the loss of 130 business houses was not felt more than was the destruction of many historical buildings.

## Perplexed by Border Dispatches.

Washington.—Officials were perplexed by dispatches from the border saying General Bell had notified General Funston that the report of Herrera's revolt was confirmed. When the war department closed for the night at 11 o'clock Secretary Baker stated that General Funston had not advised the department of General Bell's report and that all information reaching him indicated that Herrera was loyal to Carranza. Major General Scott, chief of staff, declared emphatically he did not believe the report.

## Douglas Uneasy.

Douglas, Ariz.—Reports that approximately 2,000 de facto government troops had been seen by United States soldier observers marching into Agua Prieta from the southeast, coupled with apparent verification from sources in the Mexican town, aroused apprehension here.

Gen. P. Elias Calles, military governor of Sonora, stated, however, that no troops had arrived and that in fact 250 of the 500 men stationed there had been sent South.

## FUNSTON ASKS FOR MORE TROOPS

WANTS "ADEQUATE FORCE" TO PROTECT HIS LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS.

## PERSHING WANTS MORE MEN

Field Operations So Large Present Force is Insufficient.—Villa Troops Are Scattered.

San Antonio, Tex.—General Funston asked the war department for more troops to be sent into Mexico in pursuit of Francisco Villa.

The request was made at the suggestion of General Pershing, commander of the expedition, who urged that another regiment be sent to him. In his message to the war department General Funston asked for what he termed an "adequate force."

It was announced at General Funston's headquarters that the Fifth Cavalry of which one squadron is at Fort Myer, Va., another at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and the third at Fort Sheridan, Wyo., would be brought to the border at once and sent forward along General Pershing's line of communication to Casas Grandes. Whether he had asked for other troops General Funston would not say.

The only reason given for strengthening General Pershing's force, known to be considerably more than 4,000, was that his field of operations had become so extended that his main line of communication and the subsidiary lines were in need of strengthening.

"Merely a precautionary move," was the way General Funston answered all inquiries. He was asked if the reported movement of troops of the de facto government from garrisons in the interior to posts on the border and reported failure of the Carranza troops in one or two instances to show active co-operation in the pursuit of Villa had anything to do with his decision to ask for more strength but he declined to answer.

Some uneasiness was displayed for a moment at department headquarters when it was reported that the telegraph wires between Casas Grandes and the border had been cut, but an official report stating that the line cut was a "buzzer" line General Pershing had laid and that it had been broken accidentally by some of the American forces crossing it allayed apprehension.

It is not believed here that General Funston is worried by reports of alleged growing antagonism among certain Carranza troops although he is carefully studying that phase of the situation.

## TILLMAN BILL PASSES.

Provides For Government Armor-Plate Factory.—Cost \$11,000,000.

Washington.—The Tillman bill to provide for the erection or purchase by the government of an armor-plate factory at a cost of not to exceed \$11,000,000 was passed by the senate by a vote of 58 to 23.

Democratic Senators supported the bill solidly, regarding it as one of the important preparedness program now being hastened to completion. Nine Progressive Republicans joined with the majority in voting for the bill. They were Senators Borah, Clapp, Cummins, Gronna, Kenyon, Norris, Poindexter, Sterling and Works.

Passage of the measure in the house is regarded as assured. Administration leaders are planning to bring it up soon after passage of the army re-organization and immigration bills.

## Two Lieutenants Lost.

Columbus, N. M.—Two lieutenants of the First Aero Squadron are lost somewhere in the desert foothills of the Sierra Madre with but three days' rations and two small canteens of water between them and starvation. It was officially made known at military headquarters here.

## Kills Himself and Four Children.

Greensboro, N. C.—D. G. Patterson, a prominently connected man of this city, murdered his four children in their beds and committed suicide. He used the full round of a five-shot revolver in killing the children and reloaded the weapon to end his own life. The tragedy occurred shortly before daylight. The dead are the father, Louise, aged 16; Gordon, aged 11; Frances, aged 9; Cowles, aged 7. Patterson had evidently found Louise and Cowles asleep together and they died without being awakened.

## Flames Sweep Parks, Texas.

Paris, Texas.—Thirty blocks in the business and residence districts of Paris were destroyed by fire here with an estimated loss of between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000. Starting from causes unknown near a cotton compress late in the afternoon the flames spread rapidly, consuming everything in their path. Only 15 out of 140 business buildings were left standing. The residence section was ruined and hundreds were homeless. As far as could be learned no lives were lost.

## CONTRACT LET FOR BIG AUDITORIUM

\$245,000 STRUCTURE AT BLACK MOUNTAIN TO BE COMPLETED AUGUST 10.

## HICKORY FIRM IS BUILDER

National Festival Chorus Directors Act.—Will Bring Thousands to North Carolina.

Black Mountain.—The contract for the erection of the great festival chorus auditorium at Black Mountain was awarded to Elliott Brothers, of the Elliott Building company, Hickory, for \$245,000.

The board of directors of the National Festival Chorus of America held a meeting at Black Mountain, when this important contract was awarded. The building is to be completed by August 10, provided the contractors are not delayed in securing the necessary steel.

F. S. Westbrook, secretary of the National Festival Chorus of America, was elected assistant general manager and placed in charge of the sale of stock. Mr. Westbrook was instructed by the directors to complete the sale of stock at as early a date as possible.

The National Festival Chorus of America will be one of the greatest musical organizations in the world. Judge Jeter C. Pritchard, of Asheville, is president of the company, and some of the most prominent men of the country are on its advisory board. Among them is President Fairfax Harrison of the Southern railway.

Walter Damosch will be the leader of the chorus of 2,000 voices when the festival opens next August. Noted soloists from this country and from the old world will be heard, and it is believed the audience will be representative of the entire country. It is said that the building of this vast auditorium and the organization of the National Festival Chorus will transform Black Mountain into the Bayreuth of America.

It will introduce the mountains of Western North Carolina to many additional thousands who have yet to see their rare beauty, and who have no personal knowledge of Western North Carolina's metropolises.

The organization of the National Festival Chorus, and the building of the auditorium marks the consummation of the plans of many years. Long ago Walter Damosch, possibly the foremost director in the world, conceived the idea of such a chorus. He was on a visit to Black Mountain at the time, and he believed that right there was the logical spot for the new Bayreuth. It has taken many years to bring his vision to a reality, but the awarding of this \$245,000 contract for a building capable of seating nearly 25,000 people marks the realization of that dream.

## Weekly Editors Organize.

Asheville.—Meeting at the Langran hotel here, the weekly newspaper men of western North Carolina adopted a constitution and by-laws, elected officers and, otherwise perfected a permanent organization. The new organization will be known as the Western North Carolina Press association. Noah M. Hollowell, editor of the Sylvan Valley News, of Brevard, was elected president of the organization