

WASHINGTON MORE HOPEFUL OVER THE OUTLOOK IN MEXICO

American Troops Have Not Yet Encountered Any of Villa's Followers.

BRUSH EXPECTED IN NEAR FUTURE

Conditions at Tampico and Elsewhere are Said to Be Reassuring.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Reassuring advices come to the state and war departments today from Mexico. The official reports indicated that the American troops thus far have encountered no Villa followers, though it was indicated a brush with them might be expected soon; and consular dispatches told of quiet conditions elsewhere throughout Mexico.

The state department's advices which included a dispatch saying conditions were improving about Tampico, were laid before President Wilson tonight by Acting Secretary Polk. Mr. Polk also conferred with Eusebio Arredondo, General Carranza's ambassador designate, but neither official would discuss their talk except to say that reference had been made to a shipment of munitions the de facto government is anxious to get to Vera Cruz from New York.

Troop Transportation. A request by General Funston that the American forces be permitted to use Mexican railways for troop transportation was forwarded late today by Consular Agent Rogers for presentation to General Carranza at Queretaro. Officials here closely associated with the de facto government are understood to believe that Carranza will be strongly advised by many of his followers against granting the request on the ground that to do so might arouse public sentiment against the de facto government seriously affecting the control it has established over the native population.

The report of better conditions at Tampico and in the adjacent oil fields, where the situation for several days past has been cause of some concern, brought the information that previous apprehension had been caused by the failure of the military authorities to receive from the de facto government an understanding of why American troops had crossed the border. It was said that as soon as accurate information reached Tampico improvement in general conditions was apparent.

A development regarded in Mexican quarters here as likely to do much toward assuring continued co-operation.

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LAST OF FAMOUS ALLEN CLAN SHOT TO DEATH BY WILL M'GRAW, 'BAD MAN'

Men Quarreled at Road House Near Virginia-Carolina Line.

HEADED THE CLAN

ROANOKE, Va., March 18.—Jasper Allen, fifty years old, of Carroll county, Virginia, last of the Allen clan, which became prominent four years ago when they killed Judge Thornton H. Massey, several jurors and court officers at Hillsville, Va., was shot and killed early this morning by Will McGraw, alleged moonshiner and reputed "bad man," according to information received here today from Mt. Airy, N. C. The shooting occurred at a roadhouse in Carroll county, near the Virginia-North Carolina line, where the two men had secured lodging for the night.

Allen, it is said, resented a statement made by McGraw that Wesley Edwards, one of the clan who is now serving a twenty-seven-year term in the Virginia penitentiary, "does not have the nerve people give him credit for."

A fight ensued, the men clinched, two shots were fired in rapid succession, and Allen fell with a bullet through the brain.

The dead man was the father of Friel Allen, serving fifteen years in the Virginia penitentiary for participation in the Hillsville tragedy, and brother of Floyd Allen, who died in the electric chair two years ago in expiation of his part in the court house shooting.

Jasper Allen was famed in the mountains for his fearlessness and was said to be the "brains" of the Allen clan.

McGraw fled to the mountains, where it is believed he is in hiding. He is wanted by federal authorities for violations of the revenue laws.

THE WEATHER. WASHINGTON, March 18.—Forecast for North Carolina: Partly cloudy west, probably local rains east portion Sunday; Monday fair.

AMERICANS REACH SECOND PHASE OF HUNT FOR VILLA

Newspaper Correspondents, Under National Defense Act, Forbidden to Send Dispatches to Their Papers—Mexican Cities Will Not Be Occupied.

EL PASO, Texas, March 18.—The first phase of the American expedition into Mexico—the rush along Villa's dim trail to the endangered Mormon colonies, was an accomplished fact tonight—completed, according to reports reaching the Columbus base, without the firing of a hostile shot by the Americans.

The second phase already was beginning, it was indicated here, as the Americans turned somewhere from Casas Grandes to resume their night marches toward the rough mountain slopes where it is known Villa already has preceded them with more than one hundred miles start.

Fighting Ahead? Warning that this second act in the chase might not pass without fighting against bandits was implied in a new and more stringent censorship imposed at Columbus. Further leakage of news of military movements, the censor said frankly to the American press, would be likely to cost soldiers' lives. An order was issued holding newspaper correspondents accountable for dispatches under the national defense act.

There was brief excitement today at Columbus. From across the Mexican border, two soldiers on stretchers were brought into the American camp. Both were cavalrymen. Excitement passed when it was learned that one had been thrown from his horse, injuring his leg, while the other, who at first was said to have been shot in the abdomen, was found to be suffering from stomach ache.

Menace Removed. When Washington announced that the American columns did not intend to occupy cities, a menace to Mexican national pride was removed. The Carranza garrisons, which have been passed by the marching Americans, and which therefore are now in the Americans rear on their flanks, continued tranquil, so reports to El Paso indicated.

General Gabriel Gavira at Juarez, commanding the territory through which for three days the Americans have been penetrating, himself announced that for a time the situation as reported to him had been delicate and even serious. With evident relief, he said the crisis had passed. This crisis, it is believed, reached its height last night, when couriers dashing into Casas Grandes announced with careless enthusiasm that the American troops would enter that city by midnight. General Gavira wired immediate orders to his troops not to permit this.

Villa Located. Dawn showed the long lines of cavalry horses just

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ANGER OF STRIKE PASSES WHEN RAILROADS GRANT DEMANDS OF MACHINISTS

Increase of One to Three and Half Cents an Hour Secured. NO TIME LIMIT.

COLUMBUS SCARED WHEN HUNGRY MAN MAKES RUSH TOWARD THE PIE COUNTER

Weekly Newspaper Finds Lines of Censorship Grow Tighter Daily. TOUGH ON SCRIBES

WASHINGTON, March 18.—A complete adjustment of labor difficulties between the machinists and allied crafts and southeastern railroads was reached here today by the representatives of the roads granting an increase from one to three and a half cents per hour and agreeing to establish a minimum rate of pay in all crafts.

The roads included in the adjustment are the Southern, Atlantic Coast line, Seaboard Air line, Norfolk and Western, Chesapeake and Ohio, Virginian, Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac, Central of Georgia, New Orleans and Northeastern, Alabama and Vicksburg, Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific, Mobile and Ohio, Georgia Southern and Florida, Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific and Alabama Great Southern.



HOUSE PREPAREDNESS BILL FINDS ALMOST UNANIMOUS SUPPORT AND IS RAPIDLY NEARING FINAL PASSAGE

No Opponent of Measure Appeared Except Meyer London, the Lone Socialist Representative From New York—Speaker Clark Closes General Debate in the House With Approval of the Hay Measure—Kahn Says Navy is the First Line of Defense.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—With virtually unanimous declarations for preparedness, the house army increase bill reached the amendment stage today after ten hours of one-sided general debate. The house will begin discussion of details in earnest Monday, but there are indications that opposition to the measure as a change in national policy has collapsed. No opponent appeared during the debate except Meyer London, the socialist representative from New York.

The senate's army bill also will come up Monday with administration leaders urging that the senate sidetrack all other business until it is disposed of. Interest centered tonight in President Wilson's attitude as between these two measures which differ essentially.

Chairman Hay, of the house military committee described the house bill during debate today as "the president's own bill." Republican Leader Mann questioned the accuracy of this description.

"Doubtless the president favors the best he can obtain," said Mr. Mann. "I have no doubt he favors it over existing law."

Tonight President Wilson let it be known that while he approves the general features of the Hay bill, he has not committed himself to its details. Administration officials are looking to the conference committee which will adjust the house and senate bills after passage, to produce a measure which will have the presidents full approval.

Clark Closes. Speaker Clark closed the general debate in the house, expressing approval of the Hay bill and declaring it was satisfactory to the average American and as good as could be expected under its circumstances. The nation as a whole, he said, wished to hold a middle course.

"They want peace," he said, "but not peace-at-any-price. They want peace with honor. They believe thoroughly that there are things worth fighting for. They are not willing to bankrupt the country on military and naval preparations. They are however, willing to spend all that is necessary for the public defense."

Representative Mann characterized the bill as inadequate to the nation's needs, saying it would provide for preparedness for peace, not for war. "I believe," he continued, "that it is the duty of the United States to prepare now an army which will add weight to diplomatic suggestions we make. The time has come when it is wise for us to consider the possibility, the probability of the future and prepare now for what may come to us. If we do not, we may regret it to the end of our lives."

Kahn for Navy. Representative Kahn, ranking republican member of the committee, in closing the debate for the minority side, said that after all the first line of defense was the navy, and that it was more essential to put the navy on a footing where it could maintain control of the sea against any enemy that it was to build up an army. While the navy controlled the sea, he added, no invader could reach the American shores.

GERMANS SLACKEN IN BIG OFFENSIVE AGAINST VERDUN

Big Guns on Both Sides Now Pounding Only at Intervals.

RUSSIANS STILL MOVING ALONG

Austrians Claim Successful Attack Against Italians Near the Isonzo.

LONDON, March 18.—The German offensive at Verdun, now nearing the end of its fourth week, has again slackened decidedly, both Paris and Berlin reporting the continued absence of infantry operations by either side. The big guns in the vicinity of the fortress are intermittently pounding opposing positions, but the chief activity seems to be by the airman.

Numerous raids by French aviators are reported by Paris, the points bombarded including the Conflans and Metz railroad stations.

The showers of heavy shells dropped are declared to have caused numerous explosions and fires.

Elsewhere on the western front the artillery is the only military arm that has been occupied. In Russia there are signs of preparations for movements of importance, particularly along the northern line.

The Austrians have turned on the Italians along the Isonzo. Vienna announces a successful attack north of the Tolmino bridgehead in which Italian positions were captured, together with nearly five hundred prisoners and three machine guns.

In Arabia, the British report a defeat for a Turkish force, which attacked an outpost near Aden.

London announces the torpedoing of the Dutch steamer Palembang, bound from Rotterdam to Java, off the Galloper light in the Thames estuary, Saturday morning. The crew was reported saved.

RUSSIANS ON MOVE. PETROGRAD (Via London, March 18).—After three weeks of suspended activity the main Russian forces beyond Erzerum, which have been awaiting for the development of operations on the Black sea and the Lake Van region to make their position secure against possible flank attacks by the Turks, have again resumed their westward march toward Sivas.

Although the Russian advance is yielding a constantly growing number

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PLANS MAY BE CHANGED IF VILLA DOES NOT MAKE STAND AND OFFER FIGHT

Gen. Pershing's Movements, However, Will Be Enshrouded in Secrecy.

NOTHING CERTAIN

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 18.—Failure of Francisco Villa to make a stand and fight before the end of next week will radically alter the methods employed by the commander of the United States punitive expedition.

What General Pershing's plan is, however, has not been revealed and will not be if General Funston can prevent it. Every effort will be made to keep secret the movements of the troops if it becomes necessary to abandon the direct line of pursuit with the units of the little army practically intact.

When General Pershing led the expeditionary force into Mexico, the juncture of troops near Casas Grandes was planned with little expectation that Villa would be sighted before this time. It was realized that the only chance to catch him at that stage was that he would resist the advance. Not only did he not do that, but, according to General Funston's reports, not a shot was fired at the invaders.

General Pershing's scouts may have brought him information as to Villa's location, but such information as has been received at the general headquarters here makes an assertion on the subject little better than a guess. There is reason to believe that Villa is somewhere in the Galeana district, south of Casas Grandes in the environs of which a cavalry force under Colonel Dodd rested today. Information from Chihuahua indicated that he was at Colonia Gracia, but most of those reporting contacted themselves by placing him "in the mountains from sixty to one hundred miles south of Casas Grandes."

GEN. GAVIRA HAS FAITH IN MEXICO AND ITS PEOPLE

Says That Carranza Government is Fully Co-operating With U. S.

NEW YORK LAWYER SHOT AND KILLED BY HIS WIFE

Tragedy Said to Be Outcome of Quarrel—She Claims Self-Defense.

VILLA BOASTED THAT HE FROGGED HAND OF THE U. S.

American Mining Man Makes Statement to That Effect at El Paso.

EL PASO, Texas, March 18.—General Gavira, today issued a formal statement to the Associated Press at his headquarters at Juarez, in which he interpreted the cast that no resistance had been offered to the American forces crossing the border as proof of the Mexican people in Carranza.

The statement follows: "The constitutional army, has shown its force to the world by breaking the reactionary efforts of Diaz, Huerta and Villa.

"Now, American troops have just crossed to our side of the line without protest or difficulties. To what, then, is to be attributed that the Mexican public, so scrupulous and extremely sensitive in all that concerns its sovereignty, has not protested in the vigorous form it knows well how to make.

"It is because the people of Mexico have faith in us, because they know well the patriotism and the sense of honor of the first chief, and of the higher officers, military and civil who are in control. They know that such men would not barter away the fatherland. Could the American people wish a better proof of the power of the constitutional army that has been constituted by the men of the revolution?"

EL PASO, Texas, March 18.—Mrs. Eloise Young English shot and killed her husband, Arthur E. English, a lawyer of New York, at their home near here today. The shooting was done in the presence of their six-year-old daughter and is said to have occurred during a quarrel. English was the son of Thomas Dunn English, a former congressman from New Jersey, and the author of the song "Ben Bolt."

Mrs. English claims that she shot in self-defense, when her husband, in a fit of anger, pointed a revolver at her. An examination of the body of English showed that a bullet had gone through the heart and that four other bullets had taken effect. The furniture in the room in which the body was found was in great disorder indicating that a struggle had taken place.

After the shooting Mrs. English took her four children to the home of a neighbor to whom she related the story of the tragedy. She telephoned to a physician in Frederick to hurry to the side of her husband whom she said she had shot. She then called police headquarters in Frederick and asked that a warrant be sworn out for her husband who she stated had threatened to take her life. She also told the police that she had shot her husband.

EL PASO, Texas, March 18.—Villa boasted three months ago that he would force intervention by the United States, according to Harry Williams, of Chihuahua, an American mining man. Williams asserted that he had heard Villa make the boast on December 13 last, when he was a prisoner of the bandit.

"I was one of thirty-nine Americans employed on the mining property of the Madera company," said Williams. "We were all arrested because the pay of the Mexicans working under us had not arrived from Chihuahua. It amounted to \$17,000, and the company was afraid to send it because they were certain it would be confiscated.

"Villa brought us to Chihuahua and I have never seen him in an uglier mood. We did not know whether we were going to be shot or not, but we were not by any means too optimistic. He told us: 'I am going to force intervention by the United States. The United States has recognized Carranza and must pay for it.'"

"He demanded \$12,000 from the company. I do not know whether it was paid or not, but we were released the next day, after being warned to keep off the streets.

"I planned to leave on the train that was made up to take out the men of the Cusuhirachic Mining company. Fortunately I felt sick and could not go. The next day I heard of the massacre of the eighteen Americans on the train at Santa Isabel."

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