

VICTORY ELATES U. S. ARMY OFFICERS

Villa's Defeat Terrific Blow; Is Believed He Is Nearby; His Capture Hourly Expected.

OUR LOSSES 4 WOUNDED

Believed That Many Villistas Killed And Carried Off By Comrades—Chances Of Early Capture Thought To Be Good.

San Antonio, Tex., March 31.—Army officers here were greatly elated over the success of the American troops with their first clash with Villistas. While only 30 Villistas were killed it is believed that many more were killed and carried off by their comrades.

Military officers believe that Villa has been struck a terrific blow and that Villa can not be very far away and that the chances of his early capture are good.

The names of the four American wounded were not given out by General Funston.

ONLY THREE "WET" CANADIAN PROVINCES

Ottawa, March 31.—Canada is nearly prohibition today. Ontario is the latest province to join Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island in the dry ranks.

The only provinces where liquor may be obtained are Quebec, British Columbia and New Brunswick and they are partly under local temperance legislation.

British Columbia will take a prohibition plebiscite some time in April which is regarded as certain to make the province no license. An absolute prohibition measure has been promised in New Brunswick.

FORTY BRITISH SAILORS DROWNED YESTERDAY

London, March 31.—Forty-five sailors of the British steamer Conquest were drowned through the capsizing of the cutter, it was announced officially tonight.

HOBSON AND PREPAREDNESS

If ever there was a man in the world who was entitled to say, "I told you so," and says it loud enough to be heard from the Atlantic to the Pacific, that man is the Honorable Richard Pearson Hobson, of Alabama.

He did his talking two or three years ago, when he told us over and over again, in Congress and out of it, that the United States of America needed more ships and bigger ships—more guns and bigger guns, and more sailors and more soldiers and more officers to command them both. And we laughed at him—that is, some of his fellow citizens did. They made fun of him.

They made cartoons of him, and called him "Haven Hobson," and others found pleasure in naming him "Jeremiah Hobson," and they told him he was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet, and they'd thank him to stop talking us what we needed and to be about his own personal and private business. "We'll have to come to it," said Hobson to Congress. "We might as well make up our minds to it now as any time," and he quoted some good military authorities to lend weight and color to his views.

And then they talked about Hobson's choice and made new jokes and revamped old ones to suit the occasion.

And now, every word that Mr. Hobson said has turned out to be absolutely and uncontestably true.

We do need more ships and bigger ships—more guns and bigger guns—more sailors and more soldiers and more officers to command them.

And we're going to work to get them, just as Jeremiah Hobson prophesied that we would.

What's that about the prophet and his own country?

Every once in a while something happens to make us realize that the man or the men who wrote those Proverbs knew life and knew human nature very well, indeed.—Atlanta Georgian.

GERMANS MAKE GAINS AT VERDUN

Capture Is Result Of All-Night Fight And Terrific Bombardment Of French.

THE LOSSES ARE NOT GIVEN

Malencourt Is 225 Feet High And Commands Nearest Road To Paris-Verdun Railway—May Cut Off Supplies.

London, March 31.—With another tremendous driving force in this instance from the east to the west of the Meuse the Germans have overwhelmed the fortified village of Malencourt, about 10 miles west of Verdun.

The capture was the result of an all night fight and was made in the evening by great masses of troops that swept over three sides of the hill on which Malencourt was situated. The attack was preceded by the usual bombardment. Then the German guns were ranged to keep back French reserves and the German infantry attacked under this cover. The French made a heroic resistance, but Malencourt in ruins and being scorched by a terrific fire the French fell back to the outskirts of the village.

No figures of losses are given, but considering the desperate fighting the casualties must have been frightful. While the battle of Malencourt with the Germans was at its height they tried to carry positions in the western front. At Avencourt, three miles to the west in this attempt the Germans were repulsed.

The capture of Malencourt is important to the German campaign. It is on the crest of a ridge which has a height of 225 feet and commands the section.

Through this section is the shortest road to the Paris-Verdun Railway on which the war supplies are shipped.

The Germans now having gained Malencourt, attempted to push further at a late hour tonight. They made two attacks on French North-east Hill No. 295 in the Dublin region, but according to the French War Office these attacks were repulsed.

GERMAN OFFICERS GIVE THEIR CAPTORS TROUBLE

Paris, March 31.—I have just been permitted to visit Belle Isle where German officers are kept prisoners of war. The island is twelve miles off the coast of France and the approaches to it are very closely guarded.

Earlier in the war no restrictions were placed upon the prisoners, and they were given full freedom within the limits of the island. The result was a great disappointment for the officers, although many belonged to aristocratic families in Germany, insulted the inhabitants of the island. So a French colonel of mixed sires was placed in command of the island and it took him exactly a week to establish perfect discipline.

There are about 1,500 Germans on the island. The officers who had to be placed under discipline number about three hundred, the flower of the German nobility, and every one of them wears half a dozen decorations, among which is invariably the Iron Cross.

Not one of them deigns to speak to any of his fellow prisoners of less than noble rank.

Most of their time they spend at out-door games dressed in sporting costumes of the most amazing colors, and among the French soldiers who are guarding the island, they are known as the "Parrots."

For the return of these men the Kaiser would undoubtedly gladly sacrifice an entire German division of ordinary troops. They are very closely guarded, for many suspicious letters have been found among their correspondence, mystic pin-pictures have been discovered in apparently harmless books sent them from home and on two occasions submarines have been noticed hanging around the island, but these were immediately driven away by French destroyers that are constantly on the lookout.

THE FARMERS UNION QUERIES CANDIDATES

Farmers' Union Adopts Resolution To Ask Candidates Questions.

ATTORNEYS MUST RESIGN

Suggest Many Important Changes—Would Require Attorneys of Public Service Corporations To Resign.

Raleigh, March 31.—That attorneys for public service corporations should sever their connection with these interests before becoming candidates for the Legislature, is a resolution of the North Carolina Farmer's Union ratified by the State Council at its meeting here last week.

The Union enforces no hardship in this request. Its own members are required by constitution to sever their connection as officials with the Union the moment they enter the primary. A misinterpretation of this constitutional provision whereby some members concluded that they were privileged to enter a primary without such severance of Union connection led the body to act directly upon that question before any candidates might embarrass the organization.

The Union, therefore, applies the morals that it would desire in others rigorously in its own household and makes its request of others a constitutional mandate. As the political season has opened it goes further and seeks to get an expression from those who enter public life this year.

At the meeting of the State Council here this week, the Union's last convention resolutions were ratified and are now offered to the people of the State. The preamble and the twelve issues upon which the members desire an expression of opinion are the following:

Whereas, Believing that our farmers would appreciate knowing more definitely how candidates stand on all the really important issues before the State;

Therefore, be it resolved by the State Council of the North Carolina Farmer's Union, That we hereby instruct our secretary to send to the avowed candidates for governor and other State offices in each political party, and other candidates as soon as they announce themselves, a copy of this resolution, and offer such candidates an opportunity to express themselves as briefly and explicitly as possible on the measure affecting rural interests approved at the last session of the State Farmers' Union as follows (including submission of appropriate constitutional amendments where necessary):

1. Repeal of the merchants' crop lien law.
 2. Provisions permitting neighborhoods to adopt race segregation in land ownership.
 3. A just and equitable system of taxation which will lighten the burden of labor by putting a larger proportion on inheritances; which will provide by constitutional provision for a lower rate on resident than absentee landholders' property, and will increase the rate on lands held out of use.
 4. Provision for incorporating rural communities.
 5. Initiative and referendum.
 6. A stringent anti-usury law, and have regulating banks as public service corporations.
 7. Giving some official authority to regulate insurance rates.
 8. A State warehouse system somewhat like the South Carolina plan.
 9. A simplified and popularized Torrens system of registering land titles.
 10. Provision for furnishing textbooks to the people at cost.
 11. Requirements that attorneys sever their connection before entering the Legislature.
 12. That the State secretary ask candidates for Congress to express themselves on direct government land loans for the aid of agriculture.
- In addition to these resolves the Council suggests that each local union ask county legislative candidates to express themselves through the local press of each county, also on the salary and fee system; the abolition

VILLA RECEIVES A CRUSHING DEFEAT BY GENERAL DODD'S CAVALRY; HERANDEZ KILLED

ROCHESTER, N. Y., FLOODED BY THE GENESSEE RIVER

Rochester, N. Y., March 31.—With the Genessee River up to the highest point reached in years, water was flowing into the streets in the downtown section and resembled a raging torrent.

Practically every building in the lower part was filled with water. The tracks of the Pennsylvania Railway are under water.

SWISS HEAR OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN ITALY AND AUSTRIA

Berne, March 31.—According to persistent rumors published by Swiss newspapers, secret peace negotiations have been under way for some time on Swiss soil between Italy and Austria-Hungary. The "Neue Zuercher Zeitung" says two high Italian officials recently arrived at Lucerne, where they were met by three representatives of Austria and a well known German diplomat, presumably the former Chancellor Prince Buelow.

The conference, it is said, lasted several days, but brought no result, as the emissaries of Austria made propositions which were not acceptable to Italy and offered only a part of the territory which the Dual Monarchy was willing to give up before the Italian governments decided to break away from the Triple Alliance and to enter the war on the side of England, France and Russia.

After three or four days the Italian officials left Lucerne to return to Rome, but the Austrians remained and it is said that they expect the Italians back with new instructions within a few weeks.

How much truth there is in these stories can not be ascertained, but it is a fact a number of German, Austrian, Italian and French diplomats have been in Switzerland lately and the public generally believes that negotiations of some kind are going on behind the scenes.

LITTLE NEGRO LOCKED IN EUREKA SETS UP HOWL

As Dr. Julian Shafer went home last night he heard an alarm at the inn-door of the Eureka Theatre calculated to make your hair raise your hat but after taking a few steps forward the Doctor decided to return and investigate when he found a little negro boy that was evidently asleep when the show closed making the walkie ring with lamentations as only a scared negro can make.

The Doctor tried his key on the lock and soon the little negro was bounding towards home which happened to be over towards the cemetery.

This was one time that the cemetery had charms for a scared boy and there were no such ghosts walking there as in the lone theatre at the midnight hour.

It is safe to say that the boy will never again sleep in the Eureka theatre for it has no charms to soothe a scared boy's breast.

No music there at midnight, others can spend the night there if they want to but this negro does not like to sleep away from home that's all.

of the county treasurer's office and the substitution of the commission form of government.

The Union resolves separately that the resolution is not to be a threat, an entreaty or an endorsement of any candidate, but merely a request for facts which presented to the people will furnish their own information upon which to base action.

At this meeting the reports of the secretary and the treasurer showed that the membership is 3,000 stronger at this period than it was last year at the same time. This is considered abnormal growth.

To popularize the Torrens land law the State Council named a committee Attorney-General T. W. Bickett, E. R. Preston, T. M. Pittman and Clarence Poe, and their business will be to doctor this beneficent measure which has been made bunglesome and impracticable.

Troops Rode 17 Hours And Fought Five Hours—Two Machine Guns And Large Number Of Horses Capture—Villa Suffering From Broken Leg And Injured Hip—Is Hiding Nearby And His Capture Is Hourly Expected—War Office Says This May Have Already Been Accomplished.

GERMAN GIRLS IMPRISONED; KISSED FRENCH PRISONERS

Munich, March 31.—Two pretty girls, Elizabeth Dietrich and Magdalena Steinert, of Rumberg, have been sentenced to four and two weeks' imprisonment, because they fell in love with French soldiers in the prison camp at Landau.

The girls, who are still in their teens, repeatedly visited the camp and made the acquaintance of two of the prisoners. The acquaintance ripened into love and recently the girls were surprised by a guard while permitting themselves to be kissed by their imprisoned French lovers. The maidens were warned that they had rendered themselves liable to punishment under the special law forbidding all intercourse with prisoners of war, but they indignantly replied:

"Why should we not love the Frenchmen? They are nice and honest and will marry us. After the war we shall go to Paris."

Despite their protest the girls were arrested for disorderly conduct. At their trial they insisted that they had a natural right to love even an enemy but the court called them "unpatriotic" and "shameless" and sentenced them to twenty-eight and fourteen days' imprisonment, although the public prosecutor had only demanded jail terms of seven and five days.

DANIELS AND THE CRITICISM.

Secretary Daniels has probably been criticised more than any other man in public life and has probably resented it the least of any other official. Coals of fire have been heaped upon his head and all the time he has quietly brushed them off and continued to wear a smile that would not come off. The Columbia Record attributes his unpopularity to the envious work he has accomplished since he has been at the head of the United States navy, and in this connection that paper says:

"Secretary Daniels has eliminated the swivel-chair admiral list and has therefore incurred the penalty, which is criticism."

That is one source of the criticism which has been directed at the head of the Navy Department. He has pushed out a few old timers who fondly imagined they could run the navy to suit themselves, instituted new ideas and made the service such that a man may enter it with the satisfaction of knowing that he can't do it any other way.

Building of ships and improvements in the navy have been steadily ahead since Daniels has been in charge. Our navy today is in the most perfect shape it ever was, and a source of the graft that has so largely characterized the Navy Department has been eliminated. That is why the secretary is criticised. Do you wonder that a man who has done his duty is criticised?—Greensboro Record.

PRESIDENT COMING TO ON CHARLOTTE MAY 20

Washington, March 31.—President Wilson has accepted an invitation to visit Charlotte, N. C., and Columbia, S. C., on either May 19th or 22nd.

IS REPORTED RUSSIAN TROOP SHIP TORPEDOED

Paris, March 31.—The Russian steamer Portugal has been torpedoed and sunk. The destruction was announced by the War Office tonight. On board were many wounded soldiers.

Washington, March 31.—The crushing defeat of Villa by Colonel Dodd was reported to the War Department by General Funston.

American casualties were four wounded. Villistas were put to flight. Villa was not in the battle. General Herandez was killed. Villa is suffering from a broken leg and hip and took refuge in the mountains. His capture is expected hourly. War Department officials said tonight that they would not be surprised if Villa was not already captured.

Colonel Dod's infantry is still in pursuit. The defeat of Villa was the climax of a 50-mile ride that ranks with great feats of the American cavalry. Led by Colonel Dodd, the commander, the American cavalry forces made up of the 7th and 15th regiments rode 55 miles in 17 hours, surprising Villa's forces at six o'clock in the morning. Dodd's cavalry drove the bandits for 10 miles before them in a running battle.

General Funston reported Dodd's victory to the War Department, and also sent the following telegram:

"San Juan Ranch, March 30.—Dodd struck Villa's command, consisting of 500 men, at six o'clock near Duero. Villa, who is suffering from a broken leg and lame hip, was not present. The number of Villa's dead is known to be 30. Others were carried away. Dodd captured two machine guns, a large number of horses, saddles and arms. Our losses were four enlisted men wounded. The attack was a surprise, the Villa troops being driven in a 10-mile running fight, retreated into the mountains, where they separated into small bands. A large number of Carranza prisoners were being held for execution by Villa and were released. Dodd marched 55 miles in 17 hours and fought for five hours. Herandez, who commanded Villa's troops, was killed in the fight. With Villa disabled, Lopez wounded and Herandez dead, the blow is a serious one to Villa's band."

Secretary of War Baker immediately dispatched a telegram of congratulations to be sent to General Pershing and General Dodd. This telegram was sent to General Funston. The Secretary of War desires to convey to General Pershing and General Dodd his commendations.

The message was read in the House of Representatives by Representative Mann and was received with wild cheers and rebel yell from the members from the South. The result of the first encounter with Villa's forces concerned the defeat of Villa's army.

Secretary Under said the success of Colonel Dodd in pursuing and defeating the retreating bandits showed the same old effectiveness of the plans of General Funston, with Colonel Dodd and the members of his command here put into force. It is a matter of great strategic position that the first encounter was so decided and that our troops have suffered so slightly. The effect is good on both sides of the border. It shows the effectiveness and pluck with which our army fights and it will show the ineffectiveness and discourage other bandits. This victory comes as a very adequate answer to those who feared that it would be a long war and gives strong hopes that the entire object of the expedition will be speedily accomplished. One feature of the 50-mile ride of the Dodd cavalry is that at least eleven hours were over mountains and foot hills. The liberating of a large number of Carranza troops shows how well Carranza has not placed actual results in the way of Villa.