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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

VILLA HAS ESCAPED

Got Through the Mexican Lines and Is Now Being Pursued by American Cavalry.

Francisco Villa has escaped from the Mexican troops that have 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 Sunday.

General Funston forwarded the report to Washington without making public any but the essential features.

Colonel Dobb 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 somewhat south of Casas Grandes directing the work of holding together his forces and directing so far as possible the operations of Colonel Dobb. Cavalry is being used along the lines communicating with El Valle where a detachment of infantry is stationed.

Aeroplanes for Scouting Three aeroplanes are at El Valle and will be used in scouting as well as the high winds that have been sweeping that part of Mexico for almost a week subsided. 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. They were damaged in the flights from Columbus to Casas Grandes.

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. Reports last week from Mexican sources indicated that he had been severely defeated by the Carranza forces and a few reports stated that American troops had participated in the action. It now appears that no Americans were actually engaged and the fact that Villa made his way through what was described as an encircling line of Mexican troops, was taken to indicate that he was the victor.

Hard to Capture in Guerrero. Unless fresh Mexican forces are sent to meet Villa, there appears no reason why he should not make his way uninterrupted into the mountains of the Guerrero district towards which he appears to be moving.

Once there it is conceded his capture will be difficult, and should he choose to pass through the district on into the south there are trails over which he might move his little army until a juncture is made with one or more of his roving organizations in Southern Chihuahua or northern Durango.

If Villa moves into the districts further south more troops will be necessary to capture him and their provisioning by way of country roads will become practically an impossibility.

Fifty-four more auto trucks went into service today along the line between Columbus and Casas Grandes and 27 more were reported to be on their way from the factory, but bad weather and heavy roads made uncertain that method of getting supplies to the front. The escape of Villa and his renewed flight towards the south, officers say, make the use of at least one of the railroads and possibly both, almost essential to the success of the chase.

SINISTER INFLUENCES AT WORK

President Issues Warning Against the Evil Efforts of Interests Seeking to Make Trouble in Mexico.

On Saturday night President Wilson issued a warning that "sinister and unscrupulous influences" are spreading alarmist reports about the Mexican situation with the object of forcing intervention by the United States "in the interest of certain American owners of Mexican properties."

In a formal statement the president told the people to be on their guard and not to credit such stories. He called attention again to the government's announcement that the sole object of the punitive expedition was to punish Villa and his followers.

The news services had been asked, the president said, to assist in keeping this view constantly before the Mexican and American people. The warning was issued after careful consideration of many official reports from throughout the United States and Mexico saying that alarmist stories of the intentions of the Washington government were having an undesirable effect upon the Mexican people and the American residents in Mexico.

The possibility that Gen. Carranza might be weakened to a perilous extent should the Mexican public misunderstand the American expedition has been a prevailing factor in the entire operations against Villa.

Drastic steps may be taken if the warning is not heeded.

"As has already been announced,

the expedition into Mexico was ordered under an agreement with the de facto government of Mexico for the single purpose of taking the bandit Villa, whose forces had actually invaded the territory of the United States, and in no sense intended as an invasion of its sovereignty. I have therefore asked the several news services to be good enough to assist the administration in keeping this view of the expedition constantly before both the people of this country and the distressed and sensitive people of Mexico, who are very susceptible indeed to impressions received from the American press not only but also very ready to believe that those impressions proceed from the views and objects of our government itself. Such conclusions, it must be said, are not unnatural because the main if not the only source of information for the people on both sides of the border is the public press of the United States.

In order to avoid the creation of erroneous and dangerous impressions in this way, I have called upon the several news agencies to use the utmost care not to give news stories regarding this expedition the color of war, to withhold stories of troop movements and military preparations which might be given that interpretation, and to refrain from publishing unverified rumors of unrest in Mexico.

Should Show Clean Hands. I feel that it is most desirable to impress upon both our own people and the people of Mexico the fact that the expedition is simply a necessary punitive measure, aimed solely at the elimination of the marauders who raided Columbus and who infest an unprotected district near the border which they use as a base in making attacks upon the lives and property of our citizens within our own territory. It is the purpose of our commanders to cooperate in every possible way with the forces of Gen. Carranza in removing this cause of irritation to both governments and to retire from Mexican territory as soon as that object is accomplished.

"It is my duty to warn the people of the United States that there are persons all along the border who are actively engaged in originating and giving as wide currency as they can to rumors of the most sensational and disturbing sort which are wholly unjustified by the facts. The object of this traffic in falsehood is obvious. It is to create intolerable friction between the government of the United States and the de facto government of Mexico for the purpose of bringing about intervention in the interest of certain American owners of Mexican properties. This object can not be attained so long as sane and honorable men are in control of this government, but very serious conditions may be created, unnecessary bloodshed may result and the relations between the two republics may be very much embarrassed.

"The people of the United States should know the sinister and unscrupulous influences that are afoot and should be on their guard against crediting any story coming from the border, and those who disseminate the news should make it a matter of patriotism and of conscience to test the source and authenticity of every report they receive from that quarter.

(Signed) "WOODROW WILSON."

General Pershing Expects a Long Campaign. A speedy termination of the American expedition into Mexico is not looked for by General Pershing, commander of the forces in the field, according to advices received at Columbus, N. M., Sunday night. It is asserted that following a staff conference General Pershing announced that the people of the United States should not place too much confidence in reports that Francisco Villa, the factional leader, whose command attacked this town several weeks ago, had been bottled up either by American forces or by Mexican troops. The nature of the country it was pointed out renders it difficult for any force to surround effectually a small band in the mountain passes with almost impassable trails offering a means of escape.

While it was understood that General Pershing does not attempt to predict the length of time American troops may be in Mexican territory, it was intimated that the period may extend into months.

Other reports also received today from unofficial sources, indicated that with (deleted) troops in the field, American military authorities believe a sufficient number of men of all arms of the service have been concentrated at La Ascension, Casas Grandes, Colonia Dublan and other American field plants to meet any emergency that may arise. Several thousand negro infantrymen and two squadrons of cavalry, who have arrived in the last few days are to remain on station here, it was asserted. The cavalrymen will assist in the border patrol and the infantry will garrison Columbus.

School Closing Friday. The Spruce Pine School, taught by Mr. B. F. Deese and Miss Bonnie Onita Pussner, will close Friday, March 31, with exercises beginning at ten o'clock. Commencement exercises will be the evening before at eight o'clock. The commencement sermon was preached on Sunday last by Rev. L. M. White, at three o'clock. Mr. B. C. Ashcraft will deliver the commencement address on Friday at three o'clock. Music by band.

SUNDAY IN THE WAR ZONES

Fought on Sea, on Land and in the Air—Conference of the Allied Nations.

A British air raid on Schleswig-Holstein and a resultant battle between British warships and German armed trawlers in which three seaplanes were brought down, two German armed trawlers were sunk and a British torpedo boat probably was lost in a collision gives diversity to the latest war operations.

The violent bombardment north-west of Verdun in the region of Malancourt continues, while to the north of the fortress and in the Woivre region intermittent cannonading is still in progress. No infantry attacks have been launched by the Germans, except to the southeast of Fort Douaumont where Berlin reports a hand-to-hand encounter with the advantage on the side of the Germans.

The French in the Argonne forest are keeping up their bombardments of German positions. Considerable artillery activity on the part of the French also has been shown in the Vosges. The explosion of a French mine in this region inflicted heavy losses on the French according to Berlin. The German position was not impaired by the explosion.

On the Russian front the Germans attempted an offensive in the region of Jacobstad, but were repulsed, while the Russians captured a German trench in the region of Dvinsk. Heavy fighting is still going on in the Lake region southeast of Dvinsk. Here Berlin says, the Russian attacks broke down.

Storms in the mountain regions of the Austro-Italian lines have impeded operations, but bombardments are continuing on the Isonzo front.

In the coastal region of the Russo-Turkish war theater the Russian are making good progress against the Turks, and also further south in the Lake Van region have thrown their lines still further forward.

Three more British steamers have been sunk, presumably by German submarines. They are the Minneapolis, once plying between American ports and London; the St. Cecilia, on a voyage from Portland, Maine, for London and the Fenay Bridge, bound from Philadelphia for Hull. The crews of the St. Cecilia and Fenay Bridge were rescued. The fate of the crew of the Minneapolis is not known.

The exact number of American casualties on board the cross channel steamer Sussex which was blown up in the channel Friday afternoon has not yet been determined. The French Admiralty basing its statement on affidavits of American passengers saved, says the Sussex was torpedoed without warning.

A conference of the Entente Allies of far-reaching importance will begin at Paris Monday. The Premiers, various other high government officials, including the British Foreign Secretary and Secretary for War, and the commanding generals of France, Great Britain and Italy will take part in this conference which will give the closest consideration to the military and political situation brought about by the war.

The Dutch Ministry of Marine says that an examination of a piece of bronze metal found in a life-boat of the Dutch steamer Tubanita recently sunk, induces the belief that it belonged to the air chamber of a torpedo.

Happenings Around Wingate. Correspondence of The Journal. Wingate, March 27. — Mesdames Mary F. Brown and her daughter-in-law of Hamlet, spent Friday with the family of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brown of Wingate.

Mr. Van Griffin of Erwin, Tenn., visited the family of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Griffin, last Thursday, returning to his home Saturday.

Miss Osee Long, one of our teachers, spent Saturday and Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Long, of Goose Creek.

Dr. Mark Griffin is visiting in the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Griffin.

The public school at the Spider school, taught by Miss Lola Griffin, closed Saturday, the 18th, with exercises appropriate to the occasion.

Mrs. Charley Brown and her two small children spent Sunday afternoon with Mrs. Calvin Nash.

Mr. and Mrs. Zeb Perry were callers Sunday afternoon in the home of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Womble.

Mr. and Mrs. O. P. T. were delighted to have the presence in their home of Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Jerome. The very presence of the jovial doctor helps one's feelings whether he treats you professionally or not.

Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Long of Monroe and Mr. and Mrs. George Rutzler of Charlotte were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Griffin Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Williams attended the funeral services of Mr. William Griffin, held at Pleasant Grove church Sunday. Mr. Griffin died suddenly at his home Saturday. Your correspondent has not been informed of the particulars of Mr. Griffin's death.

Mr. R. L. McWhirter went to Salisbury on business Wednesday.

Mr. Will Russell, a student for the ministry in the Wingate school, went to Albemarle Friday, on business.

The condition of Mrs. N. W. Bivens remains unchanged so far as the writer is informed.

The small grain crop in this section is looking fine and if suitable seasons continue there will be a splendid harvest in due time.

Born Saturday to Mr. and Mrs. Preston Bonnett, a son.

The "Big Meeting" started off Sunday with fine prospects, so we hear. The attendance at the services is good. The preaching Sunday, by the pastor, was fine and a deep interest seems to be felt by the membership. Rev. Mr. Little, who has been engaged to do the preaching during the week, is expected to arrive Monday and take charge of the meeting. Let us hope that much and lasting good may be done as a result of these meetings. Your scribe can't attend these services but bids them God-speed in every thing that is in harmony and accord with His will. There is a wide open field right here in our own community for the exercise of genuine christian religion. — "Ye are the salt of the earth." What do you have religion for anyway? What is the ultimate object of the prime motive for your acceptance of the christian religion? O. P. TIMIST.

YOUNG MAN SHOT ON SUNDAY

Mr. Larry Brown Now Near Death's Door from Accidental Discharge of Pistol Which He and Companion Were Handling.

Mr. Larry Brown, age about 20 years, was accidentally shot and seriously wounded Sunday afternoon about 12:30 by Clifford Goodwin, a school boy. Mr. Brown is now lying at the home of Mr. M. E. McCauley in a serious condition. His body is paralyzed from his waist down, and other complications are feared before he can gain enough strength to make the trip to Charlotte for an operation. His mother came down from Atlanta Sunday night and is now with her son.

The shooting was purely accidental. Mr. Brown, Goodwin, and Matt McCauley were sitting on the porch of the latter's father's home fiddling with a couple of pistols. Goodwin had taken one of the pistols apart, and had handed it to McCauley. McCauley then put the gun back together, and also reloaded it. He then laid it on the floor, and Goodwin, not knowing that the pistol was loaded, picked it up and was handling it when the explosion occurred.

When the gun was fired, Mr. Brown was sitting on the porch and Goodwin was sitting in a chair on the porch. The bullet struck Brown on his right side, just below the shoulder blade, and ranged down towards the spinal cord, puncturing the lower lobe of his right lung. One of the doctors who attended the wounded man is of the opinion that Brown's spinal cord was hit by the bullet, or at least was injured. It may be that the ball, which is a nickel plated copper bullet, is lodged against the spinal cord, causing the paralysis of the body from his waist on down.

Mr. Brown has exhonerated young Goodwin from any blame, stating that he was just as much to blame as any; that they were examining the pistols, and that it was just a case of pure accident.

At the time of the shooting, many people were on their way home from church and the affair caused a great deal of excitement. Mr. Brown's father lives here and holds a responsible position with the S. C. shops. Goodwin, who fired the shot, is a nephew of Brown.

The News and Sentiment From Waxhaw Way. Correspondence of The Journal. Waxhaw, March 27. — Four more days of blustery March then his more gentle sister, April, will hold sway. By George! since the rain Saturday night, it does a fellow a world of good just to look out upon the freshness of the green and growing grain fields. To feel the birth of spring, its subtle instincts coursing through his blood and witness the dawning birth of a new creation, more than repays mankind for enduring the rigors of winter.

Miss Mary Haywood is very ill with pneumonia at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Haywood, in the Bonds Grove community.

Mr. Ed King of Fort Lawn, has been spending a few days with his three small children, who since the recent death of his wife, have been living with their grandfather, Mr. Harvey Robinson, in the Robindale community.

Curious, ain't it? Last night a pretty little girl said to us, "I'll be right glad when school is out, I want to help on the farm. I like to cut cornstalks." Now who would have thought of that?

We were held up twice yesterday for missionary money. We gave the last applicant a two cent postage stamp, on account of having been down the creek early that afternoon to get our fish hooks out. We did not consider our own religious tendencies as justifying us in making a repeated contribution of any extent to the "unchristian heathen."

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Rogers, who have been living at Bethlehem for the past two or three years, have moved back to their farm west of town. Mr. Rogers will devote his time principally to saw-milling.

Saturday was a big day in town. Hundreds of farmers who have not lost scarce a moment's time from field labors during the past three weeks of good weather, laid aside their plowing and flocked to town to lay in supplies.

Miss Jennie Howie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Howie of the Pleasant Grove community, died Saturday after a six days illness from pneumonia. She was thirty-three years and nine months old and had long been a faithful member of the Pleasant Grove church, where the funeral services were conducted yesterday by her pastor, Rev. W. F. Sandford. The interment was in the cemetery at the same place.

The colored people's school at Steel Hill, just over the line in South Carolina, closed last Friday night with a very creditable program of exercises by the pupils. On account of the better facilities for seating the audience the large church of the same name was utilized, and was packed to its full capacity, many having to turn away for lack of even standing room. A brass band furnished music.

Friday will be Field Day at Lancaster. An event very much like Union's county commencement. The idea of having one big day set apart for the school children has taken firm hold in Lancaster county, and

Friday will witness the assembling of three or four thousand school children at the county seat to engage in various athletic contests and feats which require brains as well as brawn.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Coon Baker of the Flint Ridge community, was on yesterday afternoon the scene of a very pretty wedding, when their daughter, Miss Odessa Baker, became the bride of Mr. Durrant Price, a well known young farmer of the same community. Rev. W. F. Sandford performed the ceremony. The attendants were: Mr. Earl Byrum with Miss Myrtle Blythe, Mr. Herman Shaunon with Miss Beula Groon, and Mr. Luther Baker with Miss Sallie Price. Both the bride and groom are popular young people with countless friends to wish them a happy future.

Where is Robin of the Scarlet Breast, this spring? We have not seen him since last fall, and he and his brothers should now be here by hundreds. Did he fall the prey of a hunter? He has grown heavier year by year. But we cannot believe that one winter has seen his finish, or other than he will still be with us for many years to come. But his slaughter is something fearful, despite stringent but little enforced laws to the contrary. We have known of the boys to boast of having killed sixteen hundred in the cane-brakes on Waxhaw Creek in the space of one week.

Since about the first of March we have been making peridial trips to a little clump of swamp dog-wood, which grew on the edge of a marsh not far from our home. In the very center of the clump, nesting on four of her big brown eggs, sat an old mother snipe, patiently serving nature's time for the coming of her children. It may be that she would call them that, and maybe something else—it matters not to us. Each tongue has its language, "each mother loveth best." We had hoped to see little downy birdlings before they were old enough to know that man was their most relentless enemy, but such was not to be. On our last visit, Saturday, the nest revealed nothing but broken egg shells. The swamp and woods had already claimed them. They will be seen next fall as they rise up from under the feet of some hunter, and if he misses, which is more than likely, they will suddenly drop down into the swamp and disappear, less than a hundred yards away. Although we did not get to see her offspring, we hope this old lady and her "children" will live and flourish many years to come, and will hear the crack of a gun, not as a tidbit of danger, but of the approach of a friend. SCAPEGOAT.

Death of Mrs. T. C. McGill. Mrs. T. C. McGill of Gastonia, formerly of this county, died at her home on the 22nd after a long illness. She was 48 years of age. She was married to Mr. McGill in 1888 and to them was born eight children, five of whom are living. They are Mrs. Sides, Mrs. Wilson, Messrs. George, Willie and Lumbard, of Gastonia. She leaves four sons and a brother in Monroe, Messrs. Drucilla, Mary, Mr. Joel Brown, and Mrs. W. T. Presley and Mrs. C. E. Yoder. The body was brought to Monroe for burial. Funeral services were held in North Monroe M. E. church, conducted by Rev. L. M. White and Rev. R. H. Kenniston. The body was laid to rest in the Monroe cemetery. The husband, children, sisters and brothers have our sympathy in the death of their loved one. K.

Debate. The debate at Mt. Pleasant last Friday night was a good one. The subject was preparedness. Affirmative was represented by Henry, Ira and Arthur Walden. The negative by B. W. Funderburk, E. F. Godwin and John Rogers. The affirmative won. A VISITOR.

Debate at Union Grove. There will be a public debate at Union Grove School house on Monday night, April, on "Resolved, That we should further provide for the enlargement of our navy." Affirmative, C. F. Edwards and E. L. Griffin. Negative, J. H. McClellan and A. D. Bacon.

A Happy Social Occasion. Correspondence of The Journal. Indian Trail, March 27. — Antdo from the business or serious side of life let us look for a while on the side that gives pleasure, and boycott the idea that life is only a life and death proposition.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Rallings gave a most enjoyable social to the young folk of this place in honor of Rev. B. B. Shankle and the school teacher, a few nights ago. The following were present: Misses Alice Ralshford, Floy Myers, and Letha Hamilton, our attractive school teachers, Lillian and Beesie Porter, Martha, Maggie, Mamie and Mary Boyd, Kate and Annie Crowell, Miss Conder, Kate Simpson, Wilma Harley, Willie Ruth Kendall, Odessa Lemmond, Lillie Garmon, and Kate Tomberlin. Rev. B. B. Shankle, Prof. H. M. Bacon, Hoffman King, Stacy Orr, Burdett Crow, ell, Sanford Forbis, Samuel Lemmond, Frank Tomberlin, Jesse Hartis, James Crowell of Matthews, Dock Porter, Perry Garmon, and Yours truly, Sir John.

Many delightful games were played after which hot chocolate was served. Everybody enjoyed themselves and returned at 10 a. m. with light hearts. SIR JOHN.

Time works wonders. So would men if they put in twenty-four hours each day, as time does.

One word may make a new friendship or break an old one.

Even a prohibitionist makes no kick about the horn of plenty.