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# The Mount Airy News.

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## GREAT BATTLE IN MEXICO.

### Air Reeked With Stale Blood—Villa Griny With Dust and Sweat, Rode Up and Down Cursing and Calling on the Saints.

Gomez Palacio, Mexico, March 27th.—(Torreon 9 a. m.) Four days of fighting, including three desperate assaults by the rebels, were crowned with success today when General Francisco Villa moved into the city and established his headquarters on that side of the town looking toward Torreon and within three miles of that goal of the campaign.

The final and deciding assault was delivered yesterday. It was preceded by a bombardment, after which the infantry and cavalry dashed into the streets. Rifles, machetes, pistols and hand grenades were used in a hundred different encounters.

General Villa does not know his own loss, except that it was heavy. The wounded suffered ribbly from thirst, and many died for lack of water and surgical attention. The dead of both sides were piled in the streets or huddled under abode houses or corrals, wrecked by rebel shells. Veterans say no more furious battle was ever fought in Mexico.

### Didn't Stop to Mourn.

General Villa did not stop to mourn his losses, but began preparations to move on Torreon. He expects to cooperate with 400 men under General Herrera, who is under orders to attack the town from the east.

Newspaper correspondents were permitted to enter the city with Villa. Everywhere rebel soldiers were rescuing the injured and taking them to the railroad.

The day was hot and the air reeked with the smell of stale blood. Those with flesh wounds were taken to the hospital on stretchers.

Villa's first assault in force took place four days ago. There was comparatively a number of federals in the city, and premature reports of victory were sent out. Soon, however, the federals received reinforcements, and in the desperate fighting which followed the rebels had rather the worst of it and General Villa withdrew.

### Villa Cursed and Cheered His Men.

The next day, Wednesday, General Angeles, artillery commander, shelled the city all day and part of the night. Villa had learned that the federal commander, General Velasco, was concentrated in force in the town and himself was in the trenches inspiring his men, and the rebel leader under cover of the bombardment concentrated every available man for a fresh assault.

This was delivered Wednesday night, but was not decisive, although the rebels held the stone house and a few other natural defenses in the outskirts of the city.

Last night the third and final assault was delivered. General Villa, griny with dust and sweat, a red bandana handkerchief about his neck, rode up and down the lines, swearing and cheering, cursing and calling on the saints. At times he apparently was calm and again in a fury. Through it all he urged his men forward, and all seemed to realize that the attack was the crucial one. The whole picture was a confused blur of blood and fire. Men in their dying agonies pleaded for water or cried out quivering vivas or delicious prayers to "Our Lady of Guadalupe."

On the way into the city from El Verjel early today and particularly in the streets of the town itself, General Villa was constantly called on to return the salutes of the wounded.

### Limping to the Front.

Some of them were limping not to the rear, but to the front, to catch up with their comrades. Some already placed on hospital trains, escaped and returned to their commands. Others, regaining consciousness as they were being borne away in litters, cursed their would-be rescuers and joined the scattered procession following in the train of

the general. "Viva Villa! Viva Madero! Viva El Constitution!" they cried.

The remarkable endurance of these peons and their mad obsession to return to the front greatly impressed the Americans in the train of General Villa. There were men with deep gashes across their cheeks, men with great masses of flesh torn from their backs or sides, in uniforms literally soaked in blood; with arms and legs torn and lacerated and blood matted hair pasted over their eyes. The wounded in the outskirts of the city were the first to receive assistance, but the small hospital corps, although working heroically, was totally inadequate. The dead who fell early in the assaults, or had been slain by federal shells were buried first.

At every water car station there were groups of wounded. In plain sight of the dying the bodies of the dead were dragged into shallow trenches. It will be necessary to incinerate many of the bodies piled in the streets, as decomposition sets in rapidly here and the business of fighting requires every available man. General Villa is anxious that the dead shall be disposed of immediately to avoid pestilence.

### Mowed Down in Heaps.

In the course of the battle there were instances of detachments, all of whose officers had been lost, running wildly about calling for new officers to lead them, or joining other commands.

Other detachments, in the excitement of the fight, failed to hear, or deliberately disregarded orders to fall back or seek shelter. They dashed unheedingly into barbed wire entanglements or the enemy's trenches and were mowed down in heaps by federal rapid fire guns.

An unusual incident of yesterday's battle was the mowing of

exchanged shots like two warships, but with little damage, and the federal train retired around a curve. Gomez Palacio is a railroad town, and is a network of tracks.

General Villa today said his hat was off to General Velasco for his defense of the town. The conduct of the federals was a credit to them as soldiers. General Velasco had proved himself a man of resources as well as of courage.

Three of Velasco's generals, it was reported, gave their lives in defense of the town—Generals Pena, Reyna, and Anaya. It was reported also that General Ocaranza was seriously wounded.

### Lawyers to Get their Fees.

Richmond, Va., March 15.—As recommended by the finance committee, the house Saturday afternoon, by a vote of 56 to 20, appropriated \$14,000 for four of the lawyers who prosecuted the Aikens. This bill had been passed by the Senate.

The money is to be paid as follows: J. C. Wisor, \$4,000; J. S. Draper, \$4,000; W. S. Poage, \$4,000; S. Floyd Landreth, \$2,000.

The final passing of this bill was just two years to the day of the Carroll county court house tragedy March 14, 1912.

### Notice.

To the Heirs at Law of James Y. Pulp, dec'd. Mrs. R. E. Lawrence, Mrs. L. Levy, and G. G. Redman:

You will take notice that in pursuance to an Act passed by the Extra Session of the Legislature of 1913, and to Ordinances passed by the Board of Commissioners of the town of Pilot Mountain, N. C., at an adjourned Session held on the 17th day of October, 1913, you are hereby notified that you are required by said ordinances to build a cement sidewalk on front of your lots on Depot and Main streets within 30 days from the date of this notice, of the material and formula required by said ordinances (copy of which will be furnished on request to the undersigned) or the Commissioners of the Town of Pilot Mountain will build said sidewalk and assess the cost thereof against your property.

This March 25, 1914. R. E. Holland, Chief Police of Town of Pilot Mountain, N. C.

## REBEL AND FEDERAL FORCES STILL AT IT.

### Battle Was Raging Around Torreon Last Night According to Advises.

Juarez, Mex., March 30.—The rebel and federal forces at Torreon are still engaged in battle, it was learned to-night. This information came from Robert V. Pasquiera, confidential agent of the constitutionalists in the United States, who recently arrived here from Washington.

Senor Pasquiera spent the afternoon and part of the evening in this city investigating various rumors and so-called official representatives dealing with the situation at the front. At the conclusion of his investigations, he telegraphed a long report to associates in Washington and later talked with news paper men. The constitutionalist secretary of the interior, Senor Zubaran, was present at the interview.

They had no facts to divulge save that fighting continued and that the battle thus far has been bloody and stubbornly contested on both sides. They stated that no telegram from General Villa had been received saying that General Velasco had suggested a condition of surrender. They asserted positively on the other hand, that federal reports of victory were absurd.

"I believe that the rebels to-night are making a concerted attack on the federal positions," and Secretary Zubaran. "With what success I do not know but in the end I believe General Villa is certain of victory. Many of the telegrams credited to General Villa have not really been sent by him. Whence they came I do not know.

"Villa is using guns and hand grenades, not typewriters. He is sending dispatches to the front frankly that they could send no dispatches until he had taken Torreon. There have been no such dispatches, and the conclusion aside from our actual, though scanty, information is clear. Torreon has not been taken.

"On the other hand, every fact at our command shows that the advantage is with us. We have Gomez Palacio and Lerdo and a foothold in Torreon. The story is being told there. We may have the city in a day or a week, but in the end we will have it. We have no details; we know only that our men are fighting the big fight of the revolution, and that the advantage thus far is with us."

### Cannot Be Understood.

The difficulties under which the Panama Canal was dug cannot be understood by the layman who did not have an opportunity to visit the isthmus during the construction period. But when one considers that the amount of material which poured down into Culebra Cut in the shape of slides and breaks, alone amounted to as much as all of the horses in the United States could pull if they were loaded on wagons, and when he then further considers that the sliding in of the material multiplied the difficulties of getting the other spoil out of the cut, it will be seen amid what difficulties the men had to work.

Add to this a climate that was so moist that shoes moulded over night, so damp that wardrobes had to be fitted up with electric lights to keep their contents from mildewing; and to this, add a rainfall that frequently went as high as ten feet in a single rainy season, on the Atlantic side, and the tremendous job the heroes of the canal army had to face will begin to appear in its true light. And yet, in spite of all this they excavated 232,000,000 cubic yards of material in less time than the estimates called for the excavation of 103,000,000 cubic yards.

If ever there were difficulties to lend inspiration to a story those difficulties were encountered at Panama. And nowhere else is there to be found such an adequate picture of these difficulties as the one contained in "The Panama Canal," by Frederic J. Haskin, the one book that bears the O. K. of Colonel Goethals on its engineering chapters.

## Mrs. Irvin Will Build Hospital.

For some time Mrs. B. A. Irvin, has planned to build a modern hospital here. She owns a four-acre lot just east of the city on Cherry street on which is the well known Mineral spring. Mrs. Irvin and others, whose names have not been given to the public, will finance the proposition and we are informed that all arrangements are definitely settled for the work to begin at an early date.

An architect in the employ of the Quarry is now making plans for the building which will be modern in every respect. It will be erected on the lot on the west side of Cherry street, a short distance from the home of Dr. Baird. The walls will be of Mt. Airy Granite and the building will be fire proof throughout. It will have steam heat, hot and cold water, sewerage, electric lights, operating rooms and all the conveniences that belong to the modern hospital. The architecture will be of attractive design and the building will be two stories high.

The location is a most desirable one for the view east is as beautiful as one could find in all this section. The Slate Mountains, the Quarry and the fertile valleys of the Ararat river are all in the view that spreads out before the eye from that point.

It will be the purpose of the management to make the hospital an institution that will attract the public patronage. It is well known that many people have to go away from this section to get hospital treatment, and there appears to be a demand here that will justify a hospital from a business standpoint. It will be conducted along the lines of all such institutions, the patients being allowed to enter and engage a room, nurse and have the regular physician attend.

Every physician in the country will have free access and be welcome to place his patients in the institution where he can have the benefit of the nurses who will be in constant attendance to help him serve his patient.

Something like the above is what is the purpose of the promoters and doubt the institution will be a success and a great blessing to this section of the state.

## Thirty-Seven Mules Burn in Asheville Stables.

Asheville, Mar. 25.—Thirty-seven mules perished in the flames and vast quantities of household furniture, grain and feed went up in smoke tonight when the immense stable and storage plant of the Asheville Dray, Fuel & Construction Co., was completely destroyed by fire. The blaze was not discovered until the flames had gained great headway and the firemen were powerless to save the building or its contents.

Thirty-seven mules used as draft animals were in the stable at the time of the fire and two of them escaped from the building. One was so badly burned, however, that it was necessary to shoot it. The household furniture was that which had been stored in the waterooms of the concern.

The building was a frame structure and the quantities of hay and grain were tinder for the flames. The fire spread rapidly to all parts of the building and over 3,000 people from three hillsides around the structure watched the progress of the flames.

## Will Wage a Campaign Against Tuberculosis.

Raleigh, March 25.—The State Board of Health announces that Dr. L. B. McBrayer of Asheville becomes a member of the staff of the Department of Health, special attention to be devoted by him to the campaign against tuberculosis, this to include the management of the State tuberculosis sanitarium. Addresses of persons afflicted with tuberculosis will be procured. It is estimated that there are from 10,000 to 20,000 in the State annually, and correspondence will be maintained with these with a view to aiding them in eradicating the disease.

## About Madstones.

Charlotte Observer.

We are glad that there is a disposition shown among Charlotte doctors to repudiate for themselves approval apparently given the madstone superstition by one of their number. It was long ago settled that the madstone has neither more nor less merit than other talismans, along with such similar tokens as amulets and the left hind foot of a graveyard rabbit killed by a cross-eyed negro in the dark of the moon. Attempts have been made, of course, to explain its supposed powers on some rational basis, but utterly without success. It takes its place with treatment for fevers by draughts of water containing the sovereign virtues of a magic stone (as when the adventurous and chivalrous Saladin cures Richard the Lion-Hearted in Scott's "Talisman") and with the less romantic practice of carrying a split potato for rheumatism. It is nothing to the purpose that people swear to wonderful results derived by them from the talismanic madstone or the split potato or such commercially-motivated fakes as the Oxyptator—recently exposed by the State Board of Health. Nor does it signify anything if a physician assents to the use of such methods; it means only either that he himself has not gotten rid of the dense atmosphere of superstition in which all medicine began and which strongly colors most people's ideas on the whole subject today or that he thinks the case one where so-called faith may do some good at no risk of harm.

The trouble about recognizing any sort of faith cure in the case of suspected rabies, whether madstone or the conjurations of "mental healers," is that here we have not only a very real disease but one which, even under proper treatment taken too late. This same thing may be said regarding tuberculosis and diseases like it; however, the virulent infections, whether hydrophobia or diptheria, which medical science can combat with definite counteragents, are the ones where reliance upon superstitious methods of treatment do most invariable harm. The physician should acquiesce in the use of the madstone only where a competent examination has clearly shown the absence of the disease in the dog or other source of apprehended infection. If under such circumstances he knows the madstone may harmlessly help relieve the patient's further fears, let the madstone be used. But even then the physician should let all the faith in the madstone be supplied by the patient himself, not doing anything to keep alive through medical sanction a superstition which costs lives—causes horrible deaths—every year. Up with the Pasteur treatment for rabies! Down with the madstone!

## The Unemployed.

Another feature of the "unemployed" situation in New York has been brought out by the Siegel failure. It is noted by The Philadelphia Record. That paper says that when the new Lord & Taylor store advertised for 1,000 employes it got only two thirds that number of responses. When the Siegel stores were closed last week 2,100 persons were thrown out of employment, but the managers of other big stores swooped down on them and six out of every seven had jobs before night—often at better pay than they had been getting—or the assurance of employment within a few days. The loss of work was the more serious to the Siegel employes in that a large proportion of them had lost their savings in the collapse. What threatened for a short time to be an appalling industrial catastrophe was turned almost instantly into a joyous celebration. The Record asks the pertinent question: Is it at all probable that the streets of New York are congested with the unemployed when Lord & Taylor and other great stores could not have got the help they needed if the Siegel stores had not closed?—Charlotte Observer.

## Day of Flogging Convicts is Over

Raleigh, March 26.—In the opinion just delivered by the Supreme Court for this delivery week there is one in the case of State vs. Nipper and Johnson, from Wake, involving the right of convict guards to flog unruly convicts or administer other corporal punishment, the Supreme Court holding with Judge Cooke of the Superior Court that there is no such right, either through that State Constitution or through legislative statute. The Supreme Court declares—Chief Justice Clark writing the opinion—that:

"In view of the enlightenment of this age and the progress which has been made in prison discipline we have no difficulty in coming to the conclusion that corporal punishment by flogging is not reasonable and cannot be sustained. That which degrades a man cannot be either necessary or reasonable."

The opinion cites the passing of flogging as a punishment in the armies and navies of the world and for convicts in great numbers of the foremost countries, even Mexico having in 1903 abolished such punishment for convicts by special act. The court says:

"While the North Carolina constitutional provision against the infliction of corporal punishment as a part of the sentence by the courts does not directly prohibit its infliction in prison discipline, its spirit is certainly against the longer use of flogging for that purpose."

The concluding paragraph of the lengthy opinion reads: "The smallness of the sentence imposed in this case (\$10 fine each and cost) indicates that the humane and just judge who tried this defendants was without aggravation and that they were only following the custom which has been observed in this State to this time. We have been, however, discussing the legal rights of the prisoners and we find authority for its longer continuance. There is no error in judgment of the lower court."

## Honor Roll for 6th Month.

1st Grade—Curis Atkins, Elmer Brannock, Willur Brannock, Andrew Durbin, Archie Carter, Buford Clifton, Irene Estes, William Gregory, Harry Johnson, Herman Mays, Katherine Owen, Elmer Oakley, Albert Partridge, William Perkins, Welden Roberts, Kyle Smith, Mary Taylor, Ella York, Seldon Davis, Mary Lou Haynes, Howard Hooker, Jules Hardy, Elridge Kingsbury, Willie Kingsbury, Tressie Mays, Willie Morton, Iris Lee Norman, Isidore Schafer, Dennis Watson, Vera Smith, P. D. Muse.

2nd Grade—Richard Hundley, William Hatcher, Lovinia Jones, Mary Seal, Lillian Taylor, Lula Tuckles.

3rd Grade—Della Atkins, Mary Council, Howard Cain, Dorothy Creveling, Myrtle Jarrell, Willi Norman, Charlie Norman, Willie O'Kennon, Robt. O'Kennon, Albert Patterson, Mary Powell, Chester Stewart, Minnie Wilson, Myrtle Brown, Virginia Hunt, Chas. Ashby, Ethel Brim, Richard Caudill, Mammie McIntyre, John Minick, Mary Moore, Minerva Moore, Bertha Quesinberry, Theodore Reece, Virginia Galaway, Annie Myers, Robert Smith.

4th Grade—Edna Cain, Hester Jones, John Roberts, Howard Schumaker, Edith Sprinkle, Coy Clifton, Agnes Gilbert, Parker Hatcher, Howard Jones, Willie Green King, Elfra Smith.

5th Grade—Elizabeth Baldrige, Nell Folger, Mabel Griffith, Katherine Merritt.

6th Grade—Alice Haynes, Carrie Chilton, Jessie Norman, Harold Willis.

7th Grade—Harmon Atkins, Alice Jones, Carrie Oneal, Collier Sparger.

8th Grade—Wade Hatcher, Byron Gentry.

9th Grade—Kathleen Gwyn, Mary Haynes, Elizabeth Smith.

10th Grade—Pearl Hatcher. By mistake of the printer last month the names of Isabel Smith and Bertha Quesinberry were omitted from the Honor Roll.