

VILLISTAS ATTACK TOWN; FIGHT; MANY KILLED; ARSON; RAID, RUN

MEXICANS CROSSED BORDER, FELL UPON TOWN OF COLUMBUS, N. M., MET TROOPS AND PITCHED BATTLE FOLLOWED; FLIGHT

Three Soldiers and Number Civilians Killed—Dead Followers of Villa Strew Streets of American City—Soldiers Pursuing Invaders—Hotel and Three Other Principal Buildings Fired—Confirmation by War Department—Cavalry After Outlaws From Across Line. Audacious Onslaught by Rebel Chief's Men Instantly Met By Colonel Slocum's Troopers and Enemy Bested In Engagement

(By the United Press)

Columbus, N. M., March 9.—Eleven Americans were killed by four hundred Villistas, who swooped down upon this town in the darkness this morning. They were driven off after a two-hour fight with three hundred cavalrymen and citizens.

To Appeal to Carranza, Says President.

Washington, March 9.—The President has received a report of the raid at Columbus. He stated that strong representations would be made to Carranza to capture and punish the bandits.

Many Killed.

El Paso, Texas, March 9.—A battle between Villista bandits and United States soldiers occurred at Columbus, city early today.

Three American soldiers were killed and four wounded. Three or four Columbus civilians were killed and a number wounded. An unknown number of bandits were killed.

A report given the United Press by Brigadier-General Pershing, who received an official account from Col. Slocum, commanding officer at Columbus, said dead Mexicans are strewn through the streets of Columbus. Four principal buildings, including a hotel, were set on fire by the bandits. The troops pursued the bandits across the border.

War Department Gets News.

Washington, March 9.—An official dispatch to the War Department confirmed the report that three soldiers were killed and four wounded at Columbus, N. M. A number of civilians were killed by the bandits. It was said mounted troops are pursuing the Mexicans. The number of civilians killed is unknown. The troops used in the pursuit are cavalry.

WILL ORGANIZE T. P. A. POST HERE FRIDAY

State Officers Interested In Kinston—Expect to Have Between 50 and 100 Members Here—Travelers and Employers of Drummers Eligible to Membership

The State Board of Directors of the North Carolina Division of the T. P. A. of America will have a committee from different cities in the State here tomorrow to organize a post for Kinston. This association has organizations in 21 cities of the State, with about 2,000 members. The national president is a North Carolina man, C. F. Tomlinson of High Point, who is doing much to put the State in the list of the large divisions. He is a manufacturer.

The T. P. A. is composed of traveling men, manufacturers, jobbers and commission men, and in addition to the other work gives its members accident insurance at cost. The local body, through its own organization and affiliation with the State and National bodies, will work in every way to promote the welfare of the travelers and the interests of the manufacturers and jobbers of Kinston. It will advertise Kinston as a live, progressive, growing city, according to Mr. J. J. Norman of Winston-Salem, a former State president who was here Wednesday.

The State officers hope to have a post between 50 and 100 members here. New Bern is also to have a post in the near future. An organization campaign is being conducted in the Eastern part of the State, and Elizabeth City and Washington are to be organized. A membership campaign is being conducted in the sections where the T. P. A. is already well organized.

FIREMEN'S FINE WORK SAVED LUMBER PLANT

Kinston Manufacturing Co.'s Mill Threatened With Destruction for Time Wednesday Night—Fuel and Boiler House Wrecked, But Boilers Undamaged—Fully Insured.

A fire which threatened to destroy the big lumber plant of the Kinston Manufacturing Company in Southwest Kinston Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock was checked by magnificent work on the part of the fire department and volunteers, after it had gained considerable headway. The fuel house and boiler house were destroyed. The damage was estimated at the office this morning to be between \$1,500 and \$2,000, fully covered by insurance. The boilers were not materially damaged.

A spark lodging in sawdust in the fuel house is supposed to have started the blaze. The firemen arrived promptly, but the flames had gotten a good start. A brisk north-west wind fanned them. Within a quarter of an hour Chief Moseley knew that the fire was controlled, however. The firemen had five lines of hose and volunteers two, playing on the burning frame building from all sides. Had they been ten minutes later the damage would have been tremendous.

Employees at the mill stated that when the fire first broke out they could not conceive of its being extinguished so quickly did it spread, and officers of the company today referred to the firemen's efforts as splendid. "Doc" Weeks, a member of the East Kinston Fire Company, had to be carried off sick while his company was working at the fire. Weeks got wet and the uncomfortably low temperature threw him into

STATE CONVENTION IN RALEIGH ON THE TW-SEVENTH APRIL

Democratic Executive Committee at Meeting In Capital City Wednesday Evening Endorsed Wilson's Candidacy and Policies

(Special to The Free Press)

Raleigh, March 9.—The Democratic State Executive Committee here last night decided to hold the State convention in Raleigh on April 27. Raleigh was the only city bidding for the big meeting. Precinct meetings to choose delegates to the county conventions will be held on April 15, and county conventions to select the delegates to the State convention on April 22.

The committee unanimously endorsed the President's candidacy for re-election and his foreign policies. A committee of five was named to canvass on June 10 the returns of the State primary. Forty-seven out of the sixty members were present at the meeting.

'I DON'T WANT IT,' MESSAGE FROM T. R. FROM OVER THE SEA

(By the United Press)

New York, March 9.—Roosevelt does not want the presidential nomination, he declared in a statement today to the Trinidad representative of the Evening Mail.

WOMAN KILLS HUSBAND WHO WOULD BEAT HER

Atlanta, Ga., March 8.—Mrs. L. F. Pannell shot and killed her husband at their home here today as he was advancing on her with a strap and said he intended to beat her, according to her statement in jail where she is held for murder.

Atlanta, March 8.—Pannell and family came to Atlanta three weeks ago from Greensboro, where he worked for a dry cleaning establishment.

ORDER GERMANS LEAVE PORTUGAL FOR SPAIN

(By the United Press)

Lisbon, March 9.—Germans in Portugal have been advised by their consuls to leave for Spain. It is believed the diplomats are preparing to leave shortly.

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON BRANDEIS CONCLUDED

Washington, March 8.—Public hearings on the nomination of Louis D. Brandeis of Boston to be associate justice of the Supreme Court, were terminated today by the judiciary sub-committee of the Senate. The inquiry has been in progress for a month. The sub-committee gave no indication as to when it would report to the judiciary committee.

MILLIONAIRES STORING CARS; GAS TOO HIGH

(By the United Press)

New York, March 9.—Gasoline is retailing at from 27 to 40 cents a gallon, and even millionaires are storing their cars and economizing in fuel.

a chill, it was said. Chief Moseley left two or three squads of laborers with hose laid to guard against another outbreak from the ruins.

FRENCH AND GERM'N GUNS FIGHTING FOR A FINAL DECISION

Terrible Din In Vicinity of Verdun; Use Thousands of Shells

GAINS FOR THE ALLIES

Crown Prince's Men Driven From Corbeaux Wood—Both Artillery and Infantry Attacks By Teutons Against Goose Hill

(By the United Press)

London, March 9.—In the French trenches storms of fire marked the renewal of the German heavy artillery attack along the crescent-shaped front at Verdun. Paris dispatches say the cannonading is violent on both banks of the Meuse. The Germans have been driven out of the Corbeaux woods by violent French counter attacks. The Teutons are pouring thousands of shells into the French position on Goose Hill, following the frequent artillery attacks with infantry assaults.

Not Much Fighting In Galicia.

Berlin, March 9.—No further gains have been made by the Austrians in Galicia. The fighting there is intermittent, says an official Austrian report.

French Repulse All Attacks.

Paris, March 9.—Repeated heavy German attacks upon the village of Bethincourt, northwest of Verdun, during last night were all repulsed, it is said officially. Two of the heaviest onslaughts were preceded by hours of artillery fire. A curtain of fire by the French on Goose and Dead Man hills stopped the Germans. The Germans are trying to straighten their front for a grand attack on the hills.

The Germans today entered the village of Vaux, southeast of Douaumont, but were driven out by a counter attack. The French repulsed several attacks on the Vaux-Douaumont front.

This Report Probably Premature.

Berlin, March 9.—Fort and village of Vaux have been captured by the Germans, also adjoining positions, it is officially said.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

DENY ENVER PASHA DEAD OR INJURED.

London, Mar. 9.—The Turkish legation at Athens declares the story untrue that Enver Pasha, the Turkish war minister, had been attacked or died of wounds, say dispatches.

300 TRAINMEN STRIKE.

Mobile, March 9.—Three hundred trainmen of the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad struck today because of the refusal of the company to recognize the union.

GERMAN SCOUTING SQUADRON OUT.

Amsterdam, March 9.—A German cruiser squadron, accompanied by destroyers, made a reconnaissance in the North Sea today and returned to their base, say Berlin dispatches.

SHIP MINED; 15 MAY BE LOST.

Copenhagen, March 9.—The Norwegian steamer Memon has been mined and sunk in North Sea. Dispatches say the crew of fifteen are believed to have perished.

LABOR TROUBLE IN SPAIN; MARTIAL LAW

(By the United Press)

Madrid, Spain, March 9.—Martial law has been declared at Cartagena following a day and a half of rioting by union foundry workers.

SECRETARY OF WAR BAKER ARRIVES AND GETS INSTRUCTIONS

President Tells Him About Affairs and Scott Will Give Him Idea About Duties In Office—At Cabinet Meeting Friday

(By the United Press)

Washington, March 9.—Secretary of War Baker arrived in Washington today, stated that he had closed up his business in Cleveland, saw the President at 10 o'clock, and had outlined to him the pending international situation.

He is expected to take his place in the cabinet meeting tomorrow, and will take up the duties of the office immediately under instruction from General Scott.

"Something Doing" Right Away For Him.

Mr. Baker was sworn in as secretary following his conference with the President. He found that one of the worst troubles for him to face is the Mexican situation. He was shown a United Press dispatch of the raid by Villistas at Columbus.

"It looks as if I will have something to do immediately," he said, and immediately plunged into the work of the department.

TWENTY YEARS FOR CLAUD SUGGS, WHO SLEW FATHER-IN-LAW

(Special to The Free Press)

Jacksonville, N. C., Mar. 9.—Claud Suggs, who killed his father-in-law, J. J. James, near here during the holidays, was sentenced to 20 years in State's prison by Judge Bond in Onslow Superior Court here today.

The defense submitted to a second degree verdict, which the Judge charged the jury to bring in.

BIGGEST CONSCIENCE FUND CONTRIBUTION

(By the United Press)

Washington, March 9.—A thirty thousand dollar conscience fund contribution, the largest in history, has been received at the treasury in a package from Philadelphia. The sender said he had sent a total of \$80,000, four times what he stole years ago.

JUDGE, MAYOR, LIQUOR MEN JOIN FORCES TO WIPE OUT DRUNKENNESS

Los Angeles, March 9.—Los Angeles—a wet city without a single drunk! This is the slogan of Judge Griffith Jones of the sunrise police court. Mayor C. E. Sebastian and wholesale liquor dealers who are working to banish the reeling drunkard from this town. Analysis of the liquor situation by Judge Jones showed that out of 1134 intoxicated men arrested, only four got in that condition by drinking beer or light wines. The others drank whisky and "hard stuff."

Asking the men where they got their liquor, the police found that most of the drunken men came from only four saloons. There are many bars here, but a close tab shows that only four had a habit of sending forth helpless staggerers.

'FOOLISH,' SAYS THE PRESIDENT OF RUMOR

Washington, March 8.—President Wilson today authorized Representative Pou to deny as "utterly foolish" a rumor which had reached the House to the effect that the President had changed his mind and was preparing to issue a warning against Americans taking passage on armed merchantmen. Mr. Pou denied the report on the floor of the House.

WOMEN HEAR DR. McNAIRY SPEAK ON BABY WEEK SUBJECT

Superintendent of Caswell School Addresses Gathering In E. Kinston Church On Care of Infants Before Birth—Last Day

TODAY'S PROGRAM.

Address by Dr. C. B. McNairy in East Kinston on "Care of the Baby Before Birth."

What promised to be one of the most interesting of the Baby Week meetings is being held in East Kinston this afternoon. Christ Episcopal church was turned over to the Mothers' Club, under whose auspices the week is being observed here, for an address by Dr. C. Banks McNairy, superintendent of the Caswell Training School. Dr. McNairy, as is well known, is a practical talker and a person capable of discussing intelligently the subject of children, their troubles, etc. His address was to be on "Care of the Baby Before Birth."

The last of the meetings will be in Caswell Street Methodist church Friday evening at 7:30, with Dr. Ira M. Hardy as the speaker. Dr. Hardy will use a stereopticon in illustrating his lecture on "Development of the Child."

TODAY'S ODDEST STORY

Hammond, Ind., Mar. 9.—Frank Trabtzbas of Chesterton, Ind., reflecting in a police jail cell here after a two days' fling along the gray white way, wondered how he was going to pay a dollar fine when he spied a Robin's nest in a tree within an arm's length of the cell window. Reaching out, he shooed the Robin away and picked a \$5 bill from the nest, summoned the jailer, paid his fine and went home.

WHEDBEE TALKS, BUT NIX ABOUT HIMSELF

Judge H. W. Whedbee of Greenville, who is conducting Superior Court at Snow Hill, talked of the congressional situation in the First district in the presence of Sheriff A. W. Taylor of Kinston and other men, according to Sheriff Taylor, who has been in Snow Hill on business connected with the court. The Greenville jurist has, as is generally known, been considered a possible candidate against Congressman John Small, but to every question put to him by reporters has given an evasive reply. Sheriff Taylor says that from the way Judge Whedbee talked he gathered that the latter thinks Small might be beat by the right man. "But never a word about himself" did the Judge have to say.

FLETCHER'S IDEA COST GREAT AMERICAN NAVY

(By the United Press)

Washington, March 8.—Approximately a billion and a half dollars for new ships and an annual upkeep charge of \$760,000,000 is what Admiral Fletcher, commanding the Atlantic fleet, estimates it would cost to carry out the navy general board's recommendation that the American navy should equal the most powerful fleet afloat by not later than 1925.

ALL OPPOSITION TO PRESIDENT GONE BY M'CUMBER'S ACTION

(By the United Press)

Washington, Mar. 9.—Senator McCumber today withdrew his warning resolution, saying he believed Secretary Lansing intended warning Americans to avoid travel on armed ships. He said, offensively armed vessels would be refused clearance.

This withdrew the last Senate opposition to the President's policy.

THE GOVERNMENT TO TELL PEOPLE TRUTH OF NEGOTIATIONS

Official Announcement Soon Will Reply to German Propaganda

PREPARING STATEMENT

Will Come From Executive Offices or State Department—Intended to Be Read by American Firesides and Over Ocean

(By the United Press)

Washington, March 9.—A statement clearing the government's position on the new submarine issues is being prepared for the citizens, and will be given out soon, it was learned today. The administration is preparing a formal announcement, designed for consumption by the people at home and abroad, coming either from the State Department or the President.

It is intended to answer, in part, the German official propaganda.

EXPECT TO HAVE ONE-THIRD ALASKA ROAD RUNNING BY NOVEMBER

Washington, March 9.—With a satisfactory labor supply, and good weather conditions, Chairman W. C. Edes of the Alaskan Engineering Commission hopes to have in operation nearly one-third of the proposed government railroad in Alaska, by November 1. It is the hope of the commission that the work on the railroad can be pushed to the Maniitauka coal field by fall. At the present the work is being held up while an emergency bill, asking for a two-million-dollar appropriation, is before Congress.

What the opening of this railroad will mean in the development of Alaska is merely a matter of conjecture, but the fact that a town of 1,500 has grown up at Anchorage, one of the terminals of the railroad, since he announcement of the route, indicates that the development of the north country will be great when the road finally is completed.

ENGLAND'S NEWSPAPERS FACE PAPER SHORTAGE AND SMALLER EDITIONS

(By the United Press)

London, Feb. 27.—(By Mail)—British newspapers are alarmed over the impending shortage of paper on account of the government's partial import prohibition of wood pulp. Practically every large daily in England is engaged in a systematic campaign of public education against the wasting of paper. At the same time the public is being prepared for very much smaller newspaper editions, which are bound to result.

Some of the largest of the London newspapers already have imposed upon themselves their economy campaign. Less pages are appearing than before the supply of print paper was threatened.

VILLA REPORTED TO BE NEAR THE BORDER

Columbus, N. M., March 8.—Francisco Villa and his forces today reached the ranch of the Palmas Land and Cattle Company at Nogales, Chihuahua, ten miles below the border and forty-four miles east of here, according to a telegram sent by the American foreman of the ranch.

PECULIAR FACTS ABOUT WELL-KNOWN PEOPLE

Washington, March 9.—Representative Foss of Ohio is a Lincoln student. He collects manuscripts, photos, etc., of the martyred President.