

EL PASO EXCITED OVER AN ALLEGED PLOT BY MEXICANS TO BURN AND PILLAGE CITY; DENIAL THAT HERRERA'S JOINED OUTLA'S

Pershing Takes Charge of Railroad—Unconfirmed Rumor of Clash Between Villistas and Americans—Militia May Be Called Out for Border Service—Fears of Uprisings On Border Cause Redistribution of Guard Troops—Brownsville Garrison Reinforced Because of Danger of Trouble In Matamoras, Hotbed of Insurrection On Opposite Side—Protocol Accepted by the State Department

(By E. T. Conkle, United Press Staff Correspondent)

El Paso, March 23.—General Pershing has taken control of the Mexican Northwestern Railroad south of Casas Grandes, his base, it is reported unofficially. It is said he has begun transporting infantry on the railroad to Madre, attempting to get in the rear of Villa, while Dodd still pushes the bandits southward. Cavalry is protecting the line.

Claim Discovery of Big Plot In El Paso.

Feeling in El Paso, the "war capital," is tense. The police today claimed discovery of a plot by two hundred Mexicans to burn and loot the city. They arrested eleven, including Melchior Herrera, brother of General Luis Herrera, reported to have deserted Carranza to join Villa. El Paso wants an immediate invasion. Carranza Consul Garcia today denied that Herrera has deserted Carranza with 2,000 troops. He said Herrera is a bitter enemy to Villa, and is helping the Americans.

Fearing an uprising of Mexicans at all points caused redistribution of the troops on the border. The Fourth Artillery has been sent to reinforce 5,000 troops already at Brownsville. Matamoras, across the river, is a hotbed of Villa sentiment. A reported clash between Villistas and Pershing's troops is unconfirmed. Pershing is prepared to run the Mexican railroads with Americans.

Polk Accepts Protocol.

Washington, March 23.—The Carranza-American protocol permitting use of Mexican railways as supply routes, upon the terms being completed today, was accepted by Acting Secretary of State Polk.

The fate of Aviator-Lieut. Gorrells is doubted. The government is considering the possibility of using militia on the border.

Urgency Estimates Submitted by Baker.

Because of the expenditures for the Mexican expedition, Secretary of War Baker today sent urgent deficiency estimates of nearly nine million dollars to Congress.

Newly-Arrived Troops to Line.

Denver, March 23.—Seventeen hundred of the Twenty-fourth Infantry, home from the Philippines only a fortnight, left Fort Russell, Wyoming, today, going to the border.

DRIFFIELD DOESN'T SPARE THE CASH TO SUCCOR THE WOUNDED

Driffield, England, is a small place only half as large as Kinston, but it evidently does things. The Driffield Times, a weekly, in its issue of March 4, told of a very successful Red Cross sale there. A copy of the paper has reached Mr. George Berry, circulation manager of The Free Press, who was born in Driffield. It is interesting to note that at the sale "a toy lamb made one pound sterling, six shillings sixpence (sold 14 times); an auctioneer's hammer, two pounds 17 shillings sixpence," and an apple, sold 126 times, 16 pounds, 14 shillings fourpence.

"The total of the sale and subscriptions is expected to realize one thousand five hundred pounds." Rather remarkable, that, and the more astonishing when one considers that a pound sterling is worth almost \$5.

COMPREHENSIVE COURSE FOR FARMERS AT A. & M.

West Raleigh, March 23.—The announcement of the summer term in agriculture at the A. & M. College for high school superintendents, principals and teachers, is just out, and includes a comprehensive course of study for those who attend this year. The term will extend from June 1 to 28. The fact that a score

CHANCELLOR OF U. S. LEGATION AT SOFIA ARRESTED BY BULGARS

(By the United Press)
Paris, March 23.—The Chancellor of the American legation at Sofia has been arrested by Bulgarians, says a dispatch, charged with bribing an official to obtain passports. The American minister has demanded his release.

THE DAY ON LOCAL COTTON EXCHANGE

The prevailing price for cotton here today was 11 3-8 for basis middling. Receipts were about eight bales.

New York futures quotations were:

	Open	Close
May	11.96	11.87
July	12.10	12.00
October	12.20	12.10
December	12.35	12.25
January	12.41	12.29

of farm life schools have been established, and all but three within the past two and a half years, shows that North Carolina is taking an increased interest in the field of agriculture. The next five years will probably see this number multiplied by three or four, provided teachers trained in scientific agriculture can be found for the farm schools.

RUSSIANS POURING DOWN ON GERMANS IN NEW OFFENSIVE

Von Hindenburg's Lines Dented at Half a Dozen Points, Stated

HALF MILLION ADVANCE

Teuton Reinforcements Are Hurrying to Sector—German Commander at Vilna—Offensive in Verdun Region Resumed

By CHARLES P. STEWART, (United Press Staff Correspondent)

London, March 23.—Half a million Russians, commanded by Kuropatkin, are assailing Von Hindenburg's line along 150 miles of the front. They have dented the German line in six places, says a Petrograd official dispatch. A great battle is raging forty miles south of Dvinsk, the Slavs driving westward toward the Vilna Railroad. Whether they will attempt to offset the Verdun offensive and start a new great offensive is unknown.

Northwest of Verdun the Germans are desperately striving to capture Douaumont Heights and Avoncourt, so as to sweep the French positions.

Von Hindenburg at Vilna.

Petrograd, March 23.—Von Hindenburg has established headquarters at Vilna and is directing the defense of the Dvinsk front. German reinforcements have been pouring into that sector for three days.

Germans Claim Substantial Gain.

Berlin, March 23.—The Germans have captured a ridge southwest of Haucourt, on the west bank of the Meuse and a strong pivotal position, it is said officially, together with 440 prisoners.

French War Office Report.

Paris, March 23.—Northwest of Verdun the bombardment has slackened. The Germans today failed to renew their attacks west of the Meuse, it is said officially. The French maintain their positions on Haucourt Hill. Violent bombardments are in progress east of the Meuse and elsewhere. The French today attacked trenches at Feyenhaye, taking a number of prisoners.

WHAT HAPPENED TO BABY GIRL TOMMIES FOUND IN A DITCH

By WILBUR S. FORREST, (United Press Staff Correspondent)
London, March 10.—(By Mail)—Phyllis Trenches, a bright, blue-eyed, flaxen-haired baby girl of four, today at Bedford, Eng., is the principal figure in perhaps the most romantic little story of the big war.

Phyllis is the adopted pride and joy of the Bedfordshire regiment. Her name was derived from Private Phillip Impey, who picked her out of a ditch in an isolated and unromantic part of Northern France while the Bedfordshires were marching by. "Trenches" is the only appropriate surname for Phyllis because Phyllis lived with her soldier foster parents in a cold and clammy trench on the firing line for eight long days.

When and how this four-year-old happened to be in a ditch, wet and weak from cold, as Private Impey's company was passing toward the first line trenches, probably never will be explained.

ANOTHER EXPEDITION TO ARCTIC REGION BY AMUNDSEN NEXT YEAR

(By the United Press)
Christiana, March 23.—Capt. Amundsen today announced plans for an Arctic expedition, starting from Barrow Point, Alaska, in the summer of 1917. Norway is contributing \$50,000.

CHINA WILL STICK TO THE REPUBLICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Announcement Wednesday Night That Yuan Shi Kai Had Renounced the Emperorship — Dissension Proved Monarchy Was Unpopular

Peking, March 22.—A State Department mandate issued tonight announces the abandonment of the monarchy and resumption of the republic. The mandate says the revolution shows that the demand for a monarchical form of government is not unanimous and that therefore Yuan Shi Kai rejects the emperorship and resumes the presidency.

The imperial documents, the mandate adds, will be returned by Yuan Shi Kai to the State council, which will reconvene as the Senate, presumably on the resumption of the republic.

Hsu Shih Chang, who left the cabinet because of the monarchical movement, signed the mandate as secretary of state, having re-entered the cabinet.

WILL BE ARRESTED FOR MURDER FATHER-IN-LAW

Dr. Arthur Waite's Apartment In New York Being Guarded by Detectives—Statement by Maid Alleged to Have Connected Him With Death by Poisoning of J. E. Peck

(By the United Press)

New York, March 23.—The district attorney today ordered the arrest of Dr. Arthur Warren Waite, son-in-law of the Grand Rapids millionaire, John E. Peck, who died on March 12, supposedly of arsenic poisoning. The order is understood to have followed a statement made by a negro maid. Waite is ill, his attorney said. Detectives are guarding

BRIEFS IN THE NEWS OF NEIGHBORING TOWNS

"Clad Suggs, who at the last term of Onslow county court was convicted of killing his father-in-law, J. J. James, who was sent to the State prison for a term of ten years, has begun serving his sentence and in a letter to a friend in this city, he states that he is well-satisfied with his lot, and that if it wasn't for the fact that he deplores being away from his family that he would probably be able to say he was enjoying his stay at the State's prison," says the New Bern Sun-Journal.

Governor Craig has been selected speaker at the Craven county joint commencement on April 14.

Machinery is being installed in a new coopeage plant at James City. The mill will give employment to more than a hundred men.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)

FRENCH BARK SUNK.
Paris, March 23.—The French bark Dougainville has been sunk. The crew of 23 were saved.

NORWEGIAN SHIP SUNK.
London, March 23.—The Norwegian bark Lindfield, of 2,200 tons, has been sunk. Thirty of the crew have been landed at Queenstown by the bark Silas, the rescuer.

WILMINGTON WANTS CLARK SECY STATE

Wilmington, March 22.—Endorsing the candidacy of Capt. Haywood Clark for secretary of State, more than 100 of the leading citizens of Wilmington have signed a commendatory article which is being circulated here.

HAY BILL EXPECTED TO PASS THE HOUSE DURING AFTERNOON

Proposal for Big Volunteer Force Overwhelmingly Defeated

SCOTT RESOLUTION UP

Would Give \$50,000 for Capture of Villa—Sherman's Attempt for Call for Volunteers Gets Killing Blow In the Senate

(By the United Press)

Washington, March 23.—The House overwhelmingly defeated the proposal to create a Federal volunteer force of 261,000. The Hay bill is scheduled to pass this afternoon.

Final debate is being had of a resolution introduced by Representative Scott of Pennsylvania to authorize the President to pay a \$50,000 reward for delivery of Villa to the military authorities.

The Senate tabled Sherman's attempt for consideration of a resolution calling for fifty thousand volunteers for Mexican service.

THE ODDEST STORY IN THE NEWS OF THE DAY

(By the United Press)

San Diego, Cal., Mar. 22.—Mr. Lazarus of biblical note has nothing on Anselmo Sosa of San Diego. About 1903 he mysteriously left his wife and disappeared. In 1910 his wife had him officially pronounced dead by the court, and she took his property and married again. Anselmo, upon hearing that he was dead, returned from Mexico to get his property. In 1915 the court declared Anselmo was alive again. Now comes word from Santa Ana that Anselmo is dead once more. They say they've got the corpse, but the court will see it before another move is made.

SMOKE AND ANTI-SMOKE FACTIONS IN CABINET ARE EVENLY SPLIT NOW

(By the United Press)

Washington, March 23.—The addition of Mayor Baker of Cleveland as Secretary of War splits the cabinet evenly on the subject of smoking; giving President Wilson the deciding vote. Secretary Baker is a pipe-smoker. Prior to Baker's arrival the cabinet anti-smokers had control by a vote of 6 to 4. As the President does not smoke, and as he holds the balance of power, there is no smoking at Cabinet meetings even now.

Baker, Lansing, Secretary Wilson, Lane and Houston, smoke. The non-smokers are Redfield, Daniels, McAdoo, Burleson and Gregory.

BIG COTTON MILL IN S. C. SOLD AT AUCTION

Greenville, S. C., March 22.—The plant of the Carolina Cotton Mills Co., which has been in the hands of receivers for a year, was sold at auction here today for \$204,500 to A. G. Furman, a stock broker acting for the Poinsett Mills. This company, recently organized, is composed largely of creditors of the Carolina Company.

TO ACT FOR PENCE IN CAROLINIAN'S ILLNESS

Washington, March 22.—W. R. Hollister of St. Louis has been designated assistant secretary of the Democratic National committee, with authority to act as secretary during the illness of Thomas J. Pence, it was announced from Democratic headquarters last night.

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MRS. GLASS WRITES CRAIG AND BEAUFORT SHERIFF GETS MAD

Officers of This Section Are Not Doing Duty, Pennsylvania Woman Tells Governor—"Utterly Foolish," Says Sheriff

(By the Eastern Press)

Washington, N. C., March 23.—Mrs. Ella Glass, mother of missing Jimmie Glass, has written Governor Craig from Pennsylvania that she did not think the officials of this section were doing their duty in the matter of searching for her son, and that she has had repeated advices that the boy is being secreted by gypsies in the region.

The Governor telephoned Sheriff W. B. Windley last night. At the conclusion of the conversation the Governor told Windley not to heed any further "agitation" over the matter.

Windley is mad. He characterizes as "utterly foolish" the assertions of women and even some officers that the boy has been here, in Lenoir and in Martin and other counties. The "white" child with the only gypsy band in this section, Windley admits, does resemble Jimmie Glass, but if anyone attempts to take that youngster away from his Brazilian parents in Beaufort county there will be trouble, says the sheriff.

SIXTH REPUBS. DIDN'T SUGGEST A CANDIDATE

(By the United Press)

Fayetteville, March 22.—The Republican congressional convention for the Sixth district met here this afternoon and elected Irvin B. Tucker, of Whiteville, Columbus county, delegate to the national convention at Chicago over D. C. Downing of Cumberland county. The convention made no recommendation as to a congressional nomination.

MIDWESTERN BANKERS PLANNING BRANCHES WORTH MANY MILLIONS

(By the United Press)

Chicago, March 23.—Middle western financiers today were planning the establishment of American banks in foreign countries as an aid to extending the overseas market of enterprising manufacturers.

Arrangements are already being made for establishing one in South America. Illinois capital will be largely interested. John J. Arnold, vice-president of the First National Bank of Chicago, declares that "it probably will be located in Buenos Ayres. From twenty to forty million dollars, it was estimated, will be subscribed by from 20 to 30 middle western bankers, to back the proposition.

BIGGER THE DINNER THE MORE COATS IT IS PROPER TO WEAR

Berlin, March 3.—(By Mail)—John B. Jackson, former American Minister to the Balkans, now attached to the embassy in Berlin, tells of his meeting with the old King of Montenegro in Cetinje.

"In Montenegro," Jackson said, all officials wear blue shirts every day and over these, blue coats. When they go to the palace on ordinary business they slip on a green coat over the blue one, but at royal dinners they put on a white coat over the blue and green ones.

"That evening I dined with His Majesty, I was on one side and the foreign minister on the other. All of us had on regulation three coats. As the dinner progressed we got warmer and warmer, and finally the old king said: "Mr. Minister, you get one side and Mr. Jackson on the other, and help peel me out of this white coat. It's too hot."

AUGUSTA BUSINESS AND HOME SECTIONS SWEEPED BY BIG FIRE

Loss Estimated From Four to Six Millions; One or Two Dead

MILITIA GUARDING CITY

Firemen From Neighboring Places Still Working On Ruins—Finest Residences Burned—Hospitals Crowded

(By the United Press)

Augusta, March 23.—The fire was controlled at noon, with a loss of five millions. Several firemen were injured, and houses covering territory one and one-quarter miles square destroyed, including ten business and twenty residential blocks.

Augusta, Ga., March 23.—Augusta is prostrated by the most disastrous conflagration in its history. Much of the business and finer residential sections are today smoking ruins. One or more lives was lost.

The damage is estimated at from four to six millions. Thousands of persons are homeless. Fire companies from Atlanta, Macon and Savannah are still working on the ruins. The hospitals are crowded with injured. Merchandise piled in the streets is being protected by militia.

Nashville's Fire Loss Millions.
Nashville, March 23.—A fire which swept East Nashville yesterday burned itself out today with a loss of millions.

MARCH GALE TURNED INTO A HURRICANE

High Winds, Thunder and Lightning and Heavy Rainfall Over Large Part of Country—Telegraph Service Crippled—Negro Brakeman On A. C. L. Train Struck a Wire, Tumbled

A heavy electrical, wind and rain storm which seems to have been general over this section of the country, raged over Kinston and vicinity on Wednesday evening shortly after the supper hour. Very little damage was done except to wires, so far as has been reported. Telegraph service was badly handicapped from 5:30 until 9 p. m. Wednesday, and service had not returned to normal at noon today. The gale was especially severe west of here, it seems. Beaufort, on the east, also reported unusual high winds, but little damage. Greenville reports said the storm there was very violent, but did no great amount of damage.

Jesse Faulks, a negro brakeman, fell from the top of a box car of a freight train arriving here during the gale. Faulks is said to have taken his fall from striking a low-hanging wire somewhere in the vicinity of Grifton. He was severely bruised, but sustained no serious injury, it is stated at the A. C. L. offices.

Washington reported a wind of 70 or 80 miles' velocity. At Chocowinity a small cyclone was experienced, it is said. Buildings on the farm of F. H. Von Eberstein there were damaged to the extent of \$500.

PECULIAR FACTS ABOUT WELL KNOWN PEOPLE.

London, March 23.—Ex-Secretary of War Garrison is popular with the London public, according to the public barometer, the movie theater. Within a few days after Garrison resigned his portfolio on account of differences with President Wilson, his picture was appearing on the screen in almost all the London moving picture theaters. Invariably the crowds, whether in the West End or East End, cheered the American vociferously.