

PLANS FOR SAFETY IN MEXICO CITY

WASHINGTON PROPOSES THAT CAPITAL BE MADE NEUTRAL TERRITORY.

VILLA ACCEPTS PROPOSAL

Zapata Also Willing and Result of Effort Depends on Carranza Council to Maintain Order.

Washington.—With the hope of securing permanent protection for the 25,000 foreigners in Mexico City, the United States Government has proposed to the Villa-Zapata forces and to General Carranza that the Mexican Capital be declared neutral and outside the field of operations hereafter in Mexico's civil war.

The Villa-Zapata forces have agreed to the proposal and are willing to evacuate the city as soon as a similar agreement is obtained with the Carranza authorities. On General Carranza depends also whether or not the effort of the United States to neutralize the railway between Mexico City and Vera Cruz shall succeed as the Villa-Zapata officials have agreed to this.

The plan with respect to Mexico City contemplates an arrangement whereby order would be maintained by a local council of prominent residents. The Capital would not be subject to further attacks nor would there be more changes in Government until a central government had been established. Should the Capital be declared neutral, much of the apprehension for the safety of foreigners would be removed and the famine menace eliminated.

No important engagements between the Villa and Carranza forces were reported to the Washington authorities dispatched saying that comparative quiet prevailed along the border and that the Mexico City situation was unchanged.

CATTLE DISEASE IS CONQUERED.

Department Announces Virtual Eradication.—124,141 animals Killed.

Washington.—Virtual eradication of the livestock foot and mouth disease in the United States was announced by the Department of Agriculture. It was said that except for a herd of animals near Syracuse, N. Y., telegraphic reports from throughout the country showed the disease wiped out.

Figures compiled by the Department show that 124,141 diseased animals have been slaughtered from the time of the outbreak in October to March 25, last. It was pointed out, however, that the total loss could not be estimated alone by the number of animals killed. Interference with the operations of stock yards, the quarantining of infested regions and other precautionary measures, it was said, had caused indeterminable losses.

Ambassador Asked for Report.

Washington.—Ambassador Sharp at Paris was called on by the state department for a report as to circumstances surrounding the arrest of Raymond Swoboda, an American, charged with having set fire to the La Touraine, a French liner, on her recent trip from New York to Havre. New York friends of Swoboda had brought press reports of his arrest to the department's attention and vouched for his American citizenship.

Barge Tampico Still Afloat.

Washington.—The barge Tampico, with 13 men aboard which broke loose from the tug Pan American on Friday Pan Shoals in a gale recently has not yet been located according to reports received from the owners here. The coast guard cutter Seminole and the tug Pan-American is still searching for the missing craft.

Ask Full Value of Cargo.

Washington.—Indemnity for the full value of the American ship William P. Frye, destroyed at sea by the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich, has been formally requested from Germany by the United States government.

Divers on Way to Honolulu.

Washington.—Rear Admiral Moore, in charge of operations to raise the long submerged submarine F-4 at Honolulu cabled to the navy department that he was proceeding with the work pending the arrival of divers apparatus. The apparatus was forwarded to San Francisco to be shipped to Honolulu on the cruiser Maryland. Rear Admiral Moore's dispatch said he would not be able to report anything for several days but that he was "making preparations to lift."

Turks Massacre Christians.

Tahris, Persia.—Proceeding the re-occupation by the Russians of Salmas Plains in Azerbaijan Province, northwest of Urumiah, hundreds of native Christians were rounded up by the Turks in the village of Hafidevan and massacred. Many of these were searched out from the homes of friendly Mohammedans who tried to hide them. The Russians on entering the village found 729 bodies, mostly naked and mutilated. Recovery of bodies and their burial kept 300 men busy for three days.

TWO MORE BRITISH STEAMERS SUNK

GERMAN SUBMARINES CONTINUE RAIDS ON WEST COAST OF ENGLAND.

TOTALS FIVE IN FIVE DAYS

Merchants Ask Permission to Arm Trading Vessels.—British Public Greatly Stirred.

London.—Two German submarines, the U-28 and another whose number has not been ascertained, which have been operating off the west coast of England during the past few days, have added two more British steamers, the Flaminian and Crown of Castile, to their list of victims, totalling five in five days.

There was no loss of life on the two vessels, although the submarine fired before the crew of the Crown of Castile left the steamer.

The Crown of Castile was sunk by shell fire but the Flaminian was torpedoed.

As an offset to this, a French destroyer ramméd, and it is believed, sank a German submarine off Dieppe.

As the destroyers have been unable to round up the submarines ship owners have petitioned the Government to be allowed to arm their ships. This has not been permitted heretofore, as steamers then could be considered ships of war and be sunk without notice.

The heavy loss of life in the sinking of the Falaba and Agulla has aroused a storm of indignation and the demand is made that the captured crews of submarines be treated as pirates.

This question and that relating to drink, which is said to be causing delay in the delivery of munitions of war, absorb public interest. The King, through his secretary, has sent a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer emphasizing the necessity of stopping excessive drinking, and has offered, if it is considered advisable, personally to give up the use of alcoholic liquor and to prohibit the use of it in the royal household.

The Government has reached no decision in the matter.

It has been decided to incorporate the Liverpool dockers in the army voluntarily because the workers refuse to work week ends. They thus will receive both army and their regular pay.

WASHINGTON VIEWS SITUATION.

Death of Thresher on British Liner is Grave Matter.

Washington.—While no official notification of the death of an American, Leon C. Thresher, on the British liner Falaba, sunk by a German submarine had reached the American government, officials viewed the situation as fraught with grave possibilities.

Secretary Bryan said he expected Ambassador Page in London to submit a full report on the case if advice there confirmed reports of Thresher's death but added that no inquiries had been received by the department nor had any been made of Mr. Page.

In view of the language of the American note of inquiry in reply to the German notification of a submarine blockade of England, it is known the facts in this case will be awaited with the greatest interest.

That note contained a plain warning that the loss of American lives through the German program of sinking merchant vessels would be viewed as an unfriendly act.

Zapata Powers Pay Mrs. McManus.

Washington.—The payment by the Villa-Zapata Government of 160,000 pesos, or \$20,000 in gold at the prevailing rate of exchange in Mexico City to Mrs. Ruth McManus, widow of John B. McManus, the American killed by Zapata troops on their re-occupation of the city, was reported officially to the State Department by the Brazilian Minister in the Mexican Capital.

Washington Unconcerned.

Washington.—While the German commerce raider Prinz Eitel Friedrich loaded at Newport News and reports persisted that she was preparing for a dash to sea where British and French warships are waiting, officials of the Washington Government awaited the expiration of the time given the cruiser to stay in port without comment or apparent anxiety. Naval officers freely predict that the ship will intern for the war, but department officials are silent.

Will Use Diving Bell.

Honolulu.—Tests with the specially built diving bell designed for use in locating and raising the submarine F-4 lost at the harbor entrance with 21 men aboard, have resulted satisfactorily. The bell is said to have remained water-tight after being submerged for 24 hours. It is planned to submerge the bell with a man inside for further tests before lowering it at the point where the submarine is said to be located. The bell is a 54-inch iron pipe seven feet high and has telephone, glass ports, air, etc.

APRIL SHOWERS



TWO STEAMERS ARE SUNK VILLA FORCES ARE ROUTED

ENGLISH PASSENGER SHIPS SENT TO BOTTOM BY SHELL AND TORPEDO.

Both Boats Tried to Outrun Pursuers Which Caused Them to Get Less Consideration.

London.—Upward of 150 persons lost their lives in the sinking by German submarines of the Dempster liner Falaba and the British steamer Agulla. The Falaba, bound from Liverpool for the coast of Africa, with about 160 passengers, was torpedoed in St. George's Channel.

The Agulla, sent down by shell fire of the submarine U-23 off Pembroke-shire had three passengers and a crew of 42 and of these 23 of the crew and all of the passengers were lost. The Agulla also was outward bound from Liverpool and was en route for Lisbon.

An official list supplied at the office of the Elder Dempster Steamship Company, owners of the Falaba shows that so far as is known at present 62 first-class passengers, 34 second-class passengers and 49 of the crew of the Falaba were saved. Four of the passengers and four of the crew are reported killed and 61 passengers and 43 of the crew are missing.

When the submarines appeared, both steamers tried to escape by crowding on full steam, but the underwater boats overhauled them after short chases and in each case the Germans then allowed but a few minutes to get the passengers and crew into the small boats.

The captain of the Falaba, who was lost, was given five minutes to get his passengers and crew off but, according to the survivors, before this was possible a torpedo hit the engine room, causing a terrible explosion. Many were killed and the steamer sank in 10 minutes.

Trawlers rescued most of those who were saved; others got away in the boats. Those still on the steamer when the explosion occurred were thrown into the sea and it took the fishermen an hour or more to pick up those in the water who managed to keep afloat.

SEND TROOPS TO BROWNSVILLE.

Three Batteries Are Ordered to Texas Border to Protect.

Washington.—Acting Secretary of the War Department Breckinridge ordered three batteries of the Third Field Artillery to Brownsville, Texas, as a demonstration to the Mexican forces fighting for possession of Matamoros that American lives must not be endangered by firing across the line. A regiment of infantry also was ordered held in readiness at Texas City to be moved to Brownsville if needed.

These precautions were deemed necessary, although assurances had been given by both Carranza and Villa agencies here that no shooting across the line would be permitted. Secretary Bryan said that orders had been sent by commanders of each faction to their troops in and about Matamoros to see that no shots entered American territory.

Von Kluck Wounded.

Berlin, via wireless.—The official communication relates among other things that General von Kluck, the German commander who led the famous German rush into France, in the early days of the war, has been slightly wounded by shrapnel fire while inspecting advance positions of his army. The condition of the general is described as satisfactory.

The Hemisphere Growing Unified.

Annapolis, Md.—Speaking at a luncheon given in his honor on board the new Argentine battleship Moreno by Dr. Romulo S. Naon, the Argentine ambassador. President Wilson emphasized the "growing warmth of affection, as well as understanding" between the United States and other nations of the Western Hemisphere. The president spoke in reply to an address in a similar vein delivered by Ambassador Naon. Technically the president was on foreign soil during his visit to the Moreno.

ENCOUNTER AT MATAMOROS HAS CEASED TO AWAIT ARTILLERY.

Carranza Troops Are Strongly Entrenched and Only Artillery Will Move Them From Garrison.

Brownsville, Texas.—Failing in their attempt to dislodge the Carranza garrison by rifle and machine gun fire, Villa forces besieging Matamoros virtually ceased their attacks awaiting. In the event of an artillery duel, Brownsville, directly across the Rio Grande from Matamoros, would be endangered one of the gravest of border crises was feared. The likelihood of shells falling in Brownsville was demonstrated by the rifle bullets which dropped here during the first Villa assault on Matamoros trenches, a costly failure of Villa forces in which their losses were officially given as 100 killed and 40 wounded. This attack was a headstrong dash of 2,000 mounted riflemen. The Carranza losses were 10 killed and 45 injured. Two persons were struck by bullets in Brownsville. Neither was seriously injured.

The coming Villa artillery must be powerful enough to cope with nine-three-inch field pieces of the defenders, none of which has yet been fired. In addition the Carranza troops are said to have four three and one-half inch guns.

A troop of 250 Villa cavalry, circling five miles south of Brownsville, approached unwittingly at a town named Rositas, a machine gun trench hidden by brush. They were trotting past this trench when the machine guns were fired. Nearly the entire Villa dead were said to have fallen at this point, while almost to a man, the others were wounded.

Nafarrate said he would defend the city to the limit. Four flags, captured, floated in front of his headquarters, the band played in the plaza and men and women of Matamoros celebrated, filling the streets with color.

One flag is inscribed "Second Brigade, M. Chao." This battalion, the Constitutionals claimed, was almost wiped out by its dashing assaults in the breastworks. Both Villa and Constitutionalist soldiers say three Villa troopers were killed carrying this flag. Another flag is inscribed "Villa Brigade." These and the other two captured banners were bloodstained.

FRUITLESS WORK FOR F-4.

Discovered Object Was Only Big Anchor.—Submarine Located.

Honolulu, T. H.—Three days search for the lost United States submarine F-4 has resulted only in unfulfilled hopes. Divers who went down the two cables thought to have been attached to the submarine found the heavy body was an old anchor, probably lost by the battleship Oregon.

Diver Agras, who went down the cable attached to the anchor, wore only a helmet.

Diver Evans, who descended along the second cable, reported that he found nothing. Agras, whose descent to a depth of 215 feet is said to be a world's record, spent 22 minutes on the downward journey and nine and half minutes in the ascent. The experience apparently caused him no distress.

The submarine F-4 has been located outside the harbor it was announced. Portions of the superstructure have been brought to the surface. The dredge California will shift moorings, tugs will criss-cross in all directions and an attempt will be made to lift the submarine.

Russians Pushing Through.

Petrograd, via London.—The Russians have pushed their front well through the Carpathians toward the plains of Northern Hungary in the vicinity of Bartfeld, capturing an Austrian position five miles south of Tarof.

By taking the Austrian positions at the source of the Ondava River at Nijal Polianska, 12 miles northeast of Bartfeld, the Russians gain control of roads leading direct to Bartfeld and southward to Svidnik and to valley of the Ondava.

ALABAMA ANCHORS IN HAMPTON ROADS

LONG NEUTRALITY CONFERENCE IS HELD AT NORFOLK NAVY YARD.

WILL ENFORCE NEUTRALITY

British Warships Guard the Eitel Off Coast.—Getting No Supplies From Norfolk Is Declared.

Newport News, Va.—Enforcement of neutrality of the United States in the port of Norfolk and Newport News was the subject of a protracted conference at the Norfolk Navy Yard following the arrival in Hampton Roads of the battleship Alabama, which took a commanding position in the channel to the sea and remained there taking on ammunition and supplies.

Participating in the conference were Rear Admiral Beatty, commander of the Norfolk Navy Yard; Rear Admiral Helm, commander of the reserve Atlantic fleet, who arrived on the Alabama, and Norman F. Hamilton, collector of customs for the port of Norfolk and Newport News. While the conference at the Navy Yard was in progress Captain Max Thierichens, commander of the German converted cruiser Prinz Eitel Friedrich, still in dock here, was closeted with deputy customs officials in the Newport News office. At the conclusion of the conference at the Norfolk Navy Yard, Government officials refused to discuss it. Primarily, it was learned, the Alabama came to Hampton Roads to guard the neutrality interests of the United States between a German man-of-war within an American port and a fleet of warships of the European Allies which is hovering off the Virginia Capes. That the situation thus presented demanded the presence of a warship of the United States was generally admitted. That the Allied warships which have been off the capes since the German commerce raider arrived here had ventured within the three-mile limit and that merchant ships had been furnished them with supplies had been circulated here for several days before the sending of the Alabama. As to merchant ships it was said that they had taken deck loads of coal after filling their bunkers and taking on other cargo.

"I have investigated thoroughly one case in which a merchant ship was reported to have taken coal to a foreign warship off the capes and found it not true," said Collector Hamilton.

ENLISTED MEN OF NAVY.

Secretary Daniels Tells Where Navy Men Come From.

Washington.—Secretary Daniels issued a statement showing where the enlisted men of the navy come from. The figures were compiled as a result of a recent question by President Wilson as to whether most of the sailors were not from coastwise states.

There were 52,667 enlisted men on June 30, last, and of these five came from Alaska and 2,102 from the insular possessions. New York, with 7,922 led all the states in the number furnished. Pennsylvania was second with 5,013 and Massachusetts third with 3,420. The list by states follows: Alabama 428, Arizona 39, Arkansas 304, California 2,112, Colorado 520, Connecticut 924, Delaware 212, District of Columbia 679, Florida 251, Georgia 1,771, Idaho 98, Illinois 2,480, Indiana 1,500, Iowa 1,016, Kansas 651, Kentucky 738, Louisiana 655, Maine 303, Maryland 1,588, Massachusetts 3,420, Michigan 1,118, Minnesota 594, Mississippi 327, Missouri 1,408, Montana 114, Nebraska 540, Nevada 19, New Hampshire 280, New Jersey 2,658, New Mexico 95, New York 7,922, North Carolina 660, North Dakota 126, Ohio 2,328, Oklahoma 609, Oregon, Pennsylvania 5,013, Rhode Island 1,063, South Carolina 397, South Dakota 134, Tennessee 792, Texas 1,609, Utah 100, Vermont 124, Virginia 1,497, Washington 648, West Virginia 241, Wisconsin 960, Wyoming 43. No residence 106.

Trouble Lifting F-4.

Washington.—Efforts to raise the sunken submarine F-4 off Honolulu harbor were temporarily suspended after a hawser with which the boat was being dragged toward shore snapped. Rear Admiral Moore reported from Honolulu that the submarine evidently was waterlogged and too heavy to be raised by the equipment employed by the searching fleet. That destroyed any faint hope that might have been left of finding any of the crew of twenty-one alive. The vessel lies in 45 fathoms, 270 feet of water.

Mexican Forces Gather at Lampazos.

Washington.—While Villa forces are delaying their attack on Matamoros pending the arrival of artillery, the stage is being set for another battle at Lampazos about 70 miles southwest of Nuevo Laredo. Border advances to the State and War Department said Villa forces bound to attack the Carranza garrison at Nuevo Laredo were expected to reach Lampazos at once, "where a battle probably will be fought." Earlier messages said Carranza troops were being assembled at Nuevo Laredo.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Weather Movements Due and Their Local Effects For the Cotton States April 4-11. National Weather Journal. Sunday, April 4; Monday, April 5—The week will open with rain and rising temperatures in Western Cotton Belt and clear and cool in Eastern Belt. Tuesday, April 6; Wednesday, April 7—The unsettled weather and rains in the West will gradually extend eastward and cover the South about the middle of the week. Thursday, April 8; Friday, April 9; Saturday, April 10—A cool wave should overspread Western and Middle Belt by Thursday and Eastern Belt Friday and Saturday. This will clear the weather and bring unseasonably cold temperatures, minima ranging down in the lower 40s all along the Gulf Coast, with frost in the Northern halves of all of the Gulf States. Sunday, April 11—The next week will open with rising temperatures. Special Easter Sunday Forecast: The Gulf and South Atlantic States and possibly Middle Atlantic States promise to have fair and moderately cold weather for Eastern Sunday. Elsewhere the weather will be cloudy and unsettled, with seasonable temperatures.

PITT ELECTS HEALTH OFFICER

Dr. M. T. Edgerton Becomes Whole-Time County Health Officer. Begins Now.

Greenville.—The county board of health of Pitt county has just elected Dr. M. T. Edgerton whole-time county health officer. He is expected to begin work immediately. This makes ten counties in the state with men giving their entire time to health work.

Dr. Edgerton hails from Fremont, N. C., and is a graduate of the University of Georgia, and of Johns Hopkins. He was elected from quite a number of strong applicants for the position. For several months the county board of health had deliberated over the matter of securing the right man for the place. In making their choice in this matter, the local board asked for recommendations and advice from the State Board of Health. The State Board unhesitatingly recommended Doctor Edgerton because of his superior training, experience and personality, which should pre-eminently fit him as a health officer.

MARKET REPORTS.

Cotton, Cotton Seed and Meal Prices in the Markets of North Carolina For the Past Week.

As reported to the Division of Markets, North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and Department of Agriculture, Raleigh.

Table with columns: Town, Price of mid-ling cotton, Price of cotton seed per bushel, Cash price of meal, Pounds of meal per ton, and Price of feed per ton. Rows include Farmville, Kelford, Murfreesboro, New Bern, Washington, Windsor, etc.

PRICES PAID FOR GRAIN, BUTTER AND EGGS DURING PAST WEEK.

Table with columns: Location, Commodity, and Price. Rows include Charlotte, Durham, Greensboro, Raleigh, etc., for items like corn, oats, beans, butter, and eggs.