

THE COMMONWEALTH

A Family Newspaper: For the Promotion of the Political, Social, Agricultural and Commercial Interests of the People.

VOL. XXXII.

SCOTLAND, NECK, N. C., THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1916.

NO. 11.

ADDS 20,000 MEN TO REGULAR ARMY

CONGRESS AUTHORIZES RECRUITING MOBILE ARMY TO ITS FULL STRENGTH.

MAKING SUPREME EFFORT

Official Dispatches Indicate That Carranza is Determined to Capture Villa and Bandits.

Washington.—While there were indications in official dispatches from Mexico that the de facto government was making a supreme effort to capture Villa and his bandits with its own forces, there was no sign that General Funston's orders to proceed on the same errand had been modified in any way.

Word that American troops had crossed the border was still lacking the war department itself not having been advised as to when the movement would begin.

Congress took active notice of the border situation for the first time. The house passed a joint resolution authorizing the recruiting of the mobile regular army to full strength. This means the addition of approximately 20,000 fighting men to the infantry, cavalry and field artillery.

The step was suggested by the army general staff. Ever since the patrol of the border began the army has been handicapped by the skeleton organization of regiments, companies, troops and batteries. The force that occupied Vera Cruz had similar difficulties, some of the companies there being less than 40 men strong.

Secretary Baker conferred with Senator Chamberlain and Representative Hay, chairman of the congressional military committee. The resolutions were introduced by Representative Hay immediately upon his return to the capitol. Its consideration was expedited by unanimous consent and its passage followed with only Representative London, Socialist, voting against it.

The state department has forwarded by cable, telegraph, radio and mail full statements of all that has transpired since the raid upon Columbus and of the attitude of the United States government and its reciprocal agreement with the Carranza government to consult and state department agents throughout the Southern Republic. It is expected these officials will correct immediately and authoritatively any misstatements or misapprehensions in their districts.

SENATOR SHIVELY DEAD.

Hoosier Senator Was For Many Years Prominent Figure in Congress.

Washington.—Benjamin F. Shively, senior senator from Indiana and for years a prominent figure in congress, died at a hospital here. He had been ill many months from a complication of diseases and for more than a year had been unable to perform actively his official duties. He was 54 years old.

During three terms in the house and the seven years he had been in the senate, Senator Shively had devoted his activities particularly to foreign affairs and tariff legislation. At the time of his death he was ranking Democratic member of the foreign relations committee, of which he had been acting chairman during the critical period preceding and following the American occupation of Vera Cruz.

In the house he had been regarded as a tariff expert, serving conspicuously on the ways and means committee and later as a member of an important sub-committee of the senate finance committee, exerted a powerful influence in the framing of the Underwood-Simmons tariff law.

Ready to Cross Border.

El Paso, Texas.—Points near Columbus, N. M., where the American expeditionary force is gathering reported that preparations were under way indicating that part of the American troops were in readiness to cross the border.

Lansing Taking a Rest.

Washington.—Secretary Lansing left for Pinehurst, N. C., for a week's vacation. For many weeks he has been working under a heavy pressure of diplomatic affairs and feels the need of a rest.

Taking a vacation at this time was regarded here as indicative of how completely the State Department regards the Mexican situation in the hands of the army and that the understanding with General Carranza is complete.

Strict Embargo on News.

San Antonio, Texas.—Placing of a strict embargo on news out of Columbus, N. M., where the main body of the United States expeditionary force awaits word to cross into Mexico in search of Francisco Villa, was the important development at Fort Sam Houston, where Major General Frederick Funston was arranging the final details of the expedition. In military circles an attitude of expectancy succeeded the tightening of the censorship. News will also be watched at El Paso.

AGREEMENT WITH CARRANZA FORCES

MEXICAN TROOPS WILL BE ALLOWED TO CROSS BORDER LINE.

PLAN TO CATCH BANDITS

American Government Expects Hearty Co-operation of Carranza Forces in Hunt For Villa.

Washington.—The United States Government entered into a formal agreement with the de facto government of Mexico under which the American troops will cross the border to hunt down Villa and his bandits with the expectation of hearty co-operation from the Carranza forces.

Secretary Lansing made public the text of a note, accepting General Carranza's proposal for a reciprocal arrangement between the two governments and announcing that the United States held this arrangement to be now in force and binding upon both parties. General Funston will carry out his task under agreement.

Official announcement was awaited that the American forces had crossed the border. Plans for the troop movements have gone ahead without regard to the diplomatic exchanges. Mr. Lansing also made public a statement issued in the name of President Wilson, reiterating that every step being taken by the administration was based on the deliberate intention to preclude the possibility of armed intervention in Mexico. It follows:

"In order to remove any apprehension that may exist either in the United States or in Mexico, the President has authorized me to give in his name the public assurance that the military operations now in contemplation by this government will be scrupulously confined to the object already announced and that in no circumstances will they be suffered to infringe in any degree upon the sovereignty of Mexico or develop into intervention of any kind in the internal affairs of our sister republic.

"On the contrary, what is now being done, is deliberately intended to preclude the possibility of intervention."

The note to Carranza defines the terms of the agreement beyond the possibility of misconception. In brief it provides that where conditions arise on the Mexican side of the border similar to those at Columbus which led to the orders to General Funston, to enter Mexico, the same privilege will be accorded to the Mexican de facto Government without the necessity of a further exchange of views. It is clearly stated, however, that the bandits to be pursued on American soil by Mexican troops must have come from the American side, committed depredations on the Mexican side and fled back again to United States territory. There is no such instance on record in recent years.

Officials of the Mexican Embassy here were jubilant over the acceptance of General Carranza's proposal by the United States. The Ambassador designate Eliseo Arredondo, withheld comment pending advices from his chief, but other officials made no secret of their entire satisfaction with the American note. It was transmitted promptly to General Carranza. Some officials said that while a few extreme radicals among Carranza adherents might show opposition to the agreement, this element would not be important, nor would it influence the relations between the two governments.

To prevent any war munitions from reaching Villa from the United States the Treasury Department instructed its collectors at San Francisco, Nogales and Los Angeles to place an embargo on shipments of arms and ammunition through those points into Mexico. The embargo effects the principal commercial gateways into Chihuahua, Sonora and Lower California and is regarded as sufficient in extent to make certain that Villa will not be supplied from this country.

The whole matter is in General Funston's hands. He is planning carefully his moves on the huge chess board of northern Mexico, where he is to match his wits with Villa. His deliberation, officers here say, is calculated to make certain the result before the first shot is fired.

12,000 Troops on Border.

Columbus, N. M.—Approximately 12,000 troops with 40 mountain and field gun batteries were on the border between Douglas, Ariz., and El Paso, a line about 200 miles long. A little more than one-third was cavalry.

Plenty of Troops on Border.

San Antonio, Texas.—A sufficient force is now gathered at the Mexican border under the command of Brig. Gen. John J. Pershing, to begin pursuit of Francisco Villa, it was announced by Major General Frederick Funston.

The general said that only the completion of plans for backing up the expeditionary forces now was needed. He was non-committal, however, as to the time needed to accomplish this.



1—Where Villa and his band crossed boundary and attacked town of Columbus, N. M.
2—Villa raiders reported to have again crossed boundary west of Columbus.
3—Thirteenth United States cavalry pursues Villa raiders 15 miles south of boundary.

U. S. TROOPS GET ORDERS VILLA RAIDS COLUMBUS

PRESIDENT ORDERS UNITED STATES TROOPS TO CAPTURE OR KILL VILLA.

General Funston Will Lead 5,000 Men on Expedition Into Mexican Territory.

Washington.—American troops were ordered across the Mexican border by President Wilson to take Francisco Villa and his bandits dead or alive. Under the direction of not actually the leadership of General Funston, who ended the Philippine insurrection by taking Aguinaldo single-handed, American columns are moving into Mexico. They go to meet about 3,000 guerrilla troops in a mountainous region from which Carranza troops have fled.

Whether this long-deferred armed action which begins purely as a punitive measure to clear northern Mexico of menacing bandit bands over which General Carranza has no control shall grow into a general armed intervention or occupation in Mexico, depends in a large measure upon General Carranza and the Mexican people.

It begins with President Wilson's declaration that it is entirely in aid of the Carranza Government and without thought of aggression. This statement prepared by the President himself was given out at the White House:

"An adequate force will be sent at once in pursuit of Villa with the single object of capturing him and putting a stop to his forays.

"This can be done and will be done in entirely friendly aid of the constituted authorities in Mexico and with scrupulous respect for the sovereignty of that Republic."

President Wilson's decision to depart from the policy of watchful waiting, hastened by the Columbus massacre, was announced after it had been unanimously approved by the Cabinet and Administration leaders in Congress. The President's position was explained fully to the latter, who agreed that he would not be embarrassed at this time by discussions of a minority which might arouse trouble in Mexico.

After a brief Cabinet meeting at which the President was described as being as determined to eliminate Villa as he was to eliminate Huerta, Secretary Baker hurried to the War Department and his first act in office sent orders to the border troops.

Soon after the Army general staff assembled and conferred over the plans, long drawn and perfected since the Mexican situation loomed up as a disturbed to the peace of the United States.

General Funston telegraphed, urging utmost secrecy of the Army's plans. The border is honeycombed with Mexican spies, and it was agreed that the expedition would be pushed to success by keeping Villa and his men ignorant of its movements.

800 Roughriders Ready.

Dallas, Texas.—A regiment of rough riders, organized in advance of the Mexican crisis, is awaiting acceptance by the Government, according to E. W. Edwards, a Dallas business man and veteran of the Spanish-American war. The regiment which Mr. Edwards organized is called the "Texas Mavericks," and is composed of 800 men.

American Rancher Killed.

Bisbee, Ariz.—An American rancher was killed when a band of approximately 200 Mexican bandits crossed the border southeast of Osborne Junction, Ariz., according to reports reaching here.

Headed for Mormon Colony.

El Paso, Texas.—Villa is headed directly for Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, in order to attack the 500 Mormons settled in that section, according to a report received at Juarez by General Gavira, from General Bertaini.

Carranza Troops Near Border.

Columbus, N. M.—Twelve hundred Carranza troops, flying a black and white flag to distinguish them so that American soldiers would not mistake them for bandits, reached Palomas, six miles south of Columbus.

FUNSTON'S PLANS ARE KEPT SECRET

RIGID CENSORSHIP REGARDING MOVEMENT AGAINST VILLA AND BANDITS.

THREE REGIMENTS ARE SENT

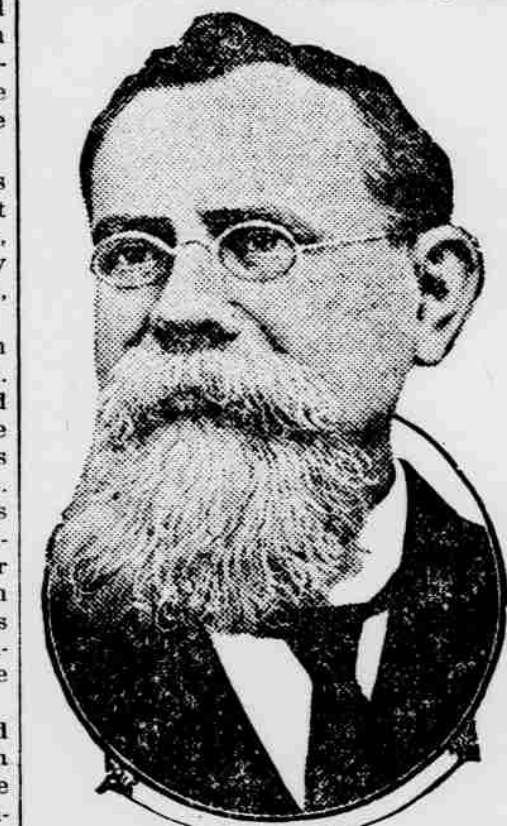
No Call For National Guard is Contemplated.—Troops May Have Crossed Border.

Washington.—Secrecy regarding General Funston's plans for moving against Villa and his bandits has been so rigidly enforced at the war department that even high officials of the government are in doubt as to whether American troops actually had crossed the Mexican border.

Secretary Baker announced that the Twenty-third Infantry, now at Galveston, Tex., had been ordered to El Paso because of fear of Mexican attacks felt in many towns along the border. The regiment, about 1,000 strong, will be stationed at points designated by General Funston.

The order to the Twenty-third, the Secretary said, was the only important development of the day of which the department had any knowledge, and that nothing had come from any other source indicating that the advance guard of the expeditionary force was already on Mexican soil. He said he would make known the fact that the expedition was on its way just as soon as the news reached him.

Questioned as to the messages that had come, the Secretary admitted that there was nothing directly denying reports that the border had been crossed. He said he had nothing to add to or detract from his previous statement that General Funston had full authority to proceed whenever he was ready. The secretary emphasized the fact that any steps taken by the army would be in full recognition of Mexican sovereignty. He declined to discuss further the question of what action the de facto government might take as a result of the sending of American troops in pursuit of the bandits.



GENERAL CARRANZA Head of the De Facto Government

Norwegian Silius Torpedoed.

Paris.—Seven of the crew of the Norwegian bark Silius, which was torpedoed and sunk near Havre, the Silius left New York on Feb. 4 for Havre. The Petit Parisien says that one of the Americans on the Silius suffered serious injuries of the legs and was taken to the Pasteur Hospital. He is John Hartmann, 18 years old. It is reported that Captain Sviyertsen of the Silius was drowned, and that two sailors are missing. The remaining members of the crew were saved.

Army Auto Trucks in Use.

Washington.—The campaign in northern Mexico to capture Francisco Villa will see the formation of the first auto-truck companies to be organized for the United States Army, according to a statement made by Colonel A. L. Smith, the depot quartermaster stationed in this city.

Governor Regrets Move.

Vera Cruz.—General Heriberto Jara, Governor of the State of Vera Cruz, when informed of the intention of the United States Government to send troops into Mexico in pursuit of Villa, took a grave and regretful view of the situation.

FLASHES FROM THE WIRES.

The first aero squadron, stationed at Fort Sam Houston, will be a part of the expeditionary force against Villa.

The British fleet auxiliary Fauvette.

A vessel of 2,644 tons, has been lost together with 14 members of her crew by striking a mine off the east coast of England.

The total losses of the French, according to General Gallien's statement, has reached 2,500,000, while the British up to the present have lost 800,000.

METHODISTS LEAD AT A. & M.

Baptist Second in Enrollment.—Wake County Leads With 43 Students.—Summer Schools Announced.

West Raleigh.—The Methodist element in the A. & M. College leads all others in point of numbers, numbering 217 of the 631 students attending college this year. Following the Methodists are Baptists with 156, Presbyterian 148, Episcopalians 49, Christian 14, Lutheran 12, Friends 10, Catholic 7, Reformed 7, Universalist 3, Moravians 3, Congregational 2, No preference 3.

Wake, Mecklenburg, Guilford and Buncombe lead the number of students by counties. Mecklenburg being best represented except Wake. Wake has 43, Mecklenburg 39, Guilford 29 and Buncombe 26. Other counties which are well represented are Alamance, Gaston, Robeson and Iredell.

The announcement of the summer term in agriculture for high school superintendents, principals and teachers is just out. The term will extend from June 1 to June 28. The fact that 19 farm life schools have been established all but three within the past two and one-half years, shows the interest that the state is taking in vocational training. 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.

Mr. D. S. Coltrane of Jamestown was the winner of the medal which has been offered yearly by President D. H. Hill to the best declaimer in the two literary societies. Interest in debating and oratory at the A. & M. College has steadily grown during the past few years, principally through the efforts of Dr. George Summey, Jr., of the English department. The contest Saturday night was the third inter-society contest held this year.

Build Road to Ridgecrest.

Asheville.—Commissioners of Buncombe county took two important steps for the betterment of roads in this county when they decided to start work at once on the road to Ridgecrest and appropriated \$30,000 for the improvements of roads in West Asheville.

The commissioners had promised to give the Black Mountain district a definite statement in regard to the kind of road to be built to Ridgecrest, and a committee from that district appeared before the commission. The commission was informed that work would be started practically at once, that the road would be constructed of an eight-inch macadam base, surfaced with asphalt, and that a carload of machinery for work on the road is now at Asheville. The stretch of road to be built is 16 miles in length and the road is to be 18 feet wide. It will cost between \$75,000 and \$100,000 according to estimates.

The Strawberry Situation.

Chadbourne.—Some weeks ago when so many blooms appeared on the strawberry plants the growers were uneasy for the crop, fearing berries might appear too early and be overtaken by a freeze. Now, since the weather has changed and continued cold for quite a while, there is beginning to be some uneasiness lest the crop be too late to demand good prices. However, the fact that continued cold weather seems to have gripped nearly all of the berry-growing territory, lends a hopeful color to the local situation.

Roads Stand Winter Well.

Kinston.—The Greene county officials have made some interesting discoveries regarding the county's new roads system. The highways have just passed through their first winter. The rains of the cold months had no material effect upon the sand-clay roads, and very little overhauling will have to be done in the spring.

Meet at Wrightsville.

Newbern.—Since making announcement of the next annual meeting at Old Point, Va., the executive committee of the North Carolina Bar Association has reconsidered this matter and ex-Judge D. L. Ward, chairman of the committee, gave out the information that the meeting would be held at Wrightsville Beach, June 27-29.

NORTH CAROLINA BRIEFS.

The Ella mill at Shelby has purchased 300 more shade trees to be planted on their premises.

Eleven men from North Carolina have enrolled in the Southern Military Training Camp at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga., next month.

Stanford Daniels, 10 years of age and only son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Daniels of Asheville, was struck by an automobile and died a few minutes later at an Asheville hospital, death being due to a fractured skull.

Governor Craig has endorsed the movement to capture Villa.

The contract has been let for Gastonia's new \$170,000, seven-story bank and office building.

Miss Allie Rymer now has charge of the canning club work in Buncombe county.

Fifty iron lamp posts for Shelby's great white way have arrived and will be installed as soon as the wire and other equipment arrives.

Dr. J. A. Roach, a dentist at Madison has a tomato plant in his office which has grown fruit every month for two years.

DEMOCRATS MEET THURSDAY, APRIL 27

STATE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION WILL BE HELD IN RALEIGH THIS YEAR.

HEARTILY ENDORSE WILSON

Executive Committee Holds Meeting and Urge Re-election of President Woodrow Wilson.

Raleigh.—The Democratic Executive Committee, in session in the hall of the House of Representatives, selected Raleigh as the meeting place of the next state convention and set Thursday, April 27, as the date for the convention. Precinct meetings will be held on Saturday, April 15, and county conventions on the Saturday following, April 22.

Forty-seven members of the committee were present in person or represented by proxy when Secretary J. R. Collier called the roll. The meeting was to have been held in the Senate chamber, but there was not room there for the members of the committee and the Democrats that had come to look on and take part in the deliberations of the body and they moved over to the large chamber.

Chairman T. D. Warren presided. After the reading of the formal call he made a short speech, in which he explained briefly and succinctly the workings of the new primary law, advised the members of the committee to familiarize themselves with every detail of the law and aid the county and precinct chairmen to master its every provision. He praised the members of the committee and loyal Democrats all over the state for the good work done in the last election, when in the face of the very worst of conditions they elected 100 out of 120 members of the House of Representatives and 43 out of 50 members of the Senate. He praised the record of the Democratic Administration, saying that every state office has been efficiently administered, that there has not been the slightest intimation of graft or corruption anywhere, nor anything that looked like extravagance. He contrasted this with the record of the Democratic officials with that of former Republican administrations, which, he said, were marked by incompetence, extravagance and corruption.

North Carolinians on the Border.

Washington.—Among the sons of North Carolina who are officers in the American Army on the Mexican border are the following:

Captain John F. Wagener, Eighth Cavalry, Fort Bliss, Texas.
First Lieut. Hugh H. Broadhurst, Company B, Eighth Cavalry, Fort Bliss, Texas.
Captain John E. S. Young, Eighth Cavalry, Fort Bliss, Texas.
Captain George C. Barnhardt, quartermaster Eighth Cavalry, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Second Lieut. Stuart W. Cramer, Eighth Cavalry, Fort Bliss, Texas.
First Lieut. Thomas D. Osborne, Fourth Field Artillery, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Carload of Bees.

New Bern.—A solid carload of honey bees passed through New Bern en route from Nelms, Pamlico county, to Sandy Cross, N. C.

Just how many millions bees there were in the car can only be guessed at and the guesses ranged all the way from five to a thousand. Whether any of these were correct is speculative but there is no doubt of the fact that there were "some" bees in the ship ment.

Must Complete in 15 Months.

Shelby.—Postmaster Will J. Roberts has received notice from the Treasury Department at Washington that the new Federal post office building must be finished within 15 months from January 24, 1916, when the contract was let. The building will be of sandstone, except where limestone is specified in the plans drawn by the government architect.

Getting Ready For May Pageant.

Greensboro.—The huge artistic celebration of a May Day in the State Normal College this year appears likely to draw heavily upon North Carolina as well as other parts of the country for patronage. From the various corners of the state are coming words which herald the intention of friends of the college to attend. The occasion is the dramatic celebration which is staged on May 29 every fourth year, or will be staged that often in the future. The celebration this year is to be the second.

Night School Closes.

Newbern.—The night school conducted in this city for the past 60 days under the auspices of the Woman's Club will be closed. About 75 pupils were enrolled and the majority of these have been in attendance at every session. The closing of the school is on account of the fact that the teachers, the majority of whom are teachers in the public schools and who have been doing this extra work without compensation are tired out and need a brief rest.