BURLESON AIMS AT EXPANSION OF THE PARCEL POST

Pick-up, C. O. D. Postage and Further Extension of Bulk Limit Will Come, He Says.

Believes Telegraph and Telephone Utilities Properly Belong to Postal Service, and Declares Time Is Not Far Away When They Will.

For the first time since he became a member of President Wilson's official family, Postmaster General Burleson, who is called the politician of the Cabinet, has consented to be interviewed at length by a member of the newspaper fraternity. Although regarded as an astute politician, there was one thing the Postmaster General would not discuss, and that was politics. In the appended article, which will be found of especial interest, he discusses rural free delivery, the parcel post and its effect upon the express companies, and reiterates his belief that all vehicles for the transmission of intelligence should be in the hands of the Government.

By LOWELL MELLETT
United Press Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—"What do you want to talk about?" asked the Postmaster General.

"Politics."

"Nothing doing," said the Postmaster General, cordially.

"Why not?"

"I absolutely can't and won't talk politics," said Mr. Burleson. "Try something else."

"All right; but why do they call you the politician of the Cabinet?"

"I suppose that is because you writing people have to coin catch phrases to describe, catalogue, classify and in some degree dramatize public men in the public eye. That's only my opinion. You folks did it and ought to know why."

"Speaking of politics—"

"We aren't speaking of politics," said the Postmaster General.

"—What means this holler in the rural districts about restrictions of the rural free delivery?"

The Postmaster General had been at least half interested in the papers on his desk, but now he swung sharply around in his chair. He removed his nose glasses—probably to save them from the heat of the sudden blaze in his eyes.

"There has been no restriction! Who says there has been? A revision is under way which gives service to many hundred thousands who are entitled to it, but heretofore have been denied it. This is being done without increasing the cost of the postal service and without taking away service from any one who now has it. It is accomplished with money saved by eliminating waste effort, extravagance, special favors and privileges.

"Just for example: Parts of hundreds of rural routes have been traveled daily by two or more rural carriers. There are cases in which as many as six or seven carriers, each getting from $1000 to $1200 a year, have been going over the same eight or ten miles of road. Politics! This vicious duplication of service was built up through a series of years by political influence. By cutting out these duplications we get a balance available for service in territory that has long deserved it.

ELIMINATING THE "RETRACES."

"Do you know what retraces are? No. Well, I'll tell you. John Smith is a wealthy and influential farmer, living a half-mile from a rural route. John uses his influence and gets an order requiring the rural carrier to go the half-mile to his gate, deposit and collect mail and return to the main road—a full mile of extra travel. Eliminating 26 such half-mile retraces is equivalent to eliminating an unnecessary rural route and special privilege amounting to $1200 a year.

"Betwen April 1 and July 10, the readjustment of the rural service and inauguration of motor vehicles service left $221,754 for establishing new routes. With part of this money 735 new routes have been put in operation, serving 85,743 additional families, or 428,740 additional persons."

"What of your fight with the railroads?"

"I wouldn't call it a fight."

"To an innocent newspaper reader it looks——"

"No, it isn't a fight. The question of railway mail pay is purely and solely a business question, to be decided on its merits after thorough sifting, deliberation and analysis of the facts. The department desires to pay a rate reasonably compensatory to the railroads, taking into consideration all of the conditions of the service. Mails are not a commodity of commerce, and hence the question of whether a different yardstick should be applied to them is a debatable one. I have always held that while the mails may not be a commodity of commerce, transportation undoubtedly is, and that when the postoffice needs transportation it should pay a fair price for it.

"The department is entitled, however, to the lowest rate consistent with the business equities of the case. High-cost articles of commerce, which move in small volume and in the exchange of which a large margin of profit is involved, bear high transportation charges. The mails move in large volume, are easily handled, impose little risk on the carrier and constitute a traffic into which the element of profit does not enter at all. To pay the roads more than a reasonable compensation on the basis I have indicated would amount to levying an indirect tax upon the general public for the benefit of private interest.

"A painstaking and thorough investigation has been made, running over a long period of time. The tests of reasonableness have been completed, both as to the rates and the methods of adjusting pay, and the results have fully justified the postal authorities in resisting the claims of the railroads.

EXPRESS COMPANIES FAVORED.

"The Government as a shipper of parcel post should not be required to pay more than is charged other shippers for substantially the same service. There have been many instances where the railroads have carried the same matter both as express and as mail, and have charged almost double for it as mail. Why should it cost the railroads any more to haul a given package because it carries the Government label? How does an express company's label reduce the expense to the railroad?"

There being no apparent answer to this, the Postmaster General was asked what the next step would be.

"Largely because of the opposition to the railway mail section, the entire postoffice appropriation bill was defeated in the Senate last winter and the whole question went over to the coming Congress," he said. "Needless to say, I shall renew my recommendation on the subject. If the railroads are successful in their campaign for more pay, it will seriously hamper the proper development of the parcel post."

This brought us right up to the Postmaster General's favorite topic. He admitted he had taken more pleasure from the opportunity to build up the parcel post system than from any other branch of his work. It is apparent, he said, that the public appreciates the new service and wants it developed to its maximum.

"Notwithstanding the business depression caused by the war," said Mr. Burleson, "the flow of parcel mail has steadily increased. An enormous traffic has come into being in little more than two years.

"The parcel post knits our country more closely together. It is the farmer's sole express facility; the farmer buys and to some extent now sells by mail. The farm-to-table adjunct of the parcel post offers the city householder the means of obtaining better farm produce at lower prices and provides many farmers with a new lucrative market.

"Here's something you may not have thought of: As a result of the parcel post competition all express traffic now moves much more rapidly.

ENLARGEMENT WILL COME.

"I realize that the commercial shipper has had grievances. Many boards of trade have passed resolutions declaring the present postal service lacks features of express service which for them are absolutely indispensable, such as receipts for parcels, indemnity to an unlimited amount for loss and damage, and so on.

"Recently orders were issued granting the mailer of a parcel the privilege of obtaining a receipt on payment of one cent and increasing the size limit from 72 inches to 84 inches, length and girth combined. This will include the standard commercial crate. The pick-up, C. O. D. postage and further extension of the size and weight limits will come in time."

"When do you expect to see the Government ownership and postalization of the telegraph and telephone that you and other Postmasters General have been recommending?" was a final question.

"That is hard to say. The control and operation of all vehicles for the transmission of intelligence should be in the hands of the Government. The function is specifically reserved to the Government by the Constitution. Telegraph and telephone utilities properly belong to the postal service.

"Whether this question appeals so forcibly to the public imagination that Congress will respond at once is another question. Personally, I believe the time is not far away."

TENNESSEE LOADING ARMS AND PROVISIONS FOR TRIP TO HAITI

Cruiser Being Put Into Readiness for Dash to Black Republic With Reinforcements for Rear Admrial Caperton.

The task of loading guns, ammunition, tents and naval stores on the cruiser Tennessee was begun today at League Island in preparation for the departure of the cruiser for Haiti with 850 United States marines. They are to aid in the policing of the black republic, where two marines have already been killed since the assassinations of President Guillaume and General Oscar.

The Tennessee cast anchor in the Delaware at 7:30 o'clock last night, long overdue from New York, where she had taken coal and provisions. Prior to the arrival of the cruiser, her wharf at League Island had been laden with the equipment which is being taken aboard today, while motortrucks continue to ply between the wharf and the Quartermaster's Department, at Broad street and Washington avenue.

Much interest is manifest at the navy yard over work which is being done on the Minnesota and Columbia, two old sea fighters which are being renovated with all possible speed. The first-named ship has been newly equipped with a four-bladed propeller, has taken its full quota of men and provisions and awaits orders to sail on what is said to be a trial run. The Columbia, which had once been relegated to the scrap heap, has been put in first-class condition, and rumor has it that these vessels are to participate in action, but not at Haiti. It is pointed out that the Alabama, another old warship, has also undergone numerous alterations or improvement and that Uncle Sam seems to be expending every effort to put every available fighting craft in condition for action.

Three months' food supply will be taken on board today. In addition she will carry 3 automobile trucks of a new type, with four-wheel drive and double steering gear; 4 motorcycles, 79 Benet-Mercier machine guns, a carload of medical supplies, 2000 telegraph poles, 7 wireless sets, 250 miles of telephone and telegraph wires, 84 field telephone sets, 30 field telegraph sets, 20 Colt acetylene lamps for night and foggy weather signaling, 30 heliograph sets, 2 30-inch 80-ampere searchlights, 1 generator, 2000 feet of cable and about 120 tons of other supplies.

The 1st Regiment will embark today under the command of Colonel L. W. T. Waller, who will assume command of both regiments on his arrival at Haiti. Other officers who will accompany the regiment are Lieutenant Colonel C. G. Long, second in command; Lieutenant Colonel W. B. Lemly, quartermaster; Major L. J. Magill, adjutant; Captain J. A. Russell, intelligence officer; Lieutenant E. A. Ostermann, aide to the commander; Major N. H. Hall, 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment, and Major Smedley D. Butler, 2d Battalion, 1st Regiment.

GERMAN ARTILLERY SHELLS MANY BELGIAN TOWNS

Allies' Guns Respond, Says Official Report From London.

LONDON, Aug. 8.—The following dispatch, containing the official Belgian communique, was given out here yesterday:

"The German artillery is showing great activity along the whole Belgian front. All our advanse posts were violently bombarded

"Our artillery replied along the front, from Ramscappelle to Furnes, Pervyse, Oestkerke and Reninghe.

POLICE TAKING FINGER PRINTS OF CHILDREN AS EXPERIMENT

Harry Bodkin, finger-print expert of the Police Bureau, is taking the impressions of James E. Farrell, 4 years old. Superintendent of Police Robinson is supervising the operation.

PARK "SKEETER POOL" FIERCELY ATTACKED

Large Gang of Workmen Cleaning Out the Source of Pernicious Pest.

Peter Bolger, Civil Service Commissioner, beamed today when he declared that "a sudden and almost herculean display of dogday energy" is being manifested by laborers cleaning up the stagnant pool near the Columbia avenue entrance to Fairmount Park and about 50 yards from the Smith Memorial Playground.

Jesse T. Vogdes, chief engineer of the Park Commission, said today that he had a force of laborers at work cleaning up the pool and that he believed it would cease to exist in a day or two.

Chief James M. McCrudden, of the Division of Sanitation, declared that the inspector in that district reported that the pool is being thoroughly cleaned. Indication are that it will soon cease to be the birthplace of millions of mosquitoes.

The Park Commission's laborers have cleared all the dead wood from the surface of the pond and are vigorously excavating in a search for the buried drain pipe that is supposed to keep surface water moving. Residents of the locality say the pool has been there for almost two years.

TEUTONS DRIVE GAP IN CZAR'S ARMY IN SOUTH

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lerymen silenced the Russian batteries which have been conducting a spasmodic bombardment of Warsaw since the Russians were forced to abandon the Polish capital. The Slavs are falling back along the Siedlce railway, attempting to establish communication with their lines northeast of Warsaw.

Bavarian troops are pressing close in pursuit, and not only are harassing the Russian rear guard, but threatening to complete the ring around the Russian armies east of Novo Georgievsk.

The forts of Novo Georgievsk are now surrounded, the War Office announced this afternoon. To the north the Germans are closing in upon the fortress of Kovno.

"We took a few thousand prisoners in the fighting around Warsaw," said the official statement. "Our troops who occupied Praga are advancing eastward beyond the city.

"In the southeast General Mackensen continues to force the Russians back. Our centre and our right wings now approach the line of Ostrow-Ganskuchrusk."

Unofficial reports today said the Russian line east of Ivangorod had been broken and that the Slavs were in disorderly retreat across the Vieprz River. These reports are not confirmed by official advices, though Vienna last night reported the Russians routed in the fighting around Lubartow, with a loss of 6000 men.

STATE GRAND LODGE OF ORANGEMEN MEETS

Biennial Convention Will Be Marked by Banquet Tonight.

The biennial convention of the State Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Loyal Orange Association, started today in this city, State Grand Master Harbison presiding. Harry A. Mackey will be the speaker at a banquet to be tendered the delegates tonight at the Hotel Walton, which Mayor Blankenburg and other city officials have been invited to attend.

The first business session of the convention was held this morning in the American Protestant Association Hall, 1415 Locust street. The business sessions will be continued this afternoon and tomorrow, both morning and afternoon. The Ladies' Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania of the Loyal Orange Association will meet at the same time.

GERMANY SEES HOPE FOR PEACE WITH WARSAW IN ITS POSSESSION

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NEW YORK, Aug. 9.—On the occasion of the capture of Warsaw, the United Press asked the German Emperor by wireless message for an expression on the historic significance of that victory and for a statement of the basis Germany considers necessary to secure peace in Europe and the surest advancement of civilization.

In reply the following message was received through the Sayville wireless station today from Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, Chancellor of the German Empire:

"His Majesty, the Emperor, regrets not to be able, for reasons of principle, to comply with the request of the United Press for a personal expression at the occasion of the successes of the allied German and Austro-Hungarian armies in Poland.

"In having the honor to inform you thereof, I add the explanation that Germany connects with these victories especially the hope that the end of the war will be hastened through them. I beg to remind you at the same time that the Emperor in all his public utterances, and lately, on July 31 of this year, emphasized that Germany is fighting for a peace which will obtain for it and the Powers which on its side wage the great struggle, such absolute securities as it needs for a lasting peace and for its national future.

"Beyond Germany's frontiers the peace which we strive to obtain will secure to all people the freedom of the seas and will open for all nations the possibility of aiding the work of progress and civilization in free competition.

BETHMANN-HOLLWEG."

TRACING LOST 'KIDDIES' BY FINGER PRINTS TO BE PUT TO TEST HERE

First Experiments Will Be Made Today, and System of Recording All Children in the City May Result.

Scene—A room in a police station. Time—Any summer afternoon. Policemen, neighborhood characters and reporters standing about.

Lost Boy—Mamma, mamma, mamma, my mamma! I want my mamma! Wow!

Police Matron—What's your name, little boy?

Lost Boy—I wanna go home to my mamma!

Police Matron—If you tell me your name I'll give you a lot of candy, a fire engine, a Teddy bear and a penny, and I'll make you a policeman.

Lost Boy—I want my mamma!

This picturesque scene of agony may soon be a thing of the past in this city. When it is gone, some expert will be able to reckon, in millions of gallons, the bitter tears of childhood that will have been save yearly, to the great benefit of little nervous systems and economy in little heartbeats. "For," as the big policeman on the corner put it, "I've seen many pretty bad things in my time, men all cut up in wrecks, and had to handle 'em; but there's nothing that gets me like a lost kid that doesn't know his name but has that ache in his throat for his mother."

He said he always had to turn his back on the occasions of those rapturous recoveries of lost ones within the bleak walls of station houses, when mother is found again.

FINGER-PRINTS TAKEN.

The first experiment for a system to identify lost children by finger-prints was made today at City Hall, when the ten finger-tips of a little person were pressed on a card and fixed his identity forever. For the finger-prints of no two persons in the world are alike, even those of twins. Of course it would not be so necessary to register the prints of older children, who know their names. But it is an amazing thing how many things small children can say before they can say their names.

They can order meals before they can say their names. They can criticise the cut and fashion of garments they are compelled to wear before they can say their names. Of course, they know their first names, but that's not enough to identify them.

"What's your name, little boy?"

"Why, Johnnie, of course. Lead me, if you please, at once to my mother" (or words to that effect).

"What's your last name?"

"Johnnie. An' I wanna go home now!"

Therefore, the necessity of helping out the child. His finger prints, taken in the station, would be rushed to City Hall and the search would be narrowed down to some particular classification by the rougher outlines of Johnnie's prints until you got to section 29, page 189, and there would be Johnnie's lost last name, and his address, and his mother's name (even his father's), just how to get him home, in a word.

DISCUSS NEW METHOD.

Superintendent of Police Robinson and Harry Bodkin, chief finger-print expert of the Department of Public Safety, today discussed the new method. They also experimented in taking the finger-prints of a little boy. The prints taken by Bodkin were those of James E. Farrell, 4 years old, of 803 South 60th street. He is a son of City Hall Detective Edward L. Farrell. Superintendent Robinson said:

"Finger-prints of a human being are the only records of the individual that can never be changed. The marks, as a rule, remain the same from cradle to the grave. If this little boy wandered away from his home his identity could easily be established a short time after his finger-prints could be compared with those on file in some clearing house."

In many foreign countries the finger-prints of grown-up persons are kept on file. This is done so that in the event of a disaster the finger-prints of dead persons can be compared with those filed away by the municipality.

Hundreds of children wander away from their doorsteps during the summer season, Superintendent Robinson said. Mr. Bodkin, who is a veteran finger-print expert, suggested that the prints be taken at either the schools or at the station house in the district where the child lives.

"In my experience I have never heard of two sets of finger-prints being alike. So distinctive are the markings of a pair of thumbs that to an expert no other pair of thumbs may resemble them closely enough to cause even temporary confusion. The great number of delicate lines and their peculiar irregular arrangement make possible the variety of combinations so infinite as to afford a different pattern for every finger fashioned by nature. The deltas, breaks, forks, angles and eccentric curves are the marks that distinguish each finger and each thumb from every other finger and thumb in the world."

FILM SHOW IN COURT; APPEAL FROM CENSORS; JUDGE SUSTAINS THEM

Common Councils a Motion Picture Theatre — First Scene of 'Secret Orchard' Condemned, Though Libraries Admit It.

If a story is decent enough to be put into print, if the book is placed on the shelves of the public libraries, if it is produced in the dramatic form, in a theatre, does it follow that it is decent enough to produce in motion-picture form?

That is the question lawyers and witnesses wrangled about in Judge Patterson's court today, and to help decide it they projected on a screen within the courtroom the picture in question, which the Pennsylvania Board of Censorship had frowned upon, refusing to grant permission for its exhibition.

When they built the courtrooms in City Hall the architects apparently did not realize that the time would come when it would be necessary to give motion-pitcure exhibits in them. As a consequence, when Judge Patterson decided that the only way he could "hear" an appeal from a decision of the censors was to see the picture in question, they found his courtroom entirely inadequate. Common Council chamber was converted into a courtroom, and the courtroom was turned into a moving-picture parlor, different from the ordinary ones in that no admission fee was charged.

The picture presented for the benefit of the judge and about 50 spectators was "The Secret Orchard," produced at an expense of $25,000 by the Jesse L. Lasky Company. It was the first time that a motion picture has ever been presented in a courtroom in this State and the event marked the first time that an appeal from the decision of the censors has ever been taken.

And after court had been in session more than three hours, without even adjourning for lunch, Judge Patterson decided that some of the picture would have to be cut, but not all of it. The censors had refused flatly to permit the showing of the film, but the judge ruled that only the first scene was objectionable. Now the producers are wondering how they can show a picture with the beginning omitted, and it is believed that it will be remodeled in such a way as to meet the approbation of the censors.

A scene, in which some of the demimonde of Paris acted in a rather unconventional way in an apartment in Paris, caused the censors to object strenuously; but the producers of the film contended that this was perfectly all right, and that if such scenes had been censored in the past the world would have lost much the best in art and literature.

WILSON FACES MANY DOMESTIC PROBLEMS

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plained time and again of poor inspection of steamships, may not quietly accept the report that red tape and not the Commerce Department is to blame.

The President must also take cognisance of the statements by his own party leaders that something is radically wrong with the present tariff bill. He must meet the treasury deficit within a short time, and it is expected that soon after he returns here he will call for conferences with House and Senate chiefs to decide what must be done.

Military and naval preparedness, and whether he can afford to defy the pacifists under the leadership of William Jennings Bryan and try to force through Congress his army and naval bills, will also occupy his attention.

Then there is the British note to prepare, which must satisfy the Southern cotton men, and Mexico, with its serious complications and international developments, all of which is expected to keep the Executive close to his desk for a long time after he gets back.

At the White House it was stated that the President was expected back "very shortly," although no definite day was fixed.

GERMANS GAIN FRENCH TRENCH IN ARGONNE

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They were immediately halted by our rifle and artillery fire.

"In the Argonne, near the highway from Vienna le Chateau to Binarville, the enemy attacked with grenades and petards our advanced posts and the neighboring trenches. He was thrown back upon his own lines by our fire. In the western part of the forest (Argonne), from Haute Chevauchee as far as Vauquois, there was a conflict with bombs, grenades and rifle fire during part of the night.

"In the Vosges a new German attack against our positions at Linge was launched about 1 a. m., and was completely checked. Our curtains of fire inflicted appreciable losses on the enemy."

THE WAR ONE YEAR AGO

Germans enter city of Liege. Governor and Bishop of Liege held as hostages.
Kaiser leaves for the front.
Russians invade Austria.
Turkey mobilizes on Bulgarian frontier.
British sink first German submarine.
England and France protest against German cruiser Karlsruhe sailing at Porto Rico.
British squadron proceeds to Tsing Tau.
Fifteen hundred Americans apply at Paris Embassy for passports. Refugees arrive on the New York.

SCOTT WILL WIN VILLA FOR PEACE TONIGHT IS HOPE

U. S. Military Envoy May Meet State Department Agent First.

EL PASO, Tex., Aug. 9.—General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the United States army, will confer with General Francisco Villa as soon as possible after he arrives here. General Scott is due this afternoon and his meeting with Villa may take place tonight, but it is more probable that General Scott's conference with George C. Carothers, special agent of the State Department, will force a postponement of the Villa conference until tomorrow.

American authorities on the border are hopeful that in the next two days there will be developments that will bring about peace in Mexico. General Villa's announcement that he will receive favorably any suggestions from General Scott is taken here as a hopeful sign, though news of a split between Villa and the Madero family somewhat reduced the general optimism. According to reports from reliable sources, Villa has threatened to confiscate all the Madero property in the State of Chihuahua. Francisco I. Madero, father of the murdered Mexican President, has come here with his son's widow to seek a conference with Villa.

Villa, it is said, will insist that he have the full backing of the Maderos. He is angry over the fact that three brothers of the late President, all generals in the Villa army, have left their forces and entered the United States with their families.

CARRANZA FAILS TO PLEASE LANSING WITH PEACE OFFER

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—Carranza must "play fair" with the United States or his military commanders and not himself will be factors in all further negotiations to restore peace in Mexico.

The action of the "first chief" in expelling from Mexico the Guatemalan Minister, Dr. Juan J. Ortega, at a time when the Guatemalan Minister to Washington was endeavoring to help arrange a general plan for Mexican peace is accepted here as a direct defiance of the Latin-American diplomats.

Secretary of State Lansing is understood to have told Secretary McAdoo, in New York yesterday, that Carranza was "playing" with the United States. In this connection it is understood that Lansing is angered over the effort, on the part of Carranzistas, to make it appear that a real offer to confer with his enemies was contained in the brief filed at the State Department by the Carranzista attorney, Charles A. Douglas, last Friday night.

The next conference on Mexico of the Latin-American diplomats with Secretary of State Lansing will be held at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Hotel Biltmore in New York, Secretary Lansing announced today.

Meanwhile Senor Cordoza, the Brazilian Minister at Mexico City, who has been handling the affairs of the United States in the absence of an American Ambassador, will be rushed to New York. It was announced today that he would be rushed from Vera Cruz to Key West on an American warship and then come direct to New York, where he can participate in the conferences.

PLOT TO "FRAME UP" WARDEN OSBORNE EXPOSED

Prison Ring Plan to Cause His Removal From Sing Sing Fails.

PLATTSBURG, N. Y., Aug. 9.—Following sensational allegations of a "prison ring" plot to discredit Warden Thomas Mott Osborne, of Sing Sing, Governor Whitman and Superintendent of Prisons Riley were expected to decide here today that Osborne should remain.

Friends of the warden revealed the details of a scheme, startling in its daring, which, they say, they are prepared to prove had been arranged and failed only because a saloonkeeper refused to carry out his important part in it. The saloonkeeper told them, they said today, that the back room of his saloon in Ossining was to be the scene of a "frame-up." Women were to be brought from New York to meet certain convicts in this back room and in the midst of a seeming orgy a flashlight photograph was to be taken. The result was to be a fearful black eye for Osborne's self-government plan at Sing Sing and his certain dismissal.

It is also declared evidence has been manufactured to foment discord between Riley and Osborne.

GORIZIA SWEPT BY ITALIAN GUNS; DEFENSE FEEBLE

Battle for Austrian Stronghold Reaches Final Stage; Citizens Flee From Shells.

Many Buildings Destroyed and City Cut Off From Supplies by Continuous Rain of Missiles — Forts Smashed by Mortars.

ROME, Aug. 9.—The Austrian city of Gorizia, against the defenses of which the Italian army of invasion has been pounding for many weeks, has been practically destroyed by the shells of King Victor Emmanuel's artillery.

According to all the indications, the great battle which has been raging for possession of Gorizia is rapidly drawing into its final stage. Dispatches from the front today stated that the Austrians' defense was growing more feeble and that the efficient fire of the Italian artillerymen was preventing ammunition and supplies from being taken into the fortress.

Buildings in all parts of the city have been battered into ruins. The streets are full of debris. The 10,000 persons in the city—left out of a population of 40,000—are living in cellars and dugouts.

The remaining forts and redoubts are being smashed by the steady fire from the Italian mortars.

AUTHORITIES FLEE.

The civic and religious authorities have fled from the city. Mobs attacked the residences of the wealthy and also the municipal storehouses and markets in a fight for bread, but none was to be had. Meat is unobtainable. The roads leading into the city from the east are under the fire of the Italian guns and supplies cannot be taken into the beleagured stronghold from that quarter.

Much damage has also been done to Rovereto, in the Adige Valley, and Trentino by the Italian artillery.

In the Tyrolean and Carinthian Alps artillery duels continue. Southwest of Pejo, a mountain village famous for its sulphur baths in Tyrol, there has been severe infantry fighting.

A plunging fire from Italian batteries stationed two miles in the clouds has forced the Austrians to evacuate the whole region around Montozzo, 34 miles northward of Trent.

TAKE MONTOZZO.

Advancing from the Tonale pass region, Alpine troops first captured the pass of Montozzo and then moving swiftly forward in a night attack took Montozzo peak, capturing Austrian troops and guns on the summitt. Italian artillery was brought up the mountain paths and the Austrians shelled out of their positions on the surrounding peaks of the Val Del Monte region.

The Italians are making preparations to defend themselves against an Austrian attack down the Adige Valley, which it is believed will follow the ending of the Warsaw campaign. Rock barricades are being built across the valley south of Rovereto and Italian guns mounted on the heights on both sides.

U. S. SOLDIERS ROUT MEXICANS IN FIGHT

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ranch. Rumor says that at least 30 Mexicans were in the attacking party. The outlaws are said to have attacked the Norias ranch house shortly after dark. The ranchman, 14 in number, defended the house until late last night and the surviving Mexicans withdrew. In the meantime the 16 Texas Rangers had arrived, and when the Mexicans resattacked about midnight they were met with a volley which dispersed the party.

A special train, with troops from this point, is expected early this morning at the Norias ranch, and the Mexicans are said to be retreating to the south.

Messages received here say that of the five Americans injured three were United States soldiers and two were civilians.

All this section of Texas is in terror as a result of the frequent Mexican raids and many trains have been stopped and business practically suspended throughout the threatened territory. Ranchers have been warned that a number of other raiding parties are in the field, and Texas Rangers and armed civilians are being rushed to the exposed points.

Information received here said that about 150 Mexicans were at Three Wells 45 miles north of Brownsville, and that they were moving on the ranches in that vicinity.

Sheriff A. Y. Baker, of Hidalgo County, is reported as saying that 300 Mexicans have crossed the Rio Grande and are traveling over Hidalgo County in parties of threes and fours, apparently making their way to some meeting point.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Aug. 9.—Mexican raiders burned a bridge and raided a section house near Watkins Saturday night, say reports received here today. The burned bridge was crossed by the Sunset Limited only a short while before the fire was discovered.