

VILLA DEAD, WISH OF U.S.; ALIVE HE'S MUCH TOO PESKY

Bandit's Own Men Will Betray Him, Belief in Washington
REWARDS A GREAT LURE
Troops Will Not Be Allowed to Establish Bases in Mexico Towns

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Secretary Baker today issued the following statement concerning the Mexican situation:
"Reports received directly through military channels and those sent to this department from other departments of the Government indicate quiet all along the Mexican border except some excitement at Tampico, which is apparently temporary and without cause. There are no reports of the operations of the expedition available for publication."

WASHINGTON, March 18. The United States much prefers to see Francisco Villa dead than alive. Dead he will not create any problems. Alive he will be quite a little trouble. In fact, it is generally conceded here that he will never be taken alive.
If caught alive the New Mexican authorities would be obliged to demand his extradition to the United States. Carranza would be depended on to insist that he be turned over to his troops for court martial and to face a firing squad.
The news from the border that private soldiers are being rewarded for the death of Villa leads officials who are familiar with the conditions to believe that some of the bandit leader's own men will be the ones to do the deed. Carranza has frequently been reported to be on the border to get bandits and, when the purse is made large enough, it never fails to succeed. It is said \$50,000 has been offered.

VILLA LOOTS AND BURNS AS HE FLEES TO SOUTH

Continued from Page One
thorities on the border. They have ascertained that Villa's men are active at every point. The bandit leader's men are getting through to the leader in the various ways that only Mexicans understand every scrap of information that can be learned as to the direction in which the "Americanos" are proceeding, their strength and their plans.
The Villa "secret service" has been killed by the numerous arrests made at El Paso and other points, but it is still in operation.
IN RANGE OF VILLISTAS.
News of the gallant ride made by the 11th Cavalry—a dash that carried the troopers almost within range of the Villista haunts in the Casas Grandes district—became known to Carranza. General Gaviro could not identify the troopers from the reports brought in by his men, who told of the wonderful night ride. The column started for El Paso, but the reports that Carranza had sent forward for the 11th Cavalry were correct.

GIVE U. S. BORDER OFFICERS FREE REIN, SAYS SWISS MILITARY CHIEF

By WILLIAM G. SHEPHERD
BERNE, Switzerland, March 18.—To handle the Mexican problem, the United States needs border commanders with the power to act on their own initiative in crises such as the Villa raid, Colonel Sprecher von Bernegg, chief of the Swiss General Staff, said today.
To meet other more serious international crises that may arise at any hour the United States needs a stronger army than Japan, a large standing army to guard her coasts and borders and military training for her youth, he said.

The Swiss military leader in one of the most expert military men of all Europe. An earnest advocate of the Swiss system for his own republic, he believes the system should be modified, if introduced in the United States.
I asked Colonel Sprecher how the Swiss military system would have helped America in the Mexican crisis. It would not have prevented Villa's raid on Columbus, he replied promptly.
"Wouldn't the citizens of Columbus have been soldiers with a commander to call them to service?" he was asked.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Two Americans were murdered by Mexicans on a ranch west of Torreon Monday night, according to reports reaching the border today. The story was brought to the border by refugees, foreign and domestic.
It is said the Americans were killed during an anti-American demonstration, in which half a hundred Mexicans participated. The bodies of the dead Americans were left at the ranch house where the Mexicans took up their march northward, hoping to join some squad of Villa's soldiers. Mexican refugees declared that they felt against Americans and American interests is intense.

UNCLE SAM'S NAVY EXPECTED TO HELP QUELL BANDITS

WASHINGTON, March 18.—A report that the United States navy would take part in the Mexican campaign was reported in official circles this afternoon. Secretary of War Baker and Secretary of the Navy Daniels held a long conference. Neither would discuss it afterwards.
It was believed that plans for the sailors aiding in putting down the disorder at Tampico were taken up.
Fifteen hundred marines, now on duty in Haiti, can be transferred to Mexican waters on a moment's notice, as the biggest part of the Atlantic fleet is now stationed at Guantanamo.

CAVALRY FORCE DISPATCHED WESTWARD FROM COLUMBUS

COLUMBUS, N. M., March 18.—(By messenger to El Paso.)—Two detachments of cavalry left the expeditionary main base here late yesterday, going in a westerly direction. Whether they were intended to reinforce the punitive column was not known. One report indicated that they were going out to help protect the line of communications of that portion of the expedition under Colonel George A. Dodd, which three days ago crossed to El Paso, 49 miles from here and entered Mexico about the same time when the main column went directly south from here.

SENATE'S ARMY PLAN, FOR 800,000 MEN, FAR FROM WILSON-HAY IDEA

House Military Committee Chairman Says His Bill Is Favored by the President
CLARK TO TAKE FLOOR
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And Republican Leader Mann, taking the floor in the House, sounded radical objections to the President's plan, forecasting as he did so the minority party's opposition.

TWO AMERICANS MURDERED BY VILLA SYMPATHIZERS

U. S. Citizens Killed in Attack on Ranch, Refugees Say
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RALLY TO VILLA IN TORREON AND CASAS GRANDES FEARED

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 18.—Torreon is the powder barrel of northern Mexico. Casas Grandes may be the match. In both cities Villa sentiment is strong.
A clash between Villa and the force of General Pershing, now near Casas Grandes, or between these forces and Villa sympathizers would, in the opinion of refugees who have arrived here from Torreon, cause the explosion which both the Carranzistas and the United States are so anxious to forestall.

FUNSTON ASKS FOR PERMIT TO USE MEXICAN RAILWAYS

WASHINGTON, March 18.—To expedite the American drive into Mexico, General Funston today asked that Carranza's permission be sought for use of Mexican railroads in transporting supplies to the advancing columns.
Officials would not comment on the request immediately, or say whether the State Department would take steps to gain such permission.

CLARK SPEAKS TODAY

With Speaker Clark taking the floor this afternoon and leaders of both parties making first "war" speeches, the real battle over army reorganization was in full swing.
Publication of Secretary of War Baker's letter to Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, openly criticizing the Hay bill, today threw plans of leaders askew. Many officials predicted a shake-up in the War Department would result. Others believed that possibly Administration dissatisfaction with the Hay measure, both as to the small increase authorized for the regular army and the scheme to federalize the State militia, was a matter of departmental routine.

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CONTRADICTION IN FIGURES

In his report on the army bill Mr. Hay said there would be available a trained and partially trained army, inclusive of the reserve, the National Guard and other forces, totaling 1,324,790 men. Secretary Baker's figures as submitted by Mr. Gardner gave only 437,700 men, exclusive of the proposed army of 40,000. Mr. Gardner asserted, therefore, that the contradiction in figures was serious, those of Secretary Baker being almost two-thirds less than the Hay figures.
Chamberlain has estimated a regular army of 140,000 men, regular army reserve of 60,000 men, a National Guard of 120,000 men and "men trained in the country," 985,790; total, 1,324,790.

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CHESTER VALLEY HUNT TRAILS VETERAN FOX

Cold Weather Gives Snap to Chase, in Which Many Philadelphians Participate
The continued cold weather made conditions ideal for the fox hunt, staged this afternoon by the Chester Valley Hunt Club. The members of the club and their guests started from the historic King of Prussia Inn, following a hunt breakfast, served in the King of Prussia Inn at noon.
The fox, a veteran campaigner, was provided for the day's sport by George W. Hensel, farmer, merchant and banker, of Quarryville, Pa., who confidently predicts that the hero of many an exciting chase again will baffle his pursuers and return to the security of his lair in Lancaster County.

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