

WHOLE U. S. ARMY UNDER FUNSTON AS CRISIS NEARS

Border General May Call All Forces, if Needed, to Mexico

PLANS FOR VOLUNTEERS

WASHINGTON, March 23.—All of the regular army forces in the United States have been placed at the disposal of General Funston, commanding the troops on the Mexican border.

Funston also can have 12,000 coast artillerymen, organized as infantry, when he wants them. These organizations are complete. But until they actually are on the way no announcement of plans will be made by the War Department.

The Mexican situation is constantly growing grave. Administration officials, however, are not abandoning hope that the death of Villa yet can be accomplished without general intervention.

The State Department is making energetic efforts to get a report from Colonel Lecher, at Chihuahua City, to clear up the Herrera situation and to show just what the sentiment in that section actually is. Lecher has not been heard from in more than 48 hours.

PLANS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Army officers today severely criticized the resolution introduced in the Senate by Senator Sherman, of Illinois, authorizing the President to call for 50,000 volunteers. This resolution has no support among the men who will direct the fight.

The general staff has complete equipment for 500,000 men ready at the various supply stations and arsenals. If any action is to be taken the staff will be ready to meet the situation.

LANSING BACK ON JOB

Secretary of State Lansing returned to his desk today from a brief vacation, but he did not interfere with the arrangements already made by Counselor Balk.

U. S. TROOPS TAKE RAILWAY IN MEXICO

Continued from Page One leads to the belief that the bandit has escaped the trap. It was also unofficially reported that the United States army would begin the operation of providing trains on the Mexico Northwestern Railroad from Juarez within the next 24 hours.

The transportation of heavy army supplies over the Chihuahua deserts and mountains for a distance of nearly 200 miles by automobiles and wagon trains became impracticable. How the privilege of using the Mexican railways was obtained is not known here outside of secretive army circles.

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 23.—Emphasizing the need of speed in the pursuit of Villa by American forces, Major General Frederick Funston today virtually confirmed El Paso reports that General Pershing had taken over the Mexican railroad lines to hasten consummation of his expeditionary campaign.

That Pershing had taken over the Mexico Northwestern Railroad and was operating it south of Casas Grandes to Cumis tunnel, was believed entirely possible by Funston.

Without direct word from Casas Grandes for more than 36 hours, Funston today wirelessly General Pershing to get into immediate touch with him and report fully as to the situation.

5000 CARRANZISTAS DESERT TO VILLA, REPORT IN EL PASO

EL PASO, Tex., March 23.—The predicted uprising against American troops on Mexican soil is under way, was feared here today. Reports of Carranza forces joining the Villa bandits, while not officially confirmed, persisted.

capt. The 900 Carranza troops, under Colonel Cano, who were supposed to have defeated the bandit near Namiquipa, are reported to have gone over to him. This would explain the silence of Juarez officials regarding the outcome of the reported battle. Juarez Commandant Gavira said Cano withdrew after his victory, an unusual proceeding, which appears confirms Villa's escape and suggests collusion.

Unless the American forces returned to their base at Casas Grandes, when they heard of Villa's growing numbers, General Pershing's cavalry squadrons are believed to be hot on Villa's trail. They were within a day's march of Namiquipa on Monday.

Besides 2000 well-armed and mounted Carranzistas, under General Luis Herrera, reported marching from Chihuahua City to join Villa and Cano's rumored revolt, the Carranza garrisons at Torreon and Cuahuilan are said to have mutinied and declared for Villa. There was no confirmation of these reports.

Five thousand former Villistas, who were mustered out of the bandit's service when they generally surrendered in Juarez and received amnesty last fall were recruited in the de facto Government's army. These are among the Carranza forces reliably reported to have gone back to their old leader.

El Paso's fears of a local uprising were increased today when Melchor Herrera, brother of General Luis Herrera, was arrested in this city and charged with recruiting Mexicans here for the purpose of attacking El Paso.

Reports that the Juarez garrison was on the verge of revolt resulted in a strong gun being thrusting along the border. Mayor Pardo, of Juarez, and Commandant Gavira were understood to have severed relations following a wordy quarrel over the presence of American troops on Mexican soil.

A combined attack on El Paso from the Juarez garrison and by the large Mexican colony has long been the city's bugaboo.

Reports of General Herrera's defection were circumstantial. With his 2000 mounted followers he was said to be marching southward. Until a few days ago he was in command at Chihuahua City, but when deposed by General Carranza for drunkenness it was reported Herrera took his large personal following with him. No disorders of fighting in the vicinity of Chihuahua City have been reported. A small garrison remained in the city.

General credence was given reports that practically the entire 5000 former Villistas have renounced Carranza and are on their way to join the outlaw in southern Chihuahua. With these seasoned fighters Villa was expected to make a stand against the American forces and stand him. During his retreat southward

Revolt of Herrera Denied by Carranza Consul Garcia

SAN ANTONIO, March 23.—Samuel Belden, personal representative of General Carranza at San Antonio, issued the following statement from Andreas Garcia, the Carranza Consul at El Paso:

You are authorized to deny emphatically the story about General Luis Herrera revolting. He is actively pushing the campaign against Villa and is entirely in accord with the Constitutional Government.

Part of the troops under Colonel Cano had a fight with bandits, led by Villa personally, night before last. Results of the battle not yet known on account of the wires being down, but have been repaired between Juarez and Madera. I am expecting full particulars of the battle. General Herrera is leading the fight against Villa.

Officers here, however, continue in the belief that there is a formidable uprising among the Carranzistas.

REPORTED DESERTER TO VILLA



Gen. Luis Herrera, Carranza commander in Chihuahua, is said to have deserted northward with 2000 men to join the outlaw leader.

he informs Mexicans he was saving his bullets for the "gringos."

\$50,000 REWARD FOR VILLA

JOHN R. K. SCOTT'S PROPOSAL

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Fifty thousand dollars reward for the delivery of the body of Francisco Villa is proposed by Representative John R. K. Scott, of Philadelphia, in a joint resolution which he introduced in the House today.

Scott declared that in his opinion such a reward would make possible the capture of the Mexican bandit without loss of American soldiers and would be cheaper than a money standpoint than conducting a long expedition.

"My thought is that such a reward would be an incentive whereby many Mexicans would be stirred to activity, and, knowing the country as they do, it would not be an easy matter for the murderer, Villa, to find any secure hiding place," said Representative Scott.

U. S. FORCES RAPIDLY SHIFTED FOR FEARED CARRANZA RAID

EL PASO, Tex., March 23.—From Brownsville to the California line fear of uprisings by the Carranzista troops against American border towns has been suddenly revived.

The third battalion of the 5th Cavalry, now speeding to Columbus, will be distributed immediately along the border, and a portion of the 24th Infantry not required for protection of General Pershing's line of communication will be utilized for additional border patrol.

The 24th Infantry is expected to reach Columbus late today.

One of the most significant changes in disposition of troops confirmed today was the sending of the 4th Artillery from Mercedes to Brownsville, "where it will be better off, and where the climate is good." There are already more than 5000 United States soldiers in the Browns-

ville district, but Matamoros, a Mexican city across the river, is a hotbed of Villista sentiment.

The 2d Squadron of the 5th Cavalry, stationed at Fort Leavenworth, entrained today, with El Paso as its probable destination.

The 1st Squadron, 5th Cavalry, left Fort Sheridan, near Chicago, for Columbus.

The 24th Infantry, stationed at Fort Russell, Wyo., also has been ordered to the border. This leaves all military stations in the department of the Missouri emptied of men.

Battery D, 3th Field Artillery, which

has been on duty near Mercedes since last Aug. 1, prepared today for a 48-mile march to Fort Brown, at Brownsville, in response to orders issued by General Funston.

From Laredo, Tex., came a dispatch saying 100,000 cartridges passed into Mexico last night through that port for the Carranza Government.

A squadron of the 3d Cavalry at Laredo will leave early tomorrow for Fort Ringgold.

There is little doubt now that El Paso will be made primary military base of operations. It was said today that General Funston would come to El Paso to confer with military officials here regarding the situation.

BACK FROM PHILIPPINES, TROOPS RUSHED TO BORDER

DENVER, Col., March 23.—Within a fortnight of their return from long service in the Philippines, the 24th United States Infantry left Fort D. A. Russell, near Cheyenne, Wyo., today for the border in cars taken from transcontinental trains or hauled in a general combing of Western railroad yards.

Passengers were shooed out of tourist's coaches at La Junta, Colo., and forced to crowd into the remainder of the train when railroad officials received hurry orders for additional cars for the troops.

The yards at Pueblo, Denver, Colorado Springs and Cheyenne were emptied of available passenger coaches, and that it is strange that the wires to Casas Grandes, a distance of only 126 miles,

AMERICANS DOUBT CLAIM OF CARRANZISTA VICTORY

EL PASO, March 23.—Since yesterday morning General Gavira, at Juarez, has maintained that the wires along the Mexican Northwestern Railroad between Juarez and Casas Grandes have been cut and that consequently he could give no information in regard to a reported battle at Namiquipa between the Carranza and Villa forces.

Americans here, especially refugees from Mexico, are frankly skeptical both as to the reported battle and the cut wires. They point out that severed communication is one of the most familiar ruses used by Mexican officials when they wish to withhold information, and that it is strange that the wires to Casas Grandes, a distance of only 126 miles,

along a railroad, could not be repaired in two days' time.

The mysterious battle of Namiquipa ended when Cano, the Carranza commander, joined Villa after a short skirmish, according to one report here. Cano and Villa are said to have agreed to a conference that Mexican brothers should not fight each other. Combining the two forces, Villa was believed to have led them toward Bachinava, where General Candelario Hernandez and 1500 Villistas were last reported.

GAVIRA MAY BLOCK U. S. USE OF MEXICAN RAILWAYS

WASHINGTON, March 23.—The protocol between the State Department and Carranza for use of Mexican railways as supply routes was practically arranged today. It awaited only the approval of General Carranza. The terms, major and minor, have been accepted by Acting Secretary of State Polk and Eliseo Arredondo, Carranza's representative.

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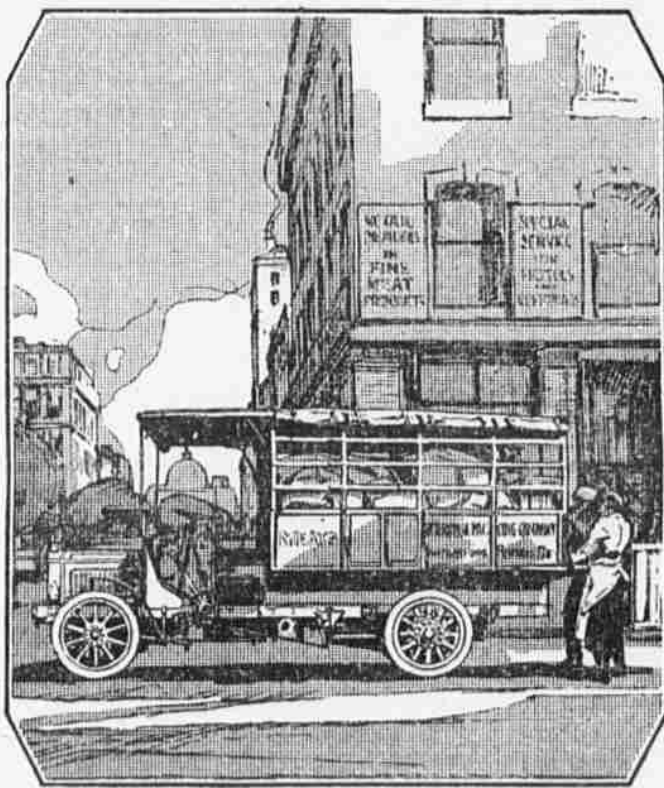
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