

U. S. FORCES FLANK VILLA BAND IN DASH ACROSS MOUNTAINS

Continued from Page One largely of Carranza troops, through which the wily Villa easily slipped. Now it appears that American troops themselves have formed this ring. The Carranzistas were regarded as slightly halting in step and a trifle backward. Villa is reported to be in the Santa Catharina Canyon, near Babicora, United States troops are at Madera, to the south, and are moving north. Another column has crossed the Sierras and is moving southwestward, cutting off retreat through the mountains. Farther to the east are other detachments closing in from that side in the region of Namiquipa. The net, it is said, is closing in on the outlaw chieftain. The only factors which might prevent his capture are that he might not be there and the net might be too thin. (Conflicting reports as to Villa's whereabouts are due to the fact that his bands are now undoubtedly widely scattered and there are many of them, and to the defective information obtained from Mexicans along the trail.)

U. S. TROOPS IN MOUNTAINS IN DANGER OF AMBUSH

El Paso, Tex., March 29.—Fears were expressed here today that the American columns, under Colonel George A. Dodd, reaching their way into the Sierra Madre Mountains, searching for Pancho Villa, would fall victims to an ambush of the treacherous bandits. The forces are being guided by experienced scouts, but Villa is quite a scout himself, it was pointed out. Authentic reports said that Dodd's forces had been shifted from the eastern to the western slopes of the Sierra Madre and were operating out of Madero toward the Santa Catharina canyon and Babicora. This became known today from two independent sources over the telegraph line from Casas Grandes. The news was received that Colonel Dodd had abandoned El Valle as a base, had left the Carranza column under Bertani to operate in the eastern slopes of the Sierra Madre, and had gone southwest to Madera by train to use that lumber camp as a base.

From the same source it was reported in Juarez that Villa was believed to be in the Santa Catharina canyon country, 15 miles southeast of Babicora and in the convolutions of the Sierra Madre range. The information which sent the flying column into that country was received at Madera by long-distance telephone from Babicora Ranch, a short distance from Babicora station and in the Baricora Lake district. (This report is at variance with the dispatches yesterday, which had Villa being southwestward from El Paso.)

QUICK TROOP MOVEMENT

The report from Babicora was taken seriously, as indicated by the increased activity reported by returning soldiers from the Casas Grandes. These soldiers are being brought in here for treatment at the hospital, and declare that when they left Casas Grandes, the 19th Cavalry, which is a part of Colonel Dodd's column, was moving south from Casas Grandes toward Madera by way of the Cumbre Mountains, southwest.

The negro cavalry had commandeered a number of Northwestern passenger coaches and were taking their horses with them in the box and stock cars and were leaving under rush orders when the soldiers were brought from Casas Grandes to the border for treatment. General Pershing, these soldiers state, has sent the Carranza column, leaving the Carranza soldiers to garrison the towns and taking the field as an independent force in order not to be handicapped by the slower moving Mexican cavalry, and infantry. The Carranza soldiers are reported to be most friendly with the American column and that there has been no friction since the two columns joined; but the American commanders have been unable to reconcile themselves to the dilatory methods of the Bertani commands

Plan to "Clean Up" Mexico as Advocated by Senator

WASHINGTON, March 29.—Senator Fall, of New Mexico, now on the Mexican border, is bombarding his colleagues here with telegraphic demands that Mexico be "cleaned up." His plan is to treat all armed Mexicans, Villistas and Carranzistas, alike—as outlaws and foes to both Mexico and America. He says there are 15,000,000 Mexicans who would welcome intervention, with its relief from the oppression of bandit chiefs.

SENATOR FALL, AT BORDER, CONTINUES WAR AGITATION

WASHINGTON, March 29.—The Republican members of the United States Senate conferred again today regarding the Mexican situation. The session of dispatches sent from the border by Senator Fall to Senator Gallinger, Republican leader, has caused a distinct flurry among his party colleagues, and today they were endeavoring to find a way to bring the entire question of fact between himself and the Administration. The very frankly declares that the American punitive expedition is in grave peril, and that if it is not strongly reinforced immediately disaster will be courted.

The Republican members conferred secretly in an endeavor to reach an agreement as to what can be done. Certain of the leaders, headed by Senator Borah, of Idaho, desire to force action on the President, which directs the President to call for volunteers. Others point out that this action might be unwise at this juncture, inasmuch as it would give the Administration the opportunity to charge that the situation was being used for political effect.

In the face of the statements sent from the border by Senator Fall, Secretary of War Baker repeated today his assertion that the general Mexican situation was "satisfactory." He declared that the Pershing expedition was in no danger whatever. Negotiations still are in progress over the proposed protocol and the request of this Government that the Carranza officials permit it to use its railroads to send supplies to Pershing. Although Carranza is said to have refused permission to use the railroads, it is understood that the State Department believes that when all the facts in connection with the request are explained to the First Chief by Consul General Rodgers he will change his position.

"RUMOR FACTORY" AT EL PASO FAILS TO EMBROIDER U. S.

El Paso, Tex., March 29.—Continued peaceful relations between the United States and de facto Government of Mexico seemed more certain today than at any time since the Villista raid on Columbus, N. M., March 9, which was followed within a week by the American punitive expedition now on Mexican soil. Failure of an organized attempt on both sides of the border to transform the campaign against bandits into intervention pleases both American and Carranza officials here. They little doubted that a "rumor factory" maintained in El Paso and other border points started reports of threatened Mexican uprisings, and racial antagonisms to inflame both sides and compel intervention.

1800 OF STALWART NEGRO CAVALRY SENT INTO MEXICO

El Paso, Tex., March 29.—Three battalions of the 24th United States Infantry, numbering 1800 men, have left Columbus, N. M., crossed the Mexican border and marched south toward Casas Grandes. The 4th Battalion of the regiment will be distributed for border patrol duty at Madera, Babicora and Pecos. The reinforcements give General Pershing nearly 7000 troops in Mexican service. The 24th Infantry, a negro regiment, is the only unit of the American Army recruited to full war strength. The men are also among the largest physically of any American soldiers. The stalwart negroes dipped the regimental colors and cheered as they marched over the line. Their destination is unknown, but from the fact that detachments of the 6th and 14th Regiments, which have been on transport line patrol, have been drawn in closer to Casas Grandes, the presumption is that the negro soldiers will guard the stretch from Casas Grandes to the border. The two companies with the regimental colors and staff were first across the line today, the other companies of the three battalions following in extended order to avoid the clouds of dust raised by a heavy column.

FORCE UNDER GOMEZ AWAITS ORDERS TO JOIN VILLA HUNT

Douglas, Ariz., March 28.—One thousand Carranzista cavalrymen have reached Nacozari, after a campaign of extermination against the Yaqui Indians. General Arnulfo Gomez, in command of this force, has gone to Agua Prieta, where he is conferring with Governor Calles, of Sonora. It is expected that the Gomez force will be strengthened in Culumbo, in which section there are about 4000 Carranza troops already. General Gomez was quoted as saying he would take his force into Chihuahua and there operate with the Americans in the search for Villa, but had not been ordered to do so by General Carranza.

intervention. They intimated that even foreign nations may have entered into the campaign. Concessions have been granted by various Mexican rulers to American, English, German, French and Spanish, the officials pointed out. Their value ran into billions. Rich mines, great ranches and vast forests were involved. The Carranzistas estimated that not more than 5 cents an acre was paid for lands on the average. With iron laborers hardly more than slaves, the foreign interests in Mexico within a short time.

U. S. SOLDIER DIES OF HURT IN WRECK; TROOPS USE LINES

WASHINGTON, March 29.—George A. Huddell, of Troop B, 10th Cavalry, died March 24 of injuries received in a railroad wreck south of Casas Grandes, the War Department announced today. His home was at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. Asked if this meant the American troops

had taken over the Northwestern Railway at Casas Grandes, Secretary Baker replied: "I have given you the entire telegram. I have no further comment." The accident occurred while the cars were being taken over a temporary track that had been built around the Cumbre Tunnel, south of Casas Grandes. One of the rails gave way and the cars rolled down an embankment. It was not believed at headquarters that General Pershing's use of the railroad prior to receipt of permission from the Carranza Government would endanger the negotiations now being conducted by the State Department, because it was assumed he had gained permission of those in charge of operations of that section of the line.

TOBACCO FUND GROWS

Total Contributed for Belgian Soldiers Now \$11,156.92. Contributions to the Belgian Soldiers' Tobacco Fund now total \$11,156.92, according to a statement issued today by J. P. Morgan & Co., depositories of the fund, New York. Drexel & Co., of this city, reported additional contribution of \$36. They were from Lens & McVitty, Inc., \$35; Stephen Fuhrst, 1627 Spruce street, \$10; James Carrington, Jr., 6319 Sherman street, Germantown, \$1. Checks should be made payable to the Belgian Soldiers' Tobacco Fund, and sent to Drexel & Co.

Smallpox in Somerset County

A state quarantine for smallpox was established last night in Palm township, Somerset County. Ten cases have been reported.

United States Army officers pointed to the friendly reception given the American forces in Mexico. Villa has failed to rouse the peons against the "gringos" despite his speeches that the Americans were coming to massacre and burn. Some Mexicans first fled in terror at the approach of the expedition's vanguard, but returned when they found the soldiers friendly and willing to pay good prices for supplies. Mexican papers in border cities also failed to inflame the peons. The only real accessions to Villa's forces have been made at the rifle point. Carranza co-operation to date has been pronounced. While some vexing problems remain to be settled between the two Governments principally the free use of the Mexican railways by the American expedition, both sides here today were confident of a speedy adjustment. The Carranzistas will continue their co-operation, General Gastel Gavira, commandant at Juarez, said today. "Villa is the foe of Mexican liberty as well as of United States safety. He has robbed and murdered Mexicans as well as Americans. There is little sympathy for Villa on this side of the border. It is important to Mexico's peace that he be captured and slain. Consul Garcia, in El Paso, said: "We will do all we can. I can say officially with a full knowledge of the fact that First Chief Carranza is anxious for Villa's capture and destruction. I regard Villa as a menace to Mexico's liberty." The two Carranza officials were bitter in condemning efforts to force American

intervention. They intimated that even foreign nations may have entered into the campaign. Concessions have been granted by various Mexican rulers to American, English, German, French and Spanish, the officials pointed out. Their value ran into billions. Rich mines, great ranches and vast forests were involved. The Carranzistas estimated that not more than 5 cents an acre was paid for lands on the average. With iron laborers hardly more than slaves, the foreign interests in Mexico within a short time.

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