

GERMAN AGENTS STIRRING VILLA TO ATTACK U. S.

LAREDO, Texas, March 8. — Germany is playing Villa against Carranza. Great sums of German money are pouring into the bandit leader's hands, inviting him to activity against the United States and against Carranza, while at the same time German agents work through officials of the Carranza government seeking to align that side against the United States.

Just back from a trip into the interior of Mexico, I can state these facts on the highest authority:

Agents of the German government in Mexico approached Francisco Villa at his headquarters at Bustillo's ranch, about February 12, with a proposition to renew his raids on the border in case of a declaration of war between the United States and Germany. Two German agents reached the bandit leader. The conference extended over two days.

At first Villa demurred against any attack on the border in force under any circumstances. At length an agreement was reached that in case of war Villa would send small bands of unattached bandits to operate at widely separated points along the International line and to make sporadic forays to harass American troops.

Under the terms of agreement the German agents promised to pay Villa 500,000 pesos (\$250,000) in gold at once to seal the compact. He refused to enter into the plot until the first payment was handed over. They agreed to pay a large amount each month thereafter in case of war to enable Villa to pay his

men, secure ammunition and also to build up his shattered forces.

After orders from Foreign Secretary Zimmermann reached Mexico City for an attempt to arrange an alliance with Mexico and Japan, the Villa scheme was one of the first moves. One secret agent was sent north from the capital to Lan Luis Potosi, where he met another. From Parral, both travelled by horseback to Bustillo's ranch, about 40 miles west of Chihuahua City. At this point Villa was making his headquarters at that time.

The Villa plan was to be used chiefly in the event of failure to induce Carranza to enter into an intrigue against the United States and as a possible means of bringing pressure to bear on Carranza. It was hoped to involve the de facto government and the United States in new, serious complications, making the retention of a large part of the army along the border necessary.

That friction between Carranza and the United States would tend to weaken the de facto power was pointed out to Villa by the German agents.

Already the German cabal in the Mexican capital had set active underground influences to work upon the First Chief and his advisers to induce them to consent to an alliance. The famous note sent by Carranza to the neutral powers, asking them to unite in refusing to furnish supplies to belligerent countries was engineered by the German propagandists.

FRENCH PILE UP SHELLS BEHIND VERDUN



Photo by American Press Association.

COURT NEWS

Monday was the opening of the March term of court. It was featured by the hearing of the quarterly returns of the constables of the county and the delivery of an important and lengthy charge by Judge J. N. Langham to the grand jury, detailing the general and special duties of this body called to pass on the various matters of public interest as well as to consider the bills of indictment.

In the course of his address Judge Langham gave many helpful suggestions which if religiously followed, will tend to make the Grand Jury a more efficient body and will facilitate the work in hand. The Court again calls attention to the congested and unsatisfactory condition of the county jail, and recommends the remodeling and enlargement to provide a proper classification of the prisoners. The charge of the court is published in detail on page 2 of this issue.

OPERATORS BELIEVE TIPPLE DESTROYERS RESPONSIBLE FOR FIRE

PUNXSUTAWNEY, March 7. The tiple of the Pardu's Coal Mining company was destroyed by fire thought to have been of incendiary origin today with a loss of \$22,000. The tiple had a capacity of 1,800 tons daily and 250 men were thrown out of employment by its destruction. According to officials of the company the fire originated in much the same manner as the fire that destroyed the tiple of the J. & C. Coal and Iron company last Saturday. Coal mine operators believe that a group of tiple destroyers is at work in the district.

With the arrival here today of Carmino Catalano, aged 35, who was arrested in Philadelphia yesterday, authorities believe they have captured the man who dynamited the tiple of the Anita Coal Mining Co., at Horatio in October, 1915. Subsequent to the blowing up of the tiple an attempt is alleged to have been made to assassinate officials of the company.

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MAN IS INDICTED ON A CHARGE OF MURDER

The grand jury yesterday returned a true bill against Matt Pulich of Lucerne Mines against whom the commonwealth had lodged a charge of murder. This grew out of the fatal wounding of John Horwatt the morning of Dec. 16 last. The trouble arose after an all-night drinking bout, when Pulich is alleged to have struck Horwatt over the head with a beer bottle. The injured man died shortly after being admitted to the Indiana hospital. Pulich was arrested at his boarding house shortly after the trouble and admitted that he was the one who had struck Horwatt.

INDIANA COUNTY CHILD KILLED BY STRYCHNINE

A four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Muir, of Cokeville, was fatally poisoned on Thursday as the result of having swallowed several strychnine tablets which had been prescribed for an eight-year-old sister. The child's death occurred a short time after taking the poison.

LEAVES FOR FRANCE TO DRIVE AN AUTOMOBILE

Kirby Gile, one of the prominent students and athletes of the Normal school left yesterday afternoon for New York city. From that port he will sail aboard the French liner LaTouraine, for Bordeaux, France. Upon his arrival he will be placed in charge as driver of one of the automobiles in the service of the American Ambulance Corps.

COGSWELL DIRECTS LARGE ORCHESTRA

Washington, D. C. newspapers highly praise the concert recently given in that city by the Washington Community Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Prof. Hamlin E. Cogswell, the former principal of the Indiana Normal Conservatory of Music.

BODY OF MURDERED MAN SENT TO HOME IN SOUTH

The body of Jack Corton, the Josephine negro who was fatally injured by Ernest Phillips in a fight developing from a card game at Josephine last Friday, has been shipped to his former home in Bennetsville, S. C. Phillips was given a preliminary hearing before Justice James A. Crossman, yesterday morning and held for court.

The arrest of Phillips, which was made after a chase through the woods near Josephine, was accomplished by Constable Harry McGaughey of Josephine and the murderer was brought to the Indiana county jail by Deputy Sheriff Elmer Borland, who had gone to Josephine on other business the morning of the murder.

ROSSITER CHURCH DAMAGED BY FIRE

Damage amounting to several thousand dollars was done to the Catholic church at Rossiter on Saturday night.

BLAIRSVILLE 100 YEARS OLD IN OCTOBER

Blairsville, the metropolis of the southern end of the county will celebrate her 100th birthday next October.

Newspaper Plant Is Sold At A Public Sale For \$14,700

JOHNSTOWN LEADER GOES TO HOWARD COOK, PRESUMED TO REPRESENT W. H. SUNSHINE AND OTHERS.

JOHNSTOWN, PA., March 8.—The plant and equipment of the Leader Printing & Publishing Company was sold at public sale this afternoon for \$14,700. The book accounts went for \$3,025. Howard Cook, local real estate agent, was the successful bidder in both cases. He stated that publication of the "Leader" will be continued.

"I have nothing to say," Mr. Cook said, when asked for a statement following the sale, "except that the "Leader" will be continued as an evening newspaper, and we will try to make it a bigger and a better paper."

Asked whether he had made the purchase for himself or for others, he refused to say anything.

While no statement could be obtained, it is generally presumed that Mr. Cook represented William H. Sunshine and other large interests. Just after the sale, Mr. Cook and Mr. Sunshine left the scene together.

CUBAN REBEL CHIEF AND ENTIRE STAFF TAKEN PRISONERS

HAVANA, March 8. — The revolution in Cuba is apparently ended. Capture of Ex-President Jose Gomez and his entire staff, leaders of the insurrectos, was expected today to be followed by sentence of death on these conspirators.

At the same time there were reports current here today that the remnants of the rebels in Camaguey had been forced to capitulate.

Havana gave itself over to jubilation today at the coup. All last night the city rang with gayety, celebrating the Government's battle by which Gomez was captured, officially stated to have been one of the biggest in the history of Cuba.

CREDITORS MAY ATTACH

MINES OF THOMPSON

WASHINGTON, March 9. — Creditors of Josiah V. Thompson, wealthy mine operator, of Uniontown, Pa., by a Supreme Court ruling today may proceed to attach his extensive West Virginia coal lands for their debts.

The court refused to review dismissal of a suit brought by Jacob S. Hayden of Wheeling, W. Va., to appoint a receiver for Thompson's West Virginia property and to prevent its attachment and forced sale. Thompson's holdings are estimated to be worth \$70,000,000 and his obligations \$22,000,000.

Many West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, and Michigan banks and individuals are creditors.

NO REMONSTRANCES

FILED IN ARMSTRONG

Cambria Grants 285; Crawford Stays Dry

Kittanning, Pa., March 9. — The liquor license applicants of Armstrong county were heard Monday before Judge J. W. King. Fifty-seven applicants, 13 for wholesale, two for brewery, and 42 for retail license, appeared. There were no remonstrances entered against any of the applicants.

After finishing the hearings the court announced that decisions would be handed down later.

Ebensburg, Pa., March 9 — Judges M. B. Stephens and F. J. O'Connor of the Cambria county license court handed down their decisions yesterday. The court granted 285 licenses, refused 18 and held over 14. There were 324 applications made and seven applications were withdrawn. Three hundred licenses were granted last year.

Meadville, Pa., March 9. — By refusing 10 applications for liquor license yesterday, Judge Thomas J. Prather continues Crawford county dry another year. All applications were refused last year.

BLACKLICK GIRL BRIDE OF CLEARFIELD MAN

A marriage license has been granted here to Walter Rial Rook of Clearfield and Miss Daisy Helen Houston of Blacklick. Mr. Rook is in the employ of the state highway department and formerly was superintendent of the Indiana county field. Miss Houston is the daughter of Squire and Mrs. Houston of Blacklick.

LARGE MORTGAGE THAT COVERS CAMBRIA LANDS RECORDED

A mortgage from the Inland Coal Co. to the Commercial Trust Company of Greensburg, setting forth the immense sum of \$2,000,000 has been recorded here. It was made through the sale of a large tract of land in Green and nearby townships, Indiana county, and for lands in adjoining sections in Cambria county. The Commercial Trust Co. is acting as trustee.

MAN CARRYING BAG OF POWDER AND LIGHTED LAMP FELL AND WAS SERIOUSLY BURNED BY EXPLOSION

Carrying a lighted miner's light and a bag of powder on the trolley trestle at Josephine, Sam Morena stumbled and fell as he ran to escape an approaching car. Morena was blown from the trestle and fell a distance of 20 feet. He was found unconscious with his clothes ablaze a few moments later by the crew and passengers of the trolley car, and was brought to the Indiana hospital. He was badly burned about the face. As both eyes are swollen shut it is impossible to tell whether his sight has been impaired. The flames of the explosion leaped 20 feet into the air and for a time it was thought Morena was attempting to blow up the trestle.

LIGHTNING BOLT CURES RHEUMATISM WHEN IT STRIKES MAN'S HOUSE

A sufferer from rheumatism each winter for the past 15 years, Walter Loring of Rayne township, believes that he was permanently cured of the disease by a stroke of lightning last August. While sitting in his home during a severe electrical storm last summer the house was struck by lightning. Mr. Loring and his wife were rendered unconscious and were revived with difficulty. Early each winter for the past 15 years Mr. Loring has been attacked with rheumatism and suffered from it constantly during the cold weather. While in Indiana recently he declared that he has had no trace of the old trouble this winter and believes that the rheumatics were burned out of his system by the electric fluid.