

Republican News Item.

VOL. XV. NO. 44

LAPORTE, SULLIVAN COUNTY PA. FRIDAY, MARCH 17, 1910.

75¢ PER YEAR

DIAZ ASKED TO FREE AMERICANS

State Department Tries to Save Platt and Converse.

MAY INVOLVE BOUNDARY

Washington Holds That Mexicans Captured Men on American Soil—Death to U. S. Citizens Caught as Rebels.

Two developments in the Mexican crisis, if their coming together is not a mere coincidence, may be fraught with serious meaning.

Almost immediately following an announcement by Jose Limantour, Mexican minister of finance, in which he virtually declares that Americans shot without formality, the state department asked the Mexican government to release Blatt and Converse, Americans, who are held prisoners at Juarez, Mexico.

The reason for this request is significant. The Mexican government has been informed that the young men were arrested on American soil whereas the Diaz officials at the frontier have maintained that the men were arrested at Tia Juana, a town on the northern frontier of the Mexican state of Lower California, and on the Mexican side of the line. Only an imaginary line defines the southern boundary of California, and this has never been thoroughly surveyed.

Whether the state department's request is made in the belief that the point near Tia Juana at which Blatt and Converse were arrested, accused of being spies, is really American soil, or whether it is contended that the arrests took place farther north, in territory admittedly this country's, despite the Mexican authorities' statements, is not made certain.

If the government at Mexico City releases the prisoners this will constitute a rebuke for the Mexican officer in command, for he has insisted that the men were caught on Mexican soil.

The fact that the United States consul at El Paso at the time declared that he could offer no argument why Blatt and Converse should be released points to the possibility that a boundary dispute may result.

Edwin M. Blatt, of Pittsburg, and Lawrence Converse, son of a Glen dora, Cal., lawyer, were arrested on Feb. 23. Accused of carrying arms against Mexico and of acting as spies for the rebels, they were seized and for a time it was feared had been shot. They protested their innocence, but have remained in prison two weeks.

Limantour's Defiant Statement.

What may be considered in effect the official Mexican reply to recent representations said to have been made by the United States, asking as liberal treatment as possible for the Americans caught bearing arms on Mexican territory, is contained in a statement made by Jose Yves Limantour, Mexican minister of finance, in New York. In substance, it is indicated that captured American allies of the revolutionists will have to take their chances with their Mexican rebel companions. This is considered to mean that under martial law Americans may be summarily tried and executed.

To Teach Pupils to Swim.

Swimming is to be taught in the Chicago public schools as a part of the regular curriculum.

Plans were approved by the board of education for the new Nicholas Senn school building, at South Port and Francis avenues and Perry street, and it is here that the first pool will be constructed. Pupils are to be given swimming lessons by an expert.

GENERAL BLANCO.
Revolutionary Leader Operating Near Douglas, Ariz.



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MAY HAVE BEEN SHOT

Fifteen Americans With Mexican Rebels Captured in Battle.

That the fifteen Americans taken prisoners by the Mexican federal troops at the battle of Casas Grandes have been shot is the belief expressed in El Paso, Tex.

All the efforts made to reach the military authorities at Casas Grandes have failed.

Madero, under whom the men fought, is still within a few miles of the place, but according to his confidential messages sent by couriers here, he has been unable to learn the fate of his men.

Madero has been asked to send in a roster of the men's names, but the courier who took this message has not yet returned.

Casas Grandes is 150 miles from El Paso, and the messenger is traveling on foot.

BANK ROBBERY KILLS WOMAN

Cashier's Wife, Who Had Been Ill, Dies From Shock.

The safe in the bank of the Rushville Bank company, at Rushville, west of Geneva, N. Y., was blown open during the night and its contents, estimated at \$5000, stolen.

Villagers heard the explosion and one of them saw three men, one with a bag on his shoulder, walking from the bank.

The safe breakers escaped in a rig before a general alarm could be given. Mrs. W. I. Jones, wife of the cashier of the bank, who has been ill, died from shock when she heard of the robbery.

Oil Trust Officer Dies at Desk.

William P. Howe, assistant treasurer of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, died suddenly in his office in the Standard Oil building in New York city. Acute cardiac trouble was given as the cause of his death. Mr. Howe was sitting at his desk when he was stricken.

Society Boxer Nearly Lost an Eye.

For more than three days Anthony J. Drexel Biddle, the popular amateur society boxer, of Philadelphia, has been reposing in a dark room, and it was not until Sunday that Dr. Charles S. Turnbull was able to assure him that he would not lose the sight of his right eye.

Biddle's injury was sustained last Thursday afternoon in a furious bout with Jack O'Brien. Incidentally the energetic amateur had three teeth broken in the same fight, while Jack O'Brien sustained severe damage in the way of cut lips and nose.

QUITS BANK HE BORROWED FROM

Cashier of Mt. Holly National Resigns.

Bank Examiner Objected to Lee's Loans and He Gave His Home and Other Real Estate to Secure Debt.

Frederick H. Lee, cashier of the Mount Holly, N. J., National bank, resigned his position because objection had been made to the fact that he borrowed money from the bank.

Mr. Lee had many friends on the board who wanted him to remain as cashier, but there were others who thought it would be better if he resigned, and to avoid controversy he did so.

The following statement was given out by Pearson Taylor and George M. Hillman, members of the directorate, at the close of the meeting:

"Mr. Lee has insisted upon resigning as cashier. His resignation was accepted by a full board meeting. Albert B. Walters, former assistant cashier, was selected to take Mr. Lee's place.

"The total indebtedness of Mr. Lee is less than \$10,000 and it is amply secured."

It is said that Mr. Lee borrowed from the bank with the knowledge and consent of several of the directors and there was nothing criminal in the transactions. A bank examiner, however, recently objected to them, and the cashier gave his home, one of the finest properties in Mount Holly, and other real estate to secure the debt.

"I have not made up my mind just what I shall do," said Mr. Lee after the board meeting. "I have good prospects, but no definite plans for the future. I am going to stay in Mount Holly a while, but have severed all connection with the bank."

The bank, it was said, will hold Lee's property for him until he is in a position to redeem it. He was also bonded for \$20,000, and at no time was the institution in danger of losing money through his borrowing. Furthermore, the bank has a surplus of \$50,000 and other securities and is in excellent condition.

Lee's salary was \$1500 a year, but he is said to have lived in the style of a man with a much greater income. He and his wife entertained frequently at their home here, which was one of the centers of social activity in Philadelphia.

It is estimated that Lee had borrowed as much as \$40,000 from the bank, but the amount had been reduced until it is within the limit of the banking laws and is now so protected that the institution will not lose anything.

Lee has been cashier of the Mount Holly National bank for ten years, filling a position his father once held. The demand made upon him to transfer his real estate as security is said to have been due principally to the bank's unfortunate experience in the past with trusted employees.

Thirty year ago a cashier named Kelly embezzled \$15,000 and was sentenced to state's prison for eight years. The second defalcation occurred last summer, when Heller, the assistant cashier, disappeared with \$18,500 of the bank's funds.

UNHURT WHEN BOLT HIT BED

Couple Escape Lightning, Which Wrecks, Then Igites House.

A lightning bolt that in its freak peregrinations parted at an iron bed and left unharmed a couple sleeping there, while it destroyed chairs and pictures and other furniture in the room, caused the destruction by fire of the two-story frame home of David Fulk, near Singer's Glen, Va.

The electric flash shattered the roof of the house, set fire to a vacant bed, dived into the lower room, occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Fulk, divided at their iron bedstead, wrought havoc in the room all about them, shot out into the kitchen, demolishing a sideboard and chairs, shattered every window and fired the structure. The terrified couple escaped in their night clothes.

Colored Man Kills Wife.

Mary Powell, a colored woman, was shot and instantly killed by her husband, Ephraim Powell, at their home in Millford, Del. The husband used a shotgun, and the entire charge entered his wife's head below the left eye. The crime was witnessed by a small child. Powell met the father of the dead woman while being taken to jail, tore loose from the policeman and struck the aged man in the face.

Four Fishermen Drowned.

Four fishermen, the crew of the gasoline boat Hope, were drowned just outside the breakwater at Gloucester, Mass., when the boat collided with the schooner Hallie Heckman.

CORPORATION TAX DECLARED VALID

Supreme Court Holds Law Constitutional.

AN EXCISE TAX ON BUSINESS

Decision Insures an Annual Income For the Government of \$25,000,000 or More.

The corporation tax was declared constitutional by the unanimous decision of the supreme court of the United States. The decision was delivered by Associate Justice William R. Day.

Washington, March 14. — The corporation tax was declared constitutional by the unanimous decision of the supreme court of the United States. The decision was delivered by Associate Justice William R. Day.

This upholding of the validity of a new system of raising revenue, made part of the Payne-Aldrich tariff bill, is a sweeping victory for the administration, as the tax was evolved by President Taft himself.

The decision insures an annual income for the government of \$25,000,000 or more, the collections for the fiscal year having amounted to more than \$26,900,000.

The decision is the first in the three big cases affecting the business world to which financial interests and lawyers have long looked forward with greatest interest. The others are the dissolution suits against the so-called oil trust and tobacco trust. All three have been reargued since the president's recent appointments to the supreme court.

Government Loses One Point.

Of all the objections to the tax raised by suits in all parts of the country none of them was found sufficient to nullify the law. The court did hold that the tax was not applicable to the real estate "trusts" of Boston, which are organized, not under any statute, but under the common law.

The law was held not applicable also to the Minneapolis syndicate, a real estate concern, on the ground that it was not "doing business" within the meaning of the law.

Justice Day first announced that it was within the power of the senate to insert the corporation tax provisions in the tariff law, which originated in the house.

He said that the court held the tax was an "excise tax on the doing of business." This is exactly the basis on which the government defended the law.

Justice Day next held that the tax provisions were not the arbitrary exercise of a power. This was urged in argument as one reason why the law should be held unconstitutional.

By regarding the tax as measured by income rather than being a tax on income, the opinion held that the law was constitutional, notwithstanding that the law might reach the income from sources in themselves non-taxable.

Near the outset the opinion sets forth that the tax "is imposed not upon the franchises of the corporation, irrespective of their use in business, nor upon the property of the corporation, but upon the doing of corporate or insurance business, and with respect to the carrying on thereof in a sum equivalent to one per centum of the entire net income over and above \$5000 received from all sources during the year; that is, when imposed in this manner, it is a tax upon the doing of business with the advantages which inhere in the peculiarities of corporate or joint stock organization of the character described."

Find Body of Man Tied to Wild Horse.

The First United States cavalry, with a pack train, found on the desert 150 miles east of Yuma, Ariz., the mummified body of a man attached to a wild horse's tail by a lasso.

The lariat had been bound to the man's wrists. The soldiers shot the horse and when they arrived in Yuma notified the coroner. It is evident that the man was tied by enemies, who then set the stallion free, allowing the animal to drag the victim to death.

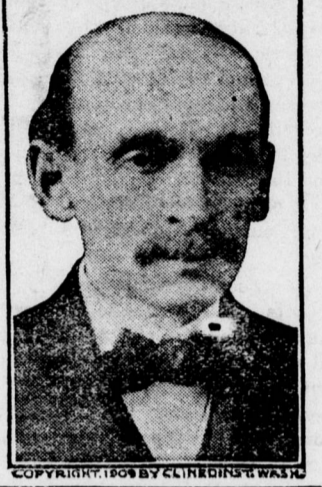
Big Locomotive Order.

An order for forty locomotives was received by the Baldwin Locomotive works in Philadelphia from the Illinois Central Railroad company. The transaction will total about \$800,000.

Chicken a Graceful Quadruped.

Elmer Crawford, of Bloomsburg, Pa., is the owner of a young chicken with four perfectly formed legs. It handles the four as well as the average chicken handles two.

State Library
JUSTICE DAY.
Delivered Decision Upholding Corporation Tax.



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Explosion Felt a Hundred Miles.

Hardly a house in the thickly populated farming country within a radius of five miles from Pleasant prairie, Wis., is in a habitable condition as a result of the explosion of five magazines filled with dynamite and black gunpowder in the plant of the Dupont de Nemours Company.

One man, E. S. Thompson, was killed; one was seriously injured, several hundred were painfully hurt, and the greater number of residents of Pleasant prairie, Bristol, and the surrounding farming country have packed their remaining household goods and moved away until their home are rebuilt.

The explosion was felt more than a 100 miles away, in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

In Chicago, sixty odd miles from the scene of the explosion, the largest granite buildings were rocked as if by an earthquake. The tremor caused a panic in some of the hotels and theatres. Many persons rushed to the streets. At Elgin, Ill., a woman dropped dead from fright.

The five magazines which exploded contained 150 tons finished dynamite, 130 tons unfinished dynamite, 80,000 kegs finished giant powder, 25,000 kegs unfinished giant powder.

Mr. Bumstead, superintendent of the powder plant, said the exact cause of the explosion could not be learned, but that it might have resulted from a hammer blow or from a broken piece of machinery flying against the wall or floor of the glazing or finishing room.

Nearly every one within ten miles of the factory when the explosion occurred is wearing a bandage, but the injuries sustained are not severe in more than half a dozen cases.

To Electrify Eastern Pennsylvania.

Plans have been filed with the recorder in Allentown, Pa., giving notice that application will be made on April 3 to the governor of Pennsylvania by W. A. Lathrop, Rollin H. Wilbur and H. F. Baker, of Philadelphia, for charters for about sixty electric companies.

This will be the first public move in the fulfillment of the great power scheme of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation company, which aims to electrify eastern Pennsylvania, affecting a territory with a population of 2,500,000 people, including Philadelphia.

Immense power houses are to be built at Lansford, to be run by coal that has heretofore been allowed to go to waste, as well as by water power, and the main high tension transmission lines, 132 miles long, are to run into Philadelphia, with branches to all industries, towns, villages and sections that will contract to utilize the power.

TO PASS RECIPROCITY WITHOUT CHANGE

Democrats Won't Add Tariff Amendments to Pact.

The Republican opponents of Canadian reciprocity in Washington are disappointed over the evident determination of the house Democrats to pass the Taft agreement without tacking any tariff revision measures to it.

The senate progressives and a number of the regulars were elated last week when the announcement was made, seemingly by authority, that the Democratic committee on ways and means planned to add amendments to the cotton and wool schedules to the Canadian agreement. Since then the committee, or at least a majority of its members, have experienced a change of heart.

Within the past day or two Chairman Underwood has caused it to be known that the Canadian agreement would be reported to the new house precisely in the form in which it was submitted to congress at the recent session.

Whether the committee has changed front because of intimations of the president that he disapproves of the plan to add anything to the Canadian bill or whether the Democrats came to the conclusion that it would be better politics to ratify the agreement just as it came from Mr. Taft, is not made clear. All that the leaders can be induced to say on the subject is that the agreement is to be passed by the house as it was outlined in the McCall bill.

WITHDRAW WARSHIPS

Sea Patrol Abolished at Mexico's Desire.

Within twenty-four hours all the American naval vessels in Mexican waters will be withdrawn.

This action was taken in accordance with orders sent out by Beekman Winthrop, acting secretary of the navy, following a formal protest to the state department made by Senor Francisco Leon de la Barra, the Mexican ambassador in Washington.

The activity of the American naval vessels was obnoxious to the Diaz government, and Ambassador de la Barra was instructed to ask that they be withdrawn.

The dispatching of the naval vessels to Mexican waters was for the twofold purpose of having them available in case it became necessary to protect American and foreign property and also to gather accurate information of the real conditions in Mexico.

It was never intended, it was explained, to establish a permanent patrol of the Pacific and Gulf coasts of Mexico.

The navy department took these steps to obtain information not only of conditions in Mexico, but also of attempted filibustering expeditions. In view of the complaint of the Mexican government, however, these investigations will be abandoned and the vessels withdrawn.

"Buffalo Bill" For Senate.

It is semi-officially stated in Tucson, Ariz., that Colonel William F. Cody, known to fame as "Buffalo Bill," plans to round out his career by becoming first United States senator from Arizona. The colonel does not deny the rumor. He has established a home in Tucson and a permanent camp in the mountains.

Cattle Worth \$250,000 Burn.

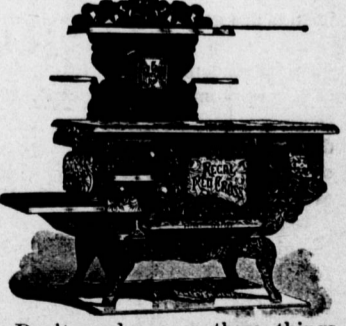
Almost two areas of stock sheds were burned down in Fort Worth, Tex., roasting to death between 500 and 1000 head of horses, sheep and hogs and seriously burning four men. The value of the dead animals is estimated at about \$250,000 and the property loss \$50,000.

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