

MISSING AVIATORS HELD FOR RANSOM

San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 17.—Maj. Gen. Joseph T. Dickman, commander of the Southern Department, and staff officers were in conference late tonight over reports from Candelaria, Texas, that Lieutenants Davis and Peterson, army aviators, are being held by Mexican bandits for \$15,000 ransom, which, army authorities have been advised, must be paid Monday to Dawkins Kilpatrick, a storekeeper at Candelaria, under penalty of death for the aviators if the money is not forthcoming.

General Dickman said reports received indicate that the two airmen came down at the little town of Dilares, which is on both sides of the Rio Grande. He declined to state what steps had been taken to rescue the men, or whether he had been in communication with Col. George T. Langhorne, commander of the Big Bend district. He also said a report of the incident had been telephoned to Washington.

Marfa, Texas, Aug. 17.—Letters purporting to be from Lieut. Paul H. Davis and Lieut. Harold G. Peterson, America army aviators, missing since last Sunday, were received here today at military headquarters. The letters stated that aviators were being held by bandits for \$15,000 ransom somewhere in Mexico and were threatened with death unless the ransom was paid.

The demand for the ransom was received here today and a report made at once to Major General Dickman, commander of the Southern Department. An unconfirmed report also was received here that aviators were being held at a point close to the American border and that Chico Cano, a famous bandit of the Big Bend Ojinaga district, was the leader of the bandit band holding the aviators.

El Paso Commander Issues Statement.

El Paso, Texas, Aug. 17.—An official statement was issued at military headquarters here tonight signed by Brig. Gen. James B. Erwin, district commander, announcing that Major L. A. Walton, commander of the aero unit at Fort Bliss, had received a message from the two missing aviators saying they had been captured by Mexicans and were being held for \$15,000 ransom. The ransom must be paid by August 18, according to the message. Arrangements were being made here tonight to obtain \$15,000 gold coin and to send it to Marfa early tomorrow for payment of the ransom. This action was deemed advisable to protect the men. The full text of the statement issued at military headquarters tonight by Gen. Erwin follows:

"A telegram was received this afternoon by Maj. L. A. Walton, commander of the aero unit at Fort Bliss, representing a message signed by the two aviators who have been missing since Sunday, stating they had been captured by Mexicans and were being held for \$15,000 ransom which must be paid by August 18, or they would be killed.

"This message was brought into a town in the Big Bend district by a well known bandit, Col. G. T. Langhorne, commanding officer of the Eighth Cavalry and the Big Bend district wired the commanding general of the El Paso district that the message is authentic and that he is taking all necessary measures to secure the release of the aviators and has presented this matter to the proper authorities. The name of the place from which the message was sent, as well

as the place where the ransom is to be paid, is not given, as it might interfere with the release of the aviators."

Lieut. Peterson is 25 years of age and is from Hutchinson, Minn. Lieut. Davis is 23 years old and is from Strathmore, Cal.

Aviators Peterson and Davis are a part of the personnel of the Fort Bliss aviation corps, but were on detached duty with the Big Bend district military headquarters at Marfa, Texas, when they disappeared. They left Marfa last Sunday morning for the usual patrol of the border, planning to follow the north bank of the Rio Grande to the end of the district.

It is believed by aviation officers that they confused the Conchos River, which flows into the Rio Grande near Presidio, Texas, with the Rio Grande, and followed the course of this river into the interior of Mexico. Another theory advanced here by fellow aviators is that they were forced to land, either on the American or Mexican side of the border, in the wild country of the Big Bend district, and were made prisoners by the Mexican bandits, who make marauding trips across the border at frequent intervals in search of cattle and other property which they carry off to Mexico.

When it became known at Fort Bliss tonight that the aviators were reported held by Mexican bandits, there was much discussion among army officers of the possibility of American troops crossing the border in search of the bandits. This was discredited by higher officers for two reasons. The principal one advanced was that the American aviators would be killed if an expedition crossed in pursuit, while the other was that the orders to cross the border in the Big Bend district apply only to pursuit of bandits who have stolen property on the American side and then only to follow a "hot trail."

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GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC is not a patent medicine, it is simply IRON and QUININE suspended in Syrup. So pleasant even children like it. The blood needs Quinine to Purify it and IRON to Enrich it. These reliable tonic properties never fail to drive out impurities in the blood.
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RATIFICATION IS AN URGENT DEMAND

**HITCHCOCK SAYS TREATY HAS
BEEN IN HANDS OF ENEMY
FOR FIVE WEEKS.**

DOCUMENT IN COLD STORAGE

**High Cost of Living is Very Properly
Connected With the War and First
Relief Rests With Committee.**

Senator Hitchcock's statement wired here from the senator's summer home at Swampscott, Mass., was made public through the local office of the league to enforce peace.

"The treaty ratification situation," the statement said, "changed somewhat during the past week. A new issue was raised when I asked the chairman of the foreign relations committee and majority members when they proposed to get action.

"I took this course after consulting with a number of senators. There has been a growing demand for action by the committee. It has had the treaty since July 10. For five weeks, therefore, the treaty has been in cold storage without a vote or any other action.

"The senate is waiting, and the country is waiting, and the impatience is increasing. Every one knows that the enemies of the treaty and opponents of the league of nations control the committee.

"Every one also knows that they do not control the senate. Public sentiment resents the suggestion that the opponents of the peace treaty might keep it locked up in committee, and this greatly delays ratification."

"Every one now realizes that we are still suffering from war and that the first step toward relief is to ratify the treaty.

"The President's address served to arouse the country to the importance of the treaty ratification as one of the steps necessary to reduce the cost of living.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE FOR PAYMENT OF THE RANSOM.

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COSTA RICA'S FLEEING PRESIDENT IN JAMAICA.

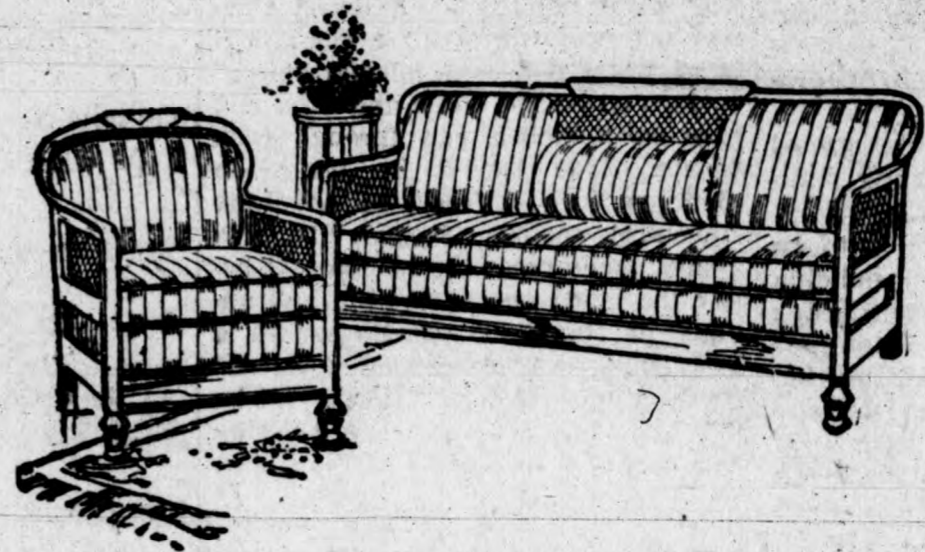
Kingston, Jamaica.—Federico Tinoco, who recently abandoned the presidency of Costa Rica and fled the country, arrived here on board the steamer Zacapa, en route to Europe. He said several attempts had been made to assassinate him and that his brother, Jose, minister of war, was shot in the back of the head the night before the president left and later died.

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