UNIVERSITY OF ...
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The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850. "Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou aim'st at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's." THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1850.
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SITUATION GROWS GRAVER.

Entire Force of United States Troops at Disposal of General Funston.

Officials Hope That Speedy Capture of Villa Will Prevent More General Dissatisfaction in Mexico and Prevent the Desertion of Carranza Troops to Bandit Standard—Carranza Denies Desertions—No Word From American Consul.

Washington, March 23.—All regulars in the United States, including thirteen thousand coast artillery, have been placed at the disposal of Gen. Funston. The Mexican situation is constantly growing graver, but hope is not abandoned that the capture or killing of Villa will prevent a general intervention.

FUNSTON CALLS FOR TROOPS.

Entire Regular Army Needed and Call May Be Repeated.

Washington, March 23.—While the military situation was tightened today it is believed that Gen. Funston has called for all available troops. It is expected that the coast artillery will be ordered to the border within a short time. A call for State militia within a few days would not be surprising. Army officers now look for real war, in the belief that Carranza will no longer be able to hold his troops in check.

SITUATION MORE ALARMING.

Villa Rallying All Mexicans to Fight Against Americans.

El Paso, March 23.—Mutiny and desertion by Carranza troops today greatly swelled the ranks of Villa's followers. Following reports that Luis Herrera had deserted to Villa came reports that Gen. Angeles, who was supposed to be faithful to Villa, was also with Villa, and that Gen. Lucio Blanco, who was supposed to be faithful to Carranza, had deserted to Villa with his command.

ed to the bandit chief with nine hundred men. The garrisons at Torreon and Gabalin, comprising about four thousand men are also said to have mutinied and galloped away to join the outlaw.

"All Mexican bullets should be for Americans. True Mexicans will no longer fight each other," is the battle cry that Villa has sent abroad in the country and it has served its purpose admirably.

Notwithstanding denials of the reported desertions by the Carranza officials army officers regard the reports as most alarming. The situation is the most critical since the revolution started five years ago.

CONSUL OUT OFF.

Nothing Heard From American Representative at Chihuahua.

Washington, March 23.—The State department is making strenuous efforts to get in touch with Consul Letcher at Chihuahua. He has not been heard from during the last twenty-four hours.

CARRANZA DENIES REPORT.

Washington Representative Says Gen. Herrera Has Not Joined Villa.

Washington, March 23.—The Carranza embassy denies the report that Gen. Herrera has joined Villa, but the report is received with reserve.

WILL FORMULATE AGREEMENT TO BE SIGNED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED STATES AND CARRANZA.

Will Outline Cooperative Pact for Capture of Villa—Reported That Villa Men Have Been Twice Defeated by Carranza Troops and Are Now Retreating Towards Namaquipa, Where They will be Forced to Fight or Surrender.

Washington, March 21.—After a long cabinet meeting the president today decided on the formation of a protocol to be signed by representatives of this country and of the Carranza government providing for their cooperation to exterminate their "common enemy," Villa. The needs of American troops will be outlined in the agreement.

VILLA SUFFERS DEFEAT.

Cut Off and Driven Back by Carranza Forces He May Now Have to Fight Americans.

El Paso, March 21.—Twice defeated in one day by the Carranzistas who stood the test and baffled his efforts to escape, Villa has rallied his forces and is today reported to be marching northwest from Namaquipa. If he continues along this route he will come directly into the trap formed by the American cavalry. Unless the bandit chief doubles back he is expected to engage with the Americans before night. Aeroplanes from Gen. Pershing's columns are said to be flying over Villa's forces and reporting their movements. During the night the Villa column that was defeated at Nimaiquipa effected a junction with his other column that was defeated at Lascruces. Villa led his forces at Lascruces in person.

GEN. FUNSTON OPTIMISTIC.

Hopeful That Villa Will be Captured Sooner Than Expected.

San Antonio, March 21.—Gen. Funston is now hopeful that Villa will be captured much sooner than originally expected. Gen. Funston is anxious for the task to be completed and if Carranza will grant the privilege to use the Mexican railways he is confident Villa will not remain long at large. The censorship will be modified as Villa is now too far south for the newspapers to reach him.

BATTLE EXPECTED SOON.

VILLA FORCES TO MAKE STAND BY PERSHING'S RAPID ADVANCE.

Retreat Cut off After Battle With Carranzistas at Las Cruces and Villa Expected to Give Battle to Americans—His Force Greatly Strengthened.

El Paso, March 23.—Gen. Pershing's forces moved so rapidly, following the battle between Villa and Carranzaistas at Las Cruces that Villa's retreat to Babicora was cut off according to advices reaching Juarez. Villa took to the mountains and his force is now approximately thirty miles southeast of Namiquipa.

The exact location of the American troops is not revealed, but it is believed that at least one column is within a few hours march of Villa, if a battle has not already begun.

Gen. Gavira believes the bandits will make a decided stand in a few hours if they have not already done so. Cattle men report that Villa's ranks have been greatly strengthened by Mexicans who are anxious to fight the "Gringoes."

CARRANZA FIGHTS VILLA.

Sharp Engagement in the Mountains of Chihuahua.

Queretaro, March 22.—Gen. Carranza was notified today that his troops are engaged in sharp combat with Villa forces in the mountains of Chihuahua.

BOUND FOR MEXICO.

Battleship Kentucky Sails from Galveston Under Sealed Orders.

Galveston, March 22.—The battleship Kentucky sailed today under sealed orders. It is believed to be bound for Mexico.

MANY SUBMARINES CAPTURED.

British Have Taken One Hundred and Twenty-seven From Germans.

Washington, March 22.—One hundred and twenty-seven submarines have been captured by the British fleet since the war began.

Albert Parker of Sumter, a brother of J. E. Parker of this city, who has been in the Fennell Infirmary for several days for treatment, was able to leave the infirmary Saturday morning and return to his home.—Rock Hill Herald.

FUNSTON WANTS MORE MEN.

REQUESTS LARGER FORCE IN ORDER THAT LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS MAY BE GUARDED.

Number of Troops May be Ordered to Border — Pershing's Expedition Gradually Proceeds Further into Mexico in Pursuit of Villa Bandits.

San Antonio, Texas, March 21.—Gen. Frederick Funston today asked the war department for more troops to be sent into Mexico in pursuit of Villa.

The request was made at the suggestion of Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of the expedition, who urged that another regiment be sent to him. In his message to the war department Gen. Funston asked for what he termed an "adequate force."

It was announced at Gen. Funston's headquarters that the Fifth cavalry, of which one squadron is at Fort Myer, Va., another at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., and the third at Fort Sheridan, Ill., would be brought to the border at once and sent forward along Gen. Pershing's line of communication to Casas Grandes. Whether he had asked for other troops Gen. Funston would not say.

The only reason given for strengthening Gen. Pershing's force, known to be considerably more than 4,000 men, was that his field of operations had become so extended that his main line of communication and the subsidiary lines were in need of strengthening.

"Merely a precautionary move," was the way Gen. Funston answered all inquiries. He was asked if the reported movement of troops of the de facto government from garrisons in the interior to posts on the border and reported failure of Carranza troops in one or two instances to show active cooperation in the pursuit of Villa had anything to do with his decision to ask for more strength, but he declined to answer.

Some uneasiness was displayed for a moment at department headquarters today when it was reported that the telegraph wires between Casas Grandes and the border had been cut. But later report showed the line cut was a "busser" line Gen. Pershing had laid, and that it had been broken accidentally by some of the American forces crossing it, allayed apprehension.

It is not believed here that Gen. Funston is worried to any extent by reports of alleged growing antagonism among certain Carranza troops, although he is carefully studying that phase of the situation. It has not been forgotten at his headquarters, however, that Villa has many more troops somewhere in northern Mexico than the few hundred said to be with him in his flight. Realizing the mobile character of Villa's band, it was not considered wise to expose Gen. Pershing's lines too much.

Lake Babicora, towards which one of the columns of United States troops was reported yesterday to be moving, is almost 200 miles from the border and by the time the columns directed towards Carmen and Namiquipa arrive at their destinations they also will be almost as far south. South of Casas Grandes the cavalry detachments, following the trail into the heart of the country where Villa is known to have been operating, is a triangle of approximately 3,000 square miles in area.

The chase for Villa has grown larger than even many military men who had studied the situation carefully believed it would, and it was pointed out that if it became necessary to extend the operations much more it might be necessary to move into the field almost all the remaining available forces of the regular army with the exception of some 20,000 men now in the southern department, the greater part on duty in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona along the Mexican border, who, Gen. Funston explained, were needed to guard the frontier.

With the exception of four and one-third regiments of infantry, two regiments of cavalry and what amounts to about a regiment and a half of field artillery, virtually all troops of the regular army are either already in the border territory and in Mexico, or are in foreign service. This does not include the coast artillery corps or all engineer troops, signal corps companies and field hospitals and ambulance companies.

Regiments left in the United States, exclusivce of these in the southern department and Mexico or in foreign service, are:

Second cavalry, Fort Ethan Allen, Vt.; Fifth cavalry, Fort Sheridan, Fort Myer, Va., and Fort Leavenworth, Kan.; Third infantry, Madison barracks, New York and Fort Ontario, N. Y.; Fourteenth infantry, one battalion at Fort Lawton, Wash.; Twenty-first infantry, Vancouver barracks, Wash.; Twenty-fourth infantry, Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo.; Thirtieth infantry, Plattsburg barracks, New York; Fifth field artillery, with the exception of one battery, Fort Sill, Okla.; three batteries of the Third field artillery, Fort Myer, Va.

Gen. Funston was advised from Washington today that $20,000 had been placed to his credit for the payment of the services of guides, scouts, interpreters and other civilians. Already Gen. Pershing has employed many scouts.

The work of the scouts, it was expected, would be aided by aviators, six of whom have arrived at Casas Grandes. Lieut. T. R. Brown, who fell with his machine in the flight from the border to Casas Grandes, was only slightly injured, according to an official report to Gen. Funston.

It was stated at Gen. Funston's headquarters that no report from Gen. Pershing regarding the operations against Villa south of Casas Grandes was received today. Unofficial reports regarding Villa's fight with Carranza forces at Cruces and Namiquipa south of Galeana, were vague and contradictory. Whether the American column of cavalry advancing southward on the trail leading to Cruces encountered Villa was but a guess at headquarters.

EXPLAINS VALUE OF BILL.

EXPERT APPEARS FOR SMITH'S NITRATE MEASURE.

Vital in Importance to Farmers—Norton Points Out Necessity From Point of View of Preparedness.

Washington, March 21.—Hearings were continued today before the senate committee on agriculture on the bill of Senator Smith of South Carolina providing for the withdrawal of water power sites and construction of water power plants by the government for the manufacture of nitrates. No measure of recent years has created a more wide spread interest among all classes of people than has the nitrate bill. The committee is evidencing an interest in the measure that seldom characterizes its deliberations, and as the possibilities of the project are gone into more and more in detail the importance and significance of the proposed measure become more apparent.

The hearing today was devoted to a technical discussion of the merits of the bill by Dr. Thomas H. Norton of the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce—an eminent scientist who has devoted years to research along the lines contemplated in the measure. In the opinion of Dr. Norton, the proposals of the bill are not only feasible and practicable, but absolutely essential to the future economic independence of the United States with respect to nitrate and nitric acid. Mr. Norton pointed out how abundance of water power was available for the establishment of plants for the utilization of nitrogen from the air in the various parts of the country, and advocated the plan that a plant for the extraction of nitrates for use in commercial fertilizers should be located in the Southeast, another for the utilization of nitrates for commercial and munitional needs in the Northwest and still another to meet the demands for nitric acid to be used both in the arts and in the manufacture of munitions to be located in the Northeastern section of the country. He declared that sufficient water power was readily available [illegible] adequately the needs for nitrogen for commercial fertilizers, and pointed out how dependent this nation is upon Chile for the nitrates essential to commercial fertilizers.

He stated that Senator Smith's measure provides a sufficient means to enable the government to meet every demand, both from the standpoint of nitrates for fertilizers and nitric acid for the manufacture of explosives and for use in the various arts, which the United States might have.

Senator Smith is pushing the consideration of the bill and it is probable that a vote in the committee will be had Monday.

Licenses to marry have been issued to M. J. Morris, Sumter, and Miss Nellie Osteen, Tindal; M. N. Baker, Sumter, and Miss Emma Baker, St. Charles; also to the following colored couples: Jake Bowman, Jr., Privateer, and Carrie L. Gadsden, Sumter; Mathew Jennings and Phyllis Jackson, Dalzell; James McFadden and Rosalie Johnson, Sumter.

AUGUSTA SWEPT BY FLAMES

Twenty-one Blocks of City Wiped Out With Loss Estimated at $10,000,000.

Fire Started in Dyer Building and, Fanned by Strong Wind, Swept Down Broad Street Causing Terrible Devastation—Other Cities of South Carolina and Georgia Rushed Aid to Stricken City—Three Thousand Left Homeless.

Augusta, Ga., March 23.—A conflagration which has already resulted in an estimated loss of $8,000,000 to $10,000,000 is sweeping Augusta and at 1 o'clock in the morning is still burning fiercely. Fanned by a wind blowing in a southeasterly direction the flames swept through between 20 and 25 city blocks destroying dozens of business buildings and rendering thousands homeless. The fire started about 6:15 p. m. in the rear of a store on the first floor of the Dyer building, one of the city's principal office buildings. Tenants of the building barely escaped with their lives and a dozen young women who attended a business college on the fifth floor were forced to come down fire escapes at peril of their lives.

The Augusta fire department, with every available engine, was on the scene within less than three minutes after the alarm was turned in and seeing that the Dyer building was doomed, directed its efforts toward saving the Union Savings Bank building across the street. The fire, in the meantime, had swept across Eighth street from the rear of the Dyer building and began burning Cotton row where thousands of bales were stored. The flames began to eat their way through the warehouses, attacked the Tubman high school and then swept toward Broad street. The firemen had kept the flames from the Union Savings bank building from the Eighth street side but when the building was attacked from the rear they could not fight the flames from that angle also.

On the 700 block of Broad street the Union Savings bank building, the Postal telegraph building, the Augusta Herald building, the Commercial club building and The Chronicle and Empire buildings, the latter two modern office buildings were gutted.

As the flames were uncontrollable at 7 o'clock, an appeal was sent to other cities for aid. Atlanta, Macon, Savannah, Columbia, and Waynesboro were called on. Waynesboro arrived at 10 o'clock and Columbia one hour later. Nothing seemed to be able to check the flames in the path which the wind directed them and they destroyed approximately 15,000 bales of cotton valued at nearly $1,000,000. The Tubman high school building was a total loss, as was the Southern railway freight depot. The fire burning the north side of Broad on the 700 block down to the Citizens & Southern bank building, this granite structure acted as a barrier to the further progress of the flames and they swept behind it. The Citizens & Southern, Planters Loan & Savings and Georgia Railroad banks were saved on the 700 block.

The entire section of the city north of Broad and east of Eighth streets seemed to be doomed though the firemen fought valiantly to save many of the buildings and succeeded in saving some.

On the 400 and 300 blocks of Broad, Reynolds and Bay streets, practically all the residences were destroyed. Lower Broad is one of the most exclusive residence sections of the city. The flames crossed Broad on the 400 block and swept down Ellis and then to Green, burning both sides of lower Green. Thousands of people were made homeless and many other thousands are sleeping with their households furniture piled in the street, keeping vigil over their property.

So far as is known the fire has caused the loss of no lives though numerous firemen have been burned and had to go to the hospital. It is reported, however, that the little child of Fireman Meredith was burned to death just as her father rushed in the house to save her.

The fire is practically under control at 1:30 so far as the business and principal residential sections are concerned, though it is now raging near the city limits. It is being controlled because it has about burned out.

It was estimated at 2 o'clock that 500 homes have been destroyed, leaving over 3,000 persons homeless. The fire crossed Broad street at Elbert street and is gradually eating its way into the residence s[illegible] of the city.

One of the larger w[illegible] uses containing 100,000 bales [illegible]tton is out of the fire zone.

Three companies [illegible] the National Guard have been [illegible]d out and are patrolling the st[illegible]

At 2:30 o'clo[illegible]s morning the fire was grad[illegible] burning its way through the [illegible]ential section and had touched [illegible]n street. The flames have been checked at several points by the Augusta augmented fire department.

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AUGUSTA FIRE EXTINGUISHED.

Burned Itself Out Early This Morning—Loss Eight Million Dollars.

Augusta, March 23.—The conflagration which swept a two-mile swath through Augusta last night burned itself out early today, leaving a loss of eight million dollars, three thousand homeless and eight hundred without employment. Relief work among the homeless went forward rapidly today, while State troops still guarded the devastated area. No death is reported but several were injured. Roughly speaking the burned district runs from Eighth street to the eastern boundary, and is from two to five blocks wide, between fifty and sixty blocks being wiped out, among them the big buildings on the north side of Broad street. Notwithstanding the tremendous loss plans were underway today to replace the burned structures. "A bigger, better Augusta," is the slogan.

J. S. M'INNES FOR CONGRESS.

Darlington Lawyer, Carolina Alumnus, To Seek Place Held Now by Ragsdale.

Columbia, March 23.—Julius S. McInnis of Darlington yesterday announced his candidacy for congress from the Sixth congressional district to succeed J. W. Ragsdale of Florence.

Mr. McInnis is a member of the Darlington delegation in the house of representatives, having led the ticket in his county in the summer of 1914. He is a member of the Darlington bar, having been graduated from the University of South Carolina in law last June.

Mr. McInnis was a visitor to Columbia yesterday and while here made the announcement.

NO CROWN FOR YUAN.

Resumes Presidency of Chinese Republic.

Peking, March 22.—A state department mandate issued tonight announces the abandonment of the monarchy and resumption of the republic.

The mandate says the revolution shows that the demand for a monarchical form of government is not unanimous and that, therefore, Yuan Shi Kai rejects the emperorship and resumes the presidency.

The imperial documents, the mandate adds, will be returned by Yuan Shi Kai to the state council, which will reconvene at the senate, preparatory to the resumption of the republic.

Hsu Shih Chang, who left the cabinet because of the monarchical movement, signed the mandate as secretary of State, having reentered the cabinet.

RUSSIANS ATTACKING AUSTRIANS.

Artillery Bombardment of Teutonic Positions Along Entire Front.

Vienna, March 23.—Russian artillery is bombarding the Teutonic positions along the entire front, was officially announced today. The infantry attacks by the Czar's troops are said to have been repulsed.

To Retain Militia Pay Feature.

Washington, March 23.—The house voted today overwhelmingly to retain militia pay feature of the Hay bill.