WEATHER FORECAST:
Fair; Continued Cold
(Full Report on Page Two.)

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MEXICO RAILWAY TAKEN BY PERSHING
PLOT TO PILLAGE EL PASO BALKED

RUSSIAN DRIVE ON VILNA-DVINSK LINE OPENS OFFENSIVE

Battle Raging Forty Miles South of Dvinsk—Half a Million Russians in Action.

GERMANS ARE GIVING WAY

Kuropatkin Delivers Attack Along 150-Mile Front of von Hindenburg's Troops.

LONDON, March 23.—Half a million well-equipped Russian troops, under direct command of General Kuropatkin, are now assailing von Hindenburg's line on a front of 150 miles.

The Russians, it is officially announced at Petrograd, have dented the German line at half a dozen places. Unofficial dispatches today report the battle raging with great fury forty miles south of Dvinsk. The Slavs on this sector are driving westward toward the Vilna-Dvinsk railway.

Offense Begins.

Whether Kuropatkin's heavy blows are the beginnings of a great offensive or merely an attempt to lift the pressure on Verdun, it is too early to determine. The Petrograd correspondent of the Morning Post cables that "the great Russian move has begun," pointing out that Kuropatkin is employing large forces.

Other dispatches from Petrograd describe the Russian offensive as an attempt to batter in the dangerous German wedge in the Dvinsk region, removing the threat of a German offensive on that sector when weather conditions are more seasonable.

View of Critics.

This is the view held by the majority of London critics, who believe the weather in the Dvinsk region will not be favorable for a great offensive for at least a month.

Northwest of Verdun, the Germans are striving desperately to capture a dominant height in the Avocourt region, from which to bring gun-fire to bear upon French positions. Emerging from the Avocourt woods, the Bavarian regiments found themselves upon an open plain, raked by the fire of scores of French guns.

The German attempt has met with some success. The official statement from the French war office admits that the Germans gained a foothold on Haucourt hill, between Avocourt and Malancourt.

U. S. Official at Sofia Is Arrested

Chancellor of Embassy Charged With Bribing Passport Authority.

PARIS, March 23.—The chancellor of the American legation at Sofia has been arrested by the Bulgarian authorities, according to a dispatch received here today.

He was charged with bribing a police official to issue certain passports.

The American minister has demanded his release.

French Take Trenches East of Pont-a-Mousson

PARIS, March 23.—The Germans made no new attacks on the west bank of the Meuse last night, and the bombardment northwest of Verdun slackened perceptibly, the war office announced this afternoon.

Near Fayenhaye, east of Pont-A-Mousson and about fifty miles southeast of Verdun, French troops attacked German trenches, taking a number of prisoners.

The French maintain their positions on the slopes of Haucourt hill, between Malancourt and Avocourt. The Germans made no new attempts to enlarge their positions at this point.

Violent bombardments occurred at several points last night, particularly east of the Meuse. There was intermittent cannonading in the Woevre.

Germans Take French Prisoners in Greece

BERLIN, March 23.—German troops, newly arrived at the Greek frontier, made their first capture of French prisoners in the recent skirmish between patrols, the Cologne Gazette's Balkan correspondent reported.

The two scouting parties came upon each other unexpectedly and immediately clashed. After the infantry fighting, artillery exchanged shots across the border.

ARREST ORDERED IN POISON MYSTERY; WAITE UNDER GUARD

Son-in-Law of Milionaire Under Guard, and Traces of Arsenic Are Found.

NEW YORK, March 23.—District Attorney Swann today ordered the arrest of Dr. Arthur Warren Waite, son-in-law of John E. Peck, Grand Rapids millionaire, who died here on March 12, supposedly of arsenic poisoning.

A colored maid is said to have told District Attorney Swann's secretary that the night before he died Peck drank a cup of tea shortly after he had tried to take some soup that he complained tasted bitter. According to the statement Peck refused the soup after he had taken but a couple of spoonsful.

As soon as word was received from Grand Rapids last night that an autopsy showed arsenic poisoning, District Attorney Swann ordered the home of Dr. Waite guarded.

After the order for the arrest of Dr. Waite, Attorney John B. Stanchfield told the district attorney that Waite was ill and could not be removed from his apartments.

The guard at the Waite home is being maintained.

Dr. Waite, the son-in-law, is twenty-eight. At high school and at the University of Michigan he made brilliant records both as student and athlete. He holds the indoor tennis championship of New York.

He married Miss Peck at Grand Rapids on September 9.

The death of Mrs. Emma Ring, sixty, is the center of a second mystery. She was the wealthy widow of George L. Ring, a broker. She died on Tuesday.

Coroner Riorden is now holding up the funeral pending an autopsy. He is said to have received an anonymous telephone call asking that he look into the case.

FINAL EFFORT TO BE MADE THIS WEEK TO BRING SUNDAY HERE

Group of Washington Clergymen and Laymen to Visit Evangelist in Baltimore.

A final and concerted effort to get Billy Sunday to come to Washington for a campaign will be made this week.

Acting under instructions of the Pastors' Federation of Washington, the Rev. Dr. Clarence A. Vincent, president of the federation, and a group of clergymen and laymen are going to Baltimore this week to confer with the evangelist.

They will make a report to the Pastors' Federation Monday morning at 11 o'clock at the Y. M. C. A.

Though Sunday is booked for two years ahead, it is believed that some of the dates are tentative, and that they could be canceled for a Washington campaign. This is the point about which the Washington committee wishes to talk to Mr. Sunday.

The committee expected to go over tomorrow, but the fact that several of the clergymen who were to go have other engagements may postpone the trip until later in the week.

Yesterday two Presbyterian clergymen, the Rev. Samuel Bower and the Rev. Harry Haremore Angus, who were in Baltimore arranging for the Presbyterian excursion on April 1, sounded out George Sunday on a Washington campaign. Beyond advising them to see "the boss," young Mr. Sunday shed no light on the possibility of getting Mr. Sunday to come.

The date of the Presbyterian excursion was to have been on April 29, but it was found that not enough seats could be reserved then, so the date was shifted to April 1. George Sunday would only allow 500 seats for the Washington visitors. He said that more applications for reservations already

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5,000 JAM LINES TO GET SEATS TO FIGHT

Demand Far Exceeds Supply of Tickets for Willard-Moran Bout Saturday.

By FRED S. FERGUSON.

NEW YORK, March 23.—Having worked itself up, first, from a state of doubting curiosity to a stage of mild interest, New York threw all restraint into its numerous snow barks today and simply went nutty over the Willard-Moran fight.

When the sale of $3 and $5 tickets, calling for seats in the topmost gallery on Madison Square Garden, started today there were four times as many wild-eyed fight fans clamoring at the doors as there were tickets to be sold.

At noon the $3 and $5 seats were declared "all sold." Speculators were busy about the Garden, and though it was declared precautions had been taken to prevent more than one or two tickets falling into any one person's hands, they were being offered on the street from $10 up. Many in the ticket line were declared to be agents for speculators. Hundreds were turned away from the ticket window when the "sold out" sign was hung up.

The seat sale began at 9 o'clock. The line began forming at daylight, and by the time the ticket office opened at least 5,000 men and boys were jammed in the streets about the Garden. Extra police were hurried to the scene to con-

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Tirpitz Policies Losing Support

Bethmann-Hollweg Likely to Win Over Reichstag to Moderation.

By CARL W. ACKERMAN.

BERLIN, March 23.—Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, supported by the Kaiser and military leaders, in all probability will be victorious in the Reichstag over the von Tirpitzites.

The policies advocated by the von Tirpitz followers have won no new support since the admiral's resignation, despite the loud utterances of some of the newspapers supporting von Tirpitz.

On the other hand, the Kaiser's influence and later calm consideration of the possible results of an indiscriminate submarine warfare, is winning supporters for Bethmann-Hollweg.

The controversy has brought to light the plain truth that to pursue the von Tirpitz policies to the extreme, by sinking all ships bound for England, Germany must again face danger in her relations with the United States. This the Reichstag is anxious to avoid.

BURGLARY ATTEMPT AT PHELPS PLACE

Second Visit Made in Vicinity of Q Street Bridge—Hole Cut in Pane.

On the heels of the "second story" burglary of the home of Lieutenant Commander Reynolds, near the Q street bridge, on Tuesday night, burglars attempted to enter the home of Arthur Hale, 1830 Phelps place, last night.

Climbing a tree, the intruders reached the roof of the front porch and cut a hole in the glass of one of the windows leading into a bed room.

They were frightened away before they had entered the house.

Mrs. Hale believes that the attempt was made while the family was at dinner. She said that as she rose from the dinner table she say a man wearing a dark overcoat and hat peeping into the dining room window.

Mr. Hale immediately searched the premises, but found no one.

This morning Mrs. Hale saw the hole which had been cut in the window. It had been made beneath the catch of the sash.

Baker Asks Hearing On Aqueduct Bridge

Secretary of War Wants Citizens to Express Their Views as to Its Location.

Secretary of War Baker today requested the District Commissioners to call a public hearing at which Washington, Georgetown, and Virginia residents may express their views as to the best location for the proposed new Aqueduct bridge.

A bill passed the House recently providing for the construction of a new bridge at a point some place between Thirty-fourth and Thirty-sixth streets northwest. While the bill was pending in the Senate, a resolution by Senator Nelson was adopted requesting the Secretary of War to give his views as to the best location for such a bridge.

Since receiving the request contained in the Nelson resolution, Secretary Baker has been asked by the Georgetown Citizens' Association, the Alexandria County Citizens' Association, the Columbia Dredging Company, and several individuals, to accord a hearing before announcing his views as to the best bridge site.

Secretary Baker believed that an expression of views can best be brought out by a public hearing, and has so advised the District Commissioners.

"VOLUNTEER ARMY" PLAN IS REJECTED BY VOTE OF HOUSE

Garrison-Gardner Proposal Is Overwhelmingly Defeated Without Standing Count.

BODY WEDDED TO HAY IDEA

Action Indicates There Is Trouble Ahead for Conferees on Chamberlain Bill.

The House today rejected a proposal to create a "volunteer army" similar to that proposed by Secretary Garrison before he left the War Department.

Resuming consideration of the Hay army bill, the House debated for an hour the Gardner amendment proposing a "volunteer army" instead of a "Federalized militia." When the vote was taken the "noes" were of such overwhelming numbers that Congressman Gardner did not even ask for a standing vote.

Mr. Gardner's amendment proposed an army somewhat similar to that espoused by Secretary Garrison, who was the originator of the "Continental Army" plan. The Massachusetts member has fought consistently the Hay plant to Federalize the State militias, his contention being that since the militia is offered by State appointees the National Guard will never become a really effective fighting force of the Federal Government. It means "45 little armies," according to Mr. Gardner.

To Pay Guardsmen.

The "volunteer army" amendment sponsored by Mr. Gardner was offered in lieu of that section of the bill providing for the payment by the Federal Government, of certain sums to the officers and men of the National Guard.

The action of the House demonstrated that the lower body is wedded to the Hay idea and that the Garrison-Gardner plan for a Continental or volunteer army has little support in the lower chamber.

The "volunteer army" plan is carried in the Senate bill, which has been introduced by Senator Chamberlain. That there will be trouble in conference over this item is apparent, assuming that the Senate accepts the Chamberlain bill. The House will make a determined stand for building up and Federalizing the State militias, instead of creating a volunteer army.

Congressman Gardner's amendment today was presented to take the place of section 75 of the Hay bill. This section provides that in the Federalization of the State militias the officers shall be paid from the Federal Treasury salaries ranging from $200 for a second lieutenant to $500 for officers with the rank of captain or higher. Enlisted men, except when in actual service, will receive one-fourth the regular pay of enlisted men of corresponding grades in the regular army—provided the enlisted men attend regular drills.

Favors "Federalized Militia."

In defeating the Gardner plan the House virtually O. K.'d the "Federalized militia," which is to be brought about by pay from the Federal Treasury and a supervision by the War Department of the training of militiamen and the appointment of its officers after examinations are conducted along lines prescribed by the War Department. These appointments, however, will still be known as State appointments—which fact caused opposition to the plan among some House members.

Following the debate on the Gardner amendment, about which centered one of the principal fights during the debate on the bill, the House is making comparatively rapid progress this afternoon on the Hay bill. There is a possibility that a vote may be reached tonight, although there will be considerable discussion of the proposal to establish a nitrate plant for the manufacture of explosives in time of war.

Gardner's Amendment.

Congressman Gardner's amendment, which was close enough to the Garrison plan to make it possible to sound out sentiment on the "continental army" idea, read as follows:

"The Volunteer Army. The President is hereby authorized, at any time, to organize, maintain, and train, under the provisions of section 3 to 12, both inclusive, of an act entitled 'An act to provide for raising the volunteer forces of the United States in time of actual or threatened war,' approved April 25, 1914, volunteer forces, not exceeding an average of 600 officers and enlisted men for each Congressional district. The term of enlistment, which shall in no event be greater than that of the regular army, the period of service with the colors and with the reserve, and the period of training shall be as the President may prescribe, those passing to the reserve to have the status and obligations prescribed for reserves of the regular army. Officers and enlisted men of the volunteer forces raised under the provisions of this section shall be entitled to the pay and allowances of officers and enlisted men of corresponding grades in the regular army during periods of training only.

"Temporary appointments and promotions of officers of the regular army arising from the operation of this section may be terminated at the discretion of the President.

"Officers of the regular army who receive commissions in the volunteer army herein authorized shall in time of peace receive the pay and allowances of their respective grades in the regular army, and no more."

Tourists Are Taken Off Trains For U. S. Troops

DENVER, March 23.—Within a fortnight of their return from long service in the Philippines the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry left Fort D. A. Russell, near Cheyenne, today for the border in cars taken from trans-continental trains or gathered in a genral combing of Western railroad yards.

Passengers were shooed out of tourists' coaches at La Junta, Colo., and forced to crowd into the remainder of the train when railroad officials received hurry orders for additional cars for the troops. The yards at Pueblo, Denver, Colorado Spring and Cheyenne were emptied of available passenger coaches.

The first detachment passed through Denver early today.

Col. W. G. Penrose is in command of the regiment consisting of 1,700 men.

SOLONS SEE PERIL FOR U. S. TROOPS

Senators Sherman and Ashurst Plead for Protection and Vigilance.

Senator Sherman has prepared a new resolution authorizing and directing the President to call for 50,000 volunteers for Mexican service.

The new measure is a Senate resolution, which will not require either the joint action of the House or the signature of the President, nor will it necessarily be referred to a committee.

Senator Sherman has ben led to do this because it became clear today that Administration leaders, headed by Senator Stone, would try to side track the original resolution by burying it in committee.

He laid emphasis on the conditions which he believe call for such action. He said he had lived in Mexico and that he spoke as one having a personal acquaintance with the people and the country.

"Why risk the lives of men on a slender thread which may snap any hour?" asked Senator Sherman. "If the northern states of Mexico should be unfriendly, Brigadier General Pershing and his forces are in danger of finding a hostile country in the rear and no communication with our country."

He characterized the present policy as "trusting to luck."

Senator Ashurst of Arizona, in an interview, said that garrisons should be doubled and vigilance exercised.

"I am fearful," said the Senator, "that large numbers of Carranza troops will join Villa and may give trouble to General Pershing's expedition. The situation along the Mexican border, I believe, is graver than the departments think it is."

Senator Sherman took the floor to make it plain that he would call up his resolution at the earliest opportunity.

Senator Stone's anxiety to repress debate is taken to mean that the Administration is anxious to prevent the Mexican situation from being aired.

Wants Wilson to Put Price on Villa

Congressman Scott Would Have President Give $50,000 for Bandit's Body.

President Wilson is authorized to pay $50,000 for the delivery of the body of Pancho Villa into the hands of the military authorities of the United States, in a resolution introduced today by Congressman Scott of Philadelphia.

"My thought is that such a reward would stir Mexicans to activity in capturing Villa, and would save the lives of many American soldiers," said Congressman Scott. "Villa would not be safe among his own followers when once it became known that a price was hanging over his head, as the sole object of his followers seems to be pillage, rapine, and murder."

Six New Hydroplanes About Ready For Navy

MARBLEHEAD, Mass., March 23.—Builders' trials on six hydroplanes of a new class, built at the Burgess Company's plant, were held today in response to rush orders from the Navy Department.

The machines were originally built for school work at Pensacola, but owing to the shortage which exists in navy aircraft and the rush orders, it is thought they may be used in Mexico.

U. S. TROOPS ENTRAIN IN EFFORT TO CATCH VILLA BAND IN REAR

Eleven Mexicans Arrested in Conspiracy to Burn and Loot El Paso—Brother of Carranza General Held—Two Hundred Involved, Police Say.

EL PASO, March 23.—General Pershing has taken over control of the Mexican Northwestern railroad south of Casas Grandes, his base in Mexico, it was unofficially stated here today.

He is said already to have begun transporting infantry forces over the line to Madera, Chihuahua, in an attempt to get behind Villa while Colonel Dodd's cavalry squadron push the bandit's followers southward.

The American troops are reported to have been loaded on the Mexican railway at Casas Grandes, Pershing using equipment obtained from Pearson and Casas Grandes.

United States cavalry is understood to be protecting the line to prevent raids by Villista bands.

It is unknown here whether Pershing forcibly took possession of the line or received the permission of the de facto government. Pershing took this action three days ago.

With telegraph wires and rail communication intact, the absence of official denial of Gen. Luis Herrera's revolt at Chihuahua City was generally commented upon here.

A denial by Carranza Consul Garcia, based on Herrera's reputed enmity against Villa, was Garcia's personal opinion. Herrera has been a member of both Carranza and Villa factions at different times.

SAN ANTONIO, March 25.—"If General Pershing is using the Mexico Northwestern railroad south of Casas Grandes," said General Funston today, when informed of a report to that effect from El Paso, "he is undoubtedly acting with the consent of the local Mexican commander. I have no knowledge of it."

General Funston denied a report that he had asked for any further re-enforcements.

Militia Ready To Keep Off Mexicans

EL PASO, March 23.—Police Captain Hall today claime dto be in possession of facts showing a plot of 200 Mexicans in El Paso to loot and burn the city.

Eleven men were arrested, including Melchor Herrera, brother of General Luis Herrera.

Night machine gun practice is part of the war exercise at Fort Bliss. As a result of the choking of the American machine guns at Columbus during the Villa raid, because the soldiers were unaccustomed to operating them in the dark, the commanders at the fort are putting the soldiers through nightly drills on the rifle range.

In addition to the rapid firers at Fort Bliss there are others held near police headquarters, manned by 300 militia infantrymen, ready for service in case of a local Mexican uprising or an attack from Juarez.

Carranza Protocol Meets Further Delay

With unofficial reports from the border piling up to show that Gen. Luis Herrera, Carranza's former military commander at Chihuahua, has joined the cause of Francisco Villa, and has declared war on the United States, it was learned today that further delay has developed in the negotiations between the State Department and the Carranza government for the establishment of a protocol under which the two governments can co-operate in the pursuit of the bandit forces.

It was expected that Eliseo Arredondo, Carranza's ambassador-designate, and the Secretary of State would meet today in a final conference on the subject, and that out of this conference would come the formal agreement in writing.

For reasons which were not given at the State Department, it was said it