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VILLA PLANS TO MAKE RAIDS ON UNITED STATES

Bandit Reported to Have Said He Will Attack American Side in Bands of 25 Men Each.

HE WILL LOOT AND BURN Says European Nations Can Help Him Divide Up Big Gold Supply.

SHELLS BURIED IN DESERT

El Paso, Tex., Dec. 13.—Francisco Villa announced in Chihuahua City he intended to divide his men into groups of twenty-five each and distribute them along the American border and in the interior of the United States to loot and burn property under his instructions, a letter received from a prominent Chihuahua City business man and forwarded to Washington today stated.

Villa while in the state capital declared his intention of raising an army of 25,000 men, but denied he intended to attack General Pershing's column, the letter added.

These statements, according to the letter, were made to the meeting of merchants called by Villa.

Villa, the Chihuahua business man wrote, said he would have his men in the border states issue proclamations calling upon the Mexicans living on the American side to "rise in rebellion against the United States" and join his army, the letter stated.

Villa also declared he had 20,000,000 rounds of ammunition hidden in the desert and he could get it any time he needed it, according to this letter. The Mexican leader also is reported to have referred to political conditions in the United States, stating the European countries would subjugate the United States in order to get its enormous gold supply, in which he (Villa) would have a part.

The letter stated that Villa, captured 2,000 rifles from the Carranza forces in Chihuahua City, much ammunition and many cannons.

Peru Normal School To Celebrate Its Golden Anniversary

Lincoln, Dec. 13.—(Special.)—The Peru State Normal school, Nebraska's original normal institution, will during the week of June 2 to 6 celebrate its fiftieth anniversary, according to Superintendent D. W. Hayes, president of the institution, who was present at the meeting of the State Normal board this week.

During the fifty years of its existence, the school has sent forth on an average 200 students a year and during the last seven years, the time which President Hayes has had charge of the institution, 2,676 students were graduated, being more than half the total graduations of the school for the half century of its existence. The average attendance of the school has been over 600 a year and during the history of the school over 30,000 different students have registered in some of its departments. Seven buildings compose the institution at the present time and represent a cost of about \$275,000.

Chadron Man Broods Over High Prices and Tries to End Life

Chadron, Neb., Dec. 13.—(Special Telegram.)—Charles Sharp, a highly respected citizen of Chadron, for twenty-five years an employee of the Northwestern Railroad company, attempted to commit suicide this morning by cutting his throat with a pen knife. While still alive, his case is considered very critical. No reason except brooding over the high cost of living is advanced for the act. His wife, son and daughter are at his bedside with the surgeons.

The Weather
For Nebraska—Cloudy.
Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.
Hours. Deg.
5 a. m. ... 22
6 a. m. ... 22
7 a. m. ... 22
8 a. m. ... 22
9 a. m. ... 22
10 a. m. ... 22
11 a. m. ... 22
12 m. ... 22
1 p. m. ... 22
2 p. m. ... 22
3 p. m. ... 22
4 p. m. ... 22
5 p. m. ... 22
6 p. m. ... 22
7 p. m. ... 22
8 p. m. ... 22
9 p. m. ... 22
10 p. m. ... 22
11 p. m. ... 22
12 m. ... 22
Comparative Local Record.
1916. 1915. 1914. 1913.
Highest yesterday... 20 20 17 15
Lowest yesterday... 12 12 10 8
Mean temperature... 24 24 22 20
Precipitation... .00 .00 7 .00
Temperature and precipitation departures from the normal.

STRONG MAN OF FRANCE—Premier Briand, who has just reorganized the French cabinet on firmer lines.



CHORUS OF DERISION FROM PARIS PRESS

Morning Papers Say Peace Offer is Clumsy Trap Intended to Divide the Entente.

MAY HELP SOME AT HOME

Paris, Dec. 13.—The offer of peace of Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg is received with a chorus of derision in the French press. The newspapers are unanimous that it is an admission that the situation is getting critical in Germany and that the chancellor wants a way out before it is too late. His move is considered to have the additional advantage that in the event of its failing, it will enable him to throw the blame for the continuation of the war on the allies, which he hopes will have a normal effect on Germany and the neutral nations.

Calls It Clumsy Bait

"The time for feints is over," says the Petit Journal. "We are no longer in the presence of the trial efforts of those persistent appeals to interviewers and newspaper articles, Chancellor von Hoffweg summoned the Reichstag, not to hear his speech, but to be confronted with an act. We do not know if at Berlin there are people so naive as to imagine that the allies are likely to swallow this clumsy bait, even on the morrow of the events in Roumania. In any case Field Marshal von Hindenburg's statement shows that the military cherishes no such illusion.

"What is still more certain is that the treacherous German move aims at something else than genuine peace. It seeks an internal and external effect. In Germany it is intended to convince the people that the government is not responsible for the sacrifices imposed and that its adversaries alone are responsible for the continuation of the struggle. Abroad it desires to persuade neutrals that the allies are pursuing a policy of ambition. That is the explanation of the pretended moderation in the tone of the speech.

"The speech merely emphasized essential weakness which temporary successes cannot hide," the Petit Journal continues.

"It is because Germany knows it cannot win that it desires to end the war. Its plan, however, is doomed. It will fail before the immovable resolution of the allies."

Mere Talk, Says Matin

The Matin characterizes the peace proposals "as mere talk," saying: "They contain no territorial, political or other conditions which could serve as a basis of discussion. Germany simply says for the hundredth time that it never desired war and wishes only to protect its rights and that if its enemies will not listen it will throw the blame of further bloodshed on them. The device is too obvious. It could not deceive any but the most ignorant.

"Another motive is the necessity of making Germany accept the sufferings and sacrifices of another winter campaign. If only the civilian population had to endure this not much harm would be done, but the army is beginning to feel the strain. During the last few weeks rations have been reduced and in three months' time they will be very poor indeed. Germany is compelled to talk of peace, but it does it as vaguely as possible in the hope of spreading dissension among its enemies and keeping its coalition together."

Not Worthy of Indignation.

In an article in the Figaro Alfred Capus, dramatist and member of the French academy, writes: "What of the conditions? What is the whole thing for? We want peace, too, but our peace is not theirs. What, then, are Germany's conditions? Nothing precise. It informs us only that its pretensions are moderate and proposes to us to stop the war while it defines them. As soon as we lay down our arms, as soon as the image of peace shall have done its work of disturbing our minds and a peace party shall have been formed in France, Russia and England, then Germany will enlighten us on the conditions which it now calls moderate. Such is the trap. It will be met by us and by our allies with grim contempt, not even with anger. The maneuver is too clumsy to be worthy of indignation."

NEGRO ADMITS ASSAULT UPON BLUFFS COUPLE

James White, Arrested in South Omaha, Confesses to Police Brutal Attack on Kennedy Family.

HAD HIS VICTIM'S WATCH IDENTIFIED BY MEMBER Family, Negro In Out of

SAYS CRAZE BY DRINK

James White, alias Hicks, the negro who assaulted John Kennedy and his aged wife, is in the Omaha jail, has been positively identified by Mrs. Ira Kennedy, whom he attempted to criminally assault after he had crushed the skulls of her husband's parents with a car pole. He has also been identified by the two children of Mr. and Mrs. John Kennedy. Ira Kennedy has identified his father's watch, which the negro had taken. In addition to this the negro has made a confession, which is now in the hands of County Attorney Swanson. Late yesterday he told where the revolver could be found. It had been taken from the old man after White had smashed his head with the link pin.

The arrest of the negro is due to the work of Chief Briggs and the Side Side police co-operating with Sheriff Groneweg of Council Bluffs.

One Man Missing.

It was learned that six strange negroes had gone to work in the Cudahy packing plant Monday morning and that one of them resembled the man wanted. Tuesday morning only five reported for work.

Accompanied by the officers Ira Kennedy went through the Cudahy packing house and pronounced none of the five colored men to be the assailant of his parents and his wife. It was found that the negro who had not returned to work had given an address, a boarding house at Twenty-eighth and K streets, South Side.

A visit there disclosed the watch and the persons in charge told the officers that it had been left to secure a board bill. The negro was absent, but returned Tuesday night and was nabbed by the waiting officers.

Picks Out the Man.

Yesterday in the Omaha jail, Mrs. Ira Kennedy recognized White as her assailant when his back was toward her and instantly declared, "that's the man" when he faced her. She was not able fully to identify the watch for the reason that she had not seen it often, but her husband described it accurately before it was shown to him, specifying the gold-washed hands, the missing second hand and the engraving on the back.

Children Recognize Him.

To make the identification still more certain the two younger Kennedy children were taken to Omaha and brought back from among other colored men.

Confronted by the testimony White made a confession to Deputy Sheriffs Gillaspay and Leuch of Council Bluffs and Chief of Detective Maloney and Captain Briggs of Omaha.

It will probably not be publicly announced when the negro will be taken back to the Bluffs.

Kennedy in Critical Condition.

Surgeons at Mercy hospital, where the two aged persons are lying with crushed heads, stated last evening that Kennedy's recovery was not only improbable, but would be nothing short of miraculous. He was unable to recognize his son last evening and has no recollection of anything past.

Dr. R. B. Tubbs, the attending surgeon, is devoting all the time possible to the professional care of the Kennedys. Mr. Kennedy's extraordinary vitality is plainly waning, but his aged wife continues to show perceptible improvement, although there is a hole in her temple as big as a doorknob, which her assailant inflicted with the ten-pound car pin.

A second negro was implicated in the deed by the confession, but the police place little credence in this part of the story. White said he was stationed as a lookout. He declared the crime was committed while in a frenzy after a day spent in drinking.

Columbus Business Men to Feast New Officers

Columbus, Neb., Dec. 13.—(Special Telegram.)—A banquet is planned by the Business Men's club of the Young Men's Christian Association for Monday night, December 18 to the successful home candidates at the recent election. Those to be honored are Edgar Howard, lieutenant governor-elect; State Senator-elect Charles F. Segelke and Richard Reagan, all of Columbus except Reagan, who hails from Platte Center, the home of Chris Gruenther, Keith Neville, who was to have been an honor guest, reports his inability to attend owing to a conflict with the governors' conference in Washington the same date.

GERMANY MAY NOT DISCLOSE TERMS

Next Step Will Be Made if Offer Falls Upon Responsive Ears.

PROPOSALS ARE READY

Berlin, Dec. 12.—(Via London, Dec. 13.)—Although Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg did not disclose the definite proposals on which Germany and its allies are prepared to make peace in his speech before the Reichstag, such proposals are ready and will be communicated to the entente powers if the chancellor's offer should fall upon responsive ears.

In the corridors of the Reichstag where after the historic twenty-minute session the members gathered in keen discussion of the chancellor's speech the general opinion expressed was that the situation would be advantageous to Germany, whether or not the chancellor's offer was accepted by the entente.

Some of the opponents of the chancellor are opposed to any move in the direction of peace, except on the basis of "suo to the conquered." Most members of the Reichstag, however, express the opinion that the emperor's decision was wise and timely and showed pleasure at the formal step taken toward ending the war.

Government Given Free Hand.

When the chancellor had concluded his speech an attempt was made to force an immediate debate, under Major Ernst Bassermann, leader of the national liberals, and Count Westarp, supported by the extreme socialists. This move was firmly resisted by the leaders of the moderate parties, who agreed with the chancellor that a general discussion of possible peace conditions before the attitude of the enemy powers was made known could only injure the cause of peace and place Germany at a diplomatic disadvantage. Their attitude was that if the central powers exposed all their cards before peace negotiations began they would be placed at a disadvantage.

The indefinite adjournment of the Reichstag by its own decision leaves the government a free hand to conduct further negotiations and is regarded as tantamount to a vote of confidence.

Document of Love and Peace.

Commenting on the peace proposal Germany, the Catholic organ, expresses special pleasure that the central powers appeal to the pope as well as to other neutrals. It enthusiastically approves the peace overtures, which it terms the privilege of the stronger in war and a performance of the holiest of duties to humanity and Christian morality.

The newspaper declares that the emperor's note to Germany's opponents is a document of the love of peace that which none could be greater, fairer, or go to further lengths, and which prove that Germany, despite its enormous military successes, does not wish to strike in cold blood to destroy its enemies, but in consonance with its responsibility to God and the world, offers them the hand of peace. Only a fool, it declares, will see in the offer an indication of weakness.

Offer Indication of Strength.

The evening edition of the Lokal Anzeiger refrains from predicting either success or failure for Germany's peace overtures. The editorial lays stress on the declaration that the offer is an indication of strength and not of weakness. It calls the day epoch-making in importance, but doubts whether this Christmas, at any rate, can bring to realization the Biblical "peace on earth, good will to men."

The newspaper both opens and closes its editorial with the imperial chancellor's words: "We are prepared for peace, but are ready to fight."

Victor Hahn, in the National Zeitung, likewise lays emphasis upon a characterization of the peace overtures as a sign of strength rather than of weakness, and expresses belief that the responsible statesmen of the entente will not care to construe them otherwise.

Dr. Schermerhorn May Head Dakota Wesleyan Uni

Mitchell, S. D., Dec. 13.—Dr. W. D. Schermerhorn, a faculty member of the Northwestern University Divinity school, Chicago, has been tendered the presidency of Dakota Wesleyan university according to an announcement of the board of trustees of the college today. It is not yet definitely known that he will accept. Over fifty candidates have been considered for the presidency since the resignation last June of Dr. William Grant Seamans.

Reed Orders Attorney To Stop Game of Chance

Lincoln, Dec. 13.—Attorney General Reed has notified County Attorney Munday of Webster county that he understands some sort of a gambling deal is about to be held at Bladen and desires him to enforce the law. Mr. Reed says: "Information has reached this department from sources which I cannot doubt, that at Bladen, in your county, a gambling transaction, in direct violation of the statute, is about to take place. The scheme is to give tickets for the collection of hat accounts, also for the sale of merchandise, and then a nominal sum paid by the lucky person—that is the person who draws a lucky number paying a small fee—to receive an automobile.

"Believing that you are not aware of this state of affairs, I am taking the liberty of communicating directly with you, that you may take such steps as you own good judgment as a lawyer dictates in the matter.

ENGLAND'S 'MAN OF THE HOUR' REFUSED CABINET POST—Next to Premier Lloyd George, Lord Northcliffe is the most dominant figure today in the British political crisis. Lord Northcliffe has refused to accept a berth in the new cabinet, declaring that he prefers to 'watch developments.' Lord Northcliffe publishes the Times, and the Daily Mail, both of which were instrumental in overthrowing the Asquith cabinet.



LORD & LADY NORTHCLIFFE WITH MISS SERVICE

ENTENTE WILL TAKE TIME TO CONSIDER

Formal Answer to Any Peace Proposal Will Require Two or Three Weeks.

MAY MAKE COUNTER OFFER

London, Dec. 13.—The indications are the various governments of the entente allies do not intend to act hastily in making joint response to the peace proposals of the central powers. It was pointed out in well informed quarters today that, while each one of the allied governments might indicate its general attitude, consultation among the allies under the treaty binding them to such action probably would require two or three weeks.

Although little confidence is shown in London that any result will come from the peace proposal of the central powers and the opinion prevails quite generally that the time is not opportune even to discuss terms, there is an undercurrent of feeling that something would be gained by making the world acquainted definitely with the objects of the belligerents.

Announcement Thursday

The attitude of the British government toward the offer will be made known in the House of Commons tomorrow, provided sufficient time shall have elapsed to permit consultation with Great Britain's allies, and this statement is awaited with the greatest interest.

If the press which supports the administration interprets official information little time will be taken up by consideration of the move of Germany and its allies, although the moderate opinion of the country does not favor too hasty rejection of the overtures. It is believed the German people, once acquainted with the objects of the entente, might be more inclined toward peace and that for that reason, if for no other, the terms of the entente allies should be made known officially to the central powers.

Times Rejects Proposal.

The German peace proposal is rejected by the Times, which says: "Germany's proposal bears no relation whatever to the objects for which we are fighting. It has been trying by all the means at its disposal to induce us to make the suggestion of mediation. The attempt has lamentably and conspicuously failed. As it does not judge that any neutral power could proffer mediation with much advantage, it falls back on this indirect offer to the belligerents. It is above all things a symptom of its conscious weakness. The allies must absolutely reject any idea of mediation in any shape and from any quarter as long as the basis proposed is the triumph of might and not right. They must refuse with equal firmness to even talk about an armistice until the lands the enemy has overrun are restored and compensation made. They must renew the annunciation of their peace terms, laid down once for all in Mr. Asquith's Guild hall speech, and must redouble their efforts to force these terms upon Germany and the accomplices."

GERMANY WANTS CONFERENCE ON TERMS OF PEACE

Intimation that Specific Proposition is Withheld Until Entente is Ready to Receive It.

U. S. HAS DELICATE TASK

President's First Concern is to Safeguard His Usefulness as Possible Mediator.

ENTENTE MAY STATE VIEWS

Washington, Dec. 18.—President Wilson's course of action in connection with Germany's peace proposals remained undecided today, while he awaited the official proffer which the central powers have asked the United States to transmit to their enemies.

The impression grew that while the president's first consideration was to safeguard his usefulness as a peacemaker by omitting any comment which might possibly be coupled with a rejection by the entente powers, there was a disposition to find some way, however delicate and informal, to intimate the sincere wish of the United States that some basis for discussion at least might be reached. Many officials felt that an indication of the temper of the entente governments should be available before the influence of the United States was thrown into the balance.

The United States by reason of its dual responsibility of representing the interests of most of the central powers and the entente governments in the capitals of their enemies, would of course become the medium of communication through which any reply of the entente governments to the central belligerents would be made.

Terms Purposely Omitted.

The German embassy had no further advice on the terms of the central governments, but it was admitted that terms had purposely been omitted from the chancellor's speech and the note because the sole purpose was to propose a conference on terms and carefully avoid advancing any which might be made the basis of a refusal.

The Germanic diplomats in this country, reflecting the views of their governments, believe the answer of the entente allies will be an inquiry as to the basis on which Germany proposes peace and with that much as a foundation they see the warring nations will on the way to a conference from which they are sanguine peace would result.

Entente May Define Position.

The probability of the entente allies themselves making some announcement of the terms on which they would make peace is regarded here as having tremendous possibilities for effect upon the German people themselves.

Among the entente diplomats no attempt was made to disguise their apprehension that President Wilson, in transmitting the German proposal, might make some move toward mediation. At all the embassies it was said such an offer would interfere seriously with the plans of the allies. Its effect upon the peace movements in the allied countries also was taken into consideration in that connection.

President Cancels Engagements.

The president cancelled all his outside engagements today, including one to preside over the annual meeting of the American Red Cross, and remained in the White House, where he conferred with Colonel E. M. House, his friend and adviser, who made one trip to Europe to sound out peace sentiment several months ago. Colonel House may again if the president makes a move to accompany Germany's proposals with suggestions of any character. It was reiterated that until the official documents had been received for transmittal to the entente no decision could be reached as to what the United States would do further than to transmit them.

The London press comment on the peace offer is known to be in accord with confidential advice coming to this government before Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg's speech and the note were published. How far the comment represents the views of the new British government can only be surmised.

May Ask for Guarantees.

In quarters close to the entente allies an opinion prevails that if the entente allies made reply their first course might be to inquire what guarantees would be given by Germany that the terms of a peace treaty would

(Continued on Page Two—Column One.)

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Wednesday's Record

as compared with same day last year shows

The Bee Gained.....18

The World-Herald Lost 11

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