

MURDER IN MEXICO OF BENTON STIRRED UP TWO GREAT NATIONS

The United States is Charged with Making Complete Investigation-- Britain Hardly Likely to Intervene Although the Press Adopts War-like Tone Towards Mexico.

[By Special Wire to The Courier] WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The Mexican situation, especially the serious aspect of which it has assumed as a result of the execution by General Villa of William S. Benton, a British subject, continued uppermost in the public mind here to-day. Detailed reports containing General Villa's personal explanation of the affair to United States Consul Edwards at Juarez were due to reach here by mail to-day. Judgment is to be reserved by the American Government until other details sought by independent investigation are received. In the meantime the feeling of apprehension for the safety of Great Britain, Roger Lawrence and an Englishman named Curtis, as well as other missing foreigners, need to emphasize the extent to which the United States Government had become involved in securing protection for foreign residents in Mexico. Especially difficult is the task of the American Government in undertaking to care for foreigners in northern Mexico, where European powers have no consular representatives. A general disposition has existed among European natives for some months to leave the United States as Mexico's nearest neighbor free to handle the situation along the frontier. It is this that although Benton was a British subject the United States feels called upon to render to Great Britain a full explanation of the circumstances under which he met his death. Such details as have been received already have been communicated to the British Ambassador, Sir Cecil Spring Rice, who it is understood, has expressed appreciation of the prompt solicitude shown by the United States Government for the welfare of British subjects. Thus far the State department has learned only Villa's side of the case in brief sets forth that Benton, a high tempered individual, provoked a quarrel, was armed and threatened the

life of Villa. The right of the constitutionalist commander to subject Benton to a court martial and execute him if he did make an attempt on Villa's life, is not questioned by American officials and in the absence of satisfactory proof to the contrary it is known they will consider it difficult to reject Villa's version of the affair. The story of Benton's friends that he was unarmed, that he was killed by Villa in person and that the court martial was nothing but an injustice is being carefully taken into consideration by officials who are receptive to any evidence that would substantiate those claims. If Villa's story is accepted by the State department—and there is reason to believe that Britain will rely upon the judgment of the American Government in the case—there is no question in the minds of those observers that the confidence hitherto felt by the Washington Government in the disposition of General Villa to extend protection to foreigners will be somewhat shaken. Just as Villa had given satisfactory assurances that he would protect Spaniards at Torreón and as the United States Government was acquiring a feeling of relief that it would not be worried with perplexing problems in connection with the situation along the frontier, the Mexican incident has weakened discussion of the Mexican problem. Talk of armed intervention, possible speeches in the senate by those who favor a drastic policy, and a general agitation of the subject is again in the air. Administration officials realize that the situation is fraught with all sorts of possibilities in which the unexpected often plays a vital part. The disposition of most senators is to leave the question in the hands of President Wilson and Secretary Bryan, preferring to await word from Continued on Page Three

AERO CLUB RECEIVES THE APPLICATION FOR LONG RACE SANCTION.



TENTATIVE ROUTE FOR AEROPLANE RACE AROUND THE WORLD PHOTO BY UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD. The application from Mr. C. C. Moore, president of the Panama Pacific Exposition, for the sanction for the aeroplane race around the world was received by the Aero Club of America recently. The application is signed by Mr. Moore, and was transmitted to the Aero Club of America by its affiliated club, the Pacific Aero Club, the governors of which signed a resolution recommending that the sanction be granted.

Grand Opera on Way Home

Denver People Raised Subscription for Canadian Singers

[By Special Wire to The Courier] DENVER, Col., Feb. 23.—Citizens of Denver donated \$1000 to the members of the defunct National Grand Opera Company of Canada so that they might be able to return to their homes in Montreal, Chicago, New York and Italy. Donations became necessary after the benefit performance in the Auditorium, for which the maximum admission price of 25 cents was charged, had proved a disastrous appointment. An hour after the appeal for donations had been made yesterday, the money was raised and the special eastbound, started from Denver. Grand jury investigation of the causes which brought about the failure of the opera company was continued here to-day.

BY-LAW IS READY TO-NIGHT

Provision Made For Immediate Purchase of New Cars

Road Will Be Operated by Commission of Three

The Street Railway Purchase By-law will be the biggest item on the programme at to-night's meeting of the City Council. As announced in The Courier Saturday over a quarter of a million is involved, in fact the by-law will call for the raising of \$270,000 by 30 year debentures. In this amount is included \$66,000 which the city will pay the bondholders, \$125,000 to the first mortgagees and the balance about \$80,000, due the city, this is merely a matter of bookkeeping and, of course, will have to be assumed by the city. It is expected that the by-law to-night will receive the necessary two readings for it to go to the people.

Under the special act of parliament, which the city will apply for, it is being asked that should the railway be purchased the city be given power to appoint three commissioners for the operation of the road. This sets aside any prospect of the railway being operated through the City Council, a matter which might form well-founded objections. It is not even assured that the city will operate the road. There is a possibility of it being turned over, but as Mayor Spence announced to-day, should the city decide on the latter course favorable terms will be secured.

The feeling among the ratepayers is now that the city can secure back the franchise and inaugurate a new order of things is one almost of indifference as to the auspices under which the road might be operated providing a proper service is given. Local merchants are also strongly in favor of the continuance of the radial line to Paris for obvious reasons, as the traffic on this road particularly on Saturdays is tremendously heavy.

City Treasurer Bunnell and Solicitor Henderson are in Toronto to-day in connection with the agreement in regard to the street railway purchase which will be submitted to the High Court for approval.

FOURTEEN LOST IN AN ATTEMPT AT RESCUE

Survivors of Crew At Last Taken Off Island Near Wexford

[By Special Wire to The Courier] WEXFORD, Ireland, Feb. 23.—The survivors of the crew of the wrecked Norwegian bark Mexico were to-day taken off the barren island on which they had landed on Saturday and where they had been since then without food. Altogether fourteen men were drowned in the various attempts to rescue them.

The Mexico went ashore on Friday while on her way from Laguna, Mexico, to Falmouth. Her distress signals were answered by two life boats, one of which was stove in on reaching the vessel, but its crew managed to scramble on board. The other capsized and sank. The Mexico was dashed to pieces on the rocks and her crew and the remaining lifeboatmen were washed ashore where they had no shelter, except that formed of pieces of wreckage.

Business Men From Toronto

Paid a Visit to the Y.M.C.A. Here on Saturday Last

The first social event promoted by the Men's Club of the Y.M.C.A. was held Saturday and was essentially successful. The occasion was the visit of the Toronto Business men and they came to contest with the local valiants at basketball, volley ball and bowling. Unfortunately owing to some hitch the Torontonians did not arrive at the scheduled time and much disappointment was caused to the volley ball team who had practised hard with the intention of giving their opponents a good drubbing. When the visitors did show up a mere preliminary bout was indulged in and won by the Brantfordites. Two games of basketball were then put on and in each instance the visitors were too fast and strong for the locals who succumbed after a game and plucky but futile defensive display.

The Brantford men took revenge in the bowling alleys, where they beat their opponents handsomely. T. L. Wood and A. M. Harley defeated H. Beale and Dr. Simple of Toronto. Meanwhile the "Ladies Aid," otherwise the wives of the business men, under the direction of Mrs. W. S. Brewster, had prepared a royal repast and when this had been done justice to by both hosts and visitors, speeches were in order. Mr. W. S. Brewster, M. P., called upon the president, Mr. T. L. Wood, who welcomed the visitors in cordial fashion. His welcome was fully endorsed in the speeches of Rev. K. D. Hamilton, and Mr. G. H. Roper, the physical director of the Y.M.C.A.

In reply, Dr. Grant, president of the West End, spoke of the pleasure they had in accepting the invitation and thanked his hosts on behalf of his comrades from the West End. They extended a hearty invitation to all the Brantford Business Men to visit them at Toronto. He was sorry they did not arrive on time, but that was a misfortune, not a fault. After spending a splendid time and enjoying recitations by Mr. T. Harry Jones, the visitors left on the 8.19 train for home.

IS CONVICTED OF THEFT AND FINED

Dealer in Bikes Found Guilty by Magistrate To-day

Given the Option of Serving Three Months in Jail

The bicycle dealings of Braddock and Smick were further investigated before Magistrate Livingston this morning when Mark Smick was put in the box and cross-examined with special regard to that of a \$45 machine which was stolen from the shop of Jos. Gilman, on the 25th December. These two men, who were in partnerships in all their dealings, had a split just prior to the police proceedings, and they each tried to incriminate the other, when giving their sides of the story. On Friday, when Braddock was examined, he appeared to be a pawn in the hands of Smick, and to-day when the latter got a chance to give his side, Braddock appeared to be the principal offender. Contracting Braddock's statement, he said the \$45 bicycle was brought to the house where operations were conducted, by the other member, and he himself had suggested it might be stolen and suggested its turn-over to the authorities. Braddock had said he would soon alter the appearance of the wheel. He did not tell the police because he left that to Braddock seeing he had brought the wheel in. He had seen the police call at his place of employment, and had not thought of saying anything to the police although he knew they were looking for all stolen articles. They had quarrelled over some parts which he had purchased and which Braddock claimed. He had worked nine months at the bicycle business whilst Braddock had some experience here and more in the old country. He had not shown Braddock the tricks of the trade, and the numbers on the \$45 wheel had been filled in when he found it in the attic where it had been put by Braddock. His evidence in its completeness was a contradiction throughout of Braddock's evidence on Friday. Winding up, he said that Braddock had asked him to go into business with him, and he had refused. This was the beginning of the friction which ended in police court proceedings.

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JOSEPH DOWNEY ON PAROLE SYSTEM

Prison Commission Had Nothing To Do With Recent Escape

Jim Foley Got Away and Criticism Was Made

[By Special Wire to The Courier] ORILLIA, Ont., Feb. 23.—Mr. J. P. Downey, member of the commission inquiring into the conduct of Kingston penitentiary, was interviewed this morning regarding a Sudbury despatch which appeared in a Toronto evening paper Saturday, having to do with the disappointing result of paroling a lad named Jim Foley from Kingston to a mining camp in the Sudbury district. This despatch says the prison commission consented to give Foley another chance that "the commission was considering the feasibility of sending fifty boys and young men in mining and railway construction camps," and that "although the first attempt was discouraging, the prison commission is not expected to abandon its novel scheme without further experiment." Mr. Downey said the prison commission had nothing to do with paroling Foley nor with the parole of one or fifty prisoners. "Rev. Mr. Fitzpatrick, who has charge of some reading camps," said Mr. Downey, "was anxious to try an experiment with some of the boys at Kingston, and Mr. McDonald, chairman of the commission, taking a kindly interest in the boy, assisted him in obtaining the parole of Foley. There is no more basis than that for connecting the commission with this particular case with parole or with any other. The commission has never discussed the question of paroling any particular prisoner, or any number of prisoners. That is entirely outside the duties that were assigned to it when it was appointed. It is of course to be expected that the commission may include in its report recommendations dealing with the question of parole, but to represent that body as making premature and practical application of that method of prison reform is altogether erroneous and misleading." Buffalo and other animals are thriving in Canada's National Park. An understanding between the C.N.R. and the Government for Federal aid is rumored to have been reached.

Mercury Again Hit Toboggan

The cold spell has again hit this city, and the temperature last night dropped to 9 degrees below zero, according to the Mohawk Institute thermometer. This is the official thermometer, but other thermometers throughout the city varied from 10 to 16 degrees below. With the cold is a biting east wind, which is very piercing. The cold wave hit this part of the country Saturday afternoon, and has been increasing in its intensity ever since. According to the weather man in Toronto, another cold wave centered last night on Manitoba and is spreading over the continent, with prospects for the coldest weather of this winter to follow.

BRANT FARMERS ARE ORGANIZED

W. C. Good, John Bowers, R. J. McCormick, Frederick Luck of Brantford county and W. T. McCormick of South Dumfries are directors of the United Farmers Co-operative company, with a capital stock of \$100,000. The company was gazetted on Saturday. The objects of the new company aim at co-operation production and sale in agriculture for the mutual advantage, accommodation and convenience of the members of the company. The Brant Theatre Company was also gazetted on Saturday. The directors are Chas. VanDusen, Scotland, J. P. Coulson, H. S. Young, Sudbury, and S. J. Kearns, Norfolk Bay. The capital stock is \$100,000, and the company has wide powers in promoting amusements.

BREAK IN MAIN

Low Pressure of Gas was Experienced Here To-day

Zero weather and a break in the gas main are not synonymous terms, by any means, but they seem to be synchronous. The gas pressure dropped to-day almost to the minimum of frigidity. It was explained by the officials of the Brantford Gas Company that a break had occurred in the big main near the Tibbitts field, and the result was a decided lack of gas, not only in Brantford but in other places dependent upon the sulphur article. Repairs ought to be effected to-night, however.

Close Church in New York

Last Service Held Yesterday—Rockefeller in Attendance

[By Special Wire to The Courier] NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—John D. Rockefeller, his son and other wealthy members of the Fifth Avenue Baptist church yesterday attended the final services in the famous old building, which is one of the last of the places of worship in the shopping district to give up the fight against the approach of business. The congregation voted to combine with that of Calvary Baptist church for one year, and if the experiment is successful, as it is expected to be, the arrangement will go on undisturbed. The Rev. Cornelius Wolkling, pastor of the Fifth Avenue church, will hereafter head the combined congregations. Mr. Rockefeller, Sr., has chosen a new pew in Calvary. The bible class headed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr., the Fifth Avenue church ushers, the Young Women's bible class and other distinct organizations of the two churches, will maintain their separate entity for a year.

HON. DEVLIN BETTER

OTTAWA, Feb. 23.—Hon. Chas. R. Devlin passed a restless night, and owing to loss of sleep his condition was not so favorable this morning. He is however, much better than during the early part of last week, the symptoms of paralysis which were in evidence then, having since disappeared.

KILLED IN DUNNVILLE

DUNNVILLE, Ont., Feb. 23.—Orlando H. Angle, 19 years of age, was instantly killed yesterday while working with a track cleaning gang near Attercliffe. Looking after a freight which passed, he failed to notice the Michigan Central flyer. His body was hurled a considerable distance. An inquest will be held.

PRINCE OF WALES TO VISIT CANADA THIS YEAR

King and Queen are Very Busy Considering Plans for the Trip

[By Special Wire to The Courier] MONTREAL, Feb. 23.—A Mail, London cable says: The King, Queen and their advisers are very busy at present considering plans for foreign visits and tours by the Prince of Wales. The heir apparent is leaving the matter entirely in the hands of his mother and father and it is understood the question now at issue is whether he shall visit Canada, India or Australia first. It is regarded as almost certain that the Canadian tour will be selected, and that his Royal Highness will visit the Dominion this year. It is also known in court circles that the purchase of real estate in the Dominion is contemplated by the King. Much money has been saved from the Duchy of Lancaster, and it is this money that is likely to be invested in Canada. It was at first the intention of the King to purchase an estate for his son in Norfolk, near Sandringham, but the land legislation of Mr. Lloyd-George has caused this scheme to be abandoned. The proposed Canadian tour will also include a visit to the United States. Queen Mary's desire is that before the Prince goes on any tour to the colonies the question of whom he is to marry shall be finally settled. A new passenger steamer was launched at Detroit for the upper lakes service. George Miskelly, C. R. R. conductor, stopped his train between Smith's Falls and Merriewille, and killed a bear with an axe.

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