

BAD LANDS OF BORDER WARFARE

Big Bend Country Scene of Many Raids.

Trouble along the Mexican border, which at present is giving rise to no little anxiety in government circles, is an old sore which breaks out every now and then and which perhaps may be only eradicated by means of heroic treatment.

Nowhere in the United States is there an area better adapted to sudden raids and swift escapes than the Big Bend country of Texas, where bands of Mexicans have had frequent fights with United States soldiers, Texas rangers and parties of citizens. It is a region which settlers have let severely alone. Its traditions and customs in 1915 are much the same as its traditions and customs of 1800.

Although the Big Bend country proper is really that part of Texas lying along the border and extending from El Paso to Del Rio, a distance of some 300 miles where the Rio Grande makes a big dip into Mexico, the name has through long usage come to embrace all of the Texas border from El Paso to Brownsville. For a hundred miles north from the river for practically the whole distance from El Paso to the Gulf the country is desolate, supporting a few large cattle ranches and little else. Small hills, frequent ravines and old water courses and a gen-



Photo by American Press Association.

MEXICAN RAID IN THE BAD LANDS.
Small dense growth of mesquite and scruboak make it ideal for guerrilla warfare.

Fights have existed between the Mexicans and the cow men of the region almost from the day that Texas won her independence from Mexico. It was because of these fights that the picturesque organization, the Texas rangers, was formed. The rangers are, in reality, the outgrowth of a semi-organized posse of Big Bend citizens formed at the expense of the ranchers to put a stop to the cattle rustling which had gained such proportions as to threaten the whole industry along the frontier.

Many years ago, before the Southern Pacific extended its lines through the northern rim of the Big Bend country, that territory was the retreat for the cattle rustlers, murderers and bad men of the southwest. One of the most noted of these old time bandits was Romo Martinez, who was at the head of the famous Black Pad band, which numbered upward of 100 Mexicans, Indians and renegade white men.

For years Martinez held sway throughout the whole section, gradually increasing his operations from cattle stealing until his band on more than one occasion attacked and sacked small towns in the interior. He was finally cornered by a company of Texas rangers, assisted by cowboys, and was killed in a running fight. Eleven of his band were later captured and lynched.

The killing of Martinez occurred at a point near Ojinaga, which obtained some notoriety a year ago because the last stand of the Huerta federalists against Villa was made there. The battle ended in the flight of the federalists across the border and their long tramp across the heart of the Big Bend country to Marfa, where they were trained for the concentration camp at Fort Bliss.

DAMES AND DAUGHTERS.

Lucy Smith, bride at fifteen, mother at seventeen, at nineteen is a divorcee in New York.

Miss Marie L. Obenshain is chief of the woman's division of the United States bureau of labor statistics. Miss Jeanne Prevost, the famous French actress, has been given the rank of corporal in the French army in recognition of what she has done to amuse the wounded soldiers.

Mrs. Juliana Ferguson, daughter of Philip Armour, has a palatial home on Long Island. The house is a faithful copy of an ancient Italian monastery. Three years and \$1,000,000 were required in the construction.

Miss Lillian D. Wald is the Jane Addams of New York. She started the Henry Street settlement and built it up to 3,000 members. This settlement has under its supervision directly three nurses who attend, without charge, poor women unable to go to hospitals. She also started the first public playground in New York.

Short Stories.

In Shakespeare's day Shylock was always played as a comic character.

To understand the newspapers a man must have a vocabulary of at least 2,000 words.

The Chinese now must doff their hats when meeting friends. The government has adopted western ideas in enforcing its new customs.

Six feet four inches is the average height of the Brazilians who live in the southwest of Brazil. They are the tallest people in the world.

Efforts are being made in the Philippines to revive the coffee growing industry, which was ruined by the blight a quarter of a century ago.

PITH AND POINT.

Envy is the tribute that failure pays to success.

You can save yourself a lot of trouble by not borrowing any.

Even Europe will eventually discover that man does not live by bread alone.

The discretion that is the better part of valor is sometimes merely lack of nerve.

It is a comforting assurance that the Panama canal will certainly be opened before the next war.

If you intend to do a mean thing wait until tomorrow, but if you are going to do good do it now.

That New York Hall of Fame is pretty well advertised by the immortals who don't get into it.

No satisfactory theory has been offered of what outlaws do with all the money they get by robbing trains.

Much of the history of the present war is being written without censoring in the ledgers of the world's great bankers.

The English are said to be having some trouble trying to subdue the American mules they bought for use in the war. Evidently they got the genuine brand.

An average man breathes about twenty-one cubic feet of air into his lungs every hour and it's about the only thing in the world he gets without paying for.

Science has made it possible for the human voice to be heard from America to Europe but no wireless telephone was needed to carry the sound of the shot that was heard around the world.

Flippant Flings.

One is in doubt whether to attribute Carranza's success to his verbiage or to his foliage. -Chicago News.

Well, if it isn't one thing it's another. We'll soon have congress on our hands again. -Philadelphia Inquirer.

They are having what they call a play in some of the western cities, but Eve invented it. -Pittsburgh Press.

John Doe No. 104, adopted by the Finley Showgirls, couldn't have been much in kielie had he bought Bertie from at 32. -Washington Post.

Fashion Frills.

Men only laugh at the freak fashioning maid. -Baltimore American.

The girls who attempt to improve on the fashions do it by making their skirts shorter. -Philadelphia Press.

How the world moves! A few years ago fights were considered immodest. Now they are proscribed in the name of modesty. -New York Sun.

A Japanese actress finds it difficult to keep track of American fashions which she thinks must change daily. -Daily Hourly might be nearer the fact. -Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Tales of Cities.

There is not a single pawnbroker in Quebec.

San Francisco's bonded debt is now \$42,350,000, of which \$3,475,000 is for street railway expenditures.

New York has more Irish than there are in Dublin more Italians than Rome and more Russians than Kiev.

Dawson City, which during the Alaskan gold rush of 1899 reached a population of 25,000, now has fewer than 2,000 inhabitants.

CENTENNIAL YEAR OF GENERAL MEADE

Hundredth Anniversary of His Birth in December.

The last day of this year marks the centennial of the birth of General George Gordon Meade, Union victor of the battle of Gettysburg. General Meade was born on Dec. 31, 1815, at Cadiz, Spain, in which city his father was engaged in business. Pennsylvania claims Meade as her son and greatest general however, since his father was a Pennsylvania and he himself was taken to the state when he was very young.

After the great battle Meade continued in charge of the Army of the Potomac, passing under command of General Grant when the latter was elected to the chief command of all the Union armies. Grant told Meade that he "deserved" the command as the commander of the army, and he did continue with that army was distinguished.

Grant placed Meade on a par with Sherman, McPherson and Thomas as army commanders, and other military authorities thought highly of him.

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Photo by American Press Association.

MEADE STATUE AT GETTYSBURG.

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SIRES AND SONS.

Dr. Parkes Cadman, the noted Brooklyn divine, was once a coal miner.

Mr. John Wrey, the Australian millionaire, started life as a salesman in a shoe store.

Cardinal Gibbons was born in Baltimore of Irish parents. He had a brief commercial career in New Orleans. When he became of age he entered St. Charles college, near Ellifcott, Md.

John Muir, the noted American naturalist is a Scotchman by birth. He is an ardent advocate of national parks. The Muir glacier in Alaska is named after him to commemorate his discovery of it.

Patrick Calhoun, noted street railway operator and corporation lawyer, also a grandson of John C. Calhoun, started his law career in St. Louis, living in the garret of a lodging house. He has a copper riveted file to read two hours each day.

Marcus Loew, the "small time king" of vaudeville, doesn't try to prop his morning paper against a sugar bowl and read as he eats. He has a habit, contracted many years ago, of using it for a tablecloth. He shoves his roast and cup of chocolate from column to column as he reads.

Pen, Chisel and Brush.

The picture "Paradise," by Titoretto, is the largest painting in the world. It is eighty-four feet wide, thirty-three and a half feet high and is now in the doges' palace, Venice.

When Dr. Woodrow Wilson established a new system at Princeton which kept the professors busy pretty nearly all the time, Dr. Henry van Dyke resigned, as he did not have enough time for literature.

Frederick MacMonnies, the sculptor, has returned to this country after more than twenty-five years of life abroad, in which he gained an international reputation, won exhibition honors in all the capitals and was made a chevalier in the Legion of Honor of France and decorated with the Order of St. Michael of Bavaria.

Echoes of the War.

Not that King Albert is a peace man, but that he wants Belgium with it. -Boston Herald.

The main difference between a year ago and now is that there are no days. -Washington Post.

The war casualties are a record in the battle front. Some of them have been in the government employ. -Philadelphia Press.

Europe finds the cost of living increasing in a manner that is causing a real reliance on war as a solution of economic problems. -Washington Star.

Peace conditions are being talked about again. The trouble about them is that each side wants to make them rather than take them. -Baltimore American.

State Lines.

In the state of New York there are approximately 12,000,000 acres of potential forest lands.

Not since 1894 with one exception has California produced so much gold as in 1914, when the output was worth \$20,563,490.

Illinois is the leading state in the production of common brick, Pennsylvania in fire brick and Ohio in vitrified paving brick and sewer pipe.

Texas, which in 1890 stood twelfth in rank, is now the seventh state in the American Union in point of wealth. It is first in point of size and fifth in population.

BRIGHT BRIEFS.

The sunbright always seems to be looking for something bad.

The unexpected happens so often that it ought to lose its novelty.

Don't waste time in explaining why you failed. Get busy and make good.

This fall sees fewer announcements of emperors' plans for Christmas dinners.

The next war, says Mr. Ellison, will be one of machines. Preferably typewriting machines.

Easiest way is the best way if you don't mind taking a chance on doing the work over again.

Speculation as to when the war will end have given place to calculations as to when loans will fall due.

The joke seems to be on the European tightwads who used always to be kicking because taxes were so high.

Intense interest of the masses in the war question may be directly traceable to the fact that it is their funeral.

It is evident from the rising quotations on medicines that a drug on the market is pretty good property these days.

A person has to keep busy with the newspapers to remain in close touch with real conditions in the European cabinets.

Woman's rights are marching on. It is announced that the new superdreadnaught California will have a "special reception room for women visitors."

It is not in the warring countries that people are obliged to eat atrocious food. Consider neutral Iceland, where codfish is dried, ground into powder and made into bread.

STORY OF FAMOUS GRIDIRON CLUB

Arthur W. Dunn Publishes History of Unique Organization.

Arthur W. Dunn, the well known Washington correspondent, has just published through the Frederick Stokes company a history of the Gridiron club under the title "Gridiron Nights."

Mr. Dunn is peculiarly well fitted for the task that he has so admirably accomplished. He was for some time the president of the Gridiron club, which is known far and wide for the remarkable gatherings about its board. The position of president is the highest ambition of the Washington correspondent and no one is elected to that

position except journalists of recognized ability and high standing in the profession. Mr. Dunn is one of the best equipped newspaper men in the country. His long residence in Washington, his wide acquaintance with public men and his ripe experience in newspaper work place him in an advantageous position for getting at the inside of national affairs.

The dinners of the Gridiron club of Washington have for thirty years been made occasion for a satirical treatment of the larger political events and the more conspicuous political persons of the then immediate past and present; good natured and funny always, but without very severe regard for the dignity of political headlines. The membership of the club is made up largely of Washington newspaper men, editors and correspondents. The guests of the club at its unique dinners are prominent public officials from the president down, foreign ambassadors and sundry others in the public eye.

The history of those dinners during the thirty years since the organization of the club as related by Mr. Dunn is not only a narrative entertaining in itself, but an inside view of the history of the United States as it unfolded at the national capital during that eventful period. Apart from the amusing features of the interesting recital, the book is of special value as a notebook of contemporary history.

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