

# LOUISIANA MEN WELL LOCATED

Dr. J. C. Willis Sees the  
"Tigers"; Describes  
Conditions.

That American intervention in Mexico is inevitable and that its coming is but a question of time is the opinion of at least some civilians and army officers, both of the United States and Mexico, as expressed by Dr. J. C. Willis who returned to Shreveport Thursday to stay until resumed activities along the border call him back to Brownsville, Texas, where he is to be chief of the surgical staff of the United States army base hospital under construction there. Dr. Willis is a member of the reserve medical corps of the United States army and was ordered to Brownsville shortly after President Wilson's mobilization order was issued to the national guard. When things quieted down he asked to be relieved to return to his private practice in Shreveport and his request was granted on the understanding advanced by him that he is to return the moment the relations between Mexico and the United States resume their former strained conditions.

Dr. Willis left Brownsville Tuesday morning following the arrival of the Louisiana troops at San Benito, 18 miles north, the night before. He had but a few moments glimpse of the "Tigers" as they passed through Brownsville while he was at the station waiting for his train, but in that time he talked with two of the men, one from Homer and another from Monroe, both strangers to him but friends because they wore he Louisiana insignia.

"Tigers" in Favored Locality. The Louisianians, he said, "are well located at San Benito. They have a well chosen camp ground in a fine little town only 20 miles from the gulf coast and consequently are able to enjoy cooler weather than their comrades in arms farther north where the winds are lashed by miles of sun scorched plains before reaching them. Health conditions among the Louisianians, he said, are particularly good. The army medical and sanitary corps conduct rigid sanitary and medical examinations of all camps every day and there have been remarkably few cases of illness, even considering the immense body of men assembled—there are 50,000 in the Brownsville district, in which the Louisianians are located, alone—and such few cases as have arisen have been mostly mild cases of malaria with a few cases of bowel complaints. Expressing his own opinion, and he is to be one of the directing officers of one of Uncle Sam's hospitals, Dr. Willis said that health and sanitary conditions all along the border, but especially in the Brownsville district, are better than he expected to find them.

Intervention Inevitable. With respect to activities which might be construed as preparations for a general movement into Mexico Dr. Willis said that now units of troops in all arms of the service and trained after trainload of supplies of every conceivable sort are arriving at one or another of the border division headquarters every day. The day he left a trainload of pontoons for use in bridging the Rio Grande in case of intervention came into Brownsville with other supplies.

Opinions as to the possibility of armed intervention and as to the time of its occurrence are divided among army officers and civilians alike. Dr. Willis said, but the majority of both seem to think that it is inevitable and is only a question of time. The military spirit filling the air along the border means to the majority a well devised plan of intervention. They think, he said, that the United States is completing its preparations down to the very last, most minute detail before starting across the river in earnest, and that when these plans and preparations have been carried out to the complete satisfaction of the minds directing them, the great surge across the Rio Grande will begin.

The Pacificists, on the other hand, regard the assembling of vast multitudes of khaki-clad men, guns, ammunition, and all the accoutrements of war, the construction of a number of base hospitals at strategic points along the border and the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars merely as a test or demonstration of the rapidity and ease with which the United States can assemble its force if need be, and that when the demonstration has been completed the armies and their equipment will be sent back to their homes leaving only the money their assembling has cost in the pockets of border traders and army contractors scattered throughout the land.

Mexicans Want Intervention. But Consul Johnson at Matamoros is not one of these, Dr. Willis said. He is one of those who believe that war, or intervention, is but a matter of time. It is inevitable, he thinks, but with others, he makes no attempt to date the beginning. So, too, thinks Federal Hixon, commander of Carranza, in command of the Carranza garrisons at Matamoros.

The Mexicans themselves think it is bound to come, according to Dr. Willis. Most of the better class have along since fled the country until some degree of stability returns to Mexican affairs. The few who remain think with those Americans who are in the interior or who stayed with their interests in Mexico until the very last minute, that conditions as they exist and as they have been for months and months, are intolerable, and they would welcome intervention as the means of restoring a stable government and giving equilibrium once more to the peaceful pursuits of the country.