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WAR IN MEXICO HAS BEGUN

City of Vera Cruz is Occupied By Americans

FOUR AMERICANS KILLED AND TWENTY WOUNDED

Sharp Fighting in the Streets Between the American Marines and Mexicans

The city of Vera Cruz was taken by forces from the American warships on Tuesday afternoon, but the occupation of the port was not accomplished without loss of lives, both American and Mexican.

Four Americans, bluejackets and marines, were killed by the fire of the Mexican soldiers and 20 fell wounded. The Mexican loss is not known, but it is believed to have been heavy.

The water front, the customs house and all important piers, including those under the terminal works from which extend the railroads to the Capital, have been occupied. All the territory around the American Consulate is strongly patrolled and detachments hold other sections of the city.

The Mexican commander, Gen. Gustavo Maas, offered a stubborn resistance to the American advance and for many hours there was fighting in the streets. Toward nightfall it was reported that the main body of the Federal garrison was in retreat to the westward.

Landing of Marines.

Rear Admiral Fletcher, commanding the United States warship, prefaced his occupation of the port by a demand, through the American Consul, W. W. Canada, for its surrender. General Maas prompty declined to accede to this demand and shortly afterwards 10 whaleboats were sent off from the side of the transport Prairie loaded with marines.

These boats effected a landing in the neighborhood of the customs house before noon, and a few minutes later Capt. William R. Rush of the battleship Florida, who was in command of the operations ashore, brought his flag in.

605 Men Disembark.

Captain Rush's men already had taken up their positions. They numbered 150 bluejackets from the Florida, 350 marines from the Prairie, and 65 marines from the Florida. Later these were augmented by a detachment from the Utah.

The coming of the American forces was not heralded by any great excitement, but small crowds gathered to watch the landing. Soon the bluejackets and marines marched through the streets leading from the water front and along the railroad yards. Others proceeded to the American Consulate, while still others were deployed along the approaches to central plaza, in which General Maas had concentrated his men.

Mexicans Fire Volley.

These maneuvers were effected without opposition, but suddeny General Maas challenged the advance with the first shots—a volley fired from the marines and two blocks south of the main plaza.

The marines replied immediately but the action ceased in a moment. There was a lull for 10 minutes and then another brief exchange from the west end of Montesinos street, where a Federal outpost was stationed.

At 12.30 the firing became general and at 1 o'clock the guns of the transport went into action.

Marines Destroy Mexican Tower.

Prior to this a detachment of bluejackets from the Utah, holding the ground between the Consulate and the water front, opened with two of their three-inch guns. The first shot from these peices were directed against the ancient Bonito Juarez tower, occupied by Mexican sharpshooters. Lieutenant Commander Buchanan of the Florida ordered that it be destroyed. Five shots brought the old tower down.

The women of the American colony in Vera Cruz had been placed aboard the chartered steamers Esperanza and Mexico but the foreign colony, especially the American section, was greatly augumented this morning when three trainloads arrived from the capital. Some of these remained ashore but many were taken aboard the steamers. So far as can be learned no refugees were injured.

This is the first clash between forces of the United States and Mexico since revolution broke out in the Southern Republic in 1910 and gave the Washington Government a Mexican problem.

Though fighting had not ceased at a late hour Tuesday night. Rear Admiral Fletcher had warned the Federal commander that he would use big guns of the American fleet if his men did not stop firing. The American forces had orders to fire only to defend themselves. The United States intends to take no offensive steps for the present. The salute to the flag which Huerta refused will not be satisfactory reparation. It is understood a declaration of apology as well as a salute and a guarantee that the rights and dignity of the United States would be respetced can alone cause a withdrawal of the American forces.

The Navy Department announced that the United States forces in Vera Cruz and vicinty consisted of the battleships Florida, Utah, Connecticut, Minnesota, and the cruisers San Francisco and Chester; gunboat Dolphin, transport Prairie, hospital ship Soace and collier Cyclops, as well as the chartered steamers Esperanza and Mexico.

9,000 Men at Vera Cruz

The concentration of forces totaling about 7,000 sailors and nearly 2,000 marines, is made up of Rear Admiral Mayo's ships, which had been ordered from Tampico late yesterday and the ships which Rear Admiral Fletcher has had at Vera Cruz for many weeks.

Badger Reaches Vera Cruz

Rear Admiral Badger, with the first ships of the Atlantic fleet, reached Vera Cruz tonight, having been diverted from Tampico, where only the cruiser Des Moines remains.

The Americans killed, as reported, were Coxswain Shoemaker, Corporal Haggerty and Seaman Poussett, all of the battleship Florida. The name of the fourth man has not yet been learned.

As we go to press it is reported over the wires that Admiral Fletcher is bombarding Vera Cruz, and that the city is in flames from the shots. It is said that more than two hundred Mexicans have lost their lives during this engagement, bringing a total of more than four hundred Mexicans killed since Tuesday. No Americans were injured so far in this bombardment, as the shells are falling into the city from the guns of the Prairie and the battleship Florida.

Congress has endorsed the President's course and has given him unlimited authority to use the land and sea forces to bring satisfactory answer to his demands. The President is authorized to declare war, if it be deemed necessary, and it is rumored that war will be declared against Mexico within 24 hours.

It is rumored that Americans are being massacred in the interior of Mexico.

LECTURE AT SCHOOL AUDITORIUM.

Hookworm Disease Featured by Dr. Doane.

At the school auditorium Monday morning Dr. Doane, who is conducting the campaign in this county under the State Board of Health and the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission for the examination and treatment of the county for hookworm disease, briefly outlined the work being done in this county.

A brief description of recent discoveries in medicine, including the work of Dr. Reed in the Yellow Fever Commission in Cuba, the discovery of anti-typhoid vaccine in the U. S. army and other interesting topics were touched upon.

Hookworm disease was described in a few words, including the history and origin. This condition was introduced from Africa to this country by the colored race who through having the disease for centuries have developed a natural immunity, and for this reason very few cases are found [illegible].

The effect on the boy and girl was pictured and the results of treatment in actual cases given. If a child is lightly infected the symptoms do not appear and the child may seem to be in perfect health and yet this child may very easily transmit the disease to others in that school or community. It is important therefore that each and every child and adult in Randolph county be examined for this condition and if found infected, treated.

This is the last campaign that the State will conduct in this county and thus after three weeks more the opportunity will have passed. Dr. Doane urged all not to put off this opportunity as the health of the school as well as the entire community would be so greatly benefited.

Dr. Doane and Mr. Tuttle, microscopist, are here to do as much good as possible for the people of this county and it lies with the people alone to get the benefits which can so easily be derived with so little effort on their part.

Mrs. W. D. Simmons High Point Lady Dies.

Mrs. W. D. Simmons of High Point died last Thursday from an operation following an attack of appendicitis. Deceased was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jarrell who were formerly of Randolph county. Mrs. Simmons was first married to Mr. John Dyer. She was again married in 1899 to Mr. W. D. Simmons. Her husband and several children survive.

SOME HISTORY

That Parallels the Manly Courage Displayed by Wilson in Tolls Question.

Those who are captivated by the pyrotechnical display of oratory by Speaker Champ Clark, delivered in the House against the Panama tolls repeal should stop and consider how prone have been the people of America to throw away their [illegible] on all occasions when the mother country has been the subject of discussion. Whenever for any reason a diplomatic controversy has arisen between England and America the stage orators have cut high jinks and figuratively speaking have fought the war of the Revolution all over again. It is an easy subject for a patriotic outburst, and orators willing to jump into the thick of the fray are never lacking. Let us not condemn this national spirit. It speaks well for our love of country. But at the same time let us not lose our reason every time some hot-air artist feels called upon to give vent to his pent-up patriotic ardor.

There is not the slightest doubt but President Wilson is right in his attempt to say the honor of America by showing to the world that, even though we are strong enough to violate a solemn contract with another nation, we are too big and too honorable to do so. He is not the first President to become the target of ambitious politicians for standing like a man, well against a demand of a maddened populace to do a national wrong.

An instance of courage such as is now being displayed by Woodrow Wilson is a matter of history. During the most trying hours of the war of the Rebellion Abraham Lincoln—sturdy old patriot that he was—exhibited that quality of moral courage and sublime honesty that has made his name almost immortal.

Early in the Civil War Captain Wilkes leaped into fame as the great national hero of the day by stopping the British mail steamer Trent on the high seas and taking from her Mason and Slidell Confederate diplomatic commissioners on their way to Europe. The national enthusiasm was unbounded. The eagle screamed as it had not since the battle of New Orleans. He had clawed the British lion and for a few days he had the time of his life.

But the act of Capt. Wilkes was a plain violation of international law. He had no more right to stop British steamer on the high seas than he had to cut one out of a British port. The British government demanded, and with no excess of civility, the surrender of the Trent's passengers. Sentiment in the civil war was, the country was ready for a war with England. In those days we could have overrun Canada and we had a large navy. Nothing would have been more popular than a war with Great Britain. Nothing more repulsive to the dreamed of than a surrender to the American people could have been peremptory demands of England accompanied by a plain menace of war. It was fight or surrender, and that with little loss of time, and the belligerent patriotism of the people was aroused and Mr. Lincoln could have done nothing more popular than to defy England and let the consequences be what they might.

But Mr. Lincoln surrendered Mason and Slidell. We were in the wrong. As a matter of international law the act of Captain Wilkes was indefensible. Mr. Lincoln knew it and he dared do right. In the language that politicians are hurling at Mr. Wilson he sacrificed the national honor. He obeyed a haught demand from the British government. He "truckled" to an alien power.

Of course he did none of these things and Mr. Wilson is not doing them. He maintained the national honor by refusing to fight in a bad cause. He had the courage to admit that the act of our national officer was unwarranted and an invasion of the rights of Great Britain. He dared to do right, though it was unpopular and moved a large part of his fellow-countrymen with unutterable disgust. And his action reflected honor upon himself and upon his nation.

Mr. Wilson has dared to do right. It is unpopular with many of his own party, and of course is the occasion for reckless and criminal lying and abuse by the opposition. But Woodrow Wilson, like Abraham Lincoln, has guarded the national honorg aainst persisting in a wrong action.

In the years to come the name of Woodrow Wilson like that of Abraham Lincoln, will be honored and revered when that of Speaker Champ Clark and others who forgot their duty as statesmen and appealed to the worst element of our natures, in crises like the preesnt, have been forgotten.

This tolls repeal episode has served to emphasize the fact that no mistake was made in the nomination at Baltimore. Champ Clark is a big, brainy man but that he is not presidential timber is made certain by his attitude on the tolls repeal controversy and his grandstand play to the galleries.—Pomeroy (O.) Democrat.

WHAT THE PAPERS SAY

About Congressional Race

NOT A SQUARE DEAL

Early Primary Fixed to Keep Out New Men and to Insure a Small Vote—The People Ought to Be Heard.

From the North Wilkesboro Hustler.

Mr. P. C. Forester was the only representative from Wilkes attending the meeting of the Democratic Congressional executive committee in Asheboro Randolph county last Friday. Six counties were represented in person and a number of proxies were voted by Chairman Ross. Mr. Forester was one of those who desired a primary held later in the summer, preferably August than in May. He introduced the resolution to have the committee express itself in favor of State-wide primaries and enacting a strict enforcement of the corrupt practices act.

From the Waxhaw Enterprise.

Editor Varner in announcing that he would not be a candidate for Congress from this district assigned for his reason that since the primary was to be held in May he did not have the time to get an organization together and to canvass the territory. Calling the primary on such short notice is a game on the part of the friends on the inside to make it hard for a new fellow to break in. Seeing things so nicely fixed Mr. Page challenged Mr. Beasley to join him in asking a primary. Mr. Page knew that Mr. Beasley had not the time to get acquainted with the people all over the district and therefore is not afraid to ask for a primary. Had Mr. Page been sincere in his call he would have asked that the primary be held in August so the country people could come out and vote. Had he been willing to allow Mr. Beasley a chance to get acquainted with the district he would have done this. What he is after is to win out and he is going to try what he thinks is the nearest cut. The chairman of the district executive committee, R. D. Ross of Asheboro, is a servant of the Congressman's in the matter of the campaign and it is certain that he will do nothing to hurt Mr. Page's chances.

Understanding.

North Wilkesboro Hustler.

But Beasley is a Democrat in spirit and wisdom and understanding—and a broad one—judging from a speech we heard him make once.

Belongs to the People.

Waxhaw Enterprise.

Some people are of the opinion that Mr. Page has represented this district so long without opposition that he considers it an affront for any one to run against him. In other words, he feels like the office belongs to him and that it is downright treachery for any man to attempt to take it from him.

Should Have Had Primary When the People Could Vote.

Rockingham Post.

Mr. Roland F. Beasley, editor of The Monroe Journal, has announced himself a candidate for Congress against Congressman Page. Mr. Beasley is a hustler, a live wire and with a late Congressional primary, we may expect some lively politics in this district during the coming campaign.

Is It a Crime to Oppose the Powers That Be?

Shelby Star.

Editor Varner of the Lexington Dispatch has at last decided not to run against Mr. Page for Congress. Good for him.

Not a Square Deal.

Wilmington Dispatch.

Varner is right about the date being too early. It is entirely too soon, and gives the incumbent too big a handicap over any opponent and there is no necessity, especially during an off-election year, to hold a county or district primary about six months ahead of the election.

The decision of Varner not to enter the race leaves only Editor R. F. Beasley of Monroe and Representative Page in the running. The former will probably be greatly handicapped by the early primary as much as Varner, who is one of the shrewdest politicians in the State, thought that he would be.

Would Make a Good Representative.

Webster's Weekly.

He (Beasley) is one of the ablest editors in the State and should he win the prize will make his district a fine representative.

A Student of Public Questions.

Statesville Landmark.

Mr. Beasley has served in the State Senate. He is a very able man and a student of public questions.

(Continued on fourth page.)

FATAL ACCIDENT.

Dr. J. R. Reitzel Prominent Physician of High Point Killed Instantly in Greensboro.

Dr. J. R. Reitzel, a prominent physician of High Point, was killed almost instantly last Friday in Greensboro when the automobile which he drove lurched suddenly to one side, overturning and falling on the street, striking the bottom of the car as he was in the act of passing a team which had [illegible] on the street. The car was not moving more than 12 miles an hour when the fatal accident occurred.

The machine turned completely around, falling with [illegible] part of its weight on the doctor's [illegible] and stomach. [illegible] devise and placing him beneath the wreckage.

There were persons near who saw the accident and two men in [illegible] and pulled Dr. Reitzel from the wreckage but he died without uttering a word within five minutes after the car was upset.

When Dr. Reitzel's car overturned he was on his way to the county court house where he had been summoned by long distance telephone to appear as a witness.

THE LATE DR. REITZEL

The news of his death was a shock to every one. Dr. Reitzel was born in Alamance county. He was the son of Michael Reitzel. Dr. Reitzel was prepared for the practice of medicine in Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore and in a medical college in Nashville, Tenn. He began the practice of his profession at Liberty, N. C. From there he moved to Woodleaf in Rowan county and practiced for about five years. Thence to High Point where he practiced his profession for near [illegible] years. He had built up a splendid practice and was successful in his chosen work.

Dr. Reitzel was interested in several business enterprises in High Point. He was a consistent member of the M. P. Church. He took keen interest in everything that tended toward public uplift of humanity. He was chairman of the building committee of the Children's Home and secretary and treasurer of the board of trustees of that institution.

A large crowd of friends assembled in High Point Sunday to pay the last tribute to one whose life had been so full of usefulness. The funeral service was conducted at the Methodist Protestant Church in High Point on Sunday at 2 p. m. by Revs. J. F. McCulloch of Greensboro, S. W. Taylor of Winston, William Potter of Kernersville, W. H. [illegible] of Kernersville and A. G. Dixon, pastor of the church.

Dr. Reitzel leaves a wife and four children who are heart-broken. The town of High Point has lost a substantial citizen. The medical profession has lost a good doctor. The church has lost a good member, the Children's Home a good friend. In the death of Dr. Reitzel many friends feel a keen loss.

John Price Killed by Patrolman Ferguson in High Point.

John Price, who was intoxicated in High Point one night last week, was killed by Officer Ferguson. Price had a pistol and threatened the lives of some in his company. He was reported and when Officer Ferguson arrived and asked his name he replied with an oath, jumped back and shot at the officer, missing him. Officer Ferguson then shot, and while falling Price shot the second time. The dead man was from South Carolina. He was a young man about twenty-four years of age and was employed as driver of the supply wagon of the Southern Supply Co.

$250,000 Block for Charlotte.

Arrangements are being made for a building to be erected in Charlotte on the north side of East First street from Church street to Mint, 600 feet in length by 100 feet wide. The Southern Power Company will occupy the Church street section; there will be offices and stores in the building. It is to be of reinforced concrete three stories high and a basement equipped with all the modern conveniences. The block is estimated to cost $250,000.

R. J. Darragh and S. H. Schultz, traveling picture agents, are in jail at Lumberton charged with stealing a pair of gloves.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS

Lyman Beecher Stowe, grandson of Harriett Beecher Stowe, the famous author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," was married in New York City last week.

The State Insurance commissioner paid to the State Treasurer [illegible] the receipts in his department [illegible] for the year ending April [illegible] an increase of $10,[illegible] over last year.

Dr. Charles L. Minor and Dr. William L. Dunn, prominent throughout the country as tuberculosis experts, will spend between $25,000 and $50,000 in the development of a sanitarium in Asheville for the treatment of tuberculosis patients.

Commencement at Trinity College embraces June 7-10. Baccalaureate sermon on the 7th by Bishop Candler of Atlanta. Commencement address on the 10th by Le Baron Russell Briggs, dean of the faculty of arts and sciences, Harvard University.

For the first time a North Carolina woman has been made president of the Southern Association of College Women, Miss Elizabeth Avery Colton of Meredith College, Raleigh, having been given this honor. She was elected at the annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., last week.

Saturday night, 4th, after attending a circus at Pink Hill, Duplin county, Lawrence Cavenel, a young farmer, disappeared. Later his cap was found on a lake and his dead body found in the lake. There was no sign of violence and accidental drowning was the verdict. Later foul play was suspected and further investigation was to be made.

The store of W. J. Alexander at Connelly Springs has been robbed four times in a few months and that not long ago the store was robbed of $300. Mr. Alexander surprised the thieves in his store last Wednesday night and was assaulted and seriously injured. The thieves got away.

Sunday afternoon the driver of an automobile in Raleigh drove his machine between the hearse and the family carriage of a colored funeral procession. The horses attached to the carriage took fright and dashed against the hearse, breaking the doors of the vehicle and smashing the end of the casket. That automobile man has something coming to him.

In Rockingham Friday night the driver of an automobile attempted to stop his machine suddenly to avoid running over a negro boy. The car skidded, two tires burst and the machine was thrown into a pile of timber. W. C. Steele was seriously if not fatally injured and Eugene Payne suffered severe bruises and painful internal injuries. Two other occupants of the car escaped with slight injuries.

A charter has been issued for the purpose of founding at Gastonia a home for diseased and crippled indigent children, especially dependent orphans. The institution is to also have power to maintain a department for training nurses. The directors for the institution include such well-known men as Senators Simmons and Overman, State Superintendent of Public Instruction J. Y. Joyner, C. B. Aycock, B. N. Duke, J. Elwood Cox and others.

At Whitney, Duplin county, a few days ago some negroes got in a shipment of whiskey and made merry. A 10-year-old colored girl in the family got hold of a quart bottle and drank the entire contents. She fell in a stupor but the report sent out to the newspapers says she was alive at last account. It is hard to believe that anybody could drink a quart of mail order liquor and survive.

Booker T. Washington has asked negroes of the United States to set aside Sunday, June 7, and Monday, June 8, to protest to railroads against alleged discriminations on account of color in providing passenger accommodations. He has asked that churches, secret societies, business leagues and other agencies send representatives to officials of lines that have provided poorer accommodations for the negro race than for whites.

One of the 6,000 Mexican soldiers, who some months ago sought safety on American soil and are held in camp at Fort Bliss, near El Paso, Texas, tried to escape Friday night and was shot by a sentry. He is expected to die. The same night another prisoner caught breaking electric light bulbs was shot. Individual outbreaks have been frequent since news of the Tampico complication reached the camp.

Gov. Craig has pardoned John Chandler of Mitchell county. In 1877 Chandler was convicted of breaking into the store of W. S. Hyams at Bakersville and sentenced to ten years in the State prison. About a year after he was sentenced Chandler escaped and was free for 35 years. About seven months ago he was captured and returned to the State prison. The judge and solicitor, who tried him, are dead. Mr. Hyams, who is now clerk of the Federal court in Asheville, and others asked for the pardon.