

FIGHTING SIGNALIZES SEIZURE OF VERA CRUZ

First Blood Spilled Yesterday--City Taken To-day by Badger's Men--Next Step Depends on Huerta--Has O'Shaughnessy Been Ordered Out? Gen. Maas Concentrates Forces

Four Marines Killed And 21 Injured In Yesterday's Battle

Communication With Mexico City Has Been Severed—Much Anxiety Over Fate of American Charge—No News Since Monday—Tampico Will Not Be Taken For the Present.

Three Thousand Marines Were Landed Early in Day and City Was Finally Taken—Badger Reached Vera Cruz Early With His Battleships—Fletcher Sends Proclamation to Officials of City.

AMERICAN FORCES IN POSSESSION OF VERA CRUZ.

Washington, April 22.—American forces now are in complete possession of Vera Cruz. Apparently there have been no fatalities among non-combatants. That word was received in a dispatch from Consul Canada this afternoon.

Washington, April 22.—With American forces reported to be in complete control of Vera Cruz this afternoon, it was made apparent in conferences at the white house that the United States would take no further steps of pacification in Mexico at this time.

For the present it was declared upon high authority the forces at Vera Cruz would hold the city to cease Huerta that the United States means business and that no action would be taken at Tampico unless there is an attempt at retaliation by Huerta.

No orders, it was stated, had been sent to American officers about landing at Tampico. Admiral Badger will remain at Vera Cruz until further notice.

Despite the purpose of the administration to confine the operations to Vera Cruz, the situation took on a threatening aspect. Though not officially announced, it was reported on high authority that Senor Algara, the Mexican charge d'affaires, had been directed by Huerta to ask for his passports and that the American charge at Mexico City, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, had been asked to leave.

With this threatened breaking off of diplomatic negotiations, together with reports of aroused sentiment among the Mexicans, the feeling here is that it may be necessary in the near future to resist active attacks from Mexican federal soldiers.

Everything is in readiness for actual warfare if it must come, and congress today took the final step in justifying the president's course thus far. The navy department is arranging to bring to the United States bodies of the sailors killed at Vera Cruz, and either forward them to relatives or make final interment in a national cemetery.

Communication Cut Off.

Dispatches from Vera Cruz that reached the state department today disclosed that communication with the American embassy at Mexico City had been completely cut off. Consul Canada said all efforts to communicate with Charge O'Shaughnessy had failed. The department has not heard from the embassy since Monday, and some anxiety was felt over conditions in the Mexican capital. Absence of news led to various reports that violence was rife. Secretary Bryan appeared worried about the situation.

Dispatches from Consul Canada stated the Huerta forces in Vera Cruz had cut off all means of communication with the capital.

Washington, April 22.—American forces began their advance to take the entire city of Vera Cruz at 8 o'clock today under guns of war vessels, according to a report from Consul Canada this forenoon.

Firing Commences. Vera Cruz, April 22.—Landing parties from the vessels of the American fleet under Rear Admiral Badger were

greeted with quite general firing from snipers when the boats approached the shore at half-past four o'clock this morning.

Badger Lands Forces. Forces from Rear Admiral Badger's fleet were landed to help in the general movement against Vera Cruz, according to official advices to the navy department.

Consul Canada's latest dispatch, filed at Vera Cruz early today, stated: "Firing commenced at daybreak. Ships now shelling the southern part of city. Large force landed from Admiral Badger's fleet before daylight. Copies of proclamation issued by Rear Admiral Fletcher requesting at once the co-operation of the mayor and municipal authorities in restoring order have been distributed but have been unable as yet to get into communication with those officials."

"Major Butler's force of marines from Tampico are now ashore. Expect the city will be quiet later in the morning. Estimates of Mexicans killed and wounded up to late last night approximately 150. Battleships here: Florida, Utah, Arkansas, Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Carolina, transport Prairie and collier Orion. Transport Hancock with marines reported due. American forces advance 8 p. m. under guns of war vessels to take city."

Fletcher and Badger Confer. It was at a conference on the Arkansas that Rear Admirals Badger and Fletcher had decided to complete the investment of Vera Cruz.

Rear Admiral Badger organized a landing force of 2,700 marines and blue-jackets and before day broke these all had been sent ashore.

Have Situation in Hand. Washington, April 22.—American Consul Canada cabled under date of 9 a. m. today that he expected fighting to cease within an hour. American forces ashore numbered 3,000. They were well into the city and had the situation in hand.

Consul Canada's message was received at 11:45. It read: "Have sent messengers to all hotel keepers to reopen their establishments which will be given full protection. Customs house and warehouse on fire but now extinguished. Now informed that American troops have been ordered to advance to take possession of the city. Informed also that first two sections of the train from Mexico City arrived here before the fighting commenced yesterday morning. Third section on its way, but not heard from. Major Catlin, who with a force of 300 marines just landed to assist Captain Neville, says total number of forces landed, 3,000. Our forces now well in centre of city. I now believe fighting will be stopped within less than an hour."

Sharpshooters Active. Vera Cruz, April 22.—Mexican sharpshooters occupied the roofs of houses in the central part of the city and were able to fire down upon the American marines and blue-jackets as they neared the land from the vessels lying off shore.

Scattered Fire. Rear Admiral Fletcher reported that armed citizens kept up a scattered fire from behind their shelters on house tops.

The regular federal troops forming the garrison of Vera Cruz are said to have withdrawn 15 or 20 miles inland.

Rear Admiral Badger's battleships, the Arkansas, Vermont, New Jersey, New Hampshire and South Carolina, are now outside the breakwater. They increased their speed to 17 knots for the last eight hours of their trip on the receipt of a report from Rear Admiral Fletcher as to conditions at Vera Cruz.

In the final dash to Vera Cruz the collier Orion and four tugs accompanying the fleet were outstripped but will arrive here today.

All the American war vessels are held in readiness to start for Tampico at an hour's notice.

More Ships Arrive. Admiral Badger has reported the arrival at Vera Cruz of the battleship Minnesota and the naval transport Hancock with marines from New Orleans. The admiral reported he had plenty of marines now to control the situation.

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HUERTA KEEPS POPULACE IN IGNORANCE

An Idea Given of the Operation of His Strict Censorship—Nothing Allowed to Go Out That is Not Favorable to the Government.

Papers Publish All Kinds of Stories About Make Believe Victories Over the Rebels—Residents of the Capital Kept in Total Ignorance of the Crisis.

By Associated Press. Mexico City, April 15.—(Via Havana, April 22.)—(The following dispatch was sent by mail to Havana in order to avoid the censorship established by General Huerta, which is more strict than at any time heretofore.)

Every telegraph wire out of Mexico City—commercial, railroad or cable—is now watched over by a censor, chosen from among the most reliable and intelligent men in the government service. These censors frankly inform would-be senders of dispatches that it is not a question of the veracity of messages nor whether they disclose military movements but is merely a question of suppressing all news not favorable to the government.

Code messages are absolutely prohibited with the exception only of bank telegrams. The bankers succeeded in having the embargo on these messages raised but only after they had proved that detention of dispatches would seriously embarrass the financial department of the government.

Newspaper correspondents were given to understand that if they were detected in using subterfuges to evade the censorship they would find themselves in jail.

While Nelson O'Shaughnessy was acting as the messenger of the United States government to Huerta in the endeavor to avert war between the two countries more than 99 per cent of Mexican residents in the capital went about their affairs in total ignorance of the crisis.

General Huerta and his official family cleverly concealed even from their intimate friends all knowledge of strained relations between Mexico and the United States. The general public was even more in the dark, since the newspapers published columns of glowing accounts of victories by the federal armies in the north.

Reports of federal success said to have occurred at places far beyond the limits of the telegraph lines were printed broadcast.

One dispatch announced with great display that General Villa had been captured.

The railroads ceased some time ago carrying freight to the north as the limited supply of fuel oil on hand made it necessary to conserve it for the movement of military trains.

Considerable apprehension has been aroused in the capital by the movements of Emiliano Zapata, the rebel leader in the south, who after gaining undisputed possession of the state of Guerrero with the exception of the port of Acapulco, has shown indications of moving northward.

The southern rebels have recently gained considerable in numbers and it is feared they may become formidable enough to venture an attack on the federal capital.

NO WORD FROM O'SHAUGHNESSY. By Associated Press. Washington, April 22.—Secretary Bryan going to the white house at 1:15 said he had received no word from Charge O'Shaughnessy since Monday. The last message from Mexico City came from the American consulate Tuesday forenoon.

GEN. MAAS WOULD REPEL U. S. INVASION

He Orders Concentration of All Federal Forces at Saltillo To Attack American Forces—Many Recruiting Offices Are Opened Up.

Twelve Hundred Volunteers Enlisted at Piedras Negras Yesterday Evening—Two Thousand Refugees Rush to American Side For Protection.

Eagle Pass, Texas, April 22.—Piedras Negras, opposite Eagle Pass, was evacuated by the federal garrison early today after a night of wild excitement. This morning more than 2,000 refugees came to the American side for protection.

All federal forces have been ordered by General Maas to concentrate at Saltillo to "repel the American invasion." Last night when the people of Piedras Negras learned that American marines had occupied Vera Cruz a dozen recruiting offices were opened and arms issued to volunteer companies as fast as organized. More than 1,200 volunteers, it was said, enlisted during the evening.

"Death to the Gringos." Crowds formed and marched through the streets shouting "Death to the Gringos" until the cry became a chant in every street.

Excitement became intense and then came the announcement that General Guajardo was preparing to evacuate the town. In a few minutes the excitement had died down and the rush for the American side of the river began. The new volunteers who had just been proclaiming their intention of fighting the Americans soon were sending their families to the American side for protection.

At 1 o'clock this morning the international bridge was blocked by refugees. The bridge was finally closed by immigration officers and preparations made to handle the throng at daylight. A company of United States soldiers and customs and immigration officers opened the bridge at dawn and within three hours about two thousand persons had crossed, and Piedras Negras was almost deserted.

General Guajardo left a mounted patrol to prevent desertion and a few soldiers in a small fort that commands the bridge, but the main body of federal troops, including the two new volunteers encamped at Puentes. Constitutionalist leaders say they will not occupy the town until an understanding has been reached with the United States.

BRYAN IS NOT WORRIED ABOUT O'SHAUGHNESSY

By Associated Press. Washington, April 22.—Mr. Bryan appeared worried about Mr. O'Shaughnessy and today cabled him to report. The secretary was sure, however, that if anything had happened to O'Shaughnessy, legations would have through their home government informed the United States. Press reports have stated that telegraph wires from Mexico City to Vera Cruz were cut yesterday, which would probably account for the lack of information.

By Associated Press. Washington, April 22.—The White House today requested the publication of this statement: "Secretary Tumulty denied emphatically today as wholly unfounded reports that any member of the cabinet contemplates resigning. He said that this subject had not been considered by the president or by any member of the cabinet and had never been discussed."

The statement was issued in connection with a report that Secretary Bryan was about to resign.

TWO N. C. OFFICERS ARE AT VERA CRUZ.

Special to The News. Washington, April 22.—North Carolina has two officers in the marine corps of the forces now actively at the front with the Atlantic fleet, known as the first advance brigade. These are Lieutenant Colonel W. E. Lemley, first regiment of Winston-Salem and Captain R. O. Underwood of Gastonia. These are the only officers from North Carolina so far at the front.

WEATHER FORECAST: Forecast for North Carolina. Fair tonight and Thursday. Gentle winds mostly southerly.

HUERTA HAS ASKED WITHDRAWAL OF O'SHAUGHNESSY

Such Was Unconfirmed Report Reaching Washington Early Today—It Was Also Said That He Had Demanded Passports For Charge Algara.

What Such a Severance of Diplomatic Relations Might Mean Is Subject of Speculation—Does Huerta Intend to Declare War?

Washington, April 22.—Huerta has requested the United States to withdraw Nelson O'Shaughnessy, charge d'affaires at Mexico City. That was stated here early today on good authority but has not been officially announced.

Passports for Algara Asked. It is said Huerta has asked that Charge Algara be given his passports. Mexican Charge Algara said he had received several messages from his government indicating he might be recalled but that he had not yet been ordered to ask for his passports. He looked for such an order to come at any time, he said.

The reported action of Huerta in asking the withdrawal of Charge O'Shaughnessy and instructing Charge Algara here to demand his passports, technically constitutes a complete breach of diplomatic relations between the United States and Huerta's government, though whether Secretary Bryan is willing to regard it as more than the act of an individual and not of the actual government of Mexico remains to be seen.

There is no precedent for a refusal to accede to the demand for passports nor to fail to withdraw a diplomatic representative upon demand of an established government but the present situation, involving as it does a de facto administration which the United States has not recognized never before has arisen.

Such a severance of diplomatic relations though not necessarily a prelude to war is one of the steps that must be taken if war is to be formally declared and it is surmised in some quarters Huerta is now about to take that step.

Empty dry goods boxes were delivered at the Mexican embassy here shortly before noon but despite those apparent preparations for departure Senor Algara stated that he had not yet received an order to ask for his passports. It was reported here, however, that in earlier messages from Huerta the Mexican provisional president had informed Algara that he could leave his post whenever he thought the situation warranted his departure.

BRYAN IS NOT PLANNING TO RESIGN

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The House Concurrs In Senate Resolution

UNCLE SAM CAN FINANCE WAR

Washington, April 22.—That the United States could finance a war with Mexico and scarcely feel it, is the view authoritatively expressed here today. The government's finances are considered to be in excellent condition.

It was said today no plans for raising money yet had been considered as current appropriations for the navy and army, in the view of officials, would be sufficient for present needs and as it would cost no more to maintain the fleet in Mexican waters than in United States waters.

It has been estimated a beer and stamp tax would increase government revenues at least \$100,000,000 a year. Imposition of such taxes would have to be made by congress.

LIST OF DEAD AND WOUNDED U. S. MARINES

Washington, April 22.—This corrected list of the Americans killed and wounded in the first fighting at Vera Cruz yesterday was cabled today by Admiral Fletcher:

The Dead. Private Daniel Aloysius Haggerty, 10th company, 2d advance base regiment, U. S. marines. Next of kin, father, Michael Haggerty, Cambridge, Mass.

Wounded Marines. Private George Maurice Davidson, 16th company, 2d regiment; mother, Martha M. Davidson, Okaloosa, Iowa. Private John McMillan, 16th company, 2d regiment. Mother Frances McMillan, Mayfield, Manitoba, Canada.

Private Richard Shaker, 17th company, 2d regiment, mother Frederica Shaker (Poughkeepsie, N. Y.). Private Harry J. Reed, 16th company, 2d regiment, mother Irene Reed, Chicago.

Wounded Bluejackets. William H. Mangels, seaman, U. S. S. Utah, born November 17, 1894; home Yonkers, N. Y. Frederick Nanz, ordinary seaman, U. S. S. Utah, born July 4, 1895; mother, Marie Nanz, Brooklyn, N. Y. Nathan Schwartz, ordinary seaman, U. S. S. Florida, born April 22, 1893, home New York city.

James Horace Copeland, seaman, U. S. S. Utah, born July 13, 1892; home Monterey, Tennessee. Private Samuel Marten, 16th company, second advance base regiment; father Mayer Marten, Chicago. George Poinsett, seaman, U. S. S. Florida, born April 10, 1894, William Poinsett, father, Philadelphia. Enlisted at Philadelphia.

John F. Schumacher, coxswain, U. S. S. Florida, born December 5, 1889, Brooklyn. Isabella McKinnon, mother. Seriously Wounded Marines. Private George Draine, 17th company, second regiment. Mother, Estella Draine, St. Joseph, Mo. Private Edward P. Peterson, 16th company, second regiment, father, Walter Peterson, Malone, N. Y.

Seriously Wounded Bluejackets. Clarence Rex Harsbarger, seaman, U. S. S. Utah; born March 31, 1892; C. O. Harsbarger, father, Waverly, N. Y. Joseph Louis Kwapich, seaman, U. S. S. Utah, born March 6, 1893; John Kwapich, father, Rochester, N. Y.

Henry N. Nickerson, boatswain's mate, U. S. S. Utah, born December 22, 1888; home Wheeling, W. Va. Edward A. Gisburne, electrician third class, U. S. S. Florida, born June 14, 1892. Home Quincy, Mass. John R. Gisburne, father, Washington, D. C.

Without Formality of a Roll Call The House Adopts the Administration Resolution Which Justifies the Use of Armed Forces in Mexico. There Was Only One Negative Vote on Proposition—The Resolution Should Reach the White House Some Time Today. By Associated Press. Washington, April 22.—Without the formality of a roll call the house today concurred in the administration's resolution adopted by the senate which justifies the president in using armed forces to obtain amends for indignities in Mexico. On the viva voce vote the ayes were in pronounced majority and only a "no" was heard here and that on the republican side. After a thirty-minute session the house adjourned until noon when Speaker Clark will sign the resolution. It will then go to Vice President Marshall and should reach the white house late today.

Chairman Flood of the house foreign affairs committee moved that the house concur in the senate justification resolution when the session resumed after recess. He urged that there be no conference.

Representative Flood, addressing the house in support of the senate substitute for the house resolution of justification of the president's course, said that when he introduced the original resolution on Monday he believed it was in the proper form to carry out the purposes outlined in the president's address.

"The original resolution made it clear that this country was not hostile to the Mexican people," said Mr. Flood, "and did not desire to make war on Mexico; the senate amendment states this in so many words. The substance of this resolution is therefore unchanged. In this momentous hour of our country's history confronting this country prompt action justifying and approving the course of the president is of the utmost importance and it would be childish to quibble over the words of the resolution when the substance is the same; and this is the view of the president."

BURNS DECLARES LEO FRANK IS INNOCENT. By Associated Press. Atlanta, Ga., April 22.—That Leo M. Frank, under sentence of death for the murder of Mary Phagan, "is not a pervert and innocent of the murder for which he has been convicted," is the substance of a report made public today by the head of a national detective agency who has been investigating the case for several weeks. The detective was employed by friends of Frank after the latter's conviction.

The report asserts that Mary Phagan was killed by a "pervert of homicidal tendencies of the most pronounced type" and charges a negro formerly employed at the National Pencil Factory as a sweeper, with the crime.

The hearings on the extraordinary motion for a new trial on account of newly discovered evidence, and the motion to set aside the verdict in the case because Frank was not in court when it was read, today were postponed. Both were to have been heard before the superior court this morning but on account of a death in the family of counsel for the defense the postponement was made. The extraordinary motion will be heard tomorrow and the motion to set aside the verdict will be heard Friday, May 1.

Washington, April 22.—Secretary Garrison has received applications from citizens of border towns appealing for protection against possible attacks from the Mexican side. They have been referred to General Bliss, in command of the border patrol,