

PRESIDENT MADERO DECIDES TO RESIGN

Demoralization Shown In Federal Army; Fight Slackens In Capital

Mexico City, Feb. 18.—President Madero agreed today in principle to the appointment of a president ad interim.

The news of Madero's decision became known in the early forenoon.

At that hour the position of the government was weakening and the federal troops were apparently becoming demoralized.

The announcement that Madero had agreed to the appointment of a provisional president was made on the authority of the Mexican foreign minister, Senor Lascruain.

Desultory cannon fire from both the rebel and federal positions was still in progress at noon. The belief, however, was gaining ground that a settlement of some kind would be reached before night.

Mexico City, Feb. 18.—Firing went on practically the whole night from both the federal and rebel positions.

Leaders of the government troops are preparing for aggressive action against the rebel positions.

Up to 9 o'clock, however, these batteries, as well as the federal cannon had maintained silence and everybody in the vicinity waited in anxiety for what was to take place.

A large number of Mexican federalists have been killed during heavy fighting in the vicinity of the American embassy.

Between 9 and 10 o'clock the rebel artillery came into action only casually. Neither side had yet made any use of mortar fire as had been threatened.

Heavy Firing Resumed. Silas F. Gilmore, an elderly American, who is the manager of an important mechanical works here, received three bullets in his leg today as he was unconcernedly walking along Colma street.

CHILD LABOR BILL COMES WEDNESDAY

House Will Take up Matter for Consideration as Special Business.

Special to The Gazette-News. Raleigh, Feb. 18.—The child labor bill was today set for consideration Wednesday night as a special order of business by the house.

Regiments Sail Today. Washington, Feb. 18.—Further preparations for co-operation between the army and navy for any emergency in the Mexican situation went forward today with the assembling of 2000 marines at Newport News and Philadelphia.

While a veil of secrecy was thrown about preparations for mobilizing an army expeditionary force from Galveston, of troops now on the border, the troops as far north as Leavenworth, Kansas, had been ordered in readiness.

This would leave the first brigade of the first army division, already under marching orders, without ships, but it is assumed that the war department has arrangements with merchant lines under a mail subsidiary.

Officials were kept in suspense by the continued censorship at Mexico City and official dispatches were brief.

BIDS ARE OPENED FOR MIGHTY SHIP

Dreadnought Pennsylvania Will Be Largest Warship Yet Laid Down.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The Newport News Shipbuilding company's bid of \$7,250,000 for the construction of the new dreadnought Pennsylvania with Curtiss turbine engines was the lowest of all proposals opened at the navy department today.

The Pennsylvania, officially known as No. 38, will not only be the biggest ship in the American navy, but so far as is known, will exceed in size any warship laid down by a foreign power up to this time.

Her tonnage will be 31,000—almost three times that of the famous old Oregon. This latest addition to the navy will cost, when complete with guns, armor and equipment, \$14,173,000.

While only 600 feet long, the Pennsylvania will have a beam of 97 feet, almost as much as it is safe to negotiate in the Panama canal locks.

TAFT'S POLICY IS APPROVED

Ambassadors from European Powers Give Unqualified Endorsement of Non-Intervention Program.

COMBATANTS OBSERVE RULES OF WARFARE

Largest Powers Are Given Ambassador Wilson in Looking After Foreign Interest.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Secretary Knox told President Taft and the cabinet today that notwithstanding all the fierce fighting in the City of Mexico for the last eight days there had been no such infraction of the rules of civilized warfare or of the principles of international law as would warrant any interference by the United States.

The responsiveness of both President Madero and General Diaz to the suggestions of Ambassador Wilson in his capacity as dean of the diplomatic corps have been so complete and satisfactory as to justify officials in their opinion for the strictly neutral attitude observed by the United States.

Apparently the policy adopted by the United States in dealing with the Mexican situation has met with the unqualified approval of the European powers. During the last week Secretary Knox has talked with several of the ambassadors.

New House Bills. Buchanan—Special road tax in Mitchell county.

Robertson—Amend an act relative to a bond issue by Asheville for floating indebtedness.

Newland—Relative to game in Haywood county; create a police court in the town of Haywood county.

Bolick—Protect citizens of Polk county against deprivations of worthless dogs; prevent operations of domestic fowls in Polk county.

Buchanan—Incorporate the town of Bakersville, Mitchell county.

Williams of Buncombe—Increasing the pay of jurors in Buncombe county.

Public Local Bills. The public local calendar of bills was taken up and the following passed:

House bill for road work in Transylvania county.

Senate bill for an iron bridge across the Yadkin river.

COMMISSIONERS KEEP BRITAIN

Convict Camp Boss Accused of Allowing Watkins Unlawful Liberties Will Retain Job.

STEWARD WHO ORDERED WHISKEY ALSO KEPT

Woodard Gets off with Warning, as Roes His Chief—Formal Finding Is Coming.

After hearing evidence yesterday in the case in which J. H. Brittain, in charge of convict camp No. 1, was charged with allowing F. C. Watkins, a prisoner, unwarranted liberties, the county commissioners held a meeting last night and decided to retain Mr. Brittain as head of the camp.

A formal opinion is to be written in the case by the commissioners. From the county attorney it is learned that the commissioners told Mr. Brittain that he had been indiscreet in his treatment of Mr. Watkins, but he would be retained in the employ of the county.

A. L. Woodward, a steward at the camp, who admitted that he had ordered whiskey in the name of Watkins, was also retained in the employ of the county but was also told that he had been indiscreet in this matter.

The board, according to Mr. Swain, also told the men that it was not thought that these things had been done with any intention of breaking the rules and regulations respecting the control of prisoners.

Much of the evidence in the case in which charges had been preferred against the camp management by E. B. Atkinson was heard yesterday afternoon. One of the charges was that Watkins had not been required to do manual labor; and to explain this the defense introduced Dr. D. E. Sevier, who said that Watkins' physical condition was such that he could not do physical labor.

There were also certificates to this effect from Dr. C. E. Cotton, Dr. A. J. Terrell and Dr. E. B. Glenn. With reference to Watkins being allowed to wear civilian clothes, Mr. Watkins said he had worn the trousers of the uniform for a time, but found them uncomfortable; that he was not required to wear them away from the camp.

The substance of the findings concerning the liberties which had been allowed Watkins was that he had been permitted to go to his home four times—three times going in the evening and returning next morning, once going on Friday and returning Monday night. The last time it was shown that Watkins' wife was very ill and he went to see about having her taken to the hospital.

Another time he had been permitted to go to Black Mountain with him. But it seems Mr. Woodard did not do this.

It could not be learned this morning just what form the opinion of the board will take.

WAYNESVILLE BUILDING PROVISION IS CARRIED

Rutherfordton Gets Postoffice Site and Hendersonville an Additional \$20,000.

GAZETTE-NEWS BUREAU, WYATT BUILDING, Washington, Feb. 18.—The public building bill passed by the house late yesterday afternoon carries \$85,000 for the Waynesville postoffice building and \$5000 for a postoffice site at Rutherfordton.

POINCAIRE INAUGURATED PRESIDENT OF FRANCE

Great Display of Popular Enthusiasm as Fallieres' Successor Takes Office.

Paris, Feb. 18.—With simple ceremonies, Raymond Poincare was inaugurated as president of the French republic today for a term of seven years.

There was a great display of popular enthusiasm as the now chief executive proceeded to the palace of the Elysee to take office.

Premier Briand shortly after 2 o'clock in the afternoon called at the private residence of the president-elect. The two then proceeded in an open carriage escorted by a regiment of cuirassiers to the palace.

In spite of the bad weather the streets were lined with people.

Mining Corporations and Corporation Tax.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The question of whether the corporation tax may be collected from mining corporations on the proceeds received from the sales of minerals mined was laid before the supreme court for solution.

The eighth circuit court of appeals in the suit over the collection of the tax from Stratton Independence, limited, a gold mining company in Colorado was uncertain as to the law and certified the case to the supreme court.

RAILROADS GIVE IN TO FIREMEN

CONSERVATIONISTS AGREE TO ARBITRATE UNDER ERDMAN ACT

Declare They Concede Point in Deference to Public Opinion, but Under "Strongest Protest."

WARN THE COUNTRY CRISIS IS AT HAND

"Serious Public Danger" in These Recurring Demands, Say Managers—Case with People.

By Associated Press. Washington, Feb. 18.—The proposal to give the federal government the right to impose a reasonable annual charge upon water powers was defeated in the senate yesterday by a vote of 53 to 29.

In its present form, the dam bill simply permits the Connecticut River company to reconstruct a dam near Windsor locks under the usual terms, in which the government protects its rights of navigation.

"I do not believe such a position is good law or good business or good politics and I venture the prediction that in spite of this apparent rebuff, the day when these valuable water powers will be given away for nothing is over."

This was the declaration of Secretary of War Stimson when advised of the action of the senate in striking out of the bill the provision for a federal tax which he strongly advocated.

The company which is to construct the dam, Secretary Stimson, asserted, was "quite ready to pay the proposed federal tax."

Number of Senators Influenced by President's Stand on Dillingham Bill.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Friends of the Burnett-Dillingham "literacy test" immigration bill claimed to have enough support to repass the measure over President Taft's veto when the senate reconvened today.

Re-passage over the veto required a two-thirds vote and Senator Lodge and other advocates of the measure were busy during the morning lining up votes in its support.

German Scientist It Is Supposed, Will Attempt to Gain Million Dollar Fee.

Berlin, Feb. 18.—Dr. Frederick Friedmann, whose claims to the discovery of a serum curing tuberculosis have been much discussed, called for New York today on the steamship Kronprinzessin Cecilie.

It is supposed he is to attempt the cure of 55 out of 100 cases of tuberculosis, a test for which a New York banker has offered a million-dollar fee, if success is attained.

SHACKLETON IS PLANNING ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

work to be done" in the Antarctic.

"Human lives are nothing," he said, "if by going forth we can add one iota to the sum of human knowledge."

He paid a tribute to Captain Scott and to Commodore Charles Wilkes of the United States navy, whose discovery of the Antarctic continent in 1840 has been confirmed recently by the Mawson expedition.

By Associated Press. New York, Feb. 18.—The deaths of Captain Scott and four of his men met in the Antarctic will have no effect on the determination of Sir Ernest Shackleton to go south again.

At a luncheon in his honor on the eve of his departure for England, Shackleton reaffirmed his intention of leading another expedition, as there was "still

the question the public should seriously consider is whether, in compelling the railroads to arbitrate under a defective and inadequate law and thus securing temporary convenience and accommodation, they are not sacrificing their permanent welfare.

"The managers committee wishes to (Continued on page 3.)