

## PLAN TO SEIZE MEXICAN PORTS

### President Says Tampico or Vera Cruz Will be Seized Unless Huerta Salutes U. S. Flag.

### QUESTION OF WAR RESTS WITH HUERTA

### That Action Against Huerta Might Unite Contending Forces Is Considered Possibility.

Washington, April 15.—Huerta will salute the American flag or the Atlantic fleet will seize Vera Cruz and Tampico. What happens afterward depends on Huerta.

That is President Wilson's determination. Leaders in congress with whom he conferred today agreed there was ample precedent for such action.

Not only the Tampico incident but a long series of indignities offered to the United States and the conspicuous exclusion of other foreign nations represented in Mexico has convinced the president and his advisers that the United States has been singled out for "manifestations of ill will and contempt."

Washington, April 15.—While ships of the Atlantic fleet were turned their bows toward Tampico today to enforce President Wilson's demand on Huerta for a public salute to the American flag, senators and representatives were summoned to the White House to be informed of all phases of the situation that congress might be expected to take further steps.

President Wilson told the congressmen that he stood first for peace but that if Huerta did not comply with the American demands the first step to enforce them would be the seizure of Tampico and Vera Cruz, for which he considers there is ample precedent.

Acting Chairman Shively of the senate foreign relations committee, Senator Lodge, ranking republican of that committee; Chairman Flood of the house foreign affairs committee, and Representative Cooper, ranking republican of that committee, had an hour's conference with the president at which Mr. Wilson outlined all details of the Tampico incident in which a Huerta commander arrested American blue-jackets and refused to salute the Stars and Stripes as an apology.

Mr. Wilson impressed upon his callers that while he sincerely hoped no occasion would arise for the use of force, a contingency might follow as the result of the American demand for a salute and he wished members of congress to be prepared.

All four men who saw the president said no steps would be taken of a serious nature such as the landing of marines or the shelling of a town without authorization from congress.

### Support From Congress.

"Marines have been landed before," said Chairman Flood, "without authorization, and towns have been shelled, but inasmuch as congress is in session it would be more regular to get authorization from congress. The president gave us the history of the Tampico incident and explained just what had been done, but future developments depend entirely on the attitude Huerta takes. Congress, I am sure, will stand by the president."

### Depends on Huerta.

Senator Shively likewise described the conference as chiefly informative. "There have been no overnight developments," he said, "and there is really nothing imminent as yet. We all hope that General Huerta will yield and remove a grave situation, but if he does not we are prepared to back up our demands. Before any marines are landed or any bombardment or other serious steps are taken the president intends to consult congress. We obtained from him today a complete account of what has taken place and his purposes so far as they have developed. Of course, further steps depend upon Mexico City."

Senator Lodge said he was in accord with what the president had done and expressed the view that the demand for the salute and the dispatch of the fleet was in accord with precedent. He said he supported the president's action and hoped that serious steps might not be necessary.

### Official Gossip.

Official Washington gossiped freely about a peaceful blockade, the landing of marines, a possible bombardment, the seizure of Mexican gunboats and armed intervention. The general impression among officials here has been that armed intervention would mean war and would unite the contending forces in Mexico toward a common enemy, but overnight dispatches from Juarez indicated the constitutionalists probably would content themselves with opposing any force that might enter their territory and would not take offensive action. This phase of the situation was regarded as of much importance, in that it appeared to limit the issue, solely to the United States and the Huerta government.

Reports of the victory of the constitutionalists at San Pedro added an interesting phase to the situation. It

was regarded in some quarters as likely to temper the attitude of General Huerta in his refusal to salute the American flag and was considered of paramount influence in pushing the constitutionalist march on Mexico City.

### Crisis Probable.

That the rebel victory and the American demand for a salute would precipitate a crisis at Mexico City was the confident belief of many officials here. No time limit has been set during which the salute must be fired, but General Huerta practically has only until the arrival of the American fleet at Tampico, which will be in about a week, to obey the American demand.

While the navy department is silent as to what Rear Admiral Badger for what was termed an outrage on three British officers of a British man-of-war by a Brazilian guard. When the British demands were refused the British admiral instituted a Pacific blockade of the port of Rio de Janeiro and seized and detained five Brazilian vessels as an act of reprisal. The matter was subsequently adjusted by the payment of claims.

### Peaceful Blockade.

A peaceful blockade has usually affected only the commercial intercourse of the states immediately concerned, the ordinary peaceful relations of other powers with the blockaded ports or coasts not being interrupted without their consent. Recent treatment has been to use the peaceful blockade as a means of redress on occasions which in former times would have given occasion for war.

There has been some question as to whether a peaceful blockade would require an authorization from congress, many international lawyers contending that inasmuch as it amounts to practically a commercial embargo the executive branch of the government would be able to deal with the question without congressional action.

Washington, April 15.—District Attorney Whitman is determined to bring former police Lieutenant Becker to trial for a second time at an early date on the charge of having instigated the murder of Herman Rosenthal, for the actual killing of whom the four gunmen paid the death penalty on Monday morning. It was expected his motion before Justice Seabury today would be opposed by Becker on the ground that his trial attorney was about to resign from the defense and that new counsel would need more time in which to become familiar with the case.

Joseph A. Shay, who became Becker's attorney after his conviction and who prepared the appeal upon which he gained a new trial yesterday notified the Becker family of his retirement from the case.

The district attorney's office is investigating charges made in the confession of "Dago Frank" Cirofici. The police today were requested to bring "Dollar Bill" John Langer to headquarters for a conference. Langer, a personal friend of Rosenthal, was marked by the gunmen, according to unofficial reports of Cirofici's confession.

## BECKER'S COUNSEL LEAVES THE CASE

### On Which Account Becker May Oppose Motion For Early Trial.

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## TAMPICO AFFAIR IS ONE OF MANY

### Washington Thinks Huerta Has Singled Out United States In Showing Ill Will And Contempt.

### INCIDENTS CITED TO PROVE STATEMENT

### Arrest of Orderly, Interception Of Dispatches to Charge, "Offenses Against Right And Dignity."

Washington, April 15.—The following official statement was issued today as representing the views of President Wilson and the administration:

"In discussions in official circles in Washington the following points have been very much dwelt upon: "It has been pointed out that, in considering the present somewhat delicate situation in Mexico, the unpleasant incident at Tampico must not be thought of alone. For some time past the de facto government of Mexico has seemed to think mere apologies sufficient when the rights of American citizens or the dignity of the government of the United States were involved, and has apparently made no attempt at either reparation or the effective correction of the serious derelictions of its civil and military officers."

"Immediately after the incident at Tampico an orderly from one of the ships of the United States in the harbor of Vera Cruz who had been sent ashore to the postoffice for the ship's mail and who was in uniform and who had the official mail bag on his back was arrested and put into jail by the local authorities. He was subsequently released and a nominal publication inflicted upon the officer who had arrested him but it was significant that an orderly from the fleet of the United States was picked out from the many persons constantly going ashore on various errands from the various ships in the harbor representing several nations."

### Most Serious of All.

"Most serious of all, the officials in charge of the telegraph office at Mexico City presumed to withhold an official dispatch of the government of the United States to its embassy at Mexico City until it should have been sent to the censor and his permission received to deliver it and gave the dispatch into the hands of the charge d'affaires of the United States only upon his personal and emphatic demand, he having, in the meantime, learned through other channels that dispatch had been sent him which he had not received."

"It cannot but strike anyone who has watched the course of events in Mexico as significant that outward incidents such as these have not occurred in any case where representatives of other governments were concerned but only in dealings with representatives of the United States, and that there has been no occasion for other governments to call attention to such matters or to ask for apologies."

"These repeated offenses against the rights and dignity of the United States, offenses not duplicated with regard to the representatives of other governments, have necessarily made the impression that the government of the United States was singled out for manifestations of ill will and contempt."

"The authorities of the state department feel confident that when the seriousness and the cumulative effect of these incidents is made evident to the government of Mexico, that government will see the propriety and the necessity of giving such evidence of its desire to reparate and correct these things as would not only satisfy to the government of the United States but also an evidence to the rest of the world as an entire change of attitude. There can be no loss to the dignity of the de facto government in Mexico in recognizing in the fullest degree the claims of a great sovereign government to its respect."

### ARRANGES FOR QUEEN OF BULGARIA'S VISIT

Washington, April 15.—William Caspar, special envoy of Queen Eleanor of Bulgaria, was here today to arrange for the queen's proposed visit to the United States to investigate methods of hospital administration and relief of the distressed.

Mr. Caspar planned to consult Secretary Bryan today relative to the attitude of the state department toward the contemplated visit of the queen—how she will be received and entertained. He hoped to complete arrangements so that she can sail for this country May 19 or May 27.

During her stay in Washington she may be a guest at the White House.

Mrs. W. A. Hildebrand and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Woodwell, have re-opened their home, Whitehall, in Edgemoor, after spending the winter in Florida and Washington.

## VISITORS HERE FROM CHICAGO

### Members of Association of Commerce, Touring the South, Are Welcomed to Asheville.

### HIGH PRAISE FOR CITY AND SECTION

### Members of Party Impressed With Natural Advantages and Developments of This Region.

Asheville impersonates Dixie today in joining hands with Chicago through its delegation of thirty-two leading business and professional men representing the Chicago association of commerce. That association represents 4,000 business houses, having an individual membership of 15,000. The delegation here today is touring the south for the purpose of securing first hand valuable information concerning business and general conditions in the south and the Chicagoans visit to Asheville, promises to be prolific of results. The men are without exception well pleased with prevailing conditions here. Edward E. Gore, chairman of the delegation, in an interview with a Gazette-News reporter, said:

"It is quite unnecessary for me to say that I am delighted with Asheville. It is such a beautiful city that no one could fail to appreciate it. The extent of business operations here, however, far exceeds anything I had expected. In fact, I have been pleasantly surprised in that respect in every city we have visited thus far. The south appears to have resources of which we who had never visited this section had dreamed. Nature has been lavish with the section and I feel that what we learn of it will prove most beneficial to both ourselves and to the section. We are out to get acquainted for mutual benefit, and we wish to reciprocate for the unparalleled hospitality extended us here by extending the people of your city a cordial invitation to visit us."

A glowing tribute to the hospitality of the city, as well as to its business enterprises, was paid by Glenn Frank of the Northwestern university. Mr. Frank said:

"The most beautiful rose I have ever seen was artificial. It went nature one better in all particulars but one—it lacked perfume; the soul of the flower was missing. Just so, there is hospitality and hospitality, Asheville has not only the mechanic, but the soul of hospitality. The natural beauty of Asheville's setting, the transparent sincerity of its citizen's welcome, the busy briskness of its open-minded interest in the big progressive movements of all sections of the country, have made our visit a purple day in the calendar of the Chicago association of commerce tour of the south."

Edward E. Gore, chairman; H. F. Miller, business manager; Edward Andrews, Nash-Wright grain company, representative Chicago board of trade; Herbert Brown, Western Union telegraph company, public utility; Coby Davies, Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co., wholesale dry goods; J. W. Campbell, (second week) credit clearing house, mercantile agency; George L. Cox and assistant, Advance motion picture company, motion photography; William H. Dawes, Central Trust company of Illinois, banking; J. S. Dickerson, University of Chicago, education; A. G. Francis, Chicago Telephone company, public utility; Glenn Frank, Northwestern university, education; Edward E. Gore, Harrow, Wade, Guthrie & Co., public accountants; John F. Harey, First National bank, Chicago, banking; Hugo Hartmann, the Hartmann Trunk company, manufacturers; Hartmann wardrobe trunks; E. H. Houser, Barnes Crosby company, designers, engravers and publishers; W. A. Lockwood, the Yale & Towne Manufacturing company, locks and builders' hardware; John P. Mann, Morris Mann & Kelly company, dry goods specialties; R. J. McKay, Fort Dearborn National bank, banking; H. F. Miller, the Chicago association of commerce, business manager; Frank A. Mitchell, Crest Water Proofing company, waterproofing material; R. H. Morris, Southern railway company, railroad; William R. Moss, Moss, Bastian & Schmidt, attorneys; Clark D. Ogborn, C. D. Ogborn and company, glove manufacturer; Neil Saterlee and assistant, official press representative; John D. Sloop, board of education, assistant superintendent of schools; S. M. Stein A. Stein and company, Paris garters; W. H. Walker, M. D., physician; F. W. Whitmer, Joseph T. Hyerson and son, iron and steel; H. L. Jameson, the Chicago association of commerce, secretary.

### 23 OPERATIONS ON WOMAN; 24TH FATAL

New York, April 15.—The case of a remarkable patient was discussed today by surgeons at the German Skin and Cancer hospital in reports of the death in that institution on Monday night of Mrs. Mary Steffen Wilson, 30 years old. Within six years Mrs. Wilson underwent 23 operations, the 24th proving fatal.

It was stated that Mrs. Wilson was known to surgeons of hospitals throughout the city who watched her case with unusual interest. Her first operation was caused by a fall in which her spinal column was injured. A year later her son, Rowland, was born and second, third and fourth operation followed in quick succession, and finally cancer developed, making the other operations necessary.

## HIGH PRAISE OF BUTT BY TAFT

### Ex-President Pays Tribute to Former Aide, Titanic Hero At Dedication of Monument.

### "SOUTHERNER THROUGH AND THROUGH," HE SAYS

### Thinks of Him as "Best Type Of New South With a Chivalrous Sentiment Of Old."

Augusta, Ga., April 15.—Simple but impressive exercises attended the dedication here today of the Butt Memorial bridge, erected as a tribute to the memory of the late Major Archibald Willingham Butt, aide to former Presidents Taft and Roosevelt, who perished in the Titanic disaster on April 14, 1912. Former President Taft, a delegation of Masons from the Temple Noyes lodge of Washington, of which Major Butt was a member, local Masons and members Butt Memorial association, participated in the services which were held on the handsome new bridge spanning the canal at Fifteenth and Greene streets. Arrangements had been completed for the dedication to be held yesterday afternoon but on account of rain it was necessary to postpone the ceremonies until today.

The formal dedication of the bridge was preceded by the laying of a cornerstone with ritualistic ceremony by the Masons. Former President Taft, the first speaker, spoke feelingly of his former aide as a "southerner through and through."

"I like to think of him," said Mr. Taft, "as the best type of the new south with its full flavor of the chivalrous and patriotic sentiment of the old south, strengthened by the trials of war and its consequences, melted by success in its struggles against obstacles after the war, and turned into the deepest loyalty to the flag by the Spanish-American war, and a sense of a full share in the power and responsibility of the government of the country."

"He was a southerner through and through. He had the traditions of the south deep-seated in his nature. But he had the self control that enabled him with entire self-respect to pass unnoticed expressions of prejudice or criticism toward what he held dear, made thoughtlessly, or upon the assumption that he was not a southerner man."

"Archie went to his death in a great disaster that attracted the attention of the world. We do not know the details, but we know that women and children were rescued and he went down with the ship. Returning from a much needed vacation, full of what he had seen and enjoyed, he was hastening again to take up the duties in the beautiful and stately White House that should know his earthly form no more. When I heard that many were lost, I knew that Archie would never return."

"He would have selected no other death, had he been given a choice. He is preserved to us in his manly beauty in his soldierly form, in his kindly attitude of help, in the discharge of his highest duty. He is in the memory of us all."

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## MOODY DEFEAT FOR FEDERALS

### BATTLESHIPS SAIL THIS AFTERNOON

### Five Leaving Hampton Roads—Several Others From Various Ports.

Norfolk, Va., April 15.—The battleships Arkansas (flagship), Vermont, New Hampshire, and New Jersey and the dispatch boat Yankton will sail from Hampton Roads this afternoon for Mexican waters. They will proceed at full speed. The New Hampshire was the first to get under way, she having sailed from the Norfolk navy yard this forenoon after the filling of her bunkers and the taking on of final stores. In Hampton Roads the New Hampshire dropped anchor to await the complete preparation for departure of the Arkansas, Vermont and New Jersey.

Many of the officers and men of the ships this morning sent telegraphic messages to their wives and others advising those at home of the changed plans of the fleet and the prospective department of the ships this afternoon.

The New Hampshire attracted much attention as she passed out of the harbor. All of the ships but the Yankton are in the usual war color of gray. The Yankton is still painted white.

The guns of all the ships immediately preceding their departure are in full readiness for action should this become necessary.

The activities in Hampton Roads today almost equalled some of the exciting scenes preceding the departure of Rear Admiral Schley's flying squadron from Hampton Roads during the Spanish-American war.

### The Louisiana.

New York, April 15.—All preparations for the departure of the battleship Louisiana for Tampico were completed early this morning.

### Michigan Preparing.

Philadelphia, April 15.—Officers and crew of the battleship Michigan worked all night under the glare of searchlights at the navy yard preparing the big fighter for the cruise to Tampico.

### Tacoma Ready.

Boston, April 15.—Preparations were hurriedly made over night for the departure of the third class cruiser Tacoma which was ordered yesterday to proceed to Tampico with a preliminary stop at Newport, R. I.

### Transport Sails.

New Orleans, April 15.—The transport Hancock with 950 marines on board, sailed from here today to join the battleship fleet that will concentrate near Tampico.

### Battle of Torreon Culminates In Defeat of Four Federal Generals After Six Days' Battle.

### VILLA THUS ENSURES HIS HOLD ON TORREON

### Rebel General Sacrifices Hundreds of Men In Order to Clear Way To March Toward South.

Juarez, Mex., April 15.—Defeat of the combined federal forces by the rebels at San Pedro de las Colonias, Coahuila, with federal losses estimated at 2800 killed and wounded and 700 prisoners and a rebel loss reported at 650 killed and wounded was regarded here as the culmination of the battle of Torreon which was begun on March 21.

When General Velasco, federal general in chief, evacuated Torreon on April 2 his army was practically intact and the retreat enabled him to join reinforcements which had failed to reach him at Torreon and to that extent the evacuation was a successful maneuver. In any event Velasco, after his retreat was much stronger and more dangerous than before, for at San Pedro he had with him the columns of Generals Javier de Moura, Benjamin Arguemedo, Emilio F. Campa, Mariano Ruiz, Carlos Garcia Hidalgo and Joaquin Maas, a total of twelve or fourteen thousand troops. While desultory fighting began almost as soon as the federal left Torreon, General Villa gives the duration of the battle proper as six days, culminating with the flight of the federal left Monday.

The federalists are reported to have retired eastward in the direction of Saltillo and Monterey, having, it is thought, repaired the railroad in that direction before the battle.

The federalists destroyed the market building, a hotel and the property of the late President Francisco I. Madero before retiring.

In the face of vicious fire from the federal General Villa repeatedly hurled his numerically inferior forces at the government front for six days of terrific fighting. That Villa's tenacious leadership finally succeeded in driving the defeated federalists from the city to which they had applied the torch before evacuating was paid for dearly, was gathered from reports received here. General Villa in his official report.

(Continued on Page Nine).

## Col. Goethals at work ---read the story in this book.

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