

MEDIATORS SEEK A MIDDLE GROUND FOR NEGOTIATIONS

Mediation Principle Is Accepted, Envoys Begin Work.

PROPOSALS OF U.S. BEING CONSIDERED

First Move May Not Bring Opposing Parties Together, the Mediators Think, But They Hope For Ultimate Success—No Statements From White House As to Basis For Settlement.

Washington, April 28.—Spanish Ambassador Riano, who is in charge of the affairs of Mexico in the United States, today informed Secretary of State Bryan that Gen. Huerta had unconditionally accepted the principle of mediation involved in the proposal of the governments of Brazil, Argentina and Chile.

The envoys of the three nations whose good offices also have been formally accepted by the United States, resumed their sessions early today at the Argentine legation in an effort to compose the Mexican crisis.

With the acceptances of both governments now definitely before them, the three envoys occupied a semi-meditatory attitude almost in the nature of an international tribunal, considering the attitude and desires of each side and seeking to find some middle ground on which both could stand. The sessions are all private and surrounded by every safeguard against premature disclosure of plans. It was known, however, that the chief effort of today was to try to perfect a plan on which they have been working ever since their tender of good offices was made. This will be laid before the two governments at the earliest moment.

Middle Course Sought.

The envoys have acquainted themselves as far as circumstances permitted with the viewpoint of both sides without calling for any formal declaration from either side as to what it might or might not accept, the idea being to seek a middle course which will, if possible, avoid an impasse by the formal submission of conditions impossible of being reconciled. While they feel that their first positive move may not bring the parties together, yet they hope it will be a starting point which, with modifications developed as the negotiations proceed, gradually will lead toward a final plan acceptable to both governments.

The sessions are expected to be continuous throughout today and tonight. The White House declined to make any statement as to what proposals the United States would submit as a basis for mediation. It was announced that nothing would be said that might in any way embarrass the mediators.

At the regular cabinet meeting at 11 o'clock the formulation of the American proposals to the mediators was a subject of consideration.

Completing Plans.

Washington, April 28.—Encouraged by Huerta's formal acceptance of the good offices of the South American diplomats, President Wilson and his advisers today waited for representatives of Argentina, Brazil and Chile to put in operation the machinery of mediation. Until early today the envoys remained in conference completing preliminary plans.

Huerta's reply, conveyed through his minister for foreign affairs to Mr. Riano, Spanish ambassador in Washington, was received late last night.

Acquiescence Expected.

His tender was expected because Mr. Riano already had received private advice that Huerta would accept. The text of the acceptance was not made public but it was said to have referred to the "real spirit of solidarity between peoples of the same race."

"Things Look Better."

To what lengths the "good offices" of the South Americans might reach was an absorbing topic in official Washington and the entire diplomatic

corps today. Other features in the situation largely were lost sight of except among army and navy officials charged with execution of preparations for eventualities. Taut nerves and the anxiety of the last few days were relieved by news that Americans were leaving danger zones in the southern republic, while reports of tranquility along the border were encouraging. "Things look very much better now," Secretary Daniels said. "We're getting Americans out of Mexico. That's the important thing now."

Wilson Pleased. When news of Huerta's acceptance was taken to President Wilson he declared himself greatly pleased. However, he made no other comment. In official and diplomatic circles expressions were heard that whatever had been accomplished by the peacemakers up to this point must have a good effect in the situation.

Stirring scenes to the south of Washington almost had reached a standstill. The only feature to disturb the peaceful routine of Vera Cruz over which the Stars and Stripes now wave was the probable landing today of military forces from the transports and the assumption of supreme command by Brigadier General Funston. The seaport rapidly was resuming business. The terminal company, which controls tracks, wharves and warehouses and other freight handling facilities resumed operations, adding materially to the adjustment of business of other commercial companies. That was reported by Rear Admiral Fletcher to the navy department early today.

Consuls Close Offices.

Most of the American consular offices in Mexico, under orders from the state department, have closed their offices, turned over their business to the Brazilian and French consuls and are making their way out of the country, it was announced here today. In some cases the department has been unable to get in communication with more remote consular agencies but no apprehension is felt for the safety of officers who have established friendly relations with the natives by reason of long residence among them.

Uruguay Enters.

Montevideo, April 28.—The Uruguayan minister of foreign affairs today conferred with the president of the republic in regard to the Mexican situation. It was decided that Uruguay should lend her support to the mediation of Argentina, Brazil and Chile between the United States and Mexico.

MISS CAMPBELL IS INJURED BY FALL

Miss Belle Campbell, who has been as resident of this city for the last several years, was seriously injured last Friday at the home of her father in Baltimore, when she fell from a stepladder, breaking her right leg in two places, according to information received here yesterday. She left here several days ago to visit her father at 161 Kenwood avenue, Baltimore, owing to his serious illness. Nothing could be learned as to her condition, as the message received was very meager.

WAYNESVILLE MAN ARRESTED SATURDAY

News was received in the city Sunday of the South Sunday members of the police department, on information furnished by the local sheriff's office that he was wanted here on charges of beating a board bill of about \$40. It is alleged that he failed to pay a Mr. Lanning of the depot section that amount for board. The defendant gave bond for his appearance at a preliminary hearing to be held in this city this week, the exact date not having been set yet.

REBELS ARE ASKED TO JOIN FEDERALS

British Admiral Goes Inland to Rescue Eight Americans.

Washington, April 28.—Rear Admiral Mayo at Tampico reported today that the federal forces there are making further overtures to the constitutionalists for a combination against the United States. He said the constitutionalists are still firing.

Rear Admiral Mayo reported that Admiral Craddock of the British cruiser *Hermione* had dispatched Major Clark and a detachment of British marines 40 miles inland from Tampico to rescue eight Americans at Orange Hill and was expected back tonight. The *Hermione* set 13 refugees aboard the *Des Moines* today. Admiral Badger reported that it would be inadvisable to send an American ship to the Yucatan district "as it might start anti-American demonstrations."

In regard to the reports from Tampico that American citizens there were indignant because of the departure of the American battleships from the river, Secretary of the Navy Daniels said today this action had been taken after Admiral Craddock had informed Admiral Mayo that he would undertake to receive Americans from Tampico aboard the *Hermione* and transfer them to the *Des Moines* upon the American vessel's taking a position at sea. This arrangement, it was thought, Mr. Daniels said, would make anti-American demonstrations in Tampico less likely.

"I will go in and bring the refugees to you," the British admiral was reported to have said to Admiral Mayo.

EIGHTEEN PASSENGERS HURT IN DERAILMENT

Many Painfully Hurt But None Fatally Injured, It Is Believed.

Raleigh, N. C., April 28.—Eighteen passengers were injured, some of them painfully though none fatally, it is believed, yesterday afternoon, near Wilson, when two rear coaches of the Atlantic coast line train No. 48, Wilmington to Norfolk, were derailed.

Those worst injured were placed in a hospital at Wilson and the others were cared for at Rocky Mount. The injured: Dr. B. T. Person, postmaster at Wilson, knee caps fractured; A. L. Jackson, Elm City, back, arms and head injured; Mrs. R. C. Martin and infant child thrown through window and both cut about face, three other children of Mrs. Martin, cut and bruised; Captain J. A. Donnell, Norfolk, Pullman car conductor, scalp wound; Mrs. N. A. Culbreth, Wilmington, possibly injured internally; Ed Frances Bennett, little nephew of Mrs. Culbreth, cut on arm; Will Lancaster, Black Creek, leg cut; E. E. Mason, Black Creek, leg cut; A. H. Edgerton, Goldsboro, scalp wound; Fred Horne, Black Creek, foot cut by falling axe; William Aycock, Wilson, scalp wound; Mrs. J. E. Grady, Kenly, back hurt; Mrs. S. B. Moore, Wilson, face and head cut; Miss Alma Miller, Shelby, head and knee injured. Defect in rail is thought to have been cause of derailment.

BOY SCOUTS HAVE ARRANGED A HIKE

At the meeting held last night of Asheville troop No. 1, Boy Scouts of America, it was decided to go on a hike next Saturday morning to Mountain Meadows Inn. The members will meet at the Asheville High School and go from there. The plans for holding a track meet for the members of the troop were taken up last night and it was decided to hold the meet on Saturday, May 2. The plans for the meet will be worked out during the next few days and it is expected that all the members of the troop will participate in the events which will be arranged. Two new members, Asbury Evans and Hampton Smith, were admitted last night to membership.

Further Cut in Oil Prices.

Findlay, O., April 28.—A further cut in oil prices was made here today. A reduction of five cents per barrel was made on Lima, Indiana, Petroleum and Illinois oil and Wootter was reduced 10 cents per barrel.

TROOPS ARRIVE FOREIGNERS IN AT VERA CRUZ AWFUL PLIGHT

General Funston, Commanding The Fifth Brigade, Is Preparing to Land His Forces.

NO PLANS AT PRESENT TO EXTEND TERRITORY

Huerta Has Decided Not to Try Conclusions With the U. S. Troops, According to Refugees.

Vera Cruz, April 28.—The transports bringing the fourth army brigade comprising the fourth, seventh, 19th and 28th infantry regiments under Brigadier Gen. Frederick Funston were made fast at the docks shortly before 10 o'clock this morning.

Brigadier General Funston, accompanied by Captain Harry McL. Huse, chief of staff of Rear Admiral Fletcher, immediately came ashore to confer with Rear Admiral Fletcher before calling on Rear Admiral Badger, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet.

Vera Cruz, April 28.—That Huerta has decided not to try conclusions with the American forces near Vera Cruz is indicated by a report brought to the city by passengers arriving from the outlying districts. The passengers said they saw General Maas, former commandant at Vera Cruz, and his men making their way farther into the interior from Soledad.

U. S. Forces Tolerant.

The American forces are tolerant of almost all Mexicans who enter their lines and it is not improbable that any Mexicans who enter their lines and it is not improbable that any Mexican officer might with safety openly enter and depart from Vera Cruz. Americans early today were eagerly awaiting General Frederick Funston and his troops who were known to be almost within sight of land if not actually anchored beyond the outer line of Rear Admiral Badger's fleet.

No announcement as to when the soldiers will be sent ashore has been at headquarters.

It is understood that there will be no effort to extend the territory now held here until further orders that effect come from Washington. This attitude, it is supposed, is the natural result of the negotiations regarding mediation, little information of which is reaching here and because of the desire to continue efforts to bring Americans in Mexico City and elsewhere to the coast.

It is probable that several naval officers now administering municipal affairs will not be disturbed when the army staff is taken hold. Among these is Commander Sticks of the *Patria*, captain of the port, who is now directing affairs inside the breakwater. Since the *Patria* is a marine transport with all her men ashore it is not probable that any change will be made so far as the position of captain of the port is concerned.

History Repeated.

History was repeated yesterday afternoon in the ceremony of raising the stars and stripes over Vera Cruz. On the same spot in 1847 General Winfield Scott broke to the breeze the American colors as he landed to begin his march at the head of the American troops to Mexico City.

The hoisting of the flag was carried out with full naval ceremony in the presence of Rear Admiral Badger, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet; Rear Admiral Fletcher and the plucky 1200 men from Fletcher's ships who took the city from the Mexicans April 11.

Before the low but imposing facade of the Terminal hotel where the ceremony took place the broad plaza spreads to the dock, giving a view of the crowded inner harbor and of the great armada of battleships outside the breakwater.

PREFERENCE GIVEN TO OFFICERS OF HONOR

Washington, April 28.—The president would be authorized to give preference in making appointments to the volunteer army to the army officers who have been awarded medals of honor under a bill introduced today by Representative McKellar of Tennessee. The volunteer army bill which recently became a law, provides that a certain proportion of the volunteer army should be from the regular

STRIKE WAR IS SPREADING

ADMIRAL FLETCHER SEIZES TERMINAL

Over Protest of British Owners at Vera Cruz—Had Right, Thinks London.

Vera Cruz, April 28.—Rear Admiral Fletcher last evening seized the piers, yards and buildings of the Terminal company, a British-owned concern, control over which he regarded as necessary in order to facilitate the resumption of the normal business activity. The admiral had been endeavoring to rent the property. The management quoted a figure which naval authorities considered exorbitant and Admiral Fletcher ended the controversy by taking advantage of his powers under martial law and assuming possession of the property.

Prior to the seizure a high official of the company had a British flag raised over the water station far out in the yards. It availed him nothing however. W. Morcom, manager of the Mexican railway and president of the terminal company, called on Rear Admiral Craddock of the British cruiser *Essex* and related the circumstances. The admiral advised Mr. Morcom to present his claims to the British foreign office.

The Terminal company is a British concern, most of the stock of which is held by the railroads, two of which, the Inter-oceanic and the Mexican, are British-owned.

Within Rights. London, April 28.—The seizure yesterday by Rear Admiral Frank P. Fletcher of the property of the British-owned Terminal company at Vera Cruz is accepted by the British foreign office as quite within the admiral's rights. It was stated today that if the Terminal company presented a claim to the British foreign office it will be forwarded to Washington in the ordinary course.

IRISH NATIONALISTS LAND WAR MUNITIONS

Size of Consignment Unknown But Considerable—Even With Unionists.

Londonderry, Ireland, April 28.—The Irish nationalist volunteers, a body similar in organization to the Ulster unionist volunteers, partially made matters even with their political opponents early today by successfully landing a large consignment of arms. The size of the consignment is unknown but it is believed to have been considerable, although not equal to the 40,000 rifles and 500,000 rounds of ammunition the Unionists received on April 25.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hampton of Haywood street, a son, George Thomas.

FOUR DAYS! Ninety-Six Hours! And Then All Is Over!

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Gazette-News, Tuesday Apr. 28

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