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Huerta Must Act or Tampico and Vera Cruz Will Be Seized

Uncle Sam Suffered Many Indignities at Hands of the Huerta Government

An Orderly Who Went Ashore to Obtain Mail Was Arrested—Dispatches Were Intercepted—Censorship on Official Dispatches—Other Indignities Cited.

Lively Scene at Various Points Where Battleships Set Sail Today—Will Huerta Accede to U. S. Demand?—Unless He Does Vera Cruz and Tampico Will Be Seized.

By Associated Press.

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

Official dispatches to Charge O'Shaughnessy have been intercepted by the Mexican censor.

A ship's orderly ashore in full uniform in Vera Cruz on business of the United States was arrested and released while a nominal punishment was meted out to the local officials.

These hitherto unpublished facts were disclosed today in an official statement.

President Wilson told his advisors today that he stands for peace but is determined to force Huerta to recognize the honor and dignity of the United States.

While these developments were taking place in Washington the ships of the Atlantic fleet of the fighters cleared from Hampton Roads and others in the Atlantic navy yards were ready to sail before night.

Men Taken From Our Ship.

A development of the white house conference was the disclosure that two of the United States bluejackets arrested at Tampico actually were taken from an American boat.

The blue jackets had gone to the Tampico wharf to load gasoline. Mexican soldiers, after seizing the men on the wharf, boarded the American boat, arrested the two bluejackets there and forcibly took them into custody. That act in itself constitutes, in the opinion of experts in international law, an act of war.

"If it is not actually an act of war," said a senator today in discussing the incident, "it comes very near it."

Sentiment of the senate foreign relations committee was said to be in sympathy with the present attitude of the administration.

More Ships Ordered Out.

Washington, April 15.—Secretary Dan has ordered the cruiser Cleveland, now at San Francisco, to steam to Mazatlan at once. The cruiser Chattanooga is expected to follow in about two weeks.

There were no developments as to any orders, and it was said that troop movements were not discussed at the president's conference with congressmen.

Ships now on the west coast are the cruiser Raleigh and the gunboat Annapolis at Mazatlan; the cruiser New Orleans and the gunboat Yorktown at Topolobampo; the armored cruiser California and the supply ship Glacier at Acapulco.

Secretary Bryan declined today to discuss the Mexican developments beyond saying he was in uninterrupted communication with Charge O'Shaughnessy.

Dispatch From Fletcher.

Washington, April 15.—This dispatch from Rear Admiral Fletcher at Vera Cruz dated 10 p. m., last night, was received at the navy department today.

"No new development at Tampico," Constitutionalists have retired from the vicinity. Business resumed and refugees returned. Mexican gunboat

Progresso Zaragosa left Tampico.

Huerta's Contemptuous Attitude.

Washington, April 15.—Senator Shively, acting chairman of the foreign relations committee, said after his conference with the president that no immediate action was contemplated by congress but that action was probable in the event of a further defiance of this government by Huerta.

"Will there be a message from the president?" Senator Shively was asked.

"It certainly will come to that if reparation does not come from the Huerta government for the contemptuous attitude it has taken."

The president, according to congressmen who talked with him, frankly discussed the situation. He announced, it was said, that he had stood in the interest of peace about all that he intended to stand from Mexico and that the question of war between the two governments now rested squarely with Huerta. He said he had given a reasonable time to Huerta to salute the American colors and that while no limit of time had been fixed, yet there would be no quibbling and that action promptly would follow failure to comply.

The first steps, he indicated, would be taking possession of the ports beginning with Tampico and Vera Cruz. "This action leads to war," said one of those present.

Senator Shively said there were many precedents for action in retaliation which would not be considered as actual measures of war; that it is possible to seize the custom houses of Mexico without a declaration of war. Before such an act is undertaken, however, congress probably would be consulted, he said.

"There is no first class power in the world from which the United States would have stood what it has patiently withstood from poor, uncivilized, divided and embroiled Mexico," declared Senator Shively. "It is like the case of snapping at the patient Newfoundland dog who must eventually act and teach his tormentors a lesson."

It is the expressed opinion of several senators that Huerta has defied the United States in the forlorn hope of arousing the solid, patriotic citizens of Mexico to the support of his tottering regime but it is also the opinion that his effort will fall when the remnant of Mexican solid citizens realize that Huerta can no longer offer them any protection.

Official Statement.

The following official statement was issued today as representing the views of President Wilson and the administration:

In discussions in official circles in Washington of the present Mexican situation the following points have been very much dwelt upon:

Many indignities.

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 sometime past the de facto government of Mexico has today as some mere apologies submitted 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.

Orderly Arrested.

"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 ships' 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 punishment

Repeated Offenses.

"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 spangled 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 evidences of its desire to repudiate and correct these things as will be not only satisfactory to the government of the United States but also an evidence to the rest of the world of 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 rights."

Senators Summoned to White House.

While ships of the Atlantic fleet were turning their prow 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 prepared for any further steps.

(Continued on Page 7.)

FEAR OPENING OF CANAL MAY CAUSE LOSS

By Associated Press.

Boston, April 15.—Fear that the opening of the Panama canal may be followed by a world wide redistribution of yellow fever and cholera which will cause great commercial loss, was expressed today by Dr. Richard P. Strong, head of the Harvard School of Tropical Medicine.

Dr. Strong was formerly at the head of the government biological laboratory in the Philippines and later became prominent through his work in combating the pneumonic plague in Manchuria.

"The troubles to be feared from the spread of tropical diseases by traffic through the Panama canal," he said today, "are rather heavy financial losses through disturbance of trade than any great loss of life. Modern medicine has so far mastered the ways of checking infectious diseases that in many civilized countries no great mortality is to be feared from the introduction even of plague, yellow fever and cholera. For the United States and for eastern Europe the greater peril is to trade because medical control of the spread of tropical diseases rests first of all on the stoppage of traffic."

"One of the most interesting and not improbable changes in the distribution of tropical diseases is that the west coast of South America, particularly Guayaquil, may send yellow fever to India and receive Asiatic cholera by way of exchange."

URGENT NATION-WIDE PROHIBITION LEGISLATION

By Associated Press.

On Board U. S. S. Arkansas, off the Virginia Capes, April 15.—Rear Admiral Badger, commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet, sailed for Tampico from Hampton Roads at noon today with the superdreadnoughts Arkansas, Vermont, New Hampshire and New Jersey. In a thick fog that overhung the sea the big ships started off under orders to make eleven and a half knots an hour. That speed would bring them to Tampico in seven days.

Rear Admiral Fiske, chief of the navy bureau of operations, who brought Admiral Badger instructions from Washington was the last man to leave the flagship Arkansas before the squadron steamed out.

ishment 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.

Official Dispatch Withheld.

"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 a dispatch had been sent him which he did not receive."

"It cannot but strike any one who has watched the course of events in Mexico as significant that untoward 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."

Repeated Offenses.

"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 spangled 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 evidences of its desire to repudiate and correct these things as will be not only satisfactory to the government of the United States but also an evidence to the rest of the world of 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 rights."

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(Continued on Page 7.)

FEAR THE KITE HAS MET DISASTER

By Associated Press.

St. Johns, April 15.—Fear that the Kite, the smallest steamer in the sealing fleet, has met with disaster, was increased today when the steamer Eagle, in a radio message reported sighting wreckage consisting of a ship's hatch and plank and some oars, 170 miles off here. Owing to stormy weather the Eagle was unable to pick up the flotsam.

It is now believed this wreckage and that sighted on Saturday by the sealer Bloodhound, did not come from the missing steamer Southern Cross, but from the Kite, which carried a crew of 65.

WEATHER FORECAST:

Forecast for North Carolina.

Generally fair tonight and Thursday. Cooler tonight near the coast. Slightly warmer Thursday.

JUST BY WAY OF PASSING WE MIGHT SAY:

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS yesterday had a net circulation of

9348

News fresh from the wires, given to the public while it is news, is making THE CHARLOTTE NEWS "the fastest growing newspaper in North Carolina."

Rebel Forces Achieve Signal Victory at San Pedro

SHIPS SAIL FROM HAMPTON ROADS TODAY

BADGER FLEET SAILS.

By Associated Press.

Norfolk, Va., April 15.—The Badger fleet sailed from Hampton Roads at 12:20 o'clock this afternoon for Tampico, Mexico.

The battleships Arkansas (flag-ship 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 preparedness 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 them at home of the changed plans of the fleet and the prospective departure 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 preparedness for action should this become necessary.

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

To complete the hasty coaling of the battleship New Hampshire, it was necessary to work all of last night. Eighteen hundred tons of coal were placed in her bunkers. Coaling operations started in an hour after a message was received from Rear Admiral Badger directing that the New Hampshire be placed in quick readiness for Mexican service. The New Hampshire's regular crew was augmented by a detail of fifty apprentice seamen from St. Helena, who were relieved at midnight by another shift of apprentices.

Before the vessel sailed today a detail of seamen were transferred to her from the receiving ships Franklin and Richmond for distribution among the vessels of the fleet.

In addition to the other ships leaving Hampton Roads for Mexico waters the repair ship Vestal, the ammunition ship Lebanon, and the naval tugs Patapsco, Patuxent, Sonoma and Ontario are hastily preparing for sea.

The Patapsco and Ontario have already left the Norfolk navy yard for Hampton Roads.

It is said the Lebanon and tugs would prove especially available for landing parties, owing to their comparatively light draft, which would enable them to run close in shore and send men to the beach in ship cutters and steamers.

The battleship Delaware will not be able to get away. She will be at the navy yard for repairs and overhauling until July.

St. Johns, April 15.—Fear that the Kite, the smallest steamer in the sealing fleet, has met with disaster, was increased today when the steamer Eagle, in a radio message reported sighting wreckage consisting of a ship's hatch and plank and some oars, 170 miles off here. Owing to stormy weather the Eagle was unable to pick up the flotsam.

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Loss of Life on Both Sides Is Great--Over Three Thousand Men Killed Or Wounded

NO TRACE OF MURDEROUS INCENDIARIES.

By Associated Press.

Louisiana Courthouse, Va., April 15.—Determined posses are assisting Sheriff A. L. Walsh and Deputy R. E. Trice of this county, in their search for two murderous incendiaries who cut the telephone wires at Green Spring depot shortly after midnight and then robbed and set fire to the general merchandise store of W. R. Dunkum and shot and killed V. J. Hall as he hastened to the scene.

The store and contents were valued at about \$7,500.

BRITISH SCHOONER MISSING.

By Associated Press.

London, April 15.—The British schooner Grand Falls from Harbor Brecon, N. F., for Oporto, has been posted at Lloyds as missing.

Y. W. C. A. EDITION IS ENDORSED BY MERCHANTS

J. B. Ivey & Co. Offers Enthusiastic Statement of Approval—Considers This Edition a Highly Valuable Advertising Medium and Wants Space Reserved.

Set Forth Sound Reasons Why it Should Appeal to Business Men—New Home of Association Has Quickened Interest in Y. W. C. A. Work—Everybody Predicts Success For Special Edition

The special Y. W. C. A. edition of The News, to be issued in May by the ladies connected with the local Young Women's Christian Association, is being more widely commented upon day by day.

Press Commends Idea.

Numerous papers of the state have made special mention of this project, as it is something new in North Carolina journalism to turn a paper over for a day absolutely to women to edit.

Not only will the ladies have charge of the paper on the date of issue, but they will make it what it will be.

All Predict Success.

Many expressions of approval have come to The News for deciding on this special edition, and everyone predicts that it will be an unequalled success.

Added interest to association work in the city has been stirred since the magnificent new home has been built. Later on a membership campaign is contemplated, and by thoroughly familiarizing the people of the city with the various lines of association work, this edition will be of great service.

This benefit alone is worth the effort to the local association, aside from the funds raised by the edition to be applied to local association work.

Many Women at Work.

Numerous ladies in this and many other cities are now busily engaged preparing special articles for the edition, and the advertising board is on the eve of an energetic campaign for business.

Business Men in Line.

Will they succeed?

The business men are answering that question themselves, for without exception those seen by The News have heartily and unqualifiedly given the project their endorsement.

The tremendous circulation assured for this special edition adds to its value as an advertising medium, and progressive merchants are not slow to recognize this point.

Ivey's Endorses It.

Here is what officials of the well-known firm of J. B. Ivey & Company had to say today with regard to the forthcoming edition:

"Almost seventy per cent of the buying done in the world is done by women."

"The Y. W. C. A. edition of The Charlotte News will centre the attention of every woman hereabouts (and the men, too, no doubt), on this special issue and as the women do most of the buying Ivey's believe this paper will be a good advertising medium and take pleasure in commending it."

"Apart from the business side—"

"One of our most worthy Charlotte institutions is the Y. W. C. A. and that it gets a goodly share of the profits and that nothing goes to outside promoters, as is the case in ordinary special editions, is another excellent reason why this store will use extra space in this Y. W. C. A. edition."

"J. B. IVEY & CO."

Villa's Men After Seven Days of Desperate Fighting Finally Triumph Over Combined Forces of the Federals Although Greatly Outnumbered.

Federals Retired in an Easterly Direction—Villa Took Seven Hundred Prisoners—Federals Destroyed Madero Property Before Leaving—Account of the Battle.

By Associated Press.

Juarez, Mexico, April 15.—Defeat of the combined federal forces by the rebels at San Pedro de Las Colonias, Coahuila, with federal losses estimated at 2,800 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 Argumedo, Emilio P. 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 federals left Torreon, General Villa gives the duration of the battle proper as six days, culminating with the flight of the federals last Monday.

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

An Earlier Story.

Villa's rebels have defeated the united federal armies of General Velasco, General Maas, General Hidalgo and General de Moura at San Pedro de Las Colonias, 40 miles east of Torreon, according to advices last night to General Carranza at Chihuahua from General Villa at the front.

In the face of vicious fire from the federals 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 federals 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 to his chief ended with the remark:

"My only regret is that 500 of my troops were wounded in today's (Monday) assault. I hope that the great sacrifice of human blood will be for the welfare of our country."

It was argued that if 500 of General Villa's soldiers were incapacitated in this one charge the previous fighting must have been heavy and the loss of life greater even than that at Torreon. Reports stated the federals lost 3,500 killed, wounded and prisoners. Villa reported 700 prisoners and the casualty of battle to the federals therefore is estimated at above 2,500.

The success of General Villa and his men in driving back the forces which had reinforced the retreating Torreon garrison under command of the Federal General Velasco was regarded here as the final struggle for the complete possession of Torreon and the hewing of a way through the canon country toward Mexico City.

Rebel officials and sympathizers were exultant today when news of the capture of San Pedro was apparently confirmed.

Federal sympathizers in El Paso however, were silent in their hope that Villa would be seriously checked at Saltillo or some other stronghold between Torreon and Mexico City.

Villa's army of not more than 12,000 was pitted against approximately 15,000 in the forts at San Pedro.

SENATOR CLARKE WAS RENOMINATED.

By Associated Press.

Little Rock, Ark., April 15.—United States Senator J. P. Clarke was renominated in the primary by a majority of 212 over Judge Kirby, according to an announcement today by the democratic state central committee which has completed a canvass of the vote.

Supporters of Judge Kirby announced a contest would be carried before the democratic state convention.