

AMERICANS REPORTED KILLED IN MEXICO CITY

Vera Cruz Paper Says Four Americans Were Murdered--Reports of Intense Anti-American Feeling Came in From All Parts of Mexico--War Department Active.

3 Taken From Street Car And Mobbed According to Story

One Killed in Y. M. C. A. Building--Refugees Reaching Vera Cruz Tell of the Bitterest of Feeling Against Americans All Over Mexico--Our Lines Now Extend For Ten Miles About Vera Cruz--Military Authorities Consider Americans in Mexican Cities Face Critical Situation--Story of the Killing Not Confirmed--Americans Arrested.

Vera Cruz, April 25.--El Dictame, a Vera Cruz newspaper today says four Americans have been killed by mobs in Mexico City. It declares it has received this information from the Federal capital.

Three of the American victims were taken out of street cars and killed on the streets while the fourth was killed in the Young Men's Christian Association building by members of the baseball team to which he belonged, according to El Dictame which made its reappearance today.

The information as to the massacre of Americans is not confirmed from any other source and is considered doubtful in many quarters.

INTENSE ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING.

The refugees arriving here bring word of intense anti-American feeling in all directions.

The American military authorities at Vera Cruz considered the situation of the Americans in the capital and all over the republic grave.

VERA CRUZ TRANQUIL.

Almost normal tranquility has been restored in the city but occasional sniping occurred during the night. There was, however, no general disorder, the domination of the city by the American forces having been generally accepted by the residents.

The order issued from the admiral's headquarters for the closing of all saloons remained in effect today.

The restaurants are having difficulty in furnishing the usual quantity and quality of food owing to the impossibility of obtaining supplies. Prices have therefore been advanced.

completely encircle the city. Outposts have been established covering all points from one to five miles out.

Americans at Mercy of Huerta. Washington, April 25.--Americans remaining in Mexico City are entirely dependent upon the Huerta government and the small guards maintained at the foreign legations for protection.

It was stated at the state department today. There are between 30 and 100 men it was said attached to the various foreign legations in the Mexican capital, armed with small arms and machine guns, upon whom the Americans might depend. These, the department said, would be effective only against sporadic mob violence and would be practically powerless against any general movement of a mob attack which the Mexican government might ignore.

It was expected the Americans in the event of an attack would take refuge in other foreign legations.

No Word of Massacre. The statement said that no official dispatches confirmed the report that four Americans had been killed in Mexico City and that Consul Canada at Vera Cruz still in communication with the department, made no mention of such an occurrence. Consul Canada has reported nothing more serious from Mexico City than the

Rebel Commander Says He Has Reopened Attack On Tampico--His Reason for Action

Brownsville, Texas, April 25.--The following report signed by General Caballero, rebel commander at Tampico, to constitutionalist headquarters at Matamoros under date of the 24th was given out here today:

"Having some to my notice that the federalists in Tampico were offering further insults to Americans, I immediately reopened my attack at 4 o'clock this morning and already have captured the cemetery where strong federal force resisted. Expect triumph by night."

...suls who may leave through Mexican gulf ports.

Americans Arrested. Washington, April 25.--In an official report from Consul Canada at Vera Cruz, the state department was informed today that several Americans were placed under arrest in Mexico City after being taken from their refugee train that carried Charge O'Shaughnessy and his party to Vera Cruz. J. Starr Hunt and his family were named among those arrested. Burton Wilson was taken from the train at the first station out of Mexico City.

WEATHER FORECAST:

Forecast for North Carolina. Partly cloudy tonight and Sunday. Moderate east winds.

NUEVO LAREDO

A SMOULDERING MASS OF RUINS

Much Damage Done to Former Federal Stronghold When Huerta's Men Dynamite and Burn The Town--Heavy Guards Maintained at International Bridge.

Another Attack on Laredo is Not Expected But Every Precaution is Taken to Meet Any Development--No American Killed in Yesterday's Firing.

Laredo, Texas, April 25.--Smouldering ruins in what was once the populous Mexican border town Nuevo Laredo and hundreds of destitute refugees huddled in every possible shelter here, were visible reminders today of the desolation wrought late yesterday by Mexican federalists who burned and dynamited their one time stronghold until driven away by the American border patrol.

Excitement occasioned when the Mexicans began firing across the international line and their sharp retreating down quickly when the federalists retreated but left a strong feeling of uneasiness in its wake. All night a reinforced patrol, aided by citizen volunteers, guarded every foot of the river front and heavy guards were maintained at the two international bridges. It was feared that other attempts to dynamite this communication between the two countries would be made.

Two Mexicans were shot yesterday in attempting to destroy the bridges. Some of the more nervous citizens fear another visit of the federalists to attack Laredo itself but army officials, though every precaution is being taken, do not believe there is any danger.

It was definitely ascertained today that the wild shooting of the Mexicans had done no damage on the American side.

TRAIN LOAD OF SUPPLIES FOR TROOPS.

Chicago, April 25.--Upon orders from the commissary department of the United States army, a Chicago packing company yesterday shipped a train load of fresh beef and other supplies to Galveston for transportation to the American troops in Mexico.

The Charlotte News Tomorrow Morning

In addition to Live Local and State News, complete details of all the Major and Carolina League Ball Games, and other attractive features, will carry special "war" stories by staff correspondents of the United Press--trained newspaper men of National reputation who are on the field of action and will give the details, firsthand by special leased wire for this paper.

If you do not get the Sunday Morning News buy it from all newsdealers and newsboys in Charlotte and outside towns.

BRYAN DENIES RUMOR OF RESIGNATION

Washington, April 25.--Secretary of State Bryan today emphatically denied widespread and persistent reports that he would resign from the cabinet. When informed of published reports that he would relinquish his post should war be declared against Mexico, Mr. Bryan said:

"The subject of my resignation has never been discussed with anybody, nor thought of by me."

White house officials pointed to the general denial issued a few days ago of the story that Secretary Bryan would resign, saying that statement was sufficient to cover all rumors of cabinet dissension.

They said they did not regard it as necessary to repeal the denial with each published report.

Outside of the white house there has been considerable discussion of the individual views known to be held by members of the cabinet on the present situation. None of these is said to be serious or approaching any breach in the president's official family but there have been natural differences of opinion as to what aggressive measures should be pursued. The president himself, it is said, has invited the widest range of suggestions from his advisers and has steered a middle course between those who favor a quickly aggressive policy and those who believe war can be best averted by patient observation and carefully deliberated action.

Persons close to the administration described the divergence of views as the product of natural differences among those charged with responsibility for executive action. Officials point out, for instance, that the war department is naturally anxious to take every reasonable precaution with its military forces and the navy is perfecting its preparations for actual warfare. They say also that the state department which is directly responsible for relations with other foreign governments and which is trying through diplomacy to prevent aggressive movements which might aggravate action by the constitutionalists, and the Mexican people as a whole, is busily occupied in friendly repression of the war spirit of its allied departments.

All the cabinet secretaries themselves denied that there is any serious division and point to their close and frequent conferences as evidence of their co-operation.

Retired Officers Get Orders.

Washington, April 25.--Secretary Daniels, through Major General Barnett, commander of marines, today ordered the following retired marine corps officers to special recruiting duty at these stations:

- Captain F. M. Eshick, of Gadsden, Ala., to St. Louis. Captain R. C. Walker, of Middleton, N. Y., to Boston. Captain D. W. B. Blake, of Pass Christian, Miss., to St. Paul. Captain H. T. Swain, of Saratoga, Calif., to Portland, Ore.

MEXICANS MURDERED HIS WIFE AND CHILD

Tampa, Fla., April 25.--His wife and child killed by Mexican brigands who raided his ranch near Vera Cruz, Mexico, 18 days ago, carried off all his live stock and burned the buildings, Joseph Smith, formerly of this city, arrived last night from Havana, to which place he made his way from Vera Cruz. Smith was wounded in two places with bullets from the bandits' guns, in defending his place. He says the bandits left him for dead. When he recovered consciousness he found the dead bodies of his wife and child on the ground near

Developments Today Make the Situation Even More Serious

E. A. POTEAT OF SALIS BURY FOUND DEAD

E. A. Poteat, a white man between 35 and 40 years of age, a resident of Salisbury, was found dead today about 12 o'clock in a room of the Mansion House, 205 West Trade street, over Kendrick's drug store, death apparently being due to an overdose of hypno-bromic compound.

Mr. F. H. White, proprietor of the boarding house, stated that Poteat came in yesterday evening between 7 and 8 o'clock and asked for a room, it having been his custom to stop there for some time. Mr. White gave him a room. As he had not shown up this morning, Mr. White went to the door of Poteat's room and knocked. Receiving no answer, he went out to the street and called Officers House and Gardner, of the police force, who broke in the door. They found the man dead on the bed, in his night clothes, with his right hand lying beside his head on the pillow as if death had come to him while asleep.

Coroner Hovis was notified and came to view the body, as did County Physician S. McLaughlin. Dr. McLaughlin thought death was due to an overdose of the hypno-bromic compound. A bottle that had contained the compound, and marked with the composition of the drug, was on the washstand, only a few drops remaining in it, while a glass beside the bottle showed he had drunk the compound from the glass. Poteat was the maker and distributor of several medicinal preparations. It is said, and traveled Mecklenburg, Lincoln, Rowan and other nearby counties. It was learned that he was a traveling salesman several years ago for the Burwell & Dunn Wholesale Drug Company here, but remained with that firm only a short while. He has been preparing and selling compounds of his own recently.

Addicted to Drugs.

The dead man had been addicted to the use of drugs, it is said, and Mr. White, proprietor of the Mansion House, stated today that when Poteat asked for a room yesterday evening, he seemed to be somewhat bewildered. He told Mr. White he had left his suitcase somewhere, but couldn't remember where it was. It was found in a restaurant down stairs, in the same building as the boarding house, where Poteat had left it a few minutes before.

Poteat came in after supper was over but Mr. White told him he could still be provided for, if he wished any supper. Poteat asked him not to go to the trouble, as he did not care for much supper and would go down to the restaurant on the first floor. He told Mr. White that he lived chiefly on buttermilk anyway.

Poteat had been accustomed to stop at the Mansion House for some time and left last Monday. Mr. White stated for Lincoln, accompanied by another man, named Klutz, who is also a traveling man. Mr. Klutz and Poteat were to come back to Charlotte yesterday, Mr. White understood when they left, and they did so. But Mr. Klutz came to the Mansion House first and, in conversation with Mr. White stated that he was going to sever business relations with Poteat, as the latter was not conducting himself in a proper manner, while they were on the road, Klutz meaning, Mr. White said, that Poteat was addicted to the drug habit and often behaved in an irresponsible manner.

The dead man has a wife in Salisbury, it is understood, and has relatives there.

CONDITION OF EMPEROR FRANCIS JOSEPH.

Vienna, Austria, April 25.--Emperor Francis Joseph again passed a night disturbed by fits of coughing. The official report on his condition, however, says:

"His strength and general condition this morning are about the same as yesterday."

Grave Problems Confront Washington Officials--Americans Reported Arrested--Intense Feeling Against Americans in Capital--Washington's Statue Torn Down--O'Shaughnessy is Safe.

Reply of Carranza and Next Move of Huerta Anxiously Awaited--Will Huerta Declare War?--Seventeen Mexicans Dead and 75 Wounded.

Washington, April 25.--Unconfirmed rumors of the killing of Americans by mobs in Mexico City, the arrest of American railroad employes yesterday at Orizaba and information forwarded to Washington that American military authorities at Vera Cruz considered the situation at Mexico City and throughout the Mexican republic serious for Americans there, aroused activity of the Washington government today.

While the authorities were exerting every effort to get verification of the disquieting reports from the Mexican capital, Secretary of State Bryan conferred with the Brazilian ambassador here, Mr. Da Gama, over the arrest of Americans at Orizaba and informed him that he had requested the Brazilian diplomatic representatives in Mexico City to seek the release of the prisoners. Ambassador De Gama urged the Brazilian minister in Mexico City to do all he would for the release of the Americans.

Officials here were much exercised over the reported assassination of Americans in Mexico City. Serious eventualities there, it was pointed out, might aggravate the present situation, and serve to arouse sentiment among the people that would demand more aggressive action in Mexico on the part of this government. It was further emphasized, however, that mob violence could not be construed as any deliberate act of General Huerta and that it could be claimed for his government that it was powerless to control the situation owing to the anti-American feeling aroused by the seizure of Vera Cruz.

Although no new military orders were issued by the war department, plans for perfecting the operations at Vera Cruz and along the Mexican border were considered by Secretary Garrison, General Wetherpoon, and Major General Wood, who has been chosen to direct the military operations in cooperation with Secretary of the Navy Daniels.

Washington, April 25.--With the complete restoration of order in Vera Cruz, the safe exodus of Charge O'Shaughnessy and his staff from Mexico City and transport carrying reinforcements of troops ploughing swiftly through southern seas, President Wilson and his advisers today were on the alert for a counter move by Huerta and awaiting the development of any positive attitude by Carranza, the constitutionalist chief.

The Laredo Outbreak. The sporadic outbreak in Nuevo Laredo, where evacuating federalists fired across the Rio Grande and drew a pelting of bullets from the American border patrol and the reported arrest of several Americans by Huertista authorities at Orizaba scarcely served to alter an already absorbing situation.

What Will Carranza Do? Officials today awaited news of the reception by Carranza of a telegram sent by constitutionalist representatives in Washington advising him to remain neutral. Hope that he would do so was based on reported utterances of Villa, the military chief under Carranza. Meanwhile strengthening of the border patrol continued.

Washington Statue Desecrated. Huerta in the anti-American atmosphere of Mexico City, marked last night by desecration of a statue of George Washington, might make a definite move today. It was thought since he had given the American charge his passport, a positive declaration of war would not be surprising to officials here.

Will We Go to Mexico City? His next move, it was believed would develop whether it would be (Continued on Page Two.)