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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

A FIGHT ON THE BORDER.

Mexicans Shoot Over the International Boundary Line and Destroy Town on the Border.

Laredo, Tex., April 24.—Nuevo Laredo, the Mexican border town opposite here was in ruins tonight, devastated by dynamite and fire set by Mexican Federal soldiers, who late today began an orgy of destruction which did not end until they were forced to flee Southward before the guns of the American border patrol.

Two Mexicans are known to have been killed by the United States troops and several were seen to fall. Several brisk skirmishes between the Americans and Mexicans were fought in quick succession as the Mexicans, their troop trains ready to pull out of the burning city, began an indiscriminate fire across the international boundary, but tonight there was no evidence that their shooting had been effective.

HALF MILLION DAMAGE.

Property damage in Nuevo Laredo will reach \$500,000. Among the buildings destroyed were the United States Consulate buildings, municipal buildings, postoffice, theater, the flour mill, one of the largest in this section of the Southwest, the railroad shops of the Mexican National Railway and other smaller structures.

At a late hour tonight the fire was still burning with no prospect that it would be controlled until everything inflammable had been destroyed. Kerosene and other combustibles liberally used added to the wreckage, which otherwise would have not been great owing to the adobe construction of most buildings.

There was no property loss in Laredo. Both international bridges are safe, though efforts to dynamite them resulted in the death of two of the men engaged in the undertaking.

One Mexican was shot by a sharpshooter from the top of the water tower. The Mexican was trying to reach the end of the international foot and wagon bridge. Another was killed when he tried to blow up the Mexican end of the International Railway Bridge. American soldiers are constantly stationed at the American end to prevent such an attempt.

ORDER RESTORED.

When the Mexican soldiers finally departed order was quickly restored in Laredo, but strong guards remained throughout the city. A serious problem was furnished immigration and city authorities by the presence here of hundreds of refugees from the burning city who had to be furnished food and shelter. The Federal garrison evacuated Nuevo Laredo yesterday, supposedly going to Saltillito or Monterrey. With their departure the busy little city ordinarily of about 7,000 population was virtually deserted, all the inhabitants rushing panic stricken to the American side in fear of bandit attacks. The Federals returned early today and it was announced that they came back for additional engines to put to their troop trains. The Mexican National Railroad shops are here.

There was little excitement occasioned by the presence of the Federals until this afternoon. Smoke was seen issuing from some of the buildings around the plaza, the center of the town. The municipal building and the American Consulate on opposite sides of the square broke into flame simultaneously. Next door to the Consulate, the postoffice, temporarily closed, also was seen to be burning and around the plaza smoke began to issue from the windows and roofs of other buildings.

HOUSES WRECKED.

A few minutes later a loud explosion wrecked several houses and the fire rapidly spread in all directions. Americans began to gather on the river bank, but hastily retreated when warned that other explosions might occur. Troops at Fort McIntosh were ordered out on the double quick and in a few minutes a rigid guard, amounting almost to martial law, was established in the danger zone.

At the two bridges across the river the guards were reinforced and it was here that the only American loss of life occurred.

Battery A of the Third Field Artillery has sent to the powder house of the Laredo Electric Company, fearing an attack there, but it was soon seen that there was nothing for them to do.

MEXICANS KILLED.

Several Mexicans were seen to fall before the fire from the machine guns, but they were carried away by their comrades. The trains were started and the Federals withdrew firing as long as they could. For some distance the railroad follows the international line.

After silencing the Mexicans, part of the Ninth Infantry was withdrawn, the others remaining on guard.

Rumors that some of the U. S. soldiers were wounded proved to be without foundation and no shots struck in the central part of Laredo.

Crane of the Ninth Infantry announced that a rigid patrol of the city, particularly of the business section and the American residence section would be maintained.

Precautions were taken at Fort McIntosh for any eventuality which might arise. A machine gun platoon which started for the rifle range was held on the post reservation for instant action. The battery of artillery was ordered into position at the fort while a battalion of the Ninth Infantry was rushed into the lower town to assist the patrol.

It was not believed tonight that more than one building of the American Consulate was dynamited by the Federals. Other explosions were attributed to cartridges and powder.

In addition to the redoubled patrol by the United States troops, a guard of 125 Americans was organized today under direction of Captain Saunders. Army officers are wearing their side arms because of a conversation overheard the other night in which a Mexican suggested the "picking off" of the officers on duty in the streets at night. Saloons have been closed and places of amusement shut their doors at night.

The fire today reached the river front, which divides the Mexican and American towns in only a few places. It was still burning at midnight.

NO OCCASION FOR ALARM.

Washington, April 24.—With the Ninth Regiment of Infantry three troops, L. K. and L. of the Fourteenth Cavalry, Battery A. of the 3rd Field Artillery at Laredo, War Department officials said there was no occasion for alarm because the town had been fired upon by the Mexican soldiers.

As far as is known here, the Mexican Federal Prison at Nuevo Laredo comprised about 1,500 men, with 2,000 other Federals scattered between the border city and Monterrey. There are about 3,000 rebel soldiers at Guerrero, Mexico, below Nuevo Laredo on the Rio Grande.

"We are not prepared to invade Mexico under present conditions."

This was Secretary Garrison's explanation of the War Department's refusal to authorize General Bliss to seize the international bridge at Laredo, El Paso and other points on the Rio Grande. In the Secretary's opinion such an invasion of Mexico would be an act of war though this view was strictly limited by the phrase "under present conditions."

An old decision of the law officers of the war department holds that such exchanges of shots as those at Laredo today are not acts of war. There have been a number of such exchanges across the Rio Grande.

Secretary Garrison received the following report from Brigadier General Bliss of a telephone conversation between General Bliss and the commanding officer at Laredo tonight:

"At 10:30 p. m. 32 cars of Federal soldiers came into Nuevo Laredo. At 2 o'clock several explosions blew up carshops, custom house, flour mills and other buildings; 2:30 detachment cavalry moved slowly west from town. Think they were the destructive party. Colonel Crane moved two detachments into Laredo City to satisfy citizens and protect bridges."

A letter dispatch from General Bliss said: "During evacuation of Nuevo Laredo our patrol at the railway bridge was fired on. Fire was returned and Mexicans disappeared. I think there is no significance to the incident."

Seven Americans Held by Mexican Soldiers.

Vera Cruz, April 24.—Seven Americans, prisoners of Mexican soldiers being held at Cordoba or Orizaba, on the line of the Mexican Railway between here and the capitol, four of whom at least are threatened with execution, according to authentic information received here today.

Four of the Americans were taken from a train on the Vera Cruz Isthmus line at Tierrablanca; and at Motzongol Station three other Americans and an Englishman were seized. Those captured at Tierrablanca are W. A. Mangan, Superintendent of the railroad; Engineer Elliott and Conductors Riley and Hart.

At Montzongol, Edward Weunch, his son, Sydney, A. M. Thomas and Mr. Boyd, an Englishman, were arrested by the Federals.

The belief that the Federals intended to execute at least four of the prisoners was gained from the conversation of soldiers who captured them overheard by passengers on the train. The prisoners were taken to Cordoba and it is believed later were transferred to Orizaba. Eighteen Americans are in Tierrablanca.

Police court affairs in Vera Cruz were administered today by a naval lieutenant, who heard the cases of Mexicans picked up by the patrol or arrested during the fighting. He proved to be a lenient magistrate, much to the surprise of the Mexicans many of whom believed the "gringos" would order their execution.

The British cruiser Herminie, which had been removing Americans from Tampico, reports that only a few are now there.

Mr. John C. McLendon, of Wadesboro, died at the Soldiers' Home in Raleigh several days ago. He entered the home two years ago and has been there since that time. Mr. McLendon was about 70 years of age and is survived by his widow, two brothers, Messrs. Frank and Joel McLendon, and one sister, Mrs. Betsy Baucum. He was a kind hearted man and devoted to his friends. In his manner he might have been different from other men, but he was upright and pure in his living, and there are many friends who will drop a tear on learning of his death.

—Wadesboro Ansonian.

A Durham money lender was convicted last week of usury. He was charging two dollars per month for a \$15 loan. He was fined \$50 and got off light at that.

MORE INSULTS TO AMERICANS.

Flags Shot to Pieces, Torn Down and Trampled Upon.

President Wilson and Secretary Bryan were greatly incensed Sunday night on receiving a dispatch from Consul General Phillip C. Hanna at Monterey, Mexico, announcing that he had been subjected to insults and indignities by Mexican federal officers and kept a prisoner in the government palace from April 23 until the constitutionalists forces captured the town two days later. The consul reported that mobs led by federal officers tore down all the American flags in the city, trampled them and then burned them up in the streets.

On the arrival of the constitutionalists, Mr. Hanna was released and treated with marked consideration. He said that the rebel officers made speeches in front of the State house giving assurances of full protection to all foreigners and noncombatants.

Secretary Bryan went to the White House to confer with the president when the consul general's report reached the state department.

Mr. Hanna's message to Secretary Bryan was dispatched from Monterey. The secretary took it to the White House and it resulted in long conferences between him and President Wilson. Mr. Hanna reported that he had been courteously treated by the constitutionalists.

Mr. Hanna's report reads: Secretary of State, Washington, "April 24.—On the 21 of April an officer, Capt. Alvarez del Castillo, evidently instructed by the federal military commander to tear down all American flags arrived at this consulate which a street mob which he had gathered about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and pounded in the door and demanded that the American flag over this consulate general be immediately lowered or he would shoot it down. The other federals proceeded to tear down all American flags, standing on them, making speeches throughout the city of Monterey, burning and leaving them piled in the middle of the streets."

It was the most insulting affair I or any of the people of Monterey ever have witnessed. Then they placed a police guard in front of this consulate general, and all the inmates in this building were made prisoners.

The next morning about 10 o'clock a police lieutenant advanced with a force of men and addressed me that he had been instructed to search the building. The insulting search was completed about noon when your consul general was taken prisoner through the streets with the mob and carried first to the penitentiary and afterwards to the state government palace, which building has been for some time military quarters and fortified, and was the object of special attack by the then attacking forces.

While I was placed under heavy guard in the grand reception room of the State palace I fully realized that I was constantly being considerably insulted and greatly humiliated, not on account of my personality but on account of my official position as representative of the United States government in north Mexico.

"At about 8 o'clock in the evening of April 22, I was taken before the military court and notified that I was charged with being in sympathy with the constitutionalist chiefs and of being friendly to certain constitutionalist generals, and especially Gen. Pablo Gonzalez and Gen. Antonio Villareal. I was kept a prisoner incommunicado until the evacuation of the city by the federal troops, and until the arrival of the constitutionalist force early this morning.

"There were times during the period when it was believed by many that I would be shot or carried to the mountains as a prisoner, in case the federals evacuated the city.

However, the invasion of the city took place last night and I was left alone in the State Capitol building as its sole guardian for about six hours without being informed by any individual or officer of their departure.

"The constitutionalist forces under command of Gen. Pablo Gonzalez, Gen. Antonio Villareal and Gen. Castro carried on a successful attack for about five days, which resulted in the defeat of the federal army with heavy losses on the part of the federals and their complete rout.

"The city is quiet and the feeling of safety and confidence has returned to the people.

"The opinion generally prevails that it is the constitutionalists' purpose is to bring about a high type of free government, personal liberty and protection of property.

"While many Americans have been imprisoned for the past few days by the federals, no Americans have been killed or injured excepting Guy Sawyer, head of the American Printing company, who was seriously wounded at his country home during the first days of the battle. Mr. Sawyer is reported better this morning.

(Signed) "Consul General Hanna."

It is said that the store of W. J. Alexander at Connelly Springs has been robbed four times in a few months and that not long ago the store was robbed of \$300. Alexander surprised the thieves in his store last Wednesday night and was assaulted and seriously injured. The thieves got away.

PEACE NOW IN SIGHT.

MEXICAN SITUATION HAS PASSED CRISIS.

South American Countries are at Work and Washington Authorities Seem Satisfied That Further War Can Be Averted.

Washington Dispatch, April 21st.

The tenacious of the Mexican situation was distinctly relieved today when the representatives of Argentina, Brazil and Chile, supported by pressure from all Latin-America and from foremost powers of Europe, concentrated their efforts toward a pacific adjustment of the crisis.

The success of the first step toward mediation—the prompt acceptance by the United States and the announcement by the Spanish Ambassador that Huerta had accepted the tender of good offices—produced a feeling of distinct hope which was reflected not only in Administration quarters, but in Congress where "war talk" gave way to a spirit of conciliation.

ENVOYS CONFER.

Throughout the day the three South American envoys, who have undertaken the task of mediation, held frequent conferences to arrange the preliminaries of procedure. Pending the receipt of the formal acceptance by General Huerta, no proposals will be submitted to either the United States or the Huerta government. It also has been made plain that no conditions from either party as to the terms that will be acceptable as yet has been placed formally before the intermediaries.

The President and Secretary Bryan were assured through two separate diplomatic sources that Huerta was ready to accept the tender of good offices and was drafting a formal acceptance. Pressure from Germany, Great Britain and France advising Huerta to accept the first steps toward mediation and the approving attitude of Latin-American countries to the settlement of the controversy by Pan-American diplomacy, emphasized the world-wide influence which is working to bring about peace.

ADMIRALS ADVISED.

Secretary Daniels announced he had telegraphed the full text of the mediation offer and its acceptance by the United States to both Rear Admirals Badger and Howard, with instructions to have the commanders of the ships on the East and West coasts spread the news throughout Mexico. By this Mr. Daniels hopes the feeling toward Americans may be alleviated and refugees enabled to depart without molestation.

Advice received through the British Embassy told of the completion of arrangements for the safe departure of Americans from Mexico City while the French Ambassador gave the State Department a message he had received from the French Legation stating that while there had been some anti-American manifestations in the Mexican capital, order now prevailed.

Secretary Bryan said he was able, after receiving information through Embassies and Legations, to say that no American had been killed or injured since the crisis of the last two weeks began, and that, though many had been detained at Aguas Calientes Cordoba, Orizaba, efforts were now being made to obtain their release.

VERA CRUZ QUIET.

Order prevails in Vera Cruz. Brigadier General Funston and the Army is expected to be in command of the situation tomorrow. Expeditionary forces of marines have been detached from the command of Admiral Fletcher, who will return in a few days to the fleet with the marine guards.

"Things look very much better now," said Secretary Daniels during the day. "We are getting Americans out of Mexico. That is the important thing now."

Consul Canada reported that a formal raising of the American flag occurred at Vera Cruz at 4 o'clock this afternoon with impressive ceremonies.

Secretary Bryan announced that the President's recent address to Congress and with full text of the correspondence between Argentina, Brazil and Chile had now reached all Central and South American capitals and that had it gotten to Montevideo, Uruguay, earlier the anti-American demonstration there would have been averted.

The consensus opinion in Latin-America," said a statement from the Pan-American Union here tonight, "seems to be that this action of Argentina, Brazil and Chile is in many respects the most significant and far-reaching event in the history of the American Republics since the declaration of the Monroe Doctrine and it is hoped that the press and people of the United States will try to curb the rising war spirit and give the mediating Nations strong moral support in their efforts for peace."

While Secretary Bryan and Government officials expressed disinclination to discuss the mediation plan during its present stage, they said it had not reached the point of actual "proposals." The American Government simply has expressed formally its willingness to listen to an plan of intermediation which the representatives of Argentina, Brazil and Chile may formulate. Huerta informally has shown his readiness to give a listening ear to the peace plans of the South American envoys. When formal acceptances come from Huerta, formal proposals will be made simultaneously to the American Government and the Huerta administration.

The attitude of the Administration long has been established that the elimination of Huerta was an essential to any settlement of the Mexican problem. This view was reiterated as recently as Saturday at the White House when Senators and Representatives were consulted as to the proposal of good offices. But, while maintaining this view as to what would ultimately be essential to a real settlement there has been no formal submission of such a condition to the envoys, now trusted with the work of conciliation.

While the Latin-American envoys bent their energies today toward peace negotiations the War and Navy Departments directed their attention to bringing Americans out of Mexico and to the transfer of the situation of Vera Cruz from the navy to the Army with the expected arrival tonight of Brigadier General Funston and his Army Brigade.

REFUGEE PROBLEM EASIER.

Throughout the day, in consular dispatches to the State Department and in reports from naval commanders in Mexican waters, came reassuring messages as to the American refugees. Arrangements were completed for getting all Americans out of Mexico City, and Admiral Badger, from Vera Cruz, reported plans for resuming train service between Mexico City and Vera Cruz.

Refugees were reported safe at Tampico, Puerto Mexico and other East Coast points. Arrangements are being made to get them to Gloucester. Admiral Howard on the West coast, reported that the merchant Cheyennes arrived at San Diego with refugees from Ensenada.

Partial lists of Americans held at Aguas Calientes were forwarded by Consul Canada at Vera Cruz, but he was unable to give any information as to those held at Orizaba. The Japanese Ambassador, at a conference with Secretary Bryan, secured permission for Japanese leaving Mexico to take refuge in the United States although this will necessitate a suspension of the immigration laws. Refugees from the East coast continued to reach Vera Cruz in various vessels.

QUIET SPIRIT IN CONGRESS.

War talk in Congress was supplanted by a spirit of conciliation pending the mediation negotiations. There were surface outbreaks in the House, mostly along political lines, but the undercurrent of gossip, which last week had grown into a formidable sentiment for extreme measures, almost disappeared during the day's session of the House.

No war measures have been drafted yet on the various committees and no special meetings of the Foreign Affairs and Foreign Relations Committees have been called to consider any new phase of the situation.

The Mexican discussion in the House took a wide range. Representative Mondell of Wyoming arranged Consul General Canada and Hanna for making what he said were exaggerated official reports of occurrences in Mexico, calculated to inflame public sentiment.

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Monroe Boy in Mexico.

Mr. Mike Hudson, son of Mr. W. J. Hudson, is seeing active service in Mexico, being an Ensign on board the battleship South Carolina. Mr. Hudson graduated from Annapolis, the U. S. Naval Academy, last year. Among the other North Carolinians who will see active service in Mexico, are:

Captains—Andrew T. Long, commander Des Moines; Robert A. McNesley, on Louisiana; A. Crenshaw, commander Cummings; Pope Washington, on the Missouri.

Lieutenant commanders—Lyman A. Catton, attache to Kyo and Peking; H. J. Winston, on Pittsburgh, engineer on staff of fleet; R. W. Vincent, on waiting list; Samuel W. Bryant, Radio station.

Lieutenants—Adolphus Stonor, on South Carolina; Percy F. Foote, on inspection duty; George S. Bryan, Naval Academy; Alexander L. Wadsworth, Jr., recruiting duty; J. J. London, Mayflower; Louis P. Davis, Panther; M. E. Manly, on Wyoming; W. R. Law, Charleston Navy Yard; W. R. Smith, Nashville; F. L. Holland, under treatment; J. W. Rankin, Commander C - 5 submarine; R. L. Young, Jr., Wilmington.

Ensigns—L. P. Johnson, on Connecticut; Augustus W. Reiger, on Ohio; H. G. Cooper on Quiras; C. A. Lucas, Georgia; L. L. Jordan, on Georgia; G. B. Ashe, on Louisiana; D. P. Patterson, South Carolina; E. T. Oates, on Raleigh; G. F. Parrott, on New Hampshire; R. F. Weeks, on Florida; J. L. Foreley, on Tennessee; D. C. Godwin, on Rhode Island; Paul Hendren, on New Hampshire.

The Democratic committee of the Lincoln Saturday and ordered a primary election for the nomination of a congressional candidate. The convention, which will hear the returns and declare the results, will meet at Hickory June 3.

In Raleigh Sunday afternoon the driver of an automobile drove his machine between the hearse and the family carriage of a colored funeral procession. The horses attached to the carriage took fright and dashed against the hearse, breaking the doors of the vehicle and smashing the end of the casket. That automobile man has something coming to him.

Tag Day Next Saturday.

The ladies of the United Charities are very much in need of funds to carry on the pressing work that they find to do. Because the people of Monroe have not responded liberally with funds they find that the needed work cannot be carried on. These ladies who are devoting themselves to the practical Christian helpfulness that is so badly needed in every community ought to be amply sustained by this community. They go out and take the trouble and do the work, and those of us who do not take the trouble and the time to do this ought certainly to contribute our means. But since we have not done so the ladies will try to raise some money on their own efforts. They have appointed next Saturday as tag day and everybody may expect to be tagged. Let's meet the ladies in their efforts and help them raise the needed money. No one knows the inestimable good that they are doing in this community.

Confirmation Services.

The confirmation service held at St. Paul's Episcopal church last night was impressive and interesting. Bishop Cheever, assisted by Arch Deacon Hardin, conducted the service. After the beautiful form of worship peculiar to the Episcopal faith had been carried through, Bishop Cheever read as his two lessons Isaiah 11 and Acts 19. These two chapters are to be used at the discretion of the minister at the confirmation services. The Bishop in a short but learned discourse, explained these two Bible chapters, also the authority his church had for their creed. The Bishop said Isaiah is one of the greatest prophecies in the Bible and the 11th chapter the greatest in the book. It is sometimes called the Messianic chapter, a prophecy of the Christ to come. The middle of the chapter, verses 6-11, describe how the earth shall dwell in union when the work of Jesus is completed among men. The 19th chapter of Acts deals with baptism. John's baptism was not the same as Paul's, for Christ had not then come as the Savior of the world. He, John, prepared the way for "One that is mightier than I." He baptized unto repentance, Paul unto the fullness of the life of Christ. The New Testament was not written to instruct the people in the form of worship, those things were already known. The Bishop then explained his being sent by his church to extend the membership, by showing how Peter and Paul were sent from Jerusalem to Samaria to administer baptism and to receive the people into the church. After completing these remarks, the Bishop received eight candidates and confirmed them in the Episcopal faith. There were five adults and three children. At the afternoon service five children were baptized.

Presbyterian Church Notes.

The mid-week service will be a missionary meeting, and all are urged to attend. The pastor will read the report on foreign missions that he submitted to the recent meeting of presbytery, as chairman of the Presbyterian Committee on Foreign Missions.

Dr. and Mrs. Gurney leave today for Huntersville. Mrs. Gurney conducts the devotional service on Wednesday morning, and Dr. Gurney preaches the annual sermon on Tuesday night, the occasion being the annual meeting of the Woman's Presbyterian Society.

The pastor will deliver the commencement address at Unionville Academy on Thursday afternoon of this week, and will preach at Cedar Grove school house on Sunday afternoon next at 3:30 o'clock.

CHURCH REPORTER.

Death of Mrs. Parmelia Howie.

Mrs. Parmelia Jane Howie, widow of the late Mr. S. M. Howie, died Saturday afternoon at her home at Mineral Springs. Mrs. Howie was before her marriage, Miss Parmelia Jane Wolfe, sister of the late Mr. Hilliard Wolfe. She was 73 years old at the time of her death. She was the last member of that well known family. Mrs. Howie's married life covered a period of over 50 years. In early life she professed religion and joined the Methodist church. She lived and died in that faith. She was a true Christian, fond mother and devoted wife.

Although she had been in failing health for some time, her death came as a shock. She was taken with acute indigestion Friday, dying the next afternoon. Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at Marvin where she was buried.

She leaves a family of seven children. They are, Mesdames G. W. Sutfen, Wm. Stephens, A. L. Crane of this county, and R. M. Cross of Lando; Messrs. S. P. Howie of Florida, F. M. Howie of Anderson and M. C. Howie of this place.

Clean Up Day.

Don't forget that Thursday has been designated by Mayor McLain as clean-up day. Let everybody get busy and lay out all trash and rubbish so that the street wagons can carry it off.

Benefit Old Soldiers at Rex Thursday.

The proceeds of the Rex Theatre will go to help pay the expenses of the Old Soldiers of the county to the reunion at Jacksonville.

Three of the very best pictures will be shown. See program in this paper. Come out and help a good cause.