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MAP OF MEXICO
SHOWING PRINCIPAL TOWNS AND CITIES

VERA CRUZ PLACED UNDER MARTIAL LAW BY FLETCHER

Mexican City Officers Powerless to Control Affairs and Restore Order -- All Mexicans Are Disarmed -- Many Americans in Danger

Vera Cruz, April 26.—Vera Cruz tonight is under martial law. Rear Admiral Frank Fletcher, commanding the American naval forces on shore today issued a proclamation to this effect, and the last opportunity Mexicans had for handling their own affairs in Vera Cruz under their own laws, disappeared.

Admiral Fletcher and his staff determined there should be no more quibbling with the Mexican officials regarding the form of government, and until further notice residents of this port will live and be judged by military law. The word has gone forth that disorder and unruliness in any form shall receive swift and severe punishment. This proclamation makes Rear Admiral Fletcher absolute ruler ashore.

Others believed the martial law proclamation will open the way for more of the city and Federal employes to return and cooperate in restoring the local government functions. Mexicans point

out that these men now will be in a position to explain to their friends the existing government at the capital that under martial law they felt obliged to return to their work.

Citizens Are Disarmed.

An order that all arms be turned in by residents by noon today brought to the headquarters of the provost marshal bushels of small arms and stacks of rifles.

The city was quiet last night, and if there was even a single sniper in action the fact was not reported to division headquarters. Many Mexican officials have reported their willingness to resume their duties of office under the supervision of the Americans.

Roberto Diaz, mayor of Vera Cruz, has agreed to reopen his office and it has been arranged that public schools shall be reopened tomorrow.

Can't Reach Refugees.

Efforts of Rear Admiral Fletcher

er, supplemented by those of the British commander, Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Cradock, and the French and German Consuls and private citizens to bring about the departure from the interior of all foreigners who wish to leave, are being continued energetically, but the hope of getting out more than a small part of those left is diminishing hourly.

Maas Tears Up Railroad.

Federal General Maas has established his headquarters at Soledad, 16 miles from Vera Cruz, and his men are tearing up the railroad tracks. The gap between Tejera, the water supply station, which is guarded by the Americans and Soledad, has grown and it is now a hard task for refugees to get themselves and their baggage across the open space.

Sir Christopher Cradock, through Sir Lionel Carden, who has resumed charge of the British Embassy at the capital, is urging President Huerta to permit the departure of all foreigners from Mexico City, and it is considered possible that one or two more trains, at least, will be permitted to pass through. But there appears a fair chance that those who have fallen under the displeasure of Huerta and are in the custody of his forces will be held.

Lieut. Frank J. Fletcher, of the battleship Florida, is in charge of the train which is being run from Vera Cruz to the break in the road, and on every outgoing trip the train carries a small detachment of armed men, in addition to a machine gun. The train has been within sight at various times of outposts or scouting parties of Gen. Maas' forces, but so far there has been no hostile act.

DANGER TO AMERICANS IN MEXICO INCREASES

Vera Cruz, April 26.—Circulars which enumerate American business firms are being distributed in the streets of Mexico City. The hand bills call on the populace to destroy the concerns listed. Some of the American stores whose names appeared in the circular already have been looted.

Another list being distributed is that of Mexicans managing some of the American stores. It is declared these men must be killed because of their identification with foreign interests.

The capital newspapers are publishing stories to the effect that the American forces at Vera Cruz are killing women and children and the papers call on Mexicans in Mexico City to retaliate in a similar manner.

Other stories printed by the newspapers say that France, Germany, Great Britain and Spain have declared war against the United States and that American battleships have sunk several ships flying the flags of those nations. Mexicans also are told that the Mexican army has invaded the United States and that the negroes in the southern states have risen and are assisting the Mexicans.

It is reported here that K. M. Van Zandt, the president and all the trustees and officers of the American club of Mexico City are under arrest as are all officials of the Mercantile Banking company and the Mexico City Banking company. The officers of the banking institution were arrested because of their refusal to contribute money to the Mexican government.

The American grocery was burned and an attempt made to fire the American club. Three other American stores were looted.

The government appears to be encouraging the demonstrations against Americans although the burning and looting is held in check by the police.

More than 30 Americans attempting to leave the country in response to the warning issued by the American state department, were taken from a train at Aguas Calientes according to advices received today, and imprisoned in the smelter of that city.

Among those imprisoned is Gaston Schmutz, United States consul at Aguas Calientes. Nothing is known here as to the fate of the refugees.

Efforts to repair the cable line between Vera Cruz and the capital, which is cut a short distance

from Vera Cruz, developed the fact that the federals have an outpost only eight miles away incidentally the attempt almost cost the life of the lineman, Mendoza.

The federals captured the lineman and stood him up for execution, but on assuring his captors of his loyalty to the Mexicans he induced them to release him. Returning here Mendoza revealed the presence of the Mexican force to the American officials.

Your Yard, Your Egg.
New York World.

If a stray hen struts into your back yard and drops therein an egg, confiscate it! It belongs to you, even though the hen belongs to another. Magistrate Charles Dodd decided that important question yesterday in the New Jersey Avenue court, Brooklyn.

Mrs. Margaret Hansen of 614 Atkins avenue, East New York, made a charge of larceny against Mrs. Annie Backus of 994 Vienna street. Mrs. Hansen said Mrs. Backus was withholding two eggs laid in Mrs. Backus' yard by a Hansen hen. She demanded the eggs.

"It can't be done," said Magistrate Dodd. "The children's saying, 'Finding is keepings,' holds in this case. An egg belongs to the person occupying the property on which it is found."

Neighbors of Mrs. Hansen last night were hoping that the decision would tend to lower the high cost of eggs.

For Sale. Sugar maple trees, three years old,
E. H. Wrenn, Mt. Airy.

General View of Mexico's Chief Port



Photo by American Press Association.
THE water front at Vera Cruz, Mexico, is shown in this picture. Wharfage accommodations are limited, but still the port is the most important on the gulf coast of the republic. It is only four feet above the sea, and its population is about 30,000. It is one of the first places settled by Spanish invaders.

No Notice of Release.

No intimation has been received that Huerta proposes to release the Americans, some of them women and children, held at Cordoba, Orizaba, Pachuca, Aguas Calientes and other places.

Mexicans Lack Ammunition.

No material change has been made in the disposition of American forces within the city or on the outside lines. Major Smedley D. Butler still is in command of the line between the city and Gen. Maas' forces. The Mexicans are believed to be short of ammunition.

Up to the present, Consul Canada ascertains that no American in his consular district has been even injured since the beginning of the operations, although many are held by the Mexicans and threats of execution have been made.

View of Harbor at Tampico, Mexico

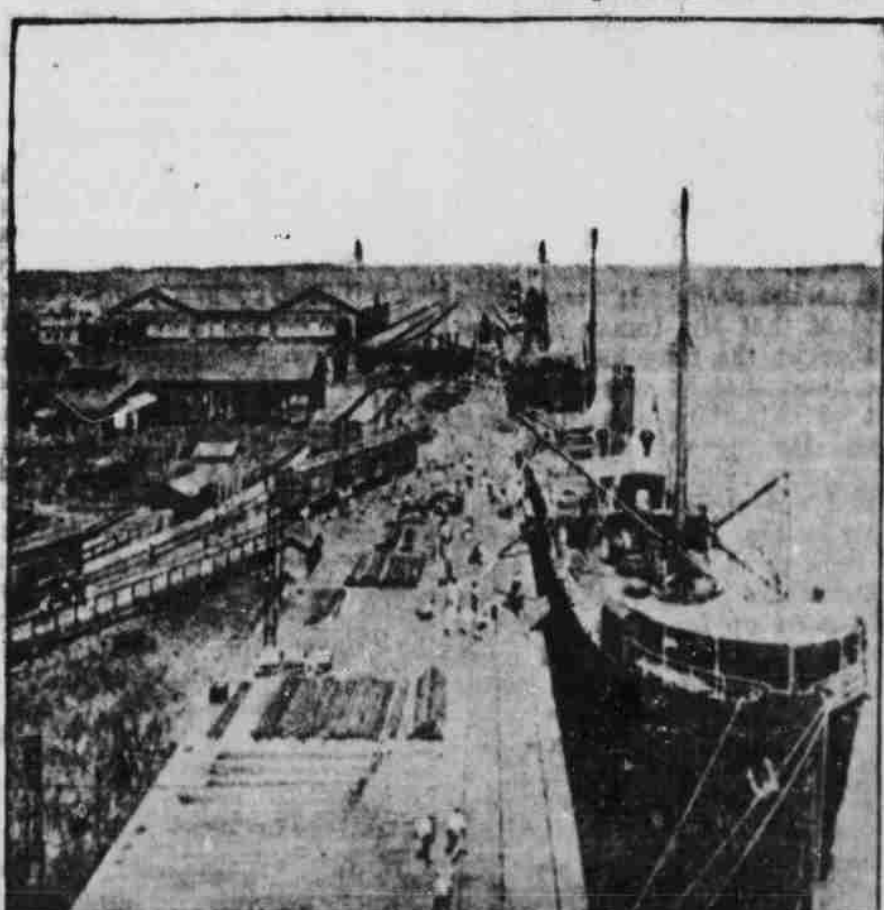


Photo by American Press Association.
TAMPICO, where the insult to the American flag occurred, is the chief commercial city of the state of Tamaulipas and ranks next to Vera Cruz as a seaport. It has a population of about 20,000. It is a flat city with an unbroken water front.