

U. S. TO SEIZE VERA CRUZ AND TAMPICO

GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE POSSESSION OF CUSTOM HOUSES IN TWO CITIES.

ACT ON ARRIVAL OF NAVY

Resolution Adopted by House Giving Power to Fleet Preparing to Take Cities At Once.

GEN. HUERTA PROTESTS TO AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Mexico City.—General Huerta offers all guarantees to foreigners, Americans included, who may remain in Mexico and he will improve this opportunity to show the world that his Government and Mexico are moral and civilized.

This statement Huerta dictated to The Associated Press. He continued:

"I desire to make it plain to the American people that according to the official report from the commander at Port Tampico received by the Mexican Government there was no flag on the boat which landed and whose crew was detained. I fear that President Wilson has been misinformed on this point and that he will inform the American Congress that the boat carried the flag.

"In fact, the American flag has nothing to do with the case and I desire the American people fully to understand this."

Washington.—Immediately upon arrival of the Atlantic fleet the United States Government will take possession of the Mexican custom houses at Tampico and Vera Cruz.

Detailed plans for landing of marines at these two important coast towns were completed at a conference at the White House between President Wilson, Secretaries Bryan, Garrison and Daniels, Major General Wood, and Rear Admiral Fiske and Blue, and John Lind.

"No orders to the Army and Navy will be issued at present," was the announcement made after the conference, action temporarily being deferred until Congress acts on the joint resolution approving the President's purpose of using the armed forces of the United States to enforce its demands against General Huerta, growing out of the arrest at Tampico of American bluejackets.

The resolution passed the House by a vote of 337 to 37, after a spirited debate. For several hours it was considered by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee with prospects of an all night session of the Senate, or a recess until early next day.

Persons who were in touch with the president said the steps which would be taken by the United States "short of war" were of a nature which would not require formal notification to the powers in the same sense as a declaration of blockade or other preliminaries to war. Foreign governments will be kept informed of developments, however.

The debate in the house brought out the fact that while the American navy probably would block Mexico off from commerce with the United States, it would not interfere with the passage to and fro of foreign vessels, though cargoes discharged on the shore might be held at the custom houses.

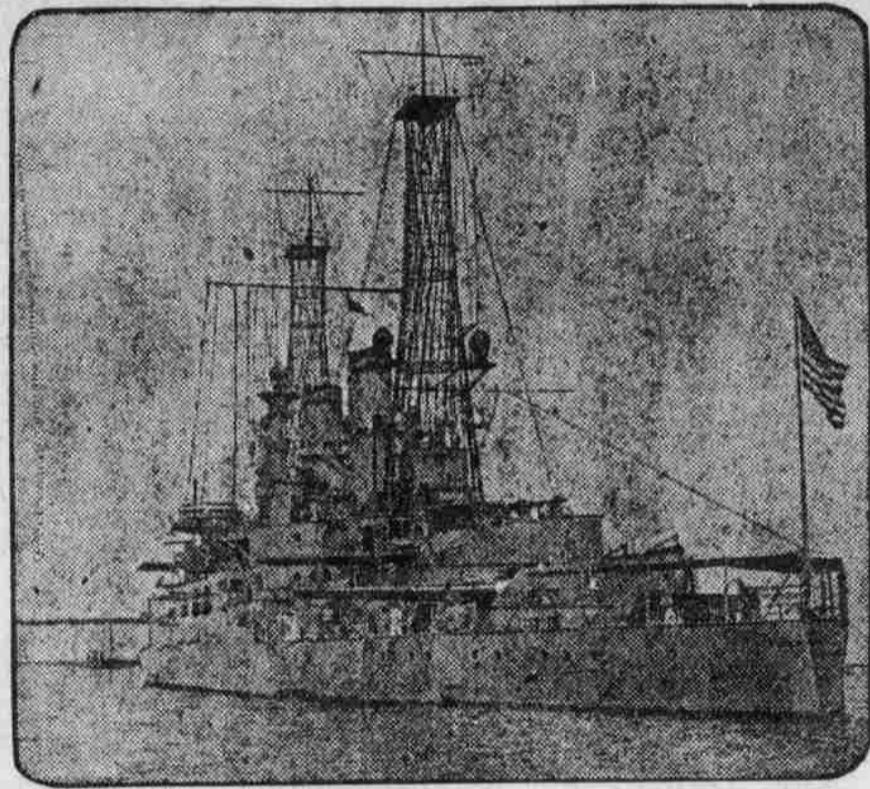
Admiral Badger Ready for Campaign.

On board the U. S. S. Arkansas, at sea, by wireless via Key West, Fla.—With the port of Tampico not far off and the knowledge that President Huerta has refused to accede to the demand of the United States government, Rear Admiral Charles J. Badger, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet, and the members of his staff were busy preparing a tentative plan of campaign. They gave special attention to details of a possible landing. The crews of the battleships practiced with small arms and at sighting the big guns.

Huerta Has 40,000 Armed Men.

Washington.—Estimates at the War Department put the armed forces of the Huerta Government in Mexico at 40,000, scattered throughout the country. According to the Department's figures there are 8,000 troops in Mexico City; 6,000 around Saltillo, south of Torreon; 2,500 in the State of Sonora; 2,000 in Sinaloa; 800 in Tepic; 6,000 in Jalisco; 1,100 in Colima; 4,500 in Zaratecas; 1,250 in Guerrero and scattering bands in other Southern provinces. On the east coast there are 10,000 men.

UNITED STATES BATTLESHIP SOUTH CAROLINA



Among the 16,000-ton battleships in Admiral Badger's Atlantic fleet is the South Carolina. Her armament comprises 34 guns.

HUERTA REFUSES TO GIVE A SALUTE

PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT FLATLY REFUSES TO ACCEDE DEMANDS OF U. S.

PROPOSES NEW CONDITIONS

Would Agree That Both Flags be Saluted, American First Then Mexican Flag, This Arrangement to Be Made By a Signed Protocol.

Mexico City.—Senor Portillo y Rojas, Foreign Minister, announced that it would be impossible to agree to the demand of the United States that the flag of that country be unconditionally saluted, because that flag was not insulted, because it was not flying from the launch and because the marines were set free and that the officer responsible for the arrest was himself arrested and held for trial.

The Foreign Minister further announced that the Mexican government would agree that both flags be saluted, the American flag first and then the Mexican flag, this arrangement to be made by a protocol signed by the American Charge d'Affaires, Nelson O'Shaughnessy, and the Mexican Foreign Minister.

The United States government, Senator Portillo declared, had refused permission to Charge O'Shaughnessy to sign such a protocol, and demanded an unconditional salute by Mexico, which Mexico felt was incompatible with her dignity.

"Mexico has yielded as much as her dignity will permit. Mexico trusts to the fair-mindedness and spirit of justice of the American people."

Washington.—Gen. Victoriano Huerta, Provisional President of Mexico, flatly refused to accede to the unconditional demands of the United States that he salute the American flag.

Negotiations with Huerta over the demand for a salute in preparation for the arrest of American bluejackets at Tampico on April 10 has come to a close, the last chance given by President Wilson for a favorable response from the Mexican dictator. The final word of Huerta to Charge O'Shaughnessy was a refusal to comply, unless the United States would guarantee in writing that his salute would be returned.

The crisis thus reached does not mean that there will be a formal declaration of war, because the United States could not declare war against a government which it does not recognize. President Wilson will seek authority, however, to send armed forces into Mexico to seize first the ports of Tampico and Vera Cruz and the railroad trestle leading from Vera Cruz toward Mexico City.

The breach that finally has come with Mexico will make it impossible, it was declared, on high authority, for the United States to further protect foreigners in that Republic and forbid of the situation in this regard. The president, it was declared, not only would ask Congress for authority to use the armed forces to uphold the honor of the Nation, but also for an appropriation a deficiency already

having been created because of extensive naval operations, in anticipation of Huerta's defiance of this government.

In reply to Huerta's proposed new conditions Secretary Daniels sent the following message in substance: "Am certain that President Wilson would not consent to have you sign the protocol mentioned in your telegram. The salute should be fired without any agreement as to its return. The United States of America can be relied on according to international custom and courtesy, to do its duty. The signing of the protocol would be objectionable in addition to other reasons, because of the fact that it might be construed as recognition of the Huerta Government whereas the President has no intention of recognizing that government."

"The president has advised us of conditions," said Representative Underwood. "We would not insist on putting this resolution through at this time if this were not a matter of paramount importance. But with the president's message delivered, our troops may be fired on at any time. We should act now."

NELSON O'SHAUGHNESSY



Nelson O'Shaughnessy, American charge d'affaires in Mexico City, tried his best to show Huerta the serious results that would follow his refusal to order a salute to the American flag at Tampico, but failed.

U. S. Troops Are Ready.

Chicago.—All United States troops remaining in the central division, about 1500 cavalry and six batteries of field guns, are ready to entrain in twelve hours. It was stated at headquarters here. In spite of the large number of applicants at local recruiting offices, the officers in charge have accepted only the few men required to fill vacancies caused by discharge of men who have completed their enlistments. The First Cavalry Illinois National Guard notified division headquarters that it was ready to move at three days' notice.

Warned to Leave Vera Cruz.

Vera Cruz.—All American and other foreign women have been asked by Consul Canada to take refuge on vessels now in the harbor, preferably on board the Mexico of the Ward line and the Espehanza which has been chartered by the United States navy.

Maj. Gen. Wood to Command.

Washington.—Secretary Garrison announced that in the event of hostilities with Mexico, Major General Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the army, would command the American forces.

HOUSE GIVES RIGHT TO ACT AT ONCE

PRESIDENT APPEARS BEFORE CONGRESS AND SUBMITS TAMPICO INCIDENT.

THE VOTE WAS 337 TO 37

The Debate Was Warm and Paucity Continuing Two Hours Before the Vote.

Washington.—After a spirited debate of more than two hours the house passed the administration resolutions approving President Wilson's purpose to use the armed forces of the nation to obtain from General Huerta the fullest recognition of the honor and dignity of the United States.

The vote was 337 to 37. The resolution was passed at 9:25 and went to the senate.

Warm debate began as soon as the resolution was reported by the foreign affairs committee.

When Representative Flood asked unanimous consent that the resolution and the report be read, Representative Leader Mann reserved the right to object to the present consideration of the resolution and demanded an explanation. Representative Underwood explained that the administration desired to have the bill passed before the night and that reasonable debate would be allowed. He said that the rules committee was preparing to bring in a rule for immediate consideration of the resolution if necessary.

Chairman Flood said that he was prepared to allow half an hour's debate on the resolution on each side of the house. Representative Mann declared that the minority needed two hours debate.

"The president has advised us of conditions," said Representative Underwood. "We would not insist on putting this resolution through at this time if this were not a matter of paramount importance. But with the president's message delivered, our troops may be fired on at any time. We should act now."

A round of Democratic applause greeted this statement. Shouts of "bring in a rule," "hurry it through," from the Democratic side interrupted the efforts to secure a unanimous consent agreement. Representative Mann finally agreed that he would accept one hour and a half for the Republicans. Representative Underwood said the Democrats would be satisfied with one hour.

Representative Sisson, Democrat of Mississippi, declaring that the resolution was a "declaration of war and as such was a matter which congress should fully consider," objected to any agreement.

PRESIDENT BRIEF AS USUAL.

Knows What He Wants and Asks Congress For It.

Washington.—In an atmosphere of suppressed excitement reflecting grave tension and patriotic fervor, the president of the United States asked Congress in person for approval of his purpose to use the army and navy to force General Huerta to apologize for indignities offered to the American government. It was the first time since the war with Spain that the president had played so grave an international crisis before the national legislature. Mr. Wilson spoke in solemn tones. When he entered the house chamber the cheers and applause that greeted him were wildly enthusiastic—an outburst of the tension that has prevailed in the national capital. As he read his message the applause came largely from the Democratic side, many Republicans remaining conspicuously silent. It presaged an opposition to the president's request which was not long in making its appearance.

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Begin Murder Trail.

Spartanburg, S. C.—Charged with the murder of a two-months' old baby, Clyde C. Clement, recently a student in a preparatory school here, and Miss Laura F. Pendleton will appear in the court of general session here for trial. The young woman, in an alleged confession made public by Solicitor Albert E. Hill, charges that Clement dropped the baby from a bridge into a creek here on the night of January 30, this year. She is represented as saying that she unwillingly consented to the act.

UNCLE SAM'S FORCE SENT TO AWE MEXICO

Washington.—Never before in the history of the nation has the strength of the navy been shown as it is in Mexican waters today. A greater percentage of fighting machines were assembled about Cuba in the war with Spain, but the navy of 1898 had not the fighting strength of the navy of today, either in number of vessels, in tonnage or in gun caliber.

The war strength which the United States now has or will have in Mexican waters within a few days with which to compel compliance with the demands of this government may be summarized as follows:

On East Coast.	
Battleships	15
Armored cruisers	3
Cruisers	4
Gunboats	2
Destroyers	15
Tender	1
On West Coast.	
Armored cruisers	3
Cruisers	2
Destroyers	5
Gunboat	1
Men Available for Landing Purposes.	
On East Coast.	
Salvors	5,000
On West Coast.	
Salvors	750
Addition marines have received orders to prepare for departure to Mexico. The number available are: On the east coast, 3,000; on the west coast, 1,000.	

This strength, if used for landing purposes, can be reinforced by troops, 15,000 of whom are along the border.

Details of the Fleet.

North Atlantic Fleet. Rear Admiral Charles J. Badger, commander-in-chief.

Name.	Displacement.	No. of Guns.
Arkansas (flagship)	35,000	31
Second Division—Rear Admiral Clifford J. Boush, commander.		
Battleships—		
South Carolina	16,000	34
Michigan	15,000	34
Louisiana	16,000	40
New Hampshire	16,000	40
Vermont	16,000	40
New Jersey	15,000	39
Tacoma (cruiser)	3,200	18
Nashville (gunboat)	1,870	8
Hancock (marine transp.)	8,500	8
Fuel ships—		
Yulcan	11,200	..
Jason	19,132	..
Orion	19,132	..
Nereus	19,000	..
Under Preparatory Orders.		
Third Division—Rear Admiral Frank E. Beatty, commander.		
Name.		
Displacement.		
No. of Guns.		
Battleships—		
Rhode Island	14,948	40
Nebraska	14,948	40
Virginia	14,948	40
Georgia	14,948	40
Torpedo Flotilla—Capt. William S. Sims, commander.		
Birmingham (cruiser)	3,750	16
Dixie (tender)	6,114	12
Destroyers—Third Division—Lieut. Commander William E. Littlefield, commander.		
Henley	742	3
Drayton	742	3
Mayrant	742	3
McCall	742	3
Fourth Division—Lieut. Commander S. H. R. Doyle, commander.		
Spaulding	742	3
Ammen	742	3
Burrows	742	3
Patterson	742	3
Fifth Division—Lieut. Commander W. N. Jeffers, commanding.		
Panning	742	3
Beale	742	3
Jenkins	742	3
Jervis	742	3
Jouett	742	3

Now at Vera Cruz.

First Division—Rear Admiral F. F. Fletcher, commander.

Name.	Displacement.	No. of Guns.
Florida	21,825	30
Prairie (transport)	6,630	12
San Francisco (mine depot ship)	4,983	12
Cyclops (fuel ship)	13,280	40
Solace (hospital ship)	5,700	..
Vessels at Tampico:		
Fourth Division—Rear Admiral Mayo, commander.		
Battleships—		
Pittsburgh	21,825	30
Connecticut	18,000	40
Minnesota	16,000	40
Cruisers—		
Chester	3,750	16
Des Moines (gunboat)	3,200	18
Dolphin (gunboat)	1,488	6
Pacific Fleet.		
Rear Admiral T. B. Howard, commander-in-chief.		
Name.		
Displacement.		
No. of Guns.		
Armored Cruisers—		
Pittsburgh	21,825	40
Maryland	21,825	40
Torpedo Flotilla—Lieut. Commander E. H. Dorr, commander.		
Irish (tender)	6,100	..
First Division—Lieut. M. K. Metcalf, commander.		
Destroyers—		
Whipple	422	10
Paul Jones	420	9
Perry	420	9
Stewart	420	9
Truxton	422	10
Vessels at Acapulco:		
California (armored cruiser)	12,880	40
At Mazatlan:		
Raleigh (cruiser)	3,182	17
At Guaymas:		
New Orleans (cruiser)	3,450	15
Glacier (supply ship)	8,325	1
Justin (fuel ship)	8,000	..
At Topolobampo:		
Yorktown (gunboat)	1,710	14
Available in Case of Need.		
(On the Atlantic.)		
Battleships—		
Name.		
Displacement.		
No. of Guns.		
Texas	37,000	31
New York	37,000	31
North Dakota	29,000	28
Delaware	29,000	28
Kansas	16,000	40

OFFICIAL STATEMENT ISSUED

Following is the official statement issued as representing the views of President Wilson and the administration on Mexico:

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

"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 some time past the de facto government of Mexico has seemed to think mere apologies sufficient 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 Placed in Jail.

"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 post office for the ship's 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 was inflicted upon the officer who 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 shore 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 had not received.

United States Singled Out.

"It cannot be strike anyone 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. "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 singled out for manifestations of ill will and contempt."

THE INSULT FOR WHICH REPARATION IS DEMANDED

Thursday morning, April 9, a boat's crew of United States marines, in command of Assistant Paymaster Charles C. Copp, left the gunboat Dolphin for Tampico to get a fresh supply of gasoline.

The United States flag was flying from the stern of the whaleboat when it approached the landing in Tampico. For no assigned cause Assistant Paymaster Copp and his men were placed under arrest as they stepped ashore.

Surrounded by a detail of Mexican Federal troops they were marched up and down the principal streets of the city, and finally taken to the police station, where they were locked up.

One report of the affair says the United States flag was snatched from the stern of the whaleboat when the arrests were made and carried and subjected to the jeers and hisses of the anti-American populace.

There is no denial of the fact that the prisoners were made the subjects of an anti-American demonstration, though at the time of their arrest they had just stepped from a boat flying the United States flag, were wearing the uniform of the United States and were conducting themselves in an orderly manner.

After the Americans had been detained several hours, word of their arrest was carried to Rear Admiral Mayo, who demanded their immediate release.

The demand was complied with, but the only reparation made was a brief expression of regret for the alleged mistake.

The Difference.

"In these days, when a man thinks he has won his ladylove, it is a case of hit or miss."
 "In the primitive times when a man knocked down the girl he fancied, it was a case of hit and miss."