

Armistice Will Be The Next Move Of Peace Envoys

The Proposition Has Already Been Brought Before Them

JAPAN IS YET NEUTRAL

News From the Front Tells of Hardships of The Refugees

(Special to the Journal) WASHINGTON, April 29.—After an hours conference today the mediation envoys, Mr. DaGama of Brazil, Mr. Naon of Argentina, and Mr. Suarez of Chile, determined that further negotiations necessarily must proceed without waste of time and Ambassador DaGama went to the state department to acquaint Secretary Bryan of the course thus far taken in the peace plans. The Brazilian minister in Mexico City also was notified and he conveyed the information to General Huerta.

The communication addressed to both governments by the mediation envoys, formally requests each government to declare an armistice. It was pointed out by the officials here that in all probability the United States would accept the proposal, notwithstanding the fact that this government has not recognized that a state of war in Mexico exists in so far as the operations of the United States are concerned.

Despite this fact it was believed that the Washington government would not put any barriers in the path of the progress of mediation, particularly at such an early stage of the negotiations.

Officials here also believed that General Huerta would accept the first proposal. The proposal for an armistice, it is also learned, does not include any reference to the constitutionalists in Mexico, the United States and Huerta merely being called upon to cease active operations pending further mediation proposals. Consideration of the constitutionalists' position invoked is the next step to be taken after an armistice has been agreed to by the principals to the present difficulties.

Under the armistice, in accordance with international proceeding, neither the Huerta government nor the United States would pause in preparations for war. Plans for position of the fleet would proceed, but the armistice would prevent actual hostilities afield and any extension of military movement by either side. In Mexico, people would be permitted to go where they pleased unmolested; it simply would establish a truce. Attention was called here to the statement issued by President Wilson in accepting the good offices of the South American governments, in which he expressed the hope that no untoward occurrence should develop pending negotiations that might upset hopes of peace. An armistice, strictly adhered to, would prevent such a development.

Officials expressed keen interest in unofficial reports from Berlin that the mediators had asked European powers to use influence on President Wilson that would prevent this government making conditions of settlement as mediation progresses which would make impossible the success of the envoys to bring about peace.

It was stated at the State department that nothing was known of this action on the part of the envoys. After his visit to Secretary Bryan, Ambassador Canada returned to the Argentine legation, where the envoys resumed their conference. When this government would make a formal answer to the armistice proposal was not indicated here.

The army and navy today continued to execute succeeding chapters in plans to meet any eventualities. But interest in their movements was overshadowed by that centered in the work of the representatives of the South American envoys. The three plenipotentiaries are gathering all

possible information from both American and Mexican sources with the aim of reaching some middle ground from which they may project their next move which might include asking the Huerta and Washington governments to set out terms on which they would proceed to mediation. If that line were followed it was suggested the diplomats speedily could develop whether solution of the situation by peaceful means were possible.

Hardships Of Refugees.

VERA CRUZ, April 29.—Commander Tweede, of the British cruiser Essex, who went to Mexico City several days ago to intercede for foreigners held in the capital, returned here late Tuesday and reported that his mission had been successful.

President Huerta, Minister of War Blanquet and Foreign Minister Portillo Rojas assured Commander Tweede they would release all American prisoners and that all Americans desiring to do so might leave via Puerto Mexico, but that the trains on which they would go would not be provided with escorts.

Federals Resist

TAMPICO, April 29.—The only American warships off this port today are the gunboat Dolphin, the cruisers Birmingham and Des Moines and nine torpedo boat destroyers. The Hermoine and a few foreign merchant vessels still are in the river. As the result of the exodus of foreigners and the dispersal of a large part of the native population business in Tampico is at a standstill.

While there is good reason to believe the rebels infesting Tampico will reject any proposal to ally themselves with the federals for the purpose of resisting any possible American aggression, there is some uncertainty as to what course the federals will take in such an eventuality.

General Zaragoza, the federal commander, has announced his determination to defend Tampico to the last. On the other hand, he is reported to have said last Friday that opposition to the American advance would be hopeless; that he would only make a feeble show of defense sufficient to satisfy the demands of honor and then evacuate the city.

THE CENSUS BUREAU GIVES OUT FIGURES

NEW BERN AGAIN GIVEN A "RAW DEAL" AS TO NUMBER OF RESIDENTS.

According to advance census figures just issued by the Census Bureau, the population of New Bern has increased from 9,961 in 1910 to 10,281, or an actual gain in the last three years of 320.

Substantial gains in other cities in the State over 3,000 population are shown as follows:

Winston-Salem, 29,034; Wilmington, 27,781; Charlotte, 37,951; Asheville, 20,157; Durham, 22,863; Rocky Mount, 16,855; High Point, 11,810; Elizabeth City, 9,282; Concord, 9,056. The above figures do not include any suburb or any part of any city that is not within the corporate limits proper.

While the census of New Bern is called "official," it is a well known fact that there are at least fifteen thousand people in the city. This is shown by the postoffice census and also by the school census. New Bern however, was not the only city that suffered a "raw deal" when the census was taken in 1910 and there has been much protest from all of the cities harmed in this manner.

The idea that New Bern has less than eleven thousand citizens is preposterous. Facts and figures which can be brought up at any time show clearly that this is incorrect and it is safe to say that when the next census is taken that there will be taken to see that at least seventy-five or eighty percent of the population is listed.

Vincent Astor, Miss Huntington And the Church at Staatsburg, N. Y.



Photo of Mr. Astor copyright, 1914, by American Press Association.

(Special to the Journal) NEW YORK, April 29.—Vincent Astor, the head of the Astor family, will today wed Miss Helen Huntington. The wedding will take place in the Episcopal church at Staatsburg, N. Y. More than two hundred guests arrived today from all parts of America and Europe to be present at the ceremony.

FIRE DOOMS 271 MINERS TRAPPED IN COAL SHAFT

Explosion In West Virginia Mine Plays Havoc With the Men Employed There—Many Dead—The Shafts Caught On Fire After Explosion

BLUEFIELD, W. VA., April 29.—Two hundred and sixty miners were entombed by an explosion in a mine of the Raleigh Coal Company, near Eccles, W. Va. It is feared that all were killed. Scores died from the fumes in the mine afterward.

The mine rescue car here was immediately ordered to the scene of the disaster.

The explosion occurred just as the miners were changing shifts. There was a larger number of men in the colliery than is usual.

Eccles is located in the central part of Raleigh County, which is in the

southern part of the State. Many mines are operated in that section.

The first terrific roar was heard at 2:30 o'clock, followed almost immediately by the second. From the 130 feet shaft a mass of debris shot 200 feet into the air. It is considered certain that practically all those in the mine are dead.

The shafts are now on fire and the flames are adding to the horror of the situation. Wives and children of the doomed men are crowding around the top of the shafts and can scarcely be restrained from rushing into the fiery furnace.

THE POSTAL WINS OVER THE WESTERN UNION

NEW YORK COURT OF APPEALS LAYS DOWN THE LAW TO W. U. T. CO.

(Special to the Journal.) Albany, N. Y., April 29.—The Court of Appeals today affirmed an order of the appellate division, which in turn affirmed an order of the Public Service Commission at Albany, commanding the Western Union Telegraph Co., to cease charging the Postal Telegraph Cable Co., an extra surcharge in addition to the regular telegraph tolls on telegrams taken in and transmitted part way by the Postal and then handed over en route by the Postal to the Western Union for further transmission and delivery at exclusive Western Union points.

This litigation between the two companies has been going on for about four years.

FEDERAL COURT

Several Cases Were Disposed Of Yesterday.

Among the cases disposed of yesterday in Federal Court, which is in session here this week, was that in which George Hyman and William Midgett, colored, were charged with breaking in the Southern Wexpress Company's local office and stealing eighteen gallons of whiskey. This burglary was committed several months ago, and since that time they have been confined in the county jail. They were found guilty and given 4 months each in jail. E. M. and Hattie Howard, colored, were tried on a charge of retailing spirituous liquor without Government license. Evidence was given by several witnesses, but this not being sufficient for conviction they were acquitted. The most of the afternoon session was consumed in the examination of the witnesses in the case against Leon Laughinghouse, who was arrested by government and county officials last week near Vanceboro, charged with the illicit distillery of whiskey. Immediately after the close of the evidence the Court adjourned until this morning at 10 o'clock.

LUMBER TRUST IS THE LATEST BIG MONOPOLY

Commissioner Of Corporations Makes Discovery.

REPORTS TO THE PRESIDENT

Remarkable Advance In Lumber Prices During The Past Few Years.

(Special to the Journal) WASHINGTON, D. C., April 29.—Nationwide price fixing in the lumber industry has never ceased, declared Joseph E. Davies, Commissioner of Corporations today in a report to President Wilson.

Before 1906 price fixing was open, then it changed to more clandestine methods: first the publication of "Market Reports," or "Prevailing Prices," and later, the employment of "Basis lists" and "discount" or "concession" sheets.

Mr. Davies reported: "Price combinations among lumber manufacturers have usually been effected through associations. There is no important region of production in which they do not have an association. Furthermore, they have an association that is national in its scope and which is a federation of a number of the local associations.

While some of the avowed purposes of the associations are to bring about and foster practices that are beneficial both to producer and consumer, the chief purpose apparently has been to increase profits by advancing prices. "The wholesale prices of lumber have been higher because of the associated activities of lumbermen.

"In the earlier years many of the associations openly attempted to curtail the output and to fix the wholesale price of lumber; later, because of fear of the law, they disavowed any such purpose, but the practices they professed to abandon were continued by subterfuge and indirection through the same groups of men who had formerly done them in the associations.

"The National Lumber Manufacturers' Association has been active in its efforts to shape legislation. In 1909 it maintained an aggressive lobby in Washington to defeat a reduction of the tariff on lumber.

"From 1897 to 1907 there was a remarkable advance in lumber prices. This advance ranged from 80 to 200 per cent, depending upon the kind of wood and the grade of lumber. While a large part of this advance was due to conditions of supply and demand and to general causes that affected the prices of all commodities, a part of it was undoubtedly due to the concerted efforts of lumber manufacturers. During this period, and since, the lumbermen through their associations and otherwise were industriously acting in concert to maintain or raise prices.

"Before 1906 concerted activities were openly promoted by associations as part of their official work, and instances of agreements—written or oral—to maintain uniformly a certain price list, to restrict output, were common.

"Since 1906 the method of combining to fix prices have been changed. In some cases the price list which was formerly the basis of the agreement was continued under such names as "Market report, or Prevailing prices." They purported to be compiled by the secretaries of the associations from reports sent to them. In other cases they were issued nominally as a private business enterprise by some friendly printing firm, and purported to be compiled by the printer. In both cases there is evidence to show that the lists in question, by whatever name called or by whomever published, served, and were intended to serve, the same purpose as the former official association lists; and that the determination of the prices printed in the later list was the work of the same group of men who had previously openly determined the prices of the official lists. This holds true when the "Market reports" showing fictitiously high prices, which were intended to be used in connection with "discount" or "concession" sheets. The basis lists, showing with the exaggerated high prices, were officially adopted by the associations. The discount or concession sheets were sometimes compiled and issued by the secretary from what information he could gather about market

SPERLING THOMAS ESCAPES FROM INSANE ASYLUM

Succeeded In Gaining His Freedom Sunday Night.

CAME TO NEW BERN

Will Be Carried Back To Raleigh This Morning To Receive Treatment.

A few weeks ago Sperling Thomas, a young white man who has for years made his home in New Bern, was found to be coming mentally deranged and his relatives, fearing that the malady might cause him to become violent, thought that it would be best to have him placed in the asylum for the insane at Raleigh where he could receive treatment.

Accordingly Sheriff R. B. Lane took young Thomas in charge and carried him to Raleigh where he was placed in the hospital. For the first few days the young man seemed content with his confinement but later he became dissatisfied and voiced his sentiments in regard to being compelled to remain at the asylum.

Last Sunday night he succeeded in making his escape from the building and at once started out returning to New Bern. Travelling through the country as best he could, walking part of the way and riding for short distances on trains, he managed to reach this city Tuesday night and at once went to the boarding house on South Front street where he had previously been rooming.

Sheriff Lane had been notified of Thomas' escape and has been keeping a strict watch for him, having but little doubt but that he would return to this city. Yesterday morning he learned that Thomas could be found at the South Front street home and at once went to that place and took him in charge and will this morning carry him back to Raleigh.

The young man is by no means violently insane and unless one knew that he was mentally deranged, it would be a hard matter for them to discern it during conversation with him.

COSTLY FIRE VISITS TOWN OF ARAPAHOE

DESTROYS THE HOME AND FURNISHINGS OF WELL KNOWN CITIZEN.

(Special to the Journal.)

Arapahoe, N. C., April 29.—Fire which destroyed the home and contents of B. I. Brinson, was discovered this morning at 12:30 o'clock. There was no one at home, Mr. Brinson, who is employed by the East Carolina Lumber Company, was at Pamlico and his wife was spending the night with a neighbor. When the fire was discovered it had gained such headway that it was impossible to save even one piece of furniture. The heroic work of the bucket brigade was all that saved several of the nearby houses, and but for the calmness of the night the entire town would have, in all probability, been wiped out.

The origin of the fire is not known, but it is thought that it was started by some one as an oil can that Mrs. Brinson left in the house was found empty twenty yards from the building.

LAST CALL FOR POLL TAXES.

Those persons who desire to cast a vote in the approaching primary must their poll taxes today. Those who do not pay up today will also be taxed with an additional sum for cost.

The gas freight boat Lena left yesterday for Swansboro with a cargo of merchandise and guano.

conditions, while at other times, they were issued by printing concerns or trade papers closely identified with the association. Here, as in the case of the price lists, the discounts and consequently the prices really intended to be observed by the members, were determined by the same group of men who previously determined the official prices.