

The Polk County News

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TRYON, POLK COUNTY, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1914.

ESTABLISHED MAY, 1894.

VERA CRUZ TAKEN, KILL FOUR MARINES

U. S. SAILORS POSSESS CUSTOM HOUSE THEN THE FIRING BEGINS.

MEXICANS LOOSE OVER 200

Admiral Fletcher Orders Mexicans to Stop Shooting or Big Guns Will Be Put Into Action.

Washington. — Marines and blue-jackets of the American navy took the customs house and a large section of Vera Cruz with a loss of four killed and 20 wounded. The loss of the Mexican garrison was not officially known but was estimated at 200 killed. This was the first step in the program of reprisal by the United States against the Huerta government for the arrest of American bluejackets at Tampico and other offenses "against the rights and dignity of the United States."

It was the first clash between forces of the United States and Mexico since the revolution broke out in 1910 and gave the Washington government a Mexican problem.

Rear Admiral Fletcher had warned the Federal commander that he would use the big guns of the American fleet if his men did not stop firing. The American forces had orders to fire only to defend themselves. The United States intends to take no offensive steps for the present. The salute to the flag which Huerta refused will not be satisfactory reparation. It is understood a declaration of apology as well as a salute and guarantee that the rights and dignity of the United States would be respected can alone cause a withdrawal of the American forces.

While American marines and blue-jackets were fighting, the senate debated the whole Mexican situation before crowded galleries. The joint resolution that passed the house supporting the president's proposal to use the army and navy to obtain reparation was being debated in the senate at midnight with prospect of an all-night session. Many Republicans senators wanted the resolution broadened to authorize steps to obtain reparation for all offenses committed against Americans in Mexico.

PRESIDENT WILSON GOES AHEAD

Orders Admiral Fletcher to Prevent Landing of Cargo of Ammunition. The president went ahead on the authority of the executive, in accord with precedent, because he believed an emergency existed. He gave Rear Admiral Fletcher authority to seize the Vera Cruz customs house to prevent the landing there by a German merchant vessel of a big consignment of arms and ammunition for the Huerta government.

Secretary Bryan conferred with the German ambassador, Count Von Bernstorff and it is believed the influence of the German government will be interposed to prevent the consignment from landing elsewhere in Mexico and complicating the situation. The ship carries 15,000,000 rounds of ammunition and 200 rapid-fire guns and thousands of rifles.

Senate Upholds President.

Washington.—The senate at 3:21 o'clock a. m. by a vote of 72 to 13 passed the administration resolution bill declaring that "the President is justified in the employment of the armed forces of the United States to enforce his demands for an unequivocal amendment for the affronts and indignities committed against the United States in Mexico.

The final vote came at the close of a stirring all-night session, marked by bitter debate.

Brigade Ready to Embark.

Galveston, Texas.—Troops of the fifth brigade, United States army, under command of Colonel Daniel Cornman, were ready to go on board the four army transports here at a moment's notice. The full brigade numbers approximately 4,700 officers and men.

Capt. Berry Loses License.

Washington.—Captain Oswyn Berry of the Merchants and Miners' packet Nantucket which rammed and sunk the Old Dominion liner Monroe with a loss of 41 lives off the Virginia capes in January, has been found guilty of negligence and his license has been revoked. A board of steamship inspectors at Philadelphia divided responsibility for the disaster between Captain Berry and Captain Johnson of the Monroe. On appeal Captain Berry has been held alone guilty.

MEXICAN MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT PERSONALLY APPEARS BEFORE A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS.

CLAIMS NO GOVERNMENT

Tells of Affronts and Indignities Put on United States by the Huerta Regime.

Washington.—President Wilson answered Huerta's defiance by asking congress assembled in joint session, for approval to "use the armed forces of the United States in such ways and to such extents as may be necessary to obtain from General Huerta and his adherents the fullest recognition of the rights and dignity of the United States."

The president did not ask for any appropriation of money at this time, nor for authority to call out the National Guard.

The president spoke as follows: "Gentlemen of the Congress:

"It is my duty to call your attention to a situation which has arisen in our dealings with General Victoriano Huerta at Mexico City, which calls for action, and to ask your advice and co-operation in acting upon it. On the 9th of April a paymaster of the United States ship Dolphin landed at the Nurbide bridge at Tampico, with a whaleboat and boat's crew to take off certain supplies needed by his ship, and while engaged in loading the boat was arrested by an officer and squad of the men of the army of General Huerta. Neither the paymaster or anyone of the boat's crew was armed. Two of the men were in the boat when the arrest took place, and were obliged to leave it and submit to be taken into custody, notwithstanding the fact that the boat carried, both at her bow and at her stern, the flag of the United States. The officer who made the arrest was proceeding up one of the streets of the town with his prisoners when met by an officer of higher authority, who ordered him to return to the landing and await orders, and within an hour and a half from the time of the arrest orders were received from the commander of the Huerta forces at Tampico for the release of the paymaster and his men. The release was followed by apologies from the commander, and later by an expression of regret by General Huerta himself.

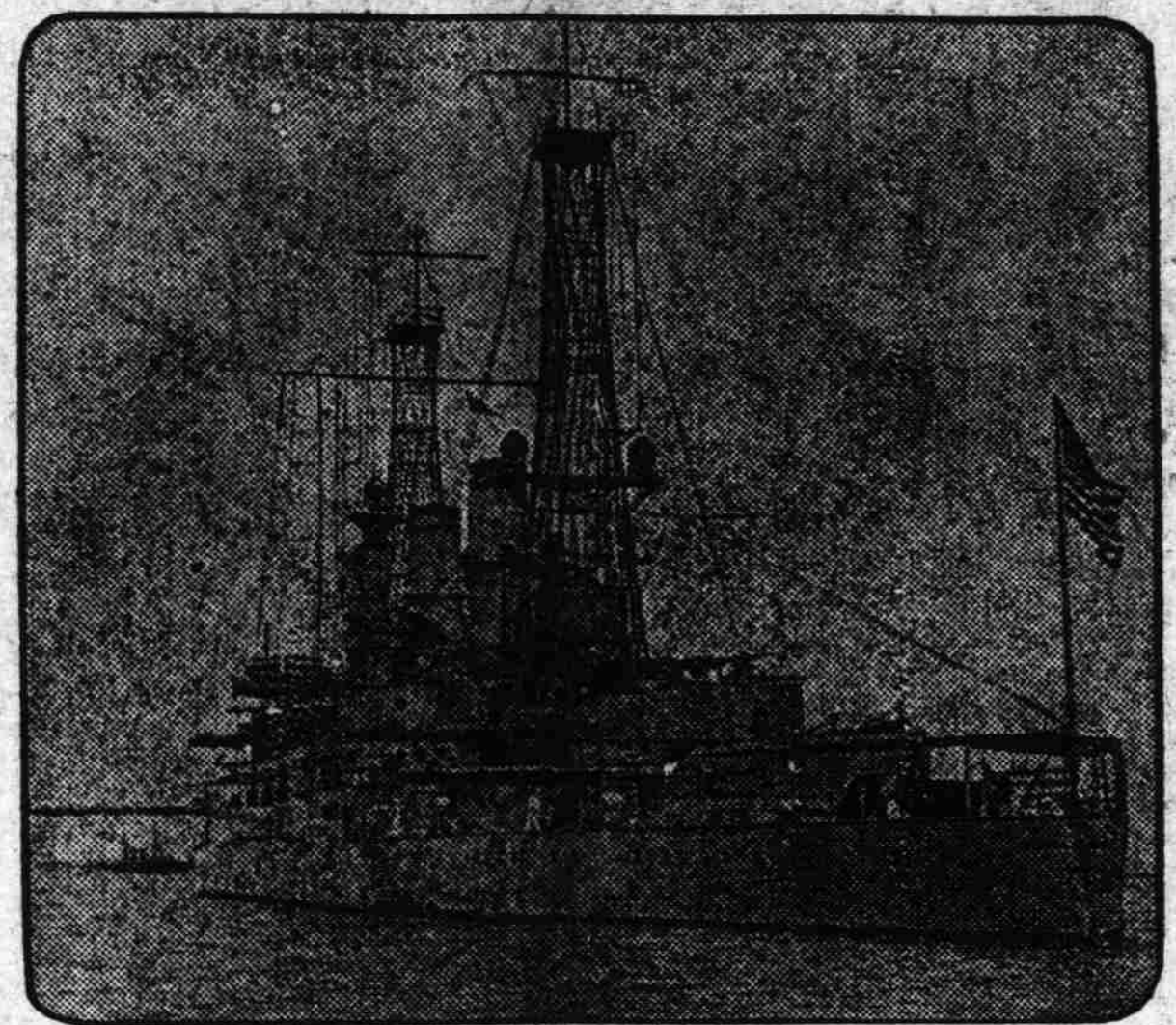
"General Huerta urged that martial law obtained at the time at Tampico; that orders had been issued that no one should be allowed to land at the Nurbide bridge and that our sailors had no right to land there. Our naval commanders at the port had not been notified of any such prohibition and, even if they had been, the only justifiable course open to the local authorities would have been to request the paymaster and his crew to withdraw and to lodge a protest with the commanding officer of the fleet. Admiral Mayo regarded the arrest as so serious an affront. He was not satisfied with the apologies offered, but demanded that the flag of the United States be saluted with special ceremony by the military commander of the port.

"The incident cannot be regarded as a trivial one, especially as two of the men arrested were taken from the boat itself—that is to say, from the territory of the United States; but had it stood by itself, it might have been attributed to the ignorance or arrogance of a single officer. Unfortunately it was not an isolated case. A series of incidents have recently occurred which cannot but create the impression that the representatives of General Huerta show disregard for the dignity and rights of this government and felt perfectly safe in doing what they pleased, making free to show in many ways their irritation and contempt.

"A few days after the incident at Tampico an orderly from the United States ship Minnesota was arrested at Vera Cruz while ashore in uniform to obtain the ship's mail and was for a time thrown into jail. An official dispatch from this government to the embassy at Mexico City was withheld by the authorities of the telegraphic service until peremptorily demanded by our charge d'affaires in person.

"The manifest danger of such a situation was that such offenses might grow from bad to worse until something happens of so gross and intolerable a sort as to lead directly and inevitably to armed conflict. It was necessary that the apologies of General Huerta and his representatives should go much further; that they should be such as to attract the attention of the whole population to their significance and such as to impress upon General Huerta himself the necessity of seeing to it that no further occasion for explanations, and professed regrets should arise.

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.

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 Pointed Continuing Two Hours Before the Vote.

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 C. S. 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.

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 placed 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.

President Wilson had pointed out that under precedents he did not need the authority of congress to act; but merely sought their counsel, advice and approval "in a matter possibly of so grave consequence."

HUERTA REFUSES TO SALUTE.

Provisional President Flatly Refuses To Accede Demands of the United States.

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 reparation 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Bryan Advises Foreign Ministers.

Washington.—Secretary Bryan conferred with the foreign ministers at 2:30 p. m. to advise them of the Mexican situation in detail.

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.

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