

HOUSE BARGAIN, \$12,000—Sheldrake Blvd. close to Yonge St., detached, solid brick, 7 rooms, hot-water heating, lot 50 x 110. Beautifully decorated, finished in hardwood. A great sacrifice, owing to owner removing to New York. Must be sold this week. TANNER & GATES, Realty Brokers, Tanner-Gates Bldg., 22-24 Adelaide St. W. Main 5825.

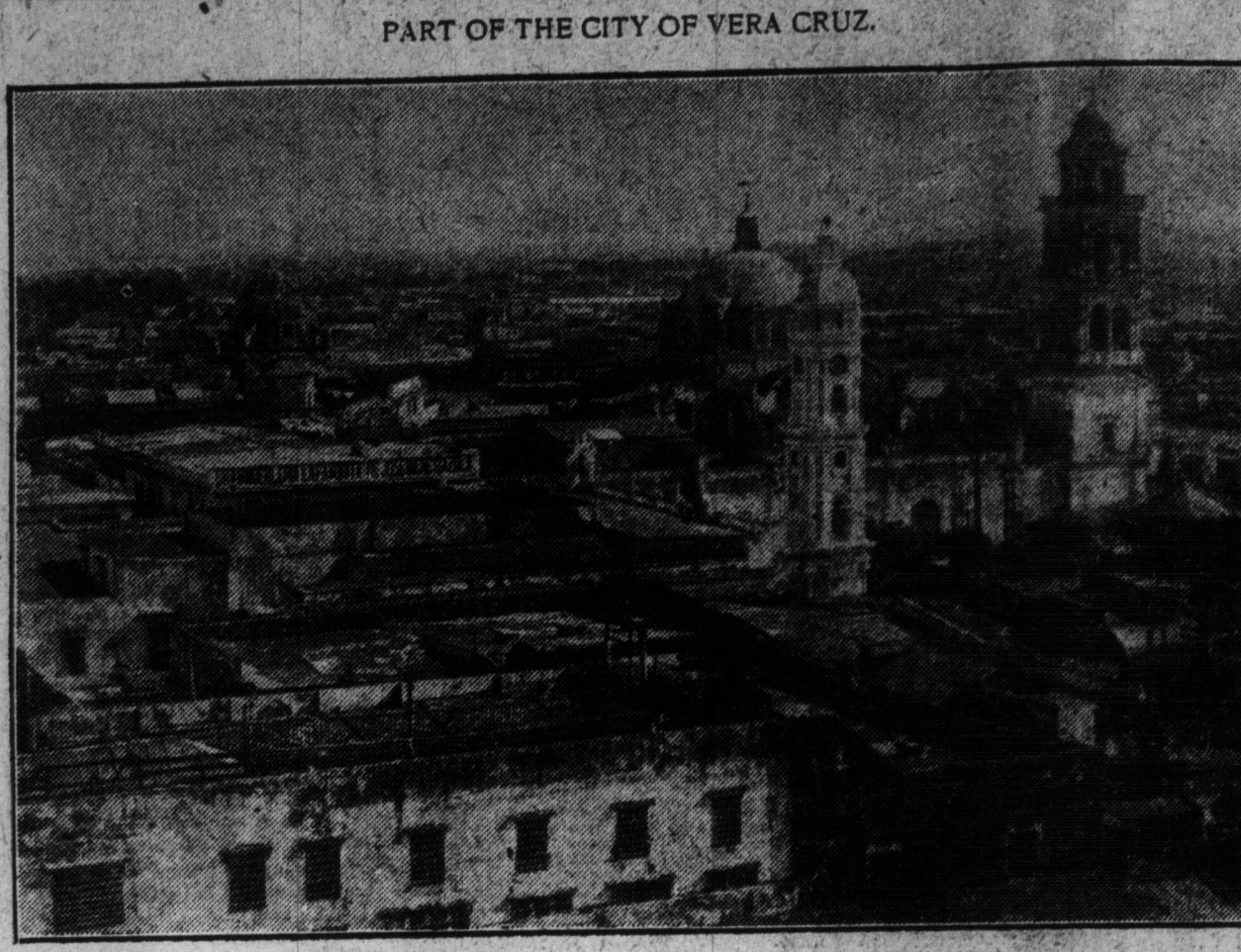
PROBS—Moderate temperature, light rain, wind from west.

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WAR HAS STARTED IN MEXICO
VERA CRUZ CUSTOMS HOUSE SEIZED BY U.S. MARINES
FOUR AMERICANS KILLED, TWENTY WOUNDED—MEXICAN LOSSES VERY HEAVY

WILSON ORDERED MARINES TO LAND, SEIZE VERA CRUZ CUSTOMS HOUSE AND STOP LANDING OF MUNITIONS

Delay in the Senate Caused President to Take Action on His Own Responsibility, the Result Being That the Marines Landed, Seized the Customs House, Engaged in First Skirmish With Mexicans, With Casualties of Four Killed and Twenty Wounded—Foreign Ambassadors Notified and British Citizens Advised to Leave Mexico.



This photograph shows a portion of the City of Vera Cruz, Mexico. The city may be shelled by the United States fleet today.

German Vessel Anchors at Vera Cruz With Ammunition for Huerta

WASHINGTON, Wednesday, April 22.—Official advices reached the navy department at midnight that a German vessel carrying ammunition to Huerta, finding on arrival that the Vera Cruz Customs house was in possession of Americans, anchored outside the harbor. The vessel, Secretary Daniels says, carries 15,000,000 rounds of shells, mostly for rapid fire guns, and 200 field guns.

Sharp Fighting at Vera Cruz Port in Hands of U.S. Forces Four Marines Were Killed

Twenty-One Others Were Wounded While Mexicans Lost Heavily—Garrison Opened Fire on Marines After Seizure of Customs House and Battle Raged Fiercely for Hours

Canadian Press Despatch.—VERA CRUZ, April 21.—Vera Cruz tonight is in the hands of forces from the United States warships, but the occupation of the port was not accomplished without loss of American lives. Four Americans, bluejackets and marines, were killed by the fire of the Mexicans, and 21 fell wounded. The Mexican loss is not known, but it is believed to have been heavy.

U.S. CAVALRYMEN HELD BY REBELS

Fifteen Troopers Wandered Over Mexican Border, Were Surrounded and Taken Prisoner.

Canadian Press Despatch.—DOUGLASS, Ariz., April 21.—A special to the Douglas, Ariz., International from Tombstone, Ariz., says news reached there today that fifteen members of troop B, tenth cavalry, were being held by constitutionalist troops at a point just below the border between Naco and Hereford, Ariz.

Landing at Vera Cruz Cost Lives of Four U.S. Marines

Admiral Fletcher's Despatch Says Mexicans Waited Until Customs House Had Been Seized Before Opening Fire—Transport Prairie at Once Began Shelling Garrison.

Canadian Press Despatch.—WASHINGTON, April 21.—Secretary of the Navy Daniels said this morning the following despatch received from Admiral Fletcher at 6 p.m. "Tuesday, in face of an approaching norther, landed marines and sailors from battleships Utah, Florida and transport Prairie, and seized customs house. Mexican forces did not oppose landing, but opened fire with rifle and artillery after our seizure of customs house. Prairie shelling Mexicans out of their positions. Desultory firing from housetops and streets. Hold customs house and section of city in vicinity of wharves and consulate. Casualties: Four dead and twenty wounded."

When this statement had been issued Secretaries Daniels and Garrison left the White House. "I hope it is all over," said Mr. Garrison. "I think they fired to save their faces in retreat. I do not expect any more."

Special to The Toronto World. WASHINGTON, D. C., April 21.—Four United States marines killed and twenty wounded. These are the known casualties which accompanied the landing of United States forces from the fleet of Rear-Admiral Frank F. Fletcher at Vera Cruz, Mexico, and the seizure of the customs house there this evening. The casualties may be greater. Admiral Fletcher in his report of the landing stated that desultory firing from house tops and streets by Mexican federal soldiers was in progress.

Admiral Fletcher added that the guns of the naval transport Prairie were shelling the Mexicans out of their positions. It is presumed here that the Mexicans are retreating up the line of railroad which runs to Mexico City.

Admiral Fletcher will not attempt to pursue the Mexicans. He will establish his base at Vera Cruz and hold it. The foregoing is the initial step and first step in the act of reprisal against Gen. Victoriano Huerta, dictator of Mexico, for his indignities to the United States.

What the next step will be, whether one of war or just a mere seizure of the customs house and the holding of the same, only events can determine.

Next Step Actual War

In the light of the attack from the Huertistas forces the next step may be actual war, at least with one Mexican faction.

The news that Admiral Fletcher had landed a force of marines at Vera Cruz and seized the customs house there was received by Secretary of the Navy Daniels at 6 o'clock. The despatch stated:

"Tuesday in face of an approaching norther, landed marines and sailors from the Utah, Florida and Prairie and seized customs house. Mexican forces did not oppose landing, but opened fire with rifle and artillery after our seizure of custom house. Prairie shelling Mexicans out of their positions. Desultory firing from housetops and streets. Hold customs house and section of city in vicinity of wharves and consulate. Casualties four dead and twenty wounded."

News Was Startling

Startling was the news contained in the despatch even to those officials who were familiar with the administration's plans and were prepared to receive such tidings, and despite the continued circulation of reports through the military departments of the government after 2 o'clock this afternoon that something big had happened in Mexican waters.

President Wilson was in his study when the telegraph operator in the navy department began receiving the message from Admiral Fletcher spelling action. Secretary Daniels had just left the navy department for dinner. Secretary Bryan was on his way home. Without the loss of a minute the attaches in the office of the secretary of the navy despatched messengers after Mr. Daniels, then notified the White House of the news.

Like wildfire the information spread and in a few minutes the president was in conference with Secretaries Bryan, Garrison and Daniels and Counselor Lansing of the state department. Despite the efforts of the administration to keep the news of the skirmish at Vera Cruz suppressed reports were going out of Washington that a fight actually had taken place with a loss to the American forces.

At 7:15 the conference in the White House broke up. It was announced by Mr. Tamm that Secretary Daniels would issue a statement in a few minutes. At 7:25 the telegram from Rear Admiral Fletcher was given to the public.

Loaded With Munitions

Early this morning the report was current that the Iraguano, loaded with munitions of war for Huerta, was nearing the port of Vera Cruz. When questioned about it administration officials sought to minimize the importance of the information. It was finally admitted that the arrival of the vessel was expected about noon of Vera Cruz.

The United States had kept in touch with the vessel thru the use of the wireless, and timed her arrival within a few hours. It was later that the reports began spreading that Admiral Badger had been ordered to increase the speed of his fleet and proceed directly to Vera Cruz and seize the custom house. This report was followed by another which stated Admiral Fletcher had been instructed to land marines and take the customs house.

All these reports the administration denied. Their general search for information they themselves kept up. They hovered about the telegraph room of the navy department. The big wireless station at Arlington, Virginia, just across the Potomac River, was kept busy answering enquiries from naval officials. The action and air of the officials betrayed them.

More Marines Called Out

Throughout the day orders were being sent out of the navy department. Early this morning 340 additional marines from the Philadelphia navy yard were ordered to Vera Cruz. The Ward line steamer Moro Castle was chartered to transport these marines, under command of Colonel Franklin Moses, to the base from which the United States will operate in the present intervention.

Later in the day "Fighting Taze" Walter, Col. L. W. T. Walter, the ranging field officer of the marine corps, was ordered from Mare Island, Calif., to Vera Cruz to take command of the marines in Mexico.

These activities marked the beginning of the day. At 11 o'clock the cabinet met with the president at the White House. Here the plans which were perfected by the military heads last night for handling the situation were gone over and approved. What developed during the morning that following the conference of the president and Secretaries Bryan, Garrison, Daniels, John Lind, Major-General Franklin Wood, and Major-General Charles D. Wood, Admiral Connors, Capt. McCoy, Rear-Admiral Pike and Blue, President Wilson directed that Admiral Fletcher be instructed to land marines today and seize the customs house at Vera Cruz.

On Wilson's Orders

Late this afternoon it became known that the president, impatient with the failure of the senate to act on the joint resolution approving of his action in the present trouble, followed what he believed was his constitutional right, and ordered the landing of a force of United States marines and bluejackets at Mexico's most important seaport. These orders were transmitted to Admiral Fletcher last night. At the same time they were sent to Admiral Badger, with the additional instructions for him to increase the speed of his biggest and fastest warships with a view to arriving at Vera Cruz tonight.

After the issuance of the orders the president and his advisors waited until 2 o'clock this afternoon. When at that hour the senate failed to adopt the resolution the president instructed Secretary Bryan to wait no longer but to summon the foreign ambassadors in the city and inform them of the action taken by the United States.

Ambassadors Notified

Promptly every ambassador here with the exception of the ambassador from Brazil and Portugal were asked to call at the state department. Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, was the first to arrive at the state department. For a quarter of an hour Mr. Bryan informed the German representative of the action taken by the United States in the ordering of Rear-Admiral Fletcher to land marines and seize the customs house. Mr. Bryan told the German ambassador of the shipment of arms and ammunition being burnt toward Vera Cruz on the Hamburg-American liner and of the purpose of the United States to seize that shipment once it was landed at Vera Cruz, or any other port in Mexico. Count von Bernstorff informed the secretary of state he knew of no shipment of arms from any German manufacturer or agent.

Mr. Jusserand, the French ambassador, was the second diplomat to arrive. He was also closeted with the secretary of state. Only one other minister called and received a plain statement of the action of the United States.

Sir Cecil Spring Rice, the British ambassador, was the next to reach the state department and receive the statement from Secretary Bryan. The Italian, Russian, Japanese, Hungarian and Spanish ambassadors all called and received a plain statement of the action of the United States.

None of these representatives would comment on their visit or indicate what had been the purpose of their call. None of them signified in any way whether they or their governments approved or disapproved of the action.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 1)

Season... Soft Hats... Sheets... Socks... List... MEXICANS BEAR NO ANIMOSITY TO U. S.

TITANIC TASK TO BRING PEACE TO MEXICO

Manuel Esteva, Consul-General in New York, Declares That It Would Take Twenty-Five Years to Pacify the Country—Mexicans Will Unite Against Common Foe.

Special to The Toronto World. NEW YORK, April 21.—A very plain statement in regard to the difficulties which confront the United States Government in its role of intervener in the Mexican situation was given by Manuel A. Esteva, the Mexican consul-general, who took over that position only last Friday. In his opinion if the American forces invade the country they will be met by a united Mexico. All differences between the constitutionalists and the government will be forgotten, he says, and they will fight shoulder to shoulder.

Emphasizing the difficulty of the task of pacification, Mr. Esteva cites the opinion of an army officer who acted as scout during the Madere revolution.

"This officer, who was a major, told me," said the consul, "that it would require an army of not less than 300,000 men, five years' time and \$500,000,000 for the United States to invest the larger cities of the Mexican republic. I can add to this it will take them 25 years thereafter to pacify the country."

Asked what would be the effect of the blockade on the revolution, Mr. Esteva replied: "I see no reason to believe that the constitutionalists will join with the government at once. They will join, however, the minute the country is invaded. Their love of the republic stands before everything, and personal differences will be forgotten."

MEXICANS BEAR NO ANIMOSITY TO U. S.

MEXICO CITY, April 21.—President Huerta, replying to queries from the newspapers, said: "Mexico awaits with tranquillity the development of events growing out of the controversy with the United States, and in the countries of friction between the two countries, the people of this republic will bear no animosity toward the people of the United States, whose neighbors they are."