

MEXICAN AMBASSADOR DECLARES

--HISTORY OF THE CASE IN QUESTION--

U. S. IS PEEVED OVER NOTHING

Long Statement is Issued Showing Cause of Trouble.

What Demands Were Made That Called for Apology

[By Special Wire to The Courier] MEXICO CITY, April 20.—Portillo Rojas, minister of foreign affairs in announcing that it would be impossible to agree to the demand of the United States that the flag of that country be unconditionally saluted, gave out the following statement:

"On the 9th of the present month, between 11 and noon, a boat without an American flag and with nine marines and officer landed at a point called the Beach of Ixturbide, in Tampico, Col. Raymond Hinojosa, who has charge of defending that point, detained the marines and officer and conducted them to the presence of the general who had command of the fort, Ignacio Morelos Saragoza.

"It should be remembered that at this time the port not only was under military control, but was withstanding an attack by rebels.

"General Saragoza immediately, and without even investigating the case put the marines and officer at liberty, placed Hinojosa in prison, and sent an apology to Rear Admiral Mayo, the commander of the American fleet.

"We thought the incident was closed, but unfortunately this was not so, because Mayo sent to him some time afterward an ultimatum, wherein he asked that a second apology be presented to him by the staff of the chief of the fort, General Saragoza; that the American flag be hoisted at a public place in Tampico and saluted by twenty-one guns, and besides the severe punishment of Hinojosa, stipulating that all this be done within 24 hours.

"The term was later extended when diplomatic parlers were begun between the sub-secretary of foreign affairs in Mexico, the minister being absent at that date, and continued until now.

"The president of Mexico, when informed of the case, ordered another investigation of the facts, and the punishment of the guilty officer if it were proved he was blameworthy. He also authorized the minister of foreign affairs to express regret on account of the incident. When he became aware that the American Government supported the request of Rear Admiral Mayo relative to a salute of the American flag, which had not been insulted, he proposed to show his good will toward the American people, though he did not think that such a request was just, proposing that the flags of the two nations be hoisted and saluted reciprocally and simultaneously.

"The American Government did not agree with that idea, but insisted on Rear Admiral Mayo's request, giving assurance that according to international precedence, the salute would be returned by American cannon after the salute to the American flag.

"This was not accepted by President Huerta, who insisted upon his proposition.

"Then the American Government determined that the parlers be brought to an end by the final decision of President Huerta, within a term which expired at 6 o'clock to-night, announcing that if by that time he had not agreed to the salute of the American flag as requested, the affair would be presented to the American Congress for decision.

"The Mexican government believing that the salute in question was of no importance unless reciprocated, formally agreed upon by both parties, proposed the signal of a protocol and the minister of foreign affairs presented last night a draft of such protocol to the American Charge d'Affaires, Nelson O'Shaughnessy.

"O'Shaughnessy answered that he must consult his government, that he would advise the minister of the nature of this answer, and this afternoon he communicated to the minister the fact that his government did not accept the idea of a signature of any protocol whatever, but wanted an unconditional salute of the American flag.

"This Mexican Government refused, feeling it had done all possible in view of the friendly understanding between the two governments, and believing the acceptance of such an

(Continued on page four.)

May Be Worse Than Boer War, Declares British Paper

NEW YORK, April 20.—A cable to the Tribune from London says: The development of the Mexican crisis continues to attract considerable interest here, but the only newspaper this morning to make is the Daily Express, which has nothing but condemnation for President Wilson's policy.

"Whatever may be the final issue," says the editorial, "it is clear that President Wilson's policy of 'wait and see' has failed. The price may be heavier than the American nation cares to pay. The task that confronts America, as trustee for civilization and as sponsor for the Monroe doctrine, has grown more difficult. Delay is now dangerous. Fir maction in the beginning would have been costly and burdensome, but it would have prevented the welter and chaos that have ensued in Mexico.

"President Wilson temporized, and selected Villa as the barbaric and unofficial instrument of his spite. The result has not been happy. He has now seen the intolerable insult to his country's flag, and may have to face a war of conquest more expensive, in trouble, blood and treasure, than the Boer war was for this country. American credit is already shaken a little, and it may be shaken very much more before the affair is finished. President Wilson is now up against it, and is reaping the consequence of his irresolution."

AMERICAN PRESS UNITES WITH PRESIDENT WILSON

Congress Will Pass Act Sanctioning Reprisals From Mexico -- Warlike Tone Adopted on All Sides.

[By Special Wire to The Courier] NEW YORK, April 20.—Commenting editorially on the Mexican situation the New York morning papers generally uphold President Wilson's action in the crisis.

The Sun (Republican) says: When the President makes his appeal to Congress for power to act, there can be no doubt as to what the reply will be. He will have the support of all parties and a united people in upholding the dignity of the country and in fulfilling its duty toward Mexico as the same may unfold itself with the march of events. The hour of grace has gone by. Any further display of consideration would be mere weakness, and would be so interpreted himself.

The Tribune (Republican) says: On the face of the facts Congress can do nothing but stand behind the president and empower to use whatever military force may be necessary to compel a compliance with the terms of his ultimatum.

The Times (Independent Democrat) says: This is emphatically the hour for calmness and moderation. The American people are not anxious for war and as yet there is no war. On the part of our government it is sincerely to be hoped no false step will be taken. On the part of the people patriotic support of their chief magistrate in an hour of trial and the grave responsibility will not be lacking.

The World (Democrat): We have no quarrel with the Mexican people. Aside from a few chronic jingoes there is no public sentiment favoring war. If force must be employed south of the Rio Grande now or later, it should be in support of a policy as generous as that which was proclaimed in Cuba and as noble as that which the president has outlined, and for nothing else. To take measures for the deliverance of Mexico from the grip of a murderous tyranny is not to make war in the usual meaning of the term. It is to police our own neighborhood. It is to restore constitutional government. It is to punish a usurper who is as hateful to his own countrymen as he has become a menace to ourselves. Congress hold the ward. It should never authorize its use against an American state except in behalf of ideas which may be openly published so that all the world will understand.

The American says: The determination of President Wilson to pater no longer with Huerta, but to appeal directly to congress for authority to employ the armed forces of the United States in further dealing with the Mexican situation will be generally applauded. The most earnest advocates of peace cannot accuse the President of precipitancy in acting now. It was last November that his personal envoy Lind, was sent to Mexico bearing a message which was in effect an ultimatum. Five months have passed. The conditions against which Lind

was directed to protest have remained unchanged. To them have been added uncounted outrages upon American citizens and repeated insults to the American flag.

That the president was willing to accept as a price for further inaction a mere salute to the flag was felt by many to be too conciliatory an attitude. His determination now not to permit that salute to be anything except an unqualified confession of wrong, and an apology not mitigated by an accompanying concessions on our part, is absolutely right, and will be so regarded by the country and by congress.

HYDRO MAN ELECTROCUTED

Sad Accident on the Brantford and Paris Line on Friday

A sad fatality occurred on the Brantford and Paris road on Friday when Lion Ward, a young man of 21 years was electrocuted. He was working along with another man on the system now in course of erection by the Ontario Hydro Electric Commission, and was busy on an electric tower, when his companion looking around, noticed Ward hanging from the tower by his feet. He did not see exactly how it occurred, but from the burns it seemed as though the young man had gripped a wire, through which a high current was alternating. His body was brought to the city and taken to Messrs. Reid and Brown's undertaking parlors. It was subsequently discovered that the unfortunate man belonged to Hamilton and his parents were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ward and resided at 192 Rebecca St., of that city. The arms and upper portion of the young man's body were badly burned, and a large blister on the right hand suggested the cause of his death.

The remains were sent to Hamilton this morning by Messrs. Reid and Brown on the T. H. and B.

ALL ARE SUMMONED. HALIFAX, N. S., April 20.—Subpenas have been issued for practically all the staff of the Evening Mail, the paper which insinuated in an article published last week that if the Legislature passed the tramways bill now before it the public could only conclude that the members had been bought. The first hearing of the commission will be held this evening, and the sessions of the committee will probably be held in private.

President Wilson Says It is Not War at All

[By Special Wire to The Courier] WASHINGTON, April 20.—"Don't get the impression that we are going to have war with Mexico," President Wilson to-day told the Washington correspondents. "Under no circumstances would we fight the Mexican people; we are their friends. 'I am going to congress to tell of a special situation,' said the president, "and to request approval for plans to meet that special situation. This is only an issue between this government and the person calling himself the president of Mexico."

"I have no enthusiasm for war," said the President. "I want justice. This may not even lead to fight if Huerta takes the wise course." When the president was asked if he conceded the plans for seizure of Tampico and Vera Cruz an act of war he replied: "Certainly not," and referred to the Greystown president in which that Nicaraguan town was destroyed as an act of reprisal by a British warship.

BRITISH PRESS SEES A DEPLORABLE MUDDLE

The Waiting Game Has Led United States Into What Might Prove a Big Bill of Fare--The Monroe Doctrine.

[By Special Wire to The Courier] LONDON, April 20.—Mexico overshadowed all other matters to-day as far as public interest in the British Isles was concerned. Local and imperial politics although of great importance had to give way to what has been considered here for a long time the inevitable intervention by the United States to restore order in Mexico.

The Westminster Gazette, a leading organ expressing the view that nothing can now avert war, of if not war, what the late William Gladstone would have called "military operations," says: "One cannot pretend to be surprised that this should be the end of the refusal of the United States to recognize Gen. Huerta. There are a good many other nations which in other circumstances might be tempted to the horns' next, but this case is one in which the Monroe doctrine saddles the United States with heavy obligations from which there is no escape."

The Pall Mall Gazette, an Opposition newspaper, says: "Our sympathy with the Americans does not blind us to the perils of the course to which they seem about to commit themselves."

The Globe says: "Upon the United States will be laid the extremely difficult duty of pro-

tecting both its own nationals and foreigners exposed to Mexican barbarity and in all probability of an eventual reorganization of the whole country. Undoubtedly General Huerta's action is a counsel of desperation adopted in the hope that all factions in Mexico will unite with him to repel "gringo" attack. Many observers are of the opinion that this may prove correct. In that case the United States has before it a gigantic task."

The Evening Standard which also thinks that General Huerta hopes to produce a wave of popularity for himself is of the opinion that he is mistaken. It says: "General Villa is unlikely to let dust be thrown into his eyes by such a manoeuvre. He is winning and knows it and he has no intention of relinquishing the prize when it is almost within his grasp."

Continuing The Evening Standard says intervention should be hailed with satisfaction by Europeans. Recalling the murder of William S. Benson, the British ranchman at Juarez and the damage done to British property it relates that Great Britain has altogether 130,000,000 invested in Mexico and cannot afford to lose that sum. It believes the outcome will be that Mexico will be policed by a strong national army under American supervision.

WILSON'S SPEECH

Delivered to Congress This Afternoon--Marines who were Arrested were On Boat Flying American Flag

[By Special Wire to The Courier] WASHINGTON, April 20.—President Wilson laid the Mexican situation before Congress to-day in these words: "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 ninth of April, a paymaster of the United States Steamship Dolphin, landed at the Ixturbide bridge landing at Tampico with a whiteboat and bats 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 men of the army of General Huerta. Neither the paymaster nor any one of the boat's crew were armed. Two of the men were in the bow 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 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 Huertista 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.

law obtained at the time at Tampico; that orders had been issued that no one should be allowed to land at the Ixturbide 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, 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 that 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 was willing to go out of their way to 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 Steamship Minnesota was arrested at Vera Cruz while ashore in uniform (Continued on Page Two)

A NEAR FIRE TRAGEDY ON SUNDAY MORNING

---NARROW ESCAPES---

Fire Escapes Must be Erected

The very narrow escape from what Fire Chief Lewis declares would have been a fire tragedy on Colborne street Sunday morning has stirred up the Chief in making demands that fire escapes be placed on Colborne street buildings, where many families live in flats. For some time the Chief has been conducting a campaign to this end, but after Sunday's fire he proposes to set a time limit for the owners of buildings to carry out his suggestions. If not, prosecutions will be entered and the by-law will be enforced. Under the new by-law passed a couple of years ago the Chief has power to make owners provide means of escape for people living in upper storeys. The opinion is held that on the south side of Colborne street there are several places no more or less than fire traps.

Firemen Rescued Dwellers From the Windows.

Blaze Discovered in Nick of Time at Mrs. Lake's Store

What might have proved a disastrous conflagration resulting in the loss of at least five or six lives was discovered in the nick of time at 4 o'clock Sunday morning in the cellar of Mrs. Lake's store on Colborne St. As it was, an invalid woman, Mrs. Malcolm, was carried from her bed and down a ladder to the street all exit having been cut off by the dense volume of smoke in the stairway. Her son, Fred Malcolm and a companion also were forced to get out by a ladder. Captain Kingswell had to go back a second time for Malcolm who was partly paralyzed by the smoke and who was discovered putting on his shoes before making the descent.

The fire threatened 35 and 37 Colborne street which is a four storey building owned by Mr. Geo. Wilkes. It originated in the basement of Mrs. Lake's store, where large quantities of mattresses and combustible material are stored. The theory of spontaneous combustion is held.

The alarm was turned in by two young men who happened to be passing at the time. They noticed smoke issuing from the windows and the fire looked dangerous. The upper stories were inhabited on one side by Mrs. Malcolm and son and on the other by a Jewish family, the father of which is ill in bed from a severe disease. It was thought that he would have to be removed out of the window and everything was got ready until it was noticed that the fire was well under control.

When the firemen arrived a strong south wind was blowing and the cellar was a roaring mass of flames. Chief Lewis immediately dispatched Captain Kingswell and Lieut. Codd to get the people out of the building. With great difficulty they succeeded in reaching the bedrooms, which were filled with smoke. The occupants were all asleep. In the meantime the chief took hold of the fire himself and laid two streams, one to the rear and one to the front. For a time it looked as if the blaze could not be checked, but it was finally gotten under control. It is difficult to say what damage was caused, Mrs. Lake having considerable loss.

Chief Lewis regards the turning in of the alarm as most fortunate. He has not learned the identity of the two young men who sent in the call. Had the fire not been discovered in the nick of time the chief expressed the conviction that several lives would have been lost. There was absolutely no avenue of escape, except by the windows and there were two very infirm people up stairs. The fire has impressed the chief with the necessity of fire escapes being constructed on all the Colborne street tenement buildings.

Saturday afternoon the firemen received another call from the Brantford Cordage works in West Brantford for a grass fire. Capt. Kingswell, getting with four men and the light hose wagon responded, and found a serious fire to deal with. The owner of the field beside the factory, had set fire to his grass with the wind blowing directly to the factory, with the result that the flames spread rapidly and became ignited in a pile of old binder twine at the rear of the factory. This twine the firemen had to turn upside down to get at the seat of the blaze and for a time things looked serious for the factory. However with two streams of water on the firemen soon had the blaze under control.

This is the second time the owner of this field has started a fire, which has necessitated the calling of the fire department. One week ago Saturday he did the same thing when the wind was blowing harder towards the factory on Saturday.

Despite the warning given by Chief Lewis to the people setting grass fires still the practice continues; some people seem to be regardless of the safety of property.

A RECORD MARCH. NEW YORK, April 20.—A London cable to the Tribune says: By marching from London to Brighton, fifty-two miles, in 14 hours and 23 minutes sixty officers and men of the London Rifle brigade, have established a claim to a world's record for forced marching. They dwarfed the previous record of 50 miles in 15 1/2 hours, held by the famous foreign legion of France.

LITTLE SAID ABOUT ULSTER PLOT TO-DAY

Unionists, However, Will Force the Issue in the House of Commons.

[By Special Wire to The Courier] MONTREAL, April 20.—The newspapers are filled up with the programme of the King's visit to Paris and editorials based thereon, says a London cable to The Daily Mail.

The Ulster plot incident is consequently crowded out of the limelight, although the Daily Express declares that the "revelations have sent shudders of horror through the country."

It is notable that the leading Unionist journals, following a suggestion made by The Weekly Spectator sing small on this matter displaying as The Daily News says "a curious stillness in regard to these sensational revelations."

One of the most remarkable points about these revelations is that J. L. Garvin, the chief leader of the Ulster supporters in the press did not even make mention of them in The Sunday Observer.

Ministers in Downing street decline to issue any repudiation, preferring to ignore the allegations altogether. The Unionists propose to press the matter in the House of Commons where the demand for a judicial enquiry will be repeated on three subsequent days, but it is generally anticipated that the government will persist in refusing an inquiry.

Sir Edward Carson does not doubt that "the government will ride off on the false issue of the right of the government to take such steps as home rule bill," but doubts whether a denial of the stated facts will be forthcoming. The suggestion is half-heartedly made that the opposition should force a motion of censure in the event of enquiry being refused, but Mr. Bonar Law is not likely to pursue that course until after a conference with Sir Edward Carson. The Daily Mail, however, strongly urges the necessity for a judicial enquiry.

John Ward, the Labor M. P., who leaped into prominence during the debates in the Commons upon the army issue, has tabled a "retaliatory" question drawing attention to the prominence of Lord Shaftesbury in Ulster volunteer organization, and asking what are the government's intentions regarding the appointment of Lord Shaftesbury as an official of the court.

CANARIES IN CHURCH.

MONTREAL, April 20.—Twenty canaries, in cages, yesterday to swell the music, were provided at the 48th anniversary of the centenary Methodist Church Sunday school by an orchestra of twenty pieces and a choir of seventy voices. At the morning and afternoon services, even during the addresses, the birds sang lustily, but at night they went to sleep on their little perches, leaving the field free to the choir and the orchestra.