

THE UNITED STATES TAKES VERA CRUZ FOUR AMERICANS KILLED AND TWENTY WOUNDED

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PROBS.—FAIR

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COMMANDER OF TOWN REFUSES TO SURRENDER; FIRES ON U.S. MARINES

Transport Prairie Opened Fire and Mexican Commander Is Driven From Position ---Firing Become General at Half Past Twelve.

MEXICAN CITIZENS AND SOLDIERS SHOOT AT AMERICANS FROM ROOF TOPS

Four Americans Killed and Twenty Wounded in Capture of the City—Mexican Losses Said to Be Very Heavy.

Washington, April 21.—The American flag tonight flies over Vera Cruz. Four Americans were killed and twenty wounded when a detachment of bluejackets and marines from the American fleet seized the customs house, raising the American flag, and skirmished at the Mexican garrison. Desultory firing was in progress late today, according to a despatch from Rear-Admiral Fletcher received at six p. m. At first the garrison had appeared to be withdrawing. American Consul Canada reported this to the state department at five o'clock, but when the American forces reached the customs house the Mexicans opened with rifle and artillery fire. The transport *Prairie* immediately began shelling the Mexican positions, slowly driving them out. The Mexicans fought from the house tops and along the streets.

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 were killed by the fire of the Mexicans and twenty were wounded. The Mexican losses are not known, but it is believed to have been heavy.

MEXICAN COMMANDER FIRES ON AMERICANS

The Mexican commander, General Maas, offered a stubborn resistance to the American advance, and for many hours there was fighting in the streets. Rear-Admiral Fletcher, in command of the United States warships, prefaced his occupation of the port by a demand, through the American Consul W. W. Canada, for its surrender. General Maas promptly declined to accede to the demand and shortly afterward ten whale boats were sent off from the side of the transport *Prairie* loaded with marines. The coming of the United States forces was not heralded by any great excitement, but small crowds gathered to watch the landing. Soon the bluejackets and marines marched through the streets leading from the waterfront and along the railroad yards. Others proceeded to the United States consulate, while still others were scattered along the approaches to Central Plaza, in which General Maas had concentrated his men.

These manoeuvres were effected without opposition, but suddenly General Maas challenged the advance with the first shots—a volley fired from a point three blocks from the marines and two blocks south of the main plaza. The marines replied immediately, but the action ceased in a moment. There was a lull for ten minutes and then another brief exchange from the west end of Montesinos street, where a federal outpost was stationed.

TRANSPORT PRAIRIE IN ACTION

At 12:30 the fire became general, and at one o'clock the guns of the transport *Prairie* went into action.

Prior to this a detachment of bluejackets from the *Utah*, holding the ground between the consulate and the waterfront, opened with two of their three inch guns. The first shots from these pieces were directed against an ancient tower which once served as a lighthouse. This was occupied by Mexican sharpshooters. Lt. Commander Buchanan of the *Florida*, ordered that it be destroyed.

Five shots brought the old Benito Juarez tower down. The women of the American colony in Vera Cruz had already been placed aboard the chartered steamers *Esperanza* and *Mexico*, but the foreign colony, especially the American section, was greatly augmented this morning when three train loads arrived from the capital. Some of these remained ashore, but many were taken aboard the steamers. So far as can be learned none of the refugees were injured.

The post office, government telegraph office, and the cable office were the first buildings occupied after the customs house. A squad of marines was placed in charge of the cable office. The telegraph wires were found intact and enough Mexican operators were retained to man the lines to Mexico City.

After General Maas had been driven from his position in Central Plaza, the Americans found themselves the object of fusillades from the tops of houses, where small groups of soldiers and citizens had taken up positions. It was learned only tonight that the greater part of those engaged in this resistance were civilians who refused to accept the occupation passively. They obtained guns and stationed themselves at points of vantage and did much to prolong the action.

Towards the middle of the afternoon a large body of Mexicans evacuated their position and are now in thousand hills back in the interior, where it is reported from Mexican sources they are expecting to be joined by reinforcements sent down from the capital.

THEATRICAL WAR MAY BE CALLED OFF SOON

Montreal, April 21.—Negotiations are now in progress whereby the *Kluge* and *Erlanger* and *Shubert* theatrical interests will drop competition in Montreal and Toronto and probably in Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo, it is understood here. This end will be

achieved if the attempts now being made to place the high priced entertainments of these organizations in only one theatre in Montreal and Toronto, instead of two as at present, the shows of *Kluge* and *Erlanger* and *Shubert* being alternated as far as possible. Montreal and Toronto, it is suggested, will be a part of a circuit which comprises the United States cities mentioned.

W. A. Edwards, head of the company controlling His Majesty's Theatre, one of the two big houses here, admits that negotiations are going on, but declines to discuss them.

How the Times Plays the Game

From Evening Times editorials of April 21st.

"Even Conservatives are now beginning to ask what the province has gained by the advent of Hon. J. D. Hazen into public life, and by his subsequent career. He succeeded after many efforts in defeating the former provincial government, and replacing it with one infinitely less worthy of public confidence. In due time he got himself away to Ottawa, and everybody knows how the interests of this province and especially of the city have since been sacrificed."

"There is sometimes a disposition to charge the Board of Trade with failure to do all that it should do, and yet a review of what it has done during the last six months would rather tend to cause surprise that busy men had been able to accomplish so much in promoting matters which are not related directly to their own personal concerns."

"The members of the various committees of the Board having to do with the Marine Department in connection with all the important public works, to which reference has been made, express their appreciation of the prompt attention and effective aid given to them by Hon. Mr. Hazen."

Which is she more likely to represent the true value of Mr. Hazen's work for St. John, the *St. John Standard*, or the official publication of the Board of Trade, a body of safe and sane business men whose course the Times itself editorially approves?

From the Board of Trade Official News Letter of April 19th.

"Through the hearty co-operation of Hon. J. D. Hazen, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, the Board has been able to do splendid work in making better provision for the safety of vessels."

"In November last the Board decided to send a letter to the captain of all incoming steamships asking for recommendations regarding safeguards in the Bay and the approach to St. John harbor. Between sixty and seventy such recommendations were received, and in February, through the energetic action of Hon. Mr. Hazen, these were tabulated with the same least, paid tribute to the kindly nature of the Duke of Connaught, which rendered him so popular as Canada's Governor-General. He also showed how British civilization was being carried to the Arctic circle by representatives of the Church and State, dwelling in the latter connection on the heroic exploits of the North West Mounted Police, as exemplified by Fitzgerald and his comrades."

"The president of the club, Mr. E. R. Peacock, in proposing the health of the Dominion and the Governor-General, declared that the Canadians were a race of optimists."

Brief speeches were also made by Dr. Fiskin, director of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust and L. S. Amery, M. P.

HON. A. L. SIFTON SPEAKER AT LONDON DINNER

Says Canadian Spirit Fosters in Alien Immigrants Desire to Become British Subjects.

London, April 22.—Two westerners were the principal speakers at the Canada Club dinner last night when Hon. A. L. Sifton, Premier of Alberta, and Bishop Stringer of the Yukon, represented the political and ecclesiastical spheres of the west respectively.

Premier Sifton in responding to the toast of the Dominion and the Governor-General, showed that Canadian alien immigrants did so well in the Canadian West that they naturally soon desired to become British subjects, which desire was fostered by educational opportunities on the basis of British ideals. The result was that the government never had any cause to worry about the loyalty of the newcomers.

Bishop Stringer, who was associated with the same toast, paid warm tribute to the kindly nature of the Duke of Connaught, which rendered him so popular as Canada's Governor-General. He also showed how British civilization was being carried to the Arctic circle by representatives of the Church and State, dwelling in the latter connection on the heroic exploits of the North West Mounted Police, as exemplified by Fitzgerald and his comrades."

The president of the club, Mr. E. R. Peacock, in proposing the health of the Dominion and the Governor-General, declared that the Canadians were a race of optimists."

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LEADERS IN LIVELY TILT OVER ULSTER AFFAIR

JOLLY ALONG, NO POLICY, NO AMENDMENT

Dr. Steele of South Perth, Ral-lies Opposition for Sudden Change of Front on Tariff.

Ottawa, April 21.—The budget debate was resumed today.

J. H. Sinclair of Guysboro said that the Conservative victory of 1911 was one of prejudice over reason and victories of that kind always brought their consequences. The opposition to reciprocity was not bona fide. It was a case of anything to beat Laurier and the cry of "no truck or trade with the Yankees." Yet the volume of trade with the United States had been increased at an enormous rate ever since and today it amounted to \$2,000,000 a day. If the Conservative party were sincere in the protestations they made in 1911 they would take steps to stop this trade but they were not doing so.

Referring to the last election Mr. Sinclair waxed humorous. The great issue with the Conservatives in Ontario, he said, was the No Tonnage decree and "are we married or not." That was the great question with Mr. Burnham of West Peterboro. Capt. Thomas Wallace of Centre York and even with the minister of war. Now that they are in power they do not care two cents whether we are married or not. They are more interested at the present moment in the affairs of Ireland. The member for Centre York, he said, would be better occupied were he to take a fall out of the Postmaster General. "If he could throw him and I believe he could," added Mr. Sinclair. "He would get more credit out of that than by hanging on to the coat tails of Sir Edward Carson."

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Premier Asquith and Bonar Law Exchange Hot Shot.

PREMIER REFUSES JUDICIAL ENQUIRY.

Bonar Law Repeats Demand But Asquith Says He Sees No Reason For Acceding to It.

London, April 21.—Before the House of Commons met today there was a conference between Premier Asquith and General Paget, which was also attended by Right Hon. Winston Churchill and Ex-Secretary of War Seely.

True to his promise of yesterday Mr. Bonar Law this afternoon demanded from the Premier a judicial enquiry into the recent Ulster resolutions.

"I do not know exactly what is meant by a judicial enquiry," replied the Premier. "I see no grounds for such a procedure. If the hon. gentleman's charge is that the government advised and organized a plot with the object of promoting an armed rising in Ulster—if such a charge is serious—made, then the proper place to make it is in this house. I will gladly give a day for the making of such a charge at the earliest possible date. This point blank refusal of a judicial enquiry into the alleged plot to coerce Ulster led to a remarkably heated series of exchanges between the leaders of the government and the opposition."

Premier Asquith's refusal of a judicial investigation brought Mr. Bonar Law to his feet, and he asked heatedly: "Is not the Right Hon. Gentleman aware that statements made by him have been proven false?" amid loud opposition cheers. "What guarantee have we that a similar line of defence will not be taken on a further occasion? Why, asked Mr. Law, if the Premier had nothing to be ashamed of should he object to have the truth tested at an enquiry whose statements could be made under oath?"

Again the Premier rose, with every sign of anger. "I am not aware of anything of the sort," he declared, amid government cheers. "If the hon. gentleman is prepared to sustain his allegations I will give him a day for that purpose at the earliest possible date."

"I have made the charge twice and the right hon. gentleman has not dealt with it," retorted Mr. Bonar Law. "Then am I to understand that he does not want a day for this discussion?" asked the premier. "This house and the country wants to know the truth," replied Mr. Law. "It is only by getting the testimony of those directly employed by the government that we shall get at the truth."

"I really do not know what authority the honorable gentleman claims to speak for the country," replied the premier.

There was an angry growl from the opposition at this taunt. "They are running away," shouted one Liberal member.

Mr. Asquith proceeded to say that the additional papers which had been promised in reference to incidents regarding the army's duty in Ulster would be ready tomorrow.

"When we see these papers we shall consider what steps we may think it worth our while to take," retorted Mr. Bonar Law, amidst laughter from the opposition ranks.

"Why is the right hon. gentleman afraid of a judicial enquiry?" proceeded Mr. Law, after the noise had subsided. "Is it that all their evidence must be under oath?"

"I am not in the least afraid," retorted the Premier. "But if the leaders of the opposition are to make any charges against the honor of ministers they must make them in this house. Mr. Law's reply to this was lost in the general noise, he being heartily cheered by his followers at the firm stand he had presented to the Premier."

Mr. John Ward, who a few days ago declared that the House would legislate without interference from either king or army, urged the prime minister himself to introduce a motion which would force the opposition to debate the question, but to this the premier vouchsafed no answer.

Desire to Protect Her Citizens, Justification For States' Attitude.

Senator Root Says Behind Insult to American Flag is Condition of Anarchy Which Makes Protection of Lives and Property in Mexico Impossible by Following Any Other Course.

Washington, April 21.—The Senate took recess at 5:55 p. m. and resumed at 8 o'clock, an air of excitement and grave concern pervaded the chamber when the Senate re-convened.

Senator Root opened the night session with a speech supporting the Lodge substitute.

"I shall not prolong this debate," he said, "for I believe that whatever action we shall take ought to be taken tonight. There should be no further delay."

As Senator Root began the British Ambassador, Sir Cecil Spring-Rice took a place in the diplomatic gallery. Senator Root said that the foreign relations committee regulation, while omitting the name of Huerta, made it

called for "forceful armed compulsion of the defacto government of a friendly nation to make amends for an insult to the flag of this country."

"We cannot justify this," he continued, "on our confidence in the President. We must justify ourselves before the confidence of the eyes of our country, and before the eyes of the civilized world. What is that justification? Mark you, I do not say there is no justification, I ask what it is."

Senator Root reviewed the Tampico incident as the avowed justification for the president. He said the incident was an "insult to our flag."

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MEXICO SCENE OF ACTION



plain that it was directed against him. He expressed the "highest regard for the president, and the highest confidence in his purposes."

"But we are not asked to express our confidence in him," he continued. "We are asked as a part of our duty here to declare a certain course of action in certain conditions to be 'justified.' We are called upon to do our duty to the hundred million people of this country, and our duty to the civilized world."

UNION DEPOT FOR C.P.R. AND GRAND TRUNK

Plans for Toronto Station Decided on—To Cost Between Twelve and Fifteen Million Dollars.

Montreal, April 21.—The Grand Trunk and C. P. R. railways have now decided on the plans for the Toronto Union station, which it is estimated will cost between \$12,000,000 and \$15,000,000. They will be submitted to the Railway Board about May 15 and when accepted the work will proceed at once. Information to this effect has been given out by the Grand Trunk Railway officials, who point out that the cost of the viaduct, which is a part of the big terminal scheme for Toronto, is not included in the figures quoted. The viaduct, which will cost \$3,000,000, will be a matter for later consideration.

Railway officials who have seen the plans for the station say when finished the depot will be the finest of its kind in the Dominion.

FIVE THOUSAND FOR RELATIVES OF SEALERS

St. John's, Nfld., April 21.—The Red Newfoundland Company today contributed five thousand dollars to the relief fund for the sealing disaster, besides giving free the services of their steamer *Kyle* for two weeks searching for the Southern Cross, free special trains for the conveyance of the bodies of the sealers who perished on the ice floes, and various other facilities, also without charge.

The seal hunt ends April 30th. Only three steamers are now out. The probable catch will be about two hundred and forty thousand pelts.

RIVER CLEAR OF ICE ABOVE FREDERICTON

Ice Moved Out from Grand Falls Down to Bear Island—Still Solid at the Capital.

Fredericton, April 21.—The water in the river here was rising this evening at the rate of an inch an hour, considerably faster than earlier in the day. There is no sign as yet of ice breaking away here although the water is unusually high. The weather tonight feels more like early in March than the latter part of April.

Hon. J. A. Murray, minister of agriculture and acting minister of lands and mines, arrived from Sussex this evening to join Hon. George Clarke, acting premier, who arrived here last evening for the meeting of the provincial government, which opens tomorrow.

The board of school trustees this afternoon awarded the contract for new brick school building on Smythe street, to May Moses Mitchell, contract price being upwards of \$32,000. The second lowest tender was that of R. A. Corbett, of St. John. J. Fred Ryan of this city also tendered. The building is to be completed by December 1st.

The St. John River is clear of solid ice this afternoon the entire distance from Grand Falls down to Bear Island about 22 miles above Fredericton.

The ice has been running as far down as the head of Macnaquag Island, 14 miles above the city. A tremendous jam has formed there and extended at noon today as far up river as Bear Island.

The big jam is already eight miles long and the tremendous pressure of ice running the entire length of the river as far as Grand Falls with a heavy current behind it is expected to cause the ice on the lower river to make a move at an earlier date than expected.

Those who keep close tabs on the water and ice at this season of the year were surprised this morning when word reached here that the ice had been running throughout the night from Grand Falls down to such a short distance above Fredericton. The St. John River Log Driving Company's officials were taken completely unawares.

DROPPED DEAD ON STREET IN HAMILTON

Hamilton, April 21.—Mrs. James Kliney, Detroit, who came to Hamilton today to attend the funeral of her nephew, Leon Ward, who was electrocuted near Brantford, dropped dead on King street, near James street this evening.