

AMERICAN FORCES IN COMPLETE POSSESSION OF VERA CRUZ THREE THOUSAND MARINES, BACKED BY FIRE FROM WARSHIPS, ROUTED ENEMY



LOADING A TRANSPORT WITH WAR MUNITIONS

Nine hundred marines and plenty of war munitions were loaded on the transport Hancock at New Orleans a few days ago, before the ship left for Tampico. —Photo by Underwood & Underwood.

ENTIRE CONTROL OF VERA CRUZ NOW IN HANDS OF AMERICANS

Consul Canada Sent Despatch Early Yesterday Afternoon That All Resistance by Mexicans Had Ceased — Policy of United States is to "Sit Tight."

Canadian Press Despatch. WASHINGTON, April 22.—The American forces are in complete control of Vera Cruz. No non-combatants were injured in the fighting there. This word was received in a despatch from Consul Canada this afternoon. The White House gave out the following statement: "Despatches received from Consul Canada at Vera Cruz at 1.19 p.m. announced that the American forces are now in complete possession of the city; that apparently no fatalities had happened among American and foreign non-combatants, and that firing had ceased except for occasional picket shots."

Crux, on the part of the United States forces, it was made plain, would be undertaken unless some overt act on the part of Huerta and his followers should precipitate further trouble, and make more aggressive action necessary. Despite the purpose of the administration to confine the operations at Vera Cruz, the situation took on an ominous aspect which indicated that the reports of aroused feeling among the Mexicans, the feeling is here that it may be necessary in the near future to resist active attacks from Mexican federal soldiers. Everything is in readiness for actual warfare if it must come, and congress today took the final step in justifying the president's course thus far.

More Marines Landed. American operations in Mexico at Vera Cruz took on renewed aspects of war today when Rear Admiral Badger landed more marines from the Atlantic fleet and the United States forces proceeded to take the entire city. While the orders of the president were being carried out to the letter it was made apparent in conferences at the White House that the United States will "sit tight" at Vera Cruz, and that no further steps of pacification will be taken at this time. For the present, it was declared on high authority, that the forces at Vera Cruz would hold the city to convince Huerta that the United States government means business, and that no action would be taken at Tampico unless there is retaliatory action on the part of the Huerta government. No orders, it was stated, have been sent to the American officers with reference to landing at Tampico, the only orders being sent there referring to directions for ships sent to Vera Cruz until further notice. To Stay at Vera Cruz. No advancement further than Vera

Expect Active Mexican Attacks. The despatches from Vera Cruz that reached the state department today developed that communication with the American embassy at Mexico City had been completely cut off. Consul Canada said that all efforts to communicate with the embassy were unable to be made since Monday, and from the embassy has not heard since Monday. The absence of news led to various reports that the Huerta government was in a state of confusion and that the situation was becoming more serious. Despatches from Consul Canada stated that the Huerta forces in Vera Cruz had cut off all means of communication with the capital.

FOUR OF WOUNDED SERIOUSLY HURT

One of Injured Marines at Vera Cruz Has Mother in Manitoba.

Canadian Press Despatch. WASHINGTON, April 22.—A corrected list of the Americans killed and wounded in the first fighting at Vera Cruz yesterday was called today by Admiral Fletcher. The list differs in some respects from the first press reports and includes, besides the names of the four killed, the names of Private Haggerty, Private Samuelson, George Fainstet, seaman, and John F. Schumacher, coxswain. The dead are: Private Daniel Aloysius Haggerty, Private Samuelson, George Fainstet, seaman, and John F. Schumacher, coxswain.

PACIFICIST BRYAN IS NOW TARGET

London Paper Makes Ironical Comment on Tactics of Peace Apostle.

Canadian Press Despatch. LONDON, April 22.—The Mexican crisis continues to attract attention here despite the excitement caused by the visit of the King and Queen to Paris. The Morning Post says it will be a striking instance of the irony of fate if the United States finds herself involved in a war with Mexico. The Democratic party is by tradition the champion of the principles of peace, retrenchment and reform, and when it was in opposition was strongly opposed to the annexation of the Philippines and denounced the jingoistic tendencies of Theodore Roosevelt's policy.

MORE MARINES UNDER ORDERS TO GO SOUTH

Canadian Press Despatch. NORFOLK, Va., April 22.—Three hundred marines from the navy yard barracks prepared to leave for Philadelphia to embark on the steamer Morro Castle today for Vera Cruz. The auxiliary vessel, which has been engaged in target practice outside the Virginia Capes, received orders yesterday to stand by for service in Mexico. She planned to get under way for Vera Cruz today. The collier Proteus, now undergoing repairs at the navy yard, was also ordered in readiness to proceed to Mexico by Sunday.

FOUR SERIOUSLY WOUNDED

VERA CRUZ, April 22.—Of the 21 bluejackets and marines wounded yesterday's fighting, four are seriously hurt, according to the report of the surgeons.

HUERTA PROHIBITS CODE MESSAGES

Mexican Dictator Establishes Strict Censorship Over All Despatches.

PEOPLE KEPT IN DARK

Rebel Victories Are Turned Into Rebel Defeats by Papers.

Canadian Press Despatch. MEXICO, April 15, via Havana, April 22.—The following despatch was sent by mail to Havana in order to avoid the censorship established by Gen. Huerta, which is more strict than at any time during recent revolutions: Every telegraph wire, commercial, railroad or cable, is watched over by officers in military and intelligence men in the government telegraph service, who acts as censor. These men frankly informed would-be senders of despatches that they were not a question of the veracity of their messages, nor whether they disclose military movements, but merely a question of suppressing news not favorable to the government. Code messages have been absolutely prohibited with the exception only of bank telegrams. The bankers of Mexico succeeded in getting their messages on these messages raised, but only after they had proved that the retention of the despatches was seriously embarrassing the financial department of the government. Newspaper correspondents were given the hint that if they were detected in using subterfuges to evade their affairs in total ignorance of the government. While Nelson O'Shaughnessy was acting as the messenger of the United States government in the endeavor to avert war between the two countries, more than 99 per cent. of the Mexican residents in the federal capital went about their affairs in total ignorance of the crisis. Gen. Huerta and his official family cleverly concealed even from their intimate friends all knowledge of strained relations between Mexico and the United States, and the general public was even more in the dark since the press, controlled by the government, published columns of glowing accounts of victories gained by the federal armies in the north. Reports of federal successes said to have occurred at places far beyond the limits of the telegraph lines were printed broadcast. One despatch announced with great display that Gen. Villa had been captured. Railways Stopped Carrying Freight. Considerable apprehension has been aroused in the capital by the movements of Emiliano Zapata, the rebel leader in the south, who after gaining undisputed possession of the state of Guerrero with the exception of the port of Acapulco, has shown indications of moving northward. These reports, which have recently gained considerably in numbers, and it is feared they may become formidable enough to venture an attack on the federal capital.

REFUSED TO SEE INVADER'S ENVOY

Mexican Chosen for Task Was Not Able to See Mayor.

REFUGEES INCREASE

Non-Combatants Took Advantage of Lull to Board Steamer.

Canadian Press Despatch. VERA CRUZ, April 22.—The number of foreign refugees on board the Esperanza was increased today when several people, mostly Americans, took advantage of the lull in the fighting during the early hours to go on board that vessel. The captain of the German steamer Ypiranga, which brought the arms and ammunition here for Gen. Huerta's government, today reported to Rear Admiral Fletcher his willingness to take on board all refugees for whom he had room. The rear admiral thanked him, but informed him that there was still space left on board the Esperanza. Rear Admiral Fletcher's note, sent to the local officials, calling on them to co-operate with the American officers in the restoration of order by calling off snipers and by resuming immediately the local government, could not be delivered. A Persistent Envoy. Julio Franco, the Mexican chosen by American Consul Canada to be the bearer of the message, was unable to communicate with any of the federal officials, and only the mayor, Roberto Diaz, could be located. When Franco tried to communicate with the mayor he was refused admission by Mexican guards stationed at the door. Franco then crawled over the roof of an adjoining building into the court of the Diaz residence but he did not succeed in seeing the mayor. Senator Diaz refused to leave his bedroom, so Consul Canada's messenger shouted the contents of Rear Admiral Fletcher's note to the mayor, and personally appealed to him to yield to order to save the city from bombardment by the American ships, reminding him of the grave risk to which the families of Mexicans and all other women in the city would be put. The unwillingness of storekeepers to keep their places open and the almost total depletion of supplies at the restaurants where the proprietors had to continue doing business, made it difficult for anyone except the American fighting forces to obtain anything to eat, tobacco is another commodity of which the supply has practically become exhausted.

CONFIRMS REPORT OF VILLA'S WOUND

Canadian Lecturer, Now in Mexico, Writes to Rev. Dr. Creighton.

IS A GALLANT SOLDIER

G. H. Schoof Says Constitutionalist General is a True Patriot.

Confirmation of the report that Gen. Villa was wounded in the battle of Torreon is contained in a letter received by Rev. Dr. Creighton of the Christian Guardian from G. H. Schoof, a Canadian lecturer, well-known in Methodist circles. Writing recently from San Diego, Cal., he says: "I have just returned from an expedition into the State of Lower California, Mexico, with a small party of constitutional soldiers, sent to urge the governor to hand the state over to General Carranza. The entire program was carried out to perfection, and the state now belongs to the constitutionalists. This was accomplished without firing a shot. At a meeting of the junta a wounded officer from the battle of Torreon gave us the latest news. It was the biggest battle ever fought in Mexico. The constitutionalists lost 3000 killed and wounded; the federalists a great many more, besides 2000 prisoners. Gen. Villa was wounded while leading his cavalry, but fought on until over from the field. Gen. Villa destroyed all the liquor and enforced temperance. He himself does not drink or smoke. He is a total abstainer. He is fighting for the rights of the people. The poor love him; the rich fear him. He is a true patriot, and he is a great man. General Carranza and Villa are good friends, and will be masters of Mexico within sixty days if the powers will leave them alone. Since the battle of Torreon, the constitutional battle has gone up from 25c to 60c on the dollar."

MOBILIZING TO RESIST INVASION

Federal Troops Are Being Mustered at Saltillo by General Maas.

COMPLETE INVESTMENT

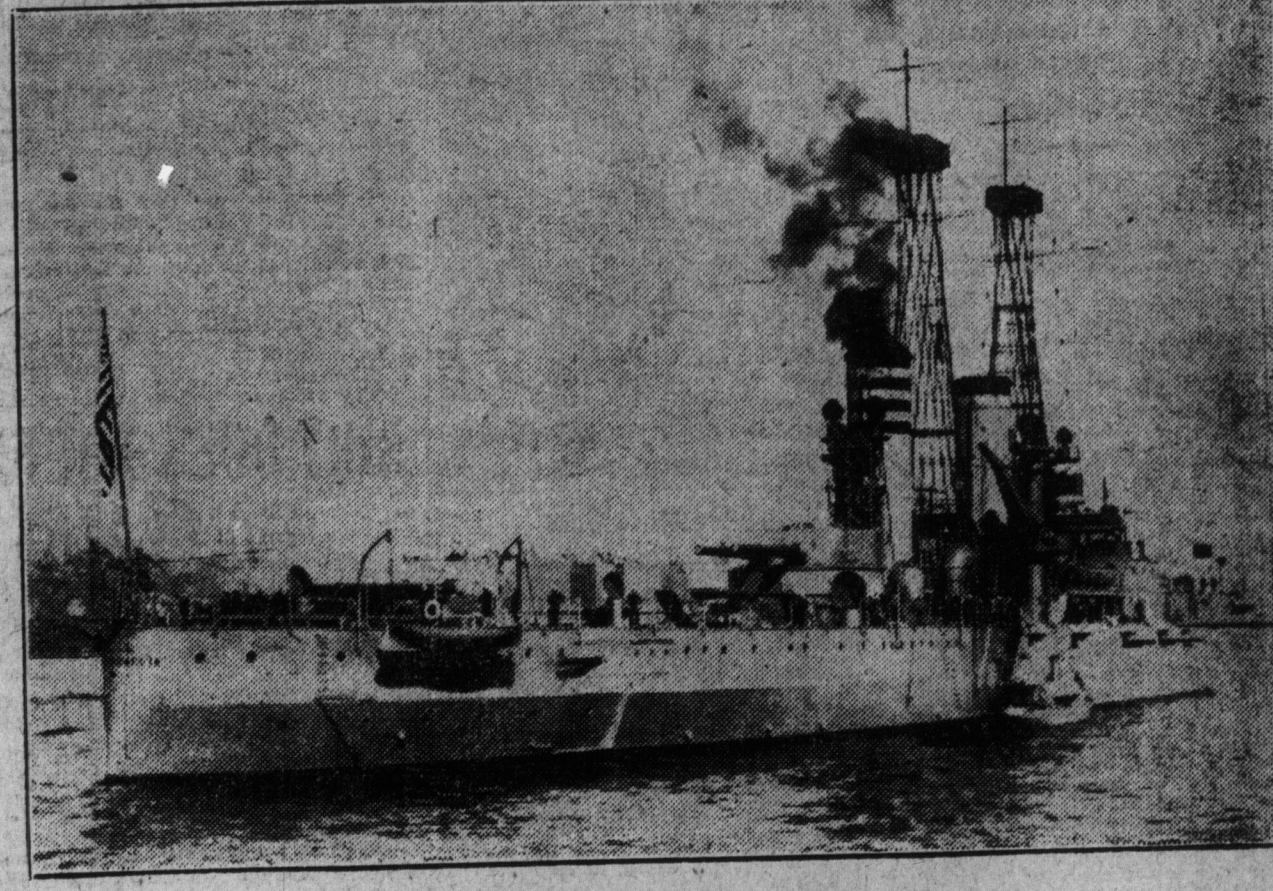
At a conference on board the battleship Arkansas, Rear-Admiral Badger and Fletcher decided this morning to complete the investment of Vera Cruz.

NO MORE GERMAN WARSHIPS

BERLIN, April 22.—The German government has no intention of sending an additional warship to Mexican waters, according to an official announcement made here today.

FOREIGNERS LEAVE MEXICO CITY

GALVESTON, April 22.—Communication was established this afternoon with Mexico City. O'Shaughnessy is safe and the city is completely in the hands of the federal government. A train leaves this afternoon for Vera Cruz with foreigners on board, and will be escorted by federalists.



OFF TO JOIN UNITED STATES FLEET AT TAMPICO
The big gray fighter, North Dakota, of the United States fleet, which is speeding under full steam to join the other ships of the United States fleet in the blockade of Tampico. —Photo by Underwood & Underwood.

PLENTY OF MONEY TO FINANCE FIGHT

Uncle Sam Could Scarcely Feel Burden of War With Mexico.

NO SPECIAL TAXES

Washington Officials Have Not Considered Plans for Raising More Funds.

WASHINGTON, April 22.—That the United States could finance a war with Mexico and scarcely feel it, is the view authoritatively expressed here today. The finances of the government are considered to be in excellent condition—so good, in fact, that even the treasury officials, who are in closest touch with the situation, have given only tentative consideration to the subject of providing a war fund. It was said today that no plans for raising money yet, had been considered, as current appropriations for the navy and army, in the view of the officials, would be sufficient for present needs, and as it would cost no more to maintain the fleet in Mexican waters than in United States waters. Beer and Stamps Tax Available. In the event of extraordinary expenses, which would arise naturally during a state of war, money could be raised, it is pointed out, precisely as it was raised during the Spanish-American war. It has been estimated that a beer and stamp tax would increase the revenues of the government by at least \$100,000,000 a year. Imposition of such taxes would have to be made by congress, but it is expected there would be no hesitancy either in the house or in the senate to re-enact certain parts of the revenue measure of the Spanish-American war. It can be said that a new issue of bonds is not in contemplation. At present, lying in the treasury are Panama bonds which may be sold at any time to reimburse the treasury for expenses incurred in the construction of the Panama Canal. Of the \$375,200,000 of Panama bonds authorized, only \$134,651,980 have been issued. The balance could be issued at the pleasure of the president and Secretary McAdoo.

MARINES AIDED BY WARSHIPS EASILY DROVE MEXICANS BACK

Guns of Prairie, Chester and San Francisco Shattered Enemy's Defences, and Desultory Firing From House Tops Did Little Damage.

Canadian Press Despatch. VERA CRUZ, April 22.—Rear-Admiral Fletcher at 8.30 o'clock in the morning ordered a general movement for the occupation of all the town. A column of bluejackets advanced and passed the unoccupied market-place and Naval College. When they had reached the walls of the college a terrific rifle fire was poured in all directions from the roof and the windows. The bluejackets were helpless to return the fire against the stone walls and scattered. The Prairie, Chester and San Francisco opened with their five and six-inch guns and shattered the walls. The bluejackets reformed and advanced against the wall, which had diminished greatly. By 10 o'clock there was only desultory firing from the insular side of the town. The bluejackets had made their way along the waterfront to the southern end of the town and cleared several streets, but the sniping from houses continued at intervals. The scout cruiser Chester pounded buildings on the outskirts with six-inch shells, firing over the heads of the men ashore, and showing almost perfect marksmanship. Converged on Main Plaza. The positions taken yesterday began in the direction of the main plaza. The marines under Lieut.-Col. Wendell C. Neville, moved to the southward along parallel streets toward the centre, while the marines commanded by Lieut.-Commander Buchanan, of Florida, and Lieut.-Commander Arthur B. Keating, of the Arkansas, were ordered from their positions east of the centre towards the plaza. The two forces swung forward with a rush for a distance of three blocks. The machine gun and rifle fire was supplemented by shell fire from the smaller guns of the Prairie and Chester. The ships' guns supported the movement of clearing the roofs to the south and east, occasionally dropping a shell a few hundred yards in advance. No Organized Resistance. Buchanan's men, under direct command of Lieut. Guy W. O. Castle, moved forward to a position on block directly east of the plaza. Other detachments occupied positions to the north and west. Both marines and bluejackets dragged light field pieces, but there was little work for them. There was absolutely no organized resistance, but from the very beginning of the advance a smart fire came from the defenders on the houses, which invariably drew a merciless fire from the advancing parties. The machine guns sounded, their "tut-tut" call the houses, and American sharpshooters, posted at street corners and other points of vantage, picked off at will any man who appeared to them acting suspiciously.

CONGRESS ACTED WITHOUT DEMUR

Resolution as Sent From Senate Was Adopted in Formal Manner.

TO VERA CRUZ

Note Sent by Consul Canada Had a Reassuring Effect.

Canadian Press Despatch. WASHINGTON, April 22.—Without debate and without the formality of a roll call the house today concurred in the administration's Mexican resolution, as adopted by the senate. On the viva voce vote the "ayes" were the pronounced majority. A few negative votes were heard here and there on the Republican side when Speaker Clark put the question. It will reach the White House during the afternoon. The policy of the United States in Mexico became clearer today. A policy of closest co-operation with the Constitutionalists has been decided upon. Wilson's message to congress was a distinct concession to the Constitutionalists. He refrained from mention of outrages against Americans and other foreigners in Mexico simply because to do so would force the action of the United States to be directed against the Constitutionalists in the north as well as against the Huerta government. At considerable political sacrifice, Wilson made the Tampico incident practically the sole pretext for the present move against Huerta. This message was telegraphed to Gen. Carranza. It was calculated to make a decidedly favorable impression with him, since it made it entirely clear that the action of the United States is against Huerta and not against the cause which Carranza is promoting. President Wilson cannot feel secure of friendship or even of neutrality of Carranza.

NO SPECIAL MONEY FOR WAR

WASHINGTON, April 22.—Majority Leader Underwood announced today that he did not expect the house to act on any bill appropriating money for war purposes in Mexico at the present time. "We have plenty of money now," he said. "The president expects to march to Mexico City," said Mr. Underwood. "As far as I know the president has no such intention."