FOUR AMERICANS KILLED AND TWENTY WOUNDED IN FIRST CLASH IN MEXICO

U.S. NATIONAL GUARD IN NO CONDITION TO TAKE THE FIELD

AMERICAN FLAG FLIES OVER CITY

Four Men Were Killed and Twenty Wounded at Vera Cruz.

FIRING IS DESULTORY

Mexicans Are Using Rifles and Artillery From the House Tops.

Canadian Press Despatch.

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 custom house, raised 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 6 p.m. At first the garrison had appeared to be withdrawing. American Consul Canada reported this to the state department at 5 o'clock, but when the American forces reached the custom 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 housetops and along the streets.

The American forces have taken possession of the cable office and hold the American consulate and the section of the city in the vicinity of the wharves.

BITTER COMMENT BY GERMAN PAPER

American Colossus May Become Even Greater Menace, It is Stated.

Canadian Press Despatch.

BERLIN, April 21.—The Post this morning closes a bitter anti-American editorial with the following words:

"Germany has no reason to desire an American victory. The American colossu swould thereby grow still more gigantic and become more dangerous for us economically thin it already is."

The Post declares that the United States has for decades had an eye on its southern neighbor and has increased its influence by argument, trickery and force, until "political aspirations have joined what were formerly only economic purposes. It repeats the assertion that "the United States is back of the downfall of Diaz and Madero," and that "the comedy is about to become a tragedy, involving Mexico's struggle for freedom and independence."

The Voraerts declares that the pretext for American intervention in Mexico is trifling, and adds: "If the United States gains its end, the result wil be that Mexico will become more than ever the domain of American trusts—the delectable result of the policy of a Democratic president who has always boasted so loudly of his opposition to capitalism."

The press generally emphasizes the difficulties a war would bring to the United States on account of guerilla bands and the character of the country.

WILSON ORDERED MARINES TO LAND

(Continued From Page 1.)

taken and contemplated by the United States.

A General Warning

The British ambassador stated Secretary Bryan had issued a general warning to all foreigners in Mexico to leave the country, and that he, Ambassador Spring Rice, wished British citizens would do so. He indicated that the treatment of British subjects and the consideration for their safety by the United States was all that could be asked.

During the conference between Secretary Bryan and the diplomats, Secretary Daniels was conferring with his aids and chiefs of divisions and bureaus, sending out telegrams ordering officers and ships to duty.

It was during this part of the afternoon that reports began circulating thru the navy department of the landing of the marines.

To every enquiry Secretary Daniels said he could not discuss the matter then. He did say the department and the administration had not received any despatches from Admirals Badger and Fletcher.

About 4 o'clock Mr. Daniels said he had ordered Rear Admiral Mayo and all of his divisions of ships and men, with the exception of the cruiser Desmoines, to Vera Cruz to reinforce the ships there under Rear Admiral Fletcher. He said Admiral Badger had been ordered to change his course and proceed direct to Vera Cruz.

Later this order was changed and Mayo was directed to remain at Tampico.

Ceased to Worry.

Secretary Daniels, after a conference with his aide, Admirals Fiske and Blue, said the name of the Hamburg American steamer carrying arms to Huerta was the Iraquano, and the vessel was due at Vera Cruz today. He did not know the hour the ship was due, but indicated plainly the administration had ceased to worry regarding the delivery of the cargo of arms and ammunition.

After the arrival of the first message short despatches continued to be received from Admiral Fletcher until midnight.

NO PEACEFUL OCCUPATION TO BE ALLOWED BY MEXICO

Stubborn Resistance Was Put Up Against Americans When They Landed at Vera Cruz, Which Was Captured With Loss of Several Men.

Canadian Press Despatch.

VERA CRUZ, April 21.—The Americans have captured Vera Cruz, but at the cost of the lives of several men and a much larger number wounded.

The Mexicans, under Gen. Maas, the commandant of Vera Cruz, put up a stubborn resistance. Gen. Maas challenged the advance of the Americans almost from the first, and made it clear that the Mexicans do not propose to permit a peaceful occupation.

Less than half an hour after leaving the side of the United States transport Prairie, the marines had landed, and the absence of resistance at the waterfront, and failure on the part of the Mexicans to contest the taking of a position somewhat in from the waterfront, caused the curious spectators in the street to laugh, and when one Mexican peon ran for cover, having had the temerity to shout at the top of his voice, "Viva Mexico," loud guffaws came from the onlookers.

But the lull was not indicative of compliance. A few shots came within a few minutes, and later a brief exchange, and the spectators whose curiosity alone brought them into the streets, lingered, thinking it was only a show of resistance. But after another brief interval, fighting in earnest began, and hour after hour the Mexicans continued to oppose the Americans fiercely in some quarters, altho the main body apparently seemed ready to quit.

Most of the firing was done by outpost parties placed on roofs of houses at various points of vantage, whose only choice was to keep on firing or surrender.

The guns of the Prairie assisted the landing party. Towards evening the fighting continued, but it was more of a house-top character than a determined organized resistance.

Finally, the Mexican soldiers who had not been captured, killed or wounded, retreated westward.

GENERAL MAAS CALLED UPON TO SURRENDER TO INVADERS

Capt. Rush, in Command of Landing Party, Reluctant to Lose More Men in Charging Mexican Position—General Bombardment May Be Carried Out.

Canadian Press Despatch.

VERA CRUZ, April 21.—With all the eastern side of the city occupied and also the tracks of the railway as far west as the roundhouse near the western edge on the northern side, and with the Mexicans unable to do more than keep up an annoying, but ineffective fire from housetops, Captain Rush, at 4.20 o'clock this afternoon, sent under a flag of truce a messenger chosen from among the natives to Gen. Maas, or whoever happened to be in command, to ask if he was not ready to surrender.

It was learned that unless the Mexicans yielded Captain Rush had his choice of continuing the fighting under the tactics he was using or of charging all positions, or of calling on the warships for a bombardment. Captain Rush was loath to resort to a bombardment, and on the other hand did not desire to lose any more of his men by charges. He recognized that the tactics of the Mexicans might leave the housetop fighters in their positions indefinitel yand that it was not impossible that those who were sniping from the roofs might be reinforced by others of their kind during the night.

The messenger was told to remind Gen. Maas that while there were ashore at that time only a few more than 1000 men there would be available for the American forces by morning some 10,000. It was left to Gen. Maas to draw his own inference from this message.

LIBERALS RESENT LAW'S CHARGES

Demand That Unionist Leader Substantiate or Withdraw His Accusations.

Canadian Associated Press Cable.

LONDON, Wednesday, April 22.—The Liberal members, almost to a man, are feeling exceedingly sore over the charges made yesterday against Premier Asquith by Leader of the Opposition Law, and the fault will not rest with them if the whole matter is not discussed "on an early day." Last night notice of a resolution, signed by a large number of Liberal back-benchers, was given, and it is expected that the prime minister will grant the desired facilities.

The resolution is to the effect that in the opinion of the house the leader of the opposition should substantiate or withdraw without delay in the house the charges of falsehood which he has brought against the prime minister. Substantially the same offere was made to the opposition by the prime minister yesterday, but, so far, the Unionist members have refused to commit themselves to the "proffered day." Their position seems to be, not that they are apprehensive of not being able to meet the charges as is suggested, but that they want to know the contents of the promised white paper before deciding what line of action to take.

AMATEURS AT PARK THEATRE.

There will be bigger surprises in store for the amateurs who will perform at the Park Theatre tonight than the Mexicans received at the hands of the Americans in their first encounter. Twelve amateurs will appear in addition to the six regular acts of vaudeville and the four photo plays shown.

HAMILTON HOTELS.

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ARMED STRIKERS HAVE DISAPPEARED

Militia Now in Possession of Railroad in Ludlow District.

THE DEAD NUMBER FIVE

No Trace Reported of Reinforcement of Strikers From the North.

Canadian Press Despatch.

TRINIDAD, Colo., April 21.—Hundreds of armed strikers who yesterday fought for fourteen hours with state troops in the Ludlow district had disappeared this morning, and quiet prevailed in and about the strikers' demolished tent colony. The 100 militiamen who opposed the strikers were in possession of the railroad tracks from the steel bridge to a point near the burned colony. Reinforcements from Lamar and Walsenburg swelled the number of soldiers on the ground to 160.

The list of identified dead was increased to five, and it seemed certain that at least as many more fell in yesterday's fighting. No trace of a large body of armed strikers which last night was reported to be rushing to the aid of the Ludlow strikers was seen. They are thought to be in the hills west and north of Ludlow, but the groups are believed to be so broken up that no concentrated attack will be made.

RULES GOVERNING THE WAR GAME

WASHINGTON, April 21.—The rules under which Admiral Badger's battleships may attack Vera Cruz or Tampico are laid down strictly by international law, adopted by the civilized nations of the world at the second peace conference held at The Hague, in 1907. The rules follow:

"Article xxv.: The attack or bombardment, by whatever means, of towns, villages or buildings, which are undefended, is prohibited.

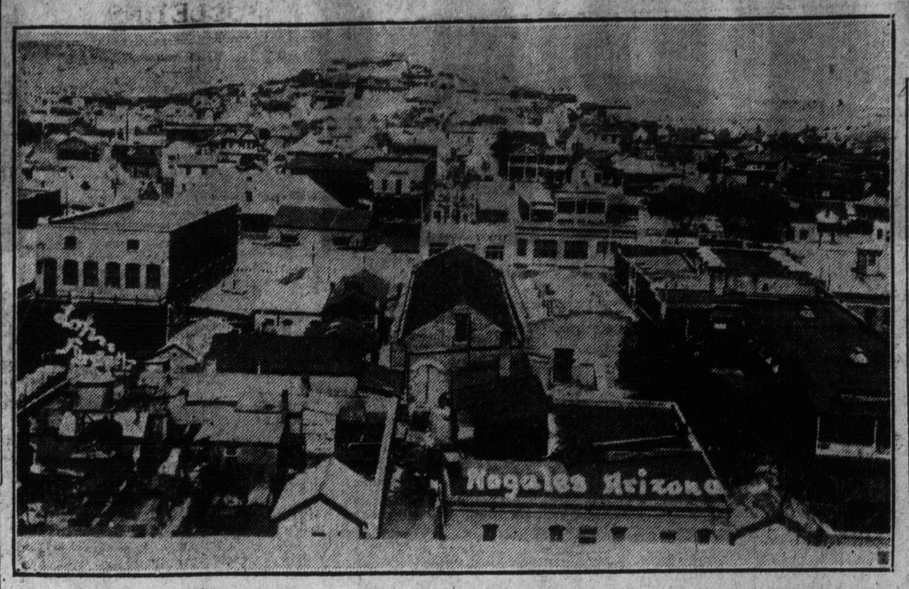
"Article xxvi.: The officer in command of an attacking force must, before commencing a bombardment, except in cases of assault, do all in his power to warn the authorities.

"Article xxvii.: In sieges and bombardments all necessary steps must be taken to spare, so far as possible, buildings dedicated to religion, art, science or charitable purposes, historic monuments, hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided that they are not being used at the time for military purposes. It is the duty of the besieged to indicate the presence of such buildings or places by distinctive and visible signs."

ADMIRAL BADGER GOES TO TAMPICO ON ORDER

Canadian Press Despatch.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—The navy department announced tonight that Admiral Badger, who is on the flagship Arkansas, has been ordered from Vera Cruz to Tampico. The ships which have arrived with him—the Louisiana, New Hampshire, Vermont, New Jersey, South Carolina and Michigan—will be divided according to his direction.



NEED MEN, GUNS, HORSES TO PLACE NATIONAL GUARD ON WAR FOOTING

Practically Every Unit is Under Strength and None of the Divisions Are Properly Balanced---Would Be Murder, Says Authority, to Send Men Into Field Under Inefficient Officers.

Special to The Toronto World.

WASHINGTON, April 21. — Considerable uneasiness prevails over the announcement that the National Guard is not by any means as strongly and efficiently manned as has heretofore been thought. It was made known today that, despite the fact that the latest returns at the war department show a strength of 9130 officers and 111,672 rank and file, it is estimated only half this number would be available after the troops had been subjected to a medical test and married men with families eliminated. In most cases at least half of the infantry units would have to be filled up with raw recruits, tho at present there is no dearth of applicants for enrolment with the colors.

Officers who are in possession of the facts declare that in each New York regiment an average of about 800 recruits would be required to bring it up to war service. Not a single regiment has its full quota of officers, and there are at least half a dozen battalions who only possess a commissioned establishment of 50 per cent.

In addition, there are many unqualified officers, including some absolutely unfit for command, even in New York, which is supposed to set the standard for National Guard efficiency. Some of these officers would be weeded out, it is said, as it would be considered little less than murder to send men to the front under an incompetent leader.

Brigadier-General A. L. Mills, U. S. A., chief of the division of military affairs, war department, says that none of the divisions is properly balanced with the requisite troops of different arms.

"The greatest deficiency," he declares, "is in field artillery. It is upon field artillery that the infantry is mainly dependent for success in a battle. If the present so-called divisions are ever pitted against equal forces, adequately provided with field artillery—and all foreign countries are so provided—we are doomed to defeat."

At the present time there are lacking to make up the proper quota of troops in the different divisions of the National Guard: 80 batteries of field artillery, 70 troops of cavalry, 17 companies of engineers, 8 signal companies, 26 field hospitals, 32 ambulance companies, 12 ammunition trains, 12 supply trains and 12 pack trains.

"If we go to war tomorrow," said a prominent officer, "the National Guard could not take their place in the field until they had at least three months of hardening in drill camps."

ASQUITH HELPED BY NATIONALISTS

Welsh Disestablishment Bill Again Supported, But Majority is Shrinking.

Canadian Associated Press Cable.

LONDON, Wednesday, April 22.—The government is completely satisfied with last night's division on the Welsh disestablishment bill, altho compared with last year's figures there is a drop of fifteen votes.

The figures were: For the bill 349, against 265. Two Liberals abstained from voting, and one of them, Sir E. Beauchamp, vote dagainst the bill. The Irish Nationalists attended in full force, no fewer than seventy of them supporting the government. This marks the third succeeding session in which the commons has affirmed the principle of the present measure. It now only remains for the bill to be read a third time and be submitted to the lords one month before the session is thru to give it the privileges of the Parliament Act.

AVIATORS KEEN TO SERVE IN MEXICO

Corps Placed at Service of the United States War Office.

NEW YORK, April 21.—Mortimer Delano, acting commandant of the First Provisional Aviation Corps, has placed the corps at the sehvices of the war office in a letter to Secretary of War Garrison. The corps includes every aviator of note in the country, and includes aeroplane apd hydroplane pilots and students, balloon pilots, gas engine engineers, etc., and is fully equipped. The letter says, in part:

"I have the honor to offer for service the organization of the First Phovisional Aviation Corps, headquarters in New York. The corps naturally would prefer to retain its identity by enlisting as a body, but should this not be in accord with your ideas, your disposition of its units will meet with hearty concurrence."

VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZED TO RESIST INVASION

Canadian Press Despatch.

EAGLE PASS, Texas, April 21.—At a mass meeting of Mexican citizens in Piedras, Negras, today, five hundred volunteers were organized and armed to resist what they called the expected invasion by the United States. Federals occupy Piedras Negras.

IRISH HUMORISTS CAPTIVATE CROWD

Brilliant Comedy and Tragedy Depicted on Same Stage by Company.

While the audience was not large the success of the Irish Players at the Princess last night was more unqualified than on Monday. The gain to Toronto in affording by the censoring of "Blanco Posnet," the opportunity of seeing Synge's wonderful "Riders to the Sea," was something to be grateful for. It is a little picture lifted completely out of the tragic life of the fisher people of the west coast of Ireland.

"The most perfect piece of poetry I ever saw on the stage," was the remark of a Canadian literary man, as the audience passed out. Following this came the most brilliant piece of comedy Toronto has seen this season, which kept the audience in roars of laughter over the avaricious humor of the old woman the hipocrisy of her son, the prize hypocrite since Dickens' celebrated architect; the shrewd and sharp-tongued granddaughter, and the two neighbors collecting for the erection of the new parish church. The acting of the company in these pieces is beyond praise for its lifelike and natural character, and the quaint language, racy and graphic, as in no other part of the empire, grips its hearers. What could be more searching than the girl's account of the old miser's death—"Gone without priest or prayer, gone efore her Maker with her two arms clutched about the world!" The performance closed whth Lady Gregory's little comedy gem, "The Rising of the Moon." This program will be repeated Friday and Saturday evenings.

MAN KILLED IN FALL OF BUGGY

Andrew Craig of Wiarton Lost Life — Companion May Die.

WIARTON, April 21.—When starting home from town at 11 o'clock last night Mr. Andrew Greig and William Davidson, who were driving a blind horse, took the wrong turn at the top of the hill and drove back over the rock, falling about 15 feet.

Mr. Greig was instantly killed and Mr. Davidson may die.

BURGLARS RIFLE STENCIL STORE

Only Got Away With Numbering Machines Worth Fifty Dollars.

Entering by means of a rear window, thieves ransacked the premises of the Canada Stamp and Stencil Co., at 153 Victoria street, Saturday night last. In their search for money they tore open all the desk drawers and cash registers, but the only goods missing are about fifty dollars' worth of automatic numbering machines. From spots of blood on the rear window which was forced, it seems that one of the burglars injured his hand in gaining entrance.

NEW YORK PRESS GIVES OPINIONS

Wilson's Wise and Temperate Policy Receives Favorable Mention.

FACTIONAL WARFARE?

American Says Huerta Ought to Feel Very Highly Flattered.

Canadian Press Despatch.

NEW YORK, April 21.—Commenting editorially on President Wilson's message on the Mexican situation, delivered to congress yesterday afternoon, The Herald says:

"Now we have the spectacle presented of a nation going to war without a cheer and without a note of martial music, because it is to war that the United States is going, and to call it by any other name will avail little. No one can read President Wilson's address to congress without realizing the extreme reluctance of the president to take the course which circumstances have forced upon him. It is perhaps the most unpleasant task President Wilson has ever performed.

"How careful the president is in making a step of this sort is shown by the fact that he took it to congress for its approval when he need not have taken it there at all, but could have acted entirely within his constitutional powers as president. If any criticism can be made of the president it is that he did not allow the matter to rest in the hands of the rear-admiral commanding the naval forces at Tampico."

Leave North Alone.

The Tribune says: "Until it appears that the people of Mexico are behind Huerta in his refusal to make adequate reparation for the Tampico incident we should not assume that our rupture with Huerta requires us to take measures affecting the whole of Mexico. There is no warrant at present for treating northern Mexico as hostile territory. It has thrown off Huerta's yoke. It should not be held accountable for his diplomacy. If the constitutionalists should be left free to occupy Saltillo and Monterey and to seize northern ports on the gulf and Nazatlan and Guaymas on the Pacific, the commerce of Mexico would have an outlet and an inlet thru ports under anti-Huertista jurisdiction.

"The Wilson administratiot sadly misjudged this problem when it was one of diplomacy, pure and simple. Having failed with the diplomatic method it has had to turn to the method of police intervention. It is a positive relief that the fatuous policy of 'watchful waiting' has been abandoned and that a more promising policy of intelligent action has been adopted. The country will stand behind the president in his new effort to smooth out an intolerable situation in Mexico, and will wish him far greater success now that his rocking chair diplomatic problem has become a more urgent diplomatic military one."

Wise and Temperate.

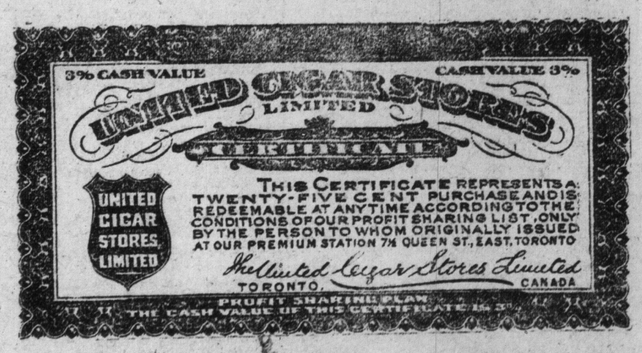
The Times says: "The president's wise and temperate words, and his scrupulously constitutional procedure will increase the confidence reposed in him by the American people. It is of good augury that the Hotspurs of the senate and house found the president's statement too calm and dispassionate for their warlike temper. We could not have a safer leader in this venture, unpleasant at best, but not to be honorably avoided."

The American says: "What is the precise purpose for which President Wilson has asked the use of the army and navy in Mexico and in Mexican waters? Is it merely to engage in a factional warfare? To throw the power of the United States into the balance with one of the factions that have been ravaging that country?

"In his address to congress President Wilson laid great stress upon the assertion that no war with Mexico is contemplated, that we have no quarrel with the people of Mexico, and that the sole issue which has set our entire fleet en voyage for Mexico is Huerta. That convivial tho stubborn old savage ought to feel mightily flattered. Perhaps never since the days of Napoleon were such prodigious preparations made to crush one man."

WILL DISCUSS HYDRO RADIALS

STRATFORD, Ont., April 21.—Wednesday, April 29, has been selected for a meeting of the Hydro-Radial Union of the district. The gathering will be held in Stratford in the afternoon, and delegates from all the municipalities in Perth and adjoining counties will be invited to send delegates.



SAVE THEM!

THEY ARE VALUABLE