

U. S. TROOPS IN FIRST CLASH WITH MEXICANS

Mexicans Demand Possession of the Water Works, but Retire When Funston Hurries Reinforcements to the Outpost—The Mexicans Holding a Position Beyond the Vera Cruz Water Plant.

THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS.

Officials of the War Department discussed last night dispatches from General Funston concerning the hostile attitude of the Mexican army about Vera Cruz, in view of which the General asked for instructions.

Huerta's race seems to be nearly run. Leading Mexicans in Vera Cruz say he is willing to retire from the provisional presidency if assured safe conduct to a port and placed upon a foreign warship.

The feeling against the Huerta government is increasing in Mexico City and the dictator is becoming apprehensive for his personal safety.

While forces of Huerta's troops continue in the vicinity of Vera Cruz and snatch every opportunity to prevent food supplies getting into the American occupied city the strictest orders were issued yesterday to the American soldiers to remain in the same positions and not to advance or bring on an encounter with the Mexicans.

Refugees from Mexico City at Vera Cruz assert that the Mexican residents at the capital fear the coming of the bandit chief, Villa, with his army more than they do the Americans.

It is generally accepted that the United States government will select someone outside of the official circle to be its delegate to advise with the South American mediators.

United States Consul Stadders arrived at San Diego, Cal., from Manzanillo and reported to the State Department that Mexicans burned the flags of the consulate and gave him and his 259 American fellow-refugees forty-eight hours to leave the country.

General Carranza has written a letter to the mediators, formally declining to agree to an armistice, which he says would be convenient to the rebel cause and to the advantage of Huerta.

OFFICIALS ARE APPREHENSIVE

Renewal of Mexican Attack Seems Probable.

TROOPS ARE ON GUARD.

The Mexican Commander, Under a Flag of Truce, Demanded the Surrender of the Water-works.

Washington, D. C.—A detachment of several hundred Mexican Federal soldiers advanced on the waterworks outside Vera Cruz and made an attempt to destroy the water supply of the city.

A report from General Funston said a few scattered shots had been fired at the American troops guarding the waterworks outside Vera Cruz, but no one was killed or injured. Reinforcements reached the scene, but were not needed and later returned to Vera Cruz.

Secretary Garrison made public the dispatch from General Funston, which said the Mexican Federals at El Tejar had demanded the surrender of the waterworks at Vera Cruz.

The works were protected by two companies of American marines and, the dispatch stated, a detachment of Mexicans about 500 strong appeared under a flag of truce and warned the American forces to withdraw and surrender their position within 10 minutes.

An appeal for reinforcements immediately was made to General Funston and additional troops were sent to protect the works. In the meantime, however, a few scattering shots were fired by the Mexicans, who retreated and disappeared when the reinforcements arrived.

General Funston, in a second dispatch, advised Secretary Garrison that the Mexican troops were no longer in sight and that the reinforcements sent out were returning, with the exception of two companies which were left at the pumping station and another which was ordered to guard a railway bridge.

When Colonel Van Vleet and Colonel Lejeune, with their supports, arrived at the waterworks station Major Russell and his men were not at all hard pressed.

The Mexicans had contented themselves with a scattering fire, consisting of not more than four or five shots at a range of about 1,500 yards.

From Major Russell's lines only one shot was fired.

General orders had been given for the American troops not to assume the offensive and not to fire at all unless attacked.

While no fear is felt by the army authorities in Vera Cruz that the Mexican troops will make a serious attack, it is realized that considerable inconvenience soon will be created unless something is done to open the roads into those districts where garden and dairy products come from.

FEW REFUGEES IN MONTEREY.

Not 25 Americans Remain There, Brownsville Hears.

Brownsville, Texas.—Fewer than 25 Americans remain in Monterey, according to refugees who arrived here. Many other foreigners, including Germans and Spanish, are coming out. The Constitutionists, it is reported, have levied against Monterey interests to the amount of 5,000,000 pesos for war purposes.

WOULD SOLVE WHOLE PROBLEM

Mediators Propose to Try to Pacify All Mexico.

TALK OF A NEW PRESIDENT

Diplomats in Washington Believe That Huerta Intends Taking a More Direct Hand in Mediation Matter.

Washington, D. C.—The three South American envoys who have undertaken the task of pacifying Mexico by diplomacy made another decisive move in their plan by requesting the United States Government, General Huerta and General Carranza to appoint representatives to confer with them in Washington.

Ambassador de Gama, of Brazil, and Ministers Naon and Suarez, of Argentina and Chile, respectively, called on Secretary Bryan asking him to designate the United States representative to attend conferences of the mediators. At the same time they telegraphed the head of the Government in Mexico City, as well as the Constitutionalist chief, to the same effect.

No announcement of the subjects to be considered by the representatives of the three parties to the mediation or of the powers or functions of the new envoys was made, except for the following brief statement, which was issued through the State Department on the authority of the three diplomats:

"The mediators have delivered to this Government and are sending out to General Huerta and General Carranza requests that representatives be appointed to confer with the mediators."

While it is realized that the representatives of all parties probably would not be given authority finally to pass on points brought up in the discussion with the mediators they would be able to sound out their superiors so that before formal proposals actually were made the mediators would have an idea of their probable reception.

By sending representatives here, it is pointed out, such difficulties would be bridged over, for in an informal conference with the mediators everything pertaining to Mexico could be discussed and even informally submitted before the stage of formal proposals was reached.

Incidentally it is known that the mediators intend to concentrate their attention on the broad subject of pacifying Mexico, hoping that the differences which arose between the Huerta Government and the United States might become secondary in view of the solution of the entire Mexican problem.

Names of persons who might be acceptable to all factions in Mexico for the position of Provisional President pending a rehabilitating of the national Government in case the negotiations reach that stage are being suggested to the mediators.

STRIKE AT CONNELLSVILLE.

Miners and Cokeworkers Object To Wage Cut.

Connellsville, Pa.—Two hundred miners and cokeworkers at the Herbert plant of the Connellsville Central Coke Company struck, when notices were posted announcing a reduction of 25 cents a day for drivers and cokeworkers and 10 per cent. for miners. The men refused the reduction on the ground that wages had not been reduced by other employees.

VERA CRUZ TAKEN OVER BY FUNSTON

Even the Native Population is Impressed.

FLETCHER'S FINAL ORDER

Praises The Bravery Of The Marines And Jackies Who Took The City And Pays Reverent Tribute To The Dead.

Vera Cruz.—The task of guarding the city of Vera Cruz and its environs was taken over from the navy by Brig. Gen. Frederick Funston and the Fifth Infantry Brigade of the United States Army.

While martial law continues in force, the actual municipal government is being conducted by Robert J. Kerr, the American Civil Governor, who has enlisted the aid of Mexican officials to act under his superintendence and in accordance with Mexican laws.

After a morning enlivened by the marching to and fro of large bodies of American soldiers, sailors and marines the city resumed its normal and somewhat sleepy daily life. The evening, however, was made gay by outdoor dinner parties at the numerous cafes and restaurants, accompanied by music and sometimes by dancing.

The American troops began their disembark from the transports at an early hour in the morning. Once on shore, they were lined up along the docks and in the railroad yards, and before noon all had marched to the posts assigned to them in various parts of the city and its outlying suburbs.

As the various detachments swung into the streets, their flags flying and with bands, playing martial airs, leading them, the natives appeared on their balconies or came out onto the sidewalks and gazed with undisguised wonder at the solid ranks of brown-clothed men. The people seemed to marvel at the precision of the American soldiers' movements and the sturdy appearance of the men in the ranks.

When the men had taken up their stations and the reports had been received by General Funston official calls were exchanged between Rear-Admiral Charles J. Badger, Governor Kerr and General Funston.

Fletcher Praises Men. Later in the day an order was issued by Rear-Admiral Fletcher, who had been in command of the operations ashore since the landing of the American naval forces. The order covered the whole of the events since the taking of the city and after recounting the fierceness of the attacks from house-tops, read:

"The splendid advance of our men in the morning after being under fire all night was deserving of the highest praise, and the accurate and timely gun-fire of the Chester, the Prairie and the San Francisco in the harbor showed effective co-operation ashore and afloat.

"The praiseworthy conduct of our men in establishing and maintaining good order and restoring confidence among the inhabitants of the city after the fighting reflects the greatest credit upon the discipline and resourcefulness of the men of the navy and the Marine Corps.

Pays Tribute To Dead. "In nine days' work the city of Vera Cruz was occupied by the navy, lawlessness and disorder were suppressed, 11,000 firearms were taken possession of and a line of defenses established around the city against an army threatening to recapture it.

"Business has been resumed and normal conditions restored. The municipal government of the city has been re-established under the control of its people and a civil government formed to carry out the laws of the State and of the Federal Government.

"The highest honor is due to those who gave their lives in the service of their country."

In withdrawing his command from Vera Cruz Admiral Fletcher extends to the officers and men who took part in its occupation his deepest appreciation of their gallant conduct and support.

U. S. SERGEANT KILLS SELF.

Washington County Boy Was In Eleventh Cavalry.

Hagerstown, Md.—Guy Sease, 26 years old, first sergeant of Troop D, Eleventh Cavalry, United States Army, a son of J. D. Sease, of Rouseville, was killed accidentally at the target range at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. Young Sease had charge of the target range and accidentally shot himself during practice.

TELEGRAPH TICKS

Anderson, Ind.—Five thousand persons participated in "Public Health Day" here, marching in a parade which was fifteen blocks long.

New York.—Three hundred full-blooded American Indians attended Grace Church and sang Rock of Ages in their native tongue. Dressed in native garb Charlie Yellow Boy translated the sermon of Rev. C. L. Slatter.

THE WAR SPIRIT



FEDERAL TROOPS END STRIKE WAR MINE GIVES UP 50 OF ITS DEAD

Companies Refuse to Consider New Proposal. Rescuers Find Bodies Burned Beyond Recognition.

STRIKERS KEEPING ARMS. NO HOPE FOR TRAPPED MEN

Militia in Battle At Walsenburg Charge They Were Fired Upon In Violation of A Truce. Little Town Is Filled With Hidden Tragedies—Bride of Two Months Loses Husband—Widowed Mothers Lose Sons.

Denver, Col.—With Federal troops on the ground, conditions in the Colorado strike zone, are quiet. State troops are being relieved as rapidly as the regulars can be sent to points where disturbances have occurred and the strikers are dispersing.

The Federal soldiers now patrol the Fremont county district and regular troops, under Captain Parker, superceded the militiamen at Walsenburg.

Companies Reject Overtures. Nineteen coal mine operating companies of Colorado, practically all within the State, refused to consider a suggestion made by Chairman M. D. Foster, of the House Mines Committee, that negotiations for settlement of the strike be entered into on the basis that the recognition of union had been formally waived by the United Mine Workers of America.

This refusal was announced after a telegram which Dr. Foster had sent to John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in New York, calling on him to settle the strike without recognizing the union, had been referred to the mining companies of this State.

Won't Give Up Arms. Thus far the strikers have surrendered no arms either to the militia or the Federal troops.

GIVEN DICTATOR'S POWER.

China's Constitution Makes President Almost An Absolute Sovereign.

Peking, China.—The amended Constitution for the Republic of China is notable for the widespread powers it gives the President. The document as it now stands is the work of a constitutional convention which has been laboring here since the middle of March.

The President is empowered to convoke, open, suspend, close and dissolve the Legislature, submit to it the budget, as well as other bills, and refer back to the Legislature for reconsideration bills already passed by it.

BAER SUCCESSOR NAMED.

Besler and Huber Head Central R. R. of N. J. and Lehigh.

New York.—W. G. Besler was elected president and general manager of the Central Railroad of New Jersey at a meeting of the board of directors to succeed George F. Baer, who died in Philadelphia last week. Charles S. Huber was elected to succeed Mr. Baer as president of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre Coal Company.

HUERTA ACCEPTS TRUCE.

No Further Hostilities Pending The Progress Of Peace Negotiations.

Washington, D. C.—General Huerta accepted the proposal that there be no further hostilities between the United States and Mexico pending the efforts of the envoys of Argentina, Brazil and Chile to bring about an amicable settlement of the difficulties between his Government and the United States.

WON'T GIVE UP HUERTA.

Minister To Italy Declares Mexicans Would Prefer To Die.

Rome.—The Giornale de Italia prints an interview with Senor Esteva, the Mexican Minister to Italy, who is quoted as saying that if the United States makes as a condition of the settlement of the difficulty with Mexico the retirement of President Huerta, the Mexicans would rather die than acquiesce.

FEW BELIEVE MEDIATION WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.

Washington, D. C.—European diplomats in Washington are pessimistic over the successful outcome of mediation proposals by South American Governments to prevent war with Mexico.

While the actions of Great Britain, Germany and France in urging Huerta to accept the good offices proffered by Brazil, Chile and Argentina has had an encouraging effect upon officials here, there are few who believe that success can eventuate from the undertaking.

Diplomatic experts not directly concerned in the negotiations were also far from sharing optimism manifested by some State Department officials in the issue of the tender of good offices.

The utmost good will toward the mediation plan was displayed. It has, in fact, been tangibly manifested by the representations undertaken by the representatives of three great European powers to Huerta to induce him to accept the tender of good offices.

It was quite generally felt, however, that too wide a gulf lay between the standpoint of the United States and that of General Huerta to be bridged over by the Pan-American mediation.

It is said one of these diplomats, as if Huerta "is to be invited to step out and commit political suicide—and to expect him to accept the invitation."

HAIL U. S. AS PEACE LEADER.

International Pacifists Send Congratulations From Brussels.

Washington, D. C.—President Wilson received from the International Peace Bureau of Brussels a cablegram congratulating the United States on accepting mediation in the Mexican dispute. The cablegram was as follows:

"The pacifists of the world heartily congratulate the United States Government for having without hesitation accepted the mediation of friendly powers and so given a solemn testimony of its sincere desire to settle by pacific means all international disputes."

SCORE LOST WITH FREIGHTER.

Steamer Benjamin Noble Sinks In Storm on Superior.

Duluth, Minn.—That the steamer Benjamin Noble, her crew of twenty or more and a large cargo of railroad iron were swallowed up in the turbulent waters of stormwep Lake Superior was made almost certain when the life saving crew picked up wreckage from the steamer off Minnesota Point, Duluth. All efforts to find the bulk of the steamer have proved fruitless. The general belief is that the steamer struck the Duluth entrance and struck the Point and foundered in very deep water.

PROPOSES ALASKAN DEAL.

Smith Would Exchange Strip For Repeal Of Treaty.

Washington, D. C.—The repeal of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, which is the storm center of the Panama Canal tolls controversy in Congress, is sought in a resolution Representative Frank O. Smith, of Maryland, introduced in the House. The President, by the resolution, is directed to open negotiations with Great Britain for the repeal of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty as a part of the scheme for the cession of the Alaskan strip to Canada.

AMERICAN BRIG SEIZED.

Mexican Federals At Manzanillo Thought War Had Been Declared.

Washington, D. C.—An American brig was seized by Mexican Federal officials at Manzanillo, who thought that war had been declared, but was immediately released with apologies on the demand of the Raleigh, according to a report received at the Navy Department from Admiral Howard, in command of the American fleet on the west coast of Mexico. Admiral Howard also reports that firing between the Constitutionists and Federals continues at Matatlan.

ORDERS TO THE CLERGY.

They Are Comanded to Preach Against Invasion of Mexico.

Mexico City.—Orders to preach against invasion have been issued to the clergy of the Diocese of San Luis Potosi by Bishop Ignacio Montes de Aca y Obregon. The Archbishop of Guadalajara and other ecclesiastics have issued similar decrees. The archives and documents of the United States Embassy were handed over to the Brazilian minister by Sir Lionel Garden.

16 KILLED AND 70 WOUNDED.

Latest Report Of Casualties At Vera Cruz Gives Totals.

Washington, D. C.—The latest reports received by the Navy Department of the number of American casualties at the occupation of Vera Cruz are as follows: Killed—Eleven sailors, four marines, one service unidentified. Total, 16. Wounded—Two naval officers, 51 sailors, 14 marines, 3 reserves unidentified. Total, 70.