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THINK HUERTA IS NEARING END

Washington Officials Inclined to Believe Rumors

Dictator Losing Strength

Mexico City People Learn That They Have Been Kept From Truth in Regard to Successes of the Rebels.

Officials in Washington are confident that the utter collapse of the reign of Victoriano Huerta as dictator of Mexico is at hand. They would not be surprised to hear of this resignation at any moment. The Washington administration, it is said, has every reason to put faith in the information which is from Mexico City.

The reason for this is that the populace at last has gotten an inkling of the real truth regarding the success of the Constitutionalists in the north. Every effort has been made by the dictator to muzzle the press, replacing the true accounts of the campaigns of Torreón and Chihuahua with matter furnished by his own war office, describing in glowing terms fictitious general victories.

Washington was active with rumors of an impending change in Mexico City and although no official information was given out on the subject it was apparent the administration had reason to credit them.

One of the reports that reached Washington from Mexico City through unofficial sources was that Huerta was about to signify his intention of resigning provided he would be assured of safe conduct from the country.

The Washington government is hourly expecting news of the fall of Tampico into the hands of the Constitutionalists and Villa already is in the field and moving for the capture of Saltillo.

The probable fall of these two cities within the next few days will, according to the information that has reached Washington, mark the end of Huerta's government in Mexico City.

There are rumors that General Blanquet, who was notorious for the part that he played in turning upon Madero and assisting Huerta to power, is now showing signs of weakening in his support of the dictator.

No attempt has been made by the United States officials as yet to select a representative to attend the peace conference with the mediators. Opinion in Washington still leans toward Richard Olney, former secretary of state, as the representative of the United States.

All reports received by this government from Vera Cruz and other Mexican sources were of a favorable character. General Funston reported from Vera Cruz further details in regard to the resumption of hostilities when the Mexican federal troops made a demand for the surrender within ten minutes of the pumping plant of the Vera Cruz water works.

General Funston said that the officer in command of the Mexican troops was Major Zeapota of the engineer corps of the Mexican army. He added that General Maas has about 4,000 men at Soledad and that an unknown number not large were watching the American lines.

General Funston said also that he understood the Mexicans had 5,000 troops at Jalala and about 1,500 at Palma. The general reported that there were many wild rumors afloat in Vera Cruz unworthy of credence, but if he disclosed the character of these rumors the war department did not make them public. It is assumed that they related to reports of threatened attacks by the Mexicans.

General Funston reported that a Mexican officer was found in Vera Cruz in civilian clothes and was immediately directed to leave.

Regardless of the fact that Funston's army confronts the Mexican federal force in sufficient strength to combat and probably to defeat any frontal attack there are some misgivings as to what might happen if in the rush of an attack the pumping station and the pipe lines were seriously injured.

Much depends upon the preservation of the water works being intact. The population of Vera Cruz is more than 20,000 and added to this is the army of more than 5,000 American soldiers dependent upon this single connection for their fresh water.



MARINES OF MICHIGAN FIRING ON VERA CRUZ. This photograph, made on the deck of the battleship Michigan in the Gulf of Mexico, shows the Mexican sailors firing on the American ships on shore. The sailors are seen through their stowage, protected by their armor. The ship is the USS Michigan, U. S. A., by American Press Association.

SOLDIERS TAKE VERA CRUZ

City Formally Turned Over by Navy, Bluejackets Made Good. The United States navy turned Vera Cruz over to the United States army at 2 o'clock last Thursday.

The ceremonies of transfer were impressive. They took place in the presence of paraded battalions of sailors and marines and paraded regiments of infantrymen in the Plaza de la Constitucion.

The world knows now that the United States holds Vera Cruz. The marines and jockies have fought step by step along the water front, up narrow, tortuous streets, into plazas and avenues, from the ground and from house-tops without cessation.

The marines are spreading out as outposts and the whereabouts of General Maas, federal commander, is not known. Out in the harbor beyond the long breakwater the ships of Great Britain, Germany and Spain lie and approve.

Yet all this work has been done by American sailors and marines the average age of whom is just twenty-two.

Ninety per cent of the men who went ashore had never heard a hostile bullet sing before, yet 100 per cent of them were brave clean through. Almost from the start it has been a snipers' battle. Ever since the fighting started right up to the present moment sniping has continued.

These snipers are not Mexican soldiers. They are citizens who are not willing to accept the fact that the city has been taken.

DR. RYAN RELEASED

Huerta Issues Peremptory Orders Assuring American's Safety. United States Consul Canada has been informed officially by the Brazilian minister at Mexico City that Dr. Edward W. Ryan has been released and is on his way to Mexico City.

The orders for Ryan's release went direct from General Huerta to General Medina Barron, military governor of Zacatecas, who had sentenced the American physician to death as a spy. They carried a notice that Barron himself would be held responsible for the man's safety while in Zacatecas.

He was to be provided with an adequate military guard immediately after his release from prison and this escort was to accompany him to the capital.

PEACE REIGNS IN COLORADO

Federal Soldiers Do Not Anticipate Any Trouble

Terror Zone Reported Quiet

Strikers in the Southern Coal Fields Glad to See Government Troops Come into the Troubled District.

Quietness prevails since the federal troops took charge of the situation in the southern Colorado coal fields. When the train bearing the federal troops reached Trinidad the strikers and others cheered. The miners believe that the coming of the soldiers means recognition for their union. However, they are not over anxious to turn over their weapons to the troops.

But the battle is not over. The federal troops may prevent actual bloodshed, but unless their presence eventually settles the strike there can be no peace.

Militiamen or mine guards are blamed by the corner's jury for the destruction of the miners' tent colony at Ludlow, where three women and several children were burned to death after a rifle attack.

Witness after witness told the coroner's jury that the militia deliberately fired the tents where it was known the women and children had taken refuge from the bullets of the machine guns.

Mrs. Pearl Jolly, leader of the women in the Ludlow colony, described dramatically the attack upon the colony and its terrible results. On the stand she was calm, showing not the slightest trace of excitement.

R. J. McDonald, former stenographer for the Colorado military commission, told the jury positively that the orders for the colony's destruction came either from Major Hamrock, in command of the state troops and mine guards who participated in the fight, or from Captain Carson, one of Hamrock's principal aids.

"We've got just forty minutes to take and burn that colony," he testified one of the two remarked, "before it gets dark."

A few moments later the troops and mine guards, he said, swept down the tracks in the charge that meant the colony's destruction and the deaths of three women and eleven children who sought refuge in the colony's "safety" pit.

TAKING BODIES FROM MINE

181 Men Perished in West Virginia's Latest Disaster. The work of removing bodies from the mines of the New River Colliers company at Eccles, W. Va., in which explosions killed 181 men last Tuesday, is well under way, although necessarily slow.

About one-third of the dead men are colored, a third foreigners and the other third white Americans. It is the general opinion now that the disaster was caused by an explosion of gas in mine No. 5, followed by an explosion of coal dust. There is not a chance in a million that any person in mine No. 5 is alive.

The explosion proper did not penetrate to mine No. 6. The men killed there ran to the shaft mouth and were overcome and suffocated by afterdamp. Those who kept away from the shaft mouth until the rescuers pumped fresh air into the mine were brought out practically unharmed.

Unlike the other disastrous mine explosions in this state, the widows, children and other dependents will be taken care of by a fund created by the employers and employees, made possible when the legislature enacted the workmen's compensation act, which became effective Oct. 1, 1913.

At the present time this fund has about \$325,000, part of which has been invested. Persons connected with the workmen's compensation fund estimate the Eccles mine disaster has caused an obligation of not less than \$500,000. A comparatively small amount will be needed immediately.

An examination of the list of names of those taken from the Eccles mine and those entombed shows that there will be not less than 100 widows and at least 200 children under the age of fifteen years who will become dependents under the compensation fund.

The state is able to take care immediately of all expenses due to burials and those left dependents to the amount provided by law.

War Scenes Taken at Vera Cruz



Group of Mexican dead after Vera Cruz battle. Mexicans carrying dead comrade.

DEAD ON WAY TO NEW YORK

Bodies of Marines and Sailors Leave Vera Cruz. The armored cruiser Montana sailed from Vera Cruz for New York with the bodies of the marines and sailors who were killed after the American troops landed there.

All the bodies will be taken to New York and shipped to the homes of the dead heroes. The Montana will be met by the three battleships Iowa, Indiana and Massachusetts either outside the Delaware breakwater or off the New Jersey coast. The old battleships will then convoy the Montana with the nation's dead to New York.

Rear Admiral Badger's fleet observed the sailing of the Montana in solemn fashion. The flags were placed at half mast, the crew dressed and stood at attention while the bands played dirges as the Montana passed out.

Afterward the officers of the ships and a great crowd of people from the city attended a bull fight. The number of street vendors and English signs are multiplying, showing that the natives are doing a thriving business.

CROP OUTLOOK BRIGHT

Backwardness of Weather Does Much Harm to Trade, However. Dun's Review of Trade says this Week:

"While some betterment is discernible in certain branches of trade in others a further moderate recession in activity is manifest. Fundamental conditions are sound and the agricultural outlook augurs well for the future, yet hesitancy is general in anticipating forward requirements."

WHAT NEXT? ASKS NAVY

Bluejackets Scent Work to Do at Tampico—Vera Cruz Happy. Now that General Funston and his soldiers are in control of Vera Cruz the men of the navy wonder what will be their next work.

A considerable force will be maintained regularly in the harbor, but it is the general impression that some of the big ships will be sent to convenient points along the coast or even through the Panama canal to be able to reach any place where need has arisen.

It is believed that Admiral Fletcher and his squadron will go to Tampico. General Funston will have little more to do than to confine himself to the military control of the district. The civil government under Mr. Kerr has taken hold and the prospects are so bright that Washington is to be asked to permit Mexicans to participate more extensively in the government.

VINCENT ASTOR MARRIES

Wealthy Young Man Leads Miss Huntington to Altar. Vincent Astor, the world's richest young man, married Miss Helen Dinwiddie Huntington at Staatsburg, N. Y., last Thursday.

Only a few relatives and friends were invited to the ceremony. Vincent has recovered almost entirely from his recent illness.

Military Gymnasts. Japanese soldiers are nearly all gymnasts and every barracks has a gymnasium. So well trained are they that in less than half a minute they can scale a wall fourteen feet high by simply leaping on each other's shoulders, one man sustaining two or three others.

Telescopes and Forest Fires. Forest officers have found that high power telescopes are not always satisfactory in fire lookout work. In some localities bent vibrations in the atmosphere are so magnified by the glass that clearer vision can be had with the unaided eyes.

AGED WAR HERO ANSWERS CALL

General Daniel Sickles Dies in New York Home

SUFFERED FROM HEMORRHAGE

General Sickles Was Last Survivor of the Great Commanders of the Civil War—Raised Four Regiments.

General Daniel Edgar Sickles of Civil War fame died at his home in New York Sunday night. His wife was at his bedside at the end. It is said the general had become reconciled with his family within the last two weeks.

The general had been ill in his home here for some time. In March he suffered a severe hemorrhage. A week ago Thursday there was another and after that the general gradually sank until death came.

Daniel Edgar Sickles, major general (retired), was the last of the great commanders of the Civil War. He responded to Lincoln's first call for volunteers. He led them to battle, always with consummate bravery and distinction.

From his youth up he was active and the changing years saw him engaging with the same enthusiasm in arms, diplomacy, politics and that intercourse with his fellows which is the privilege of a man who has seen much of life and got honor through merit.

A year ago when the veterans of Gettysburg gathered to renew their conflict by peaceful camp fire the Blue and Gray acclaimed him as the hero of that engagement. Wherever they met his name ran through their stories.

He was a congressman from New York when the war began. He was a Democrat and had not voted for Lincoln, but he went to the president and offered his services.

The first regiment he raised was composed mostly of Democrats. He established Camp Scott on Staten Island and began to train his volunteers. He enlisted them in the United States army and subsequently raised four other regiments. In September of 1861 the president made him a brigadier general.

He saw his first engagement early in 1862 when General Hooker chose him to make a reconnaissance to uncover the position of General Longstreet. He took 1,000 picked men and came upon Longstreet's outposts at Stafford courthouse on the way to Fredericksburg. He was outnumbered 2 to 1 but he put the enemy to flight and the fame of his exploit fired the army of the Potomac.

He succeeded Hooker in the command of a division of the Third army corps and led the division in the battles of Antietam and Fredericksburg. In November of 1862 he was made a major general of volunteers and had command of the Third corps at Chancellorsville. Having defeated the Union army there General Lee set forth on his determined march to the north, but was turned back at Gettysburg, where General Sickles was in command of the Union army's left.

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FIRE ENDANGERS FIFTEEN

Oil Works Consumed by Flames. Three Seriously Injured. Thomas Davis, Robert Brown and Clarence Farr were seriously injured and the lives of fifteen persons were endangered when fire damaged the Eclipse Oil works at Franklin, Pa., to the extent of \$50,000.

Fifteen men were fighting the fire on a bridge across the works below which was a still. Into this still fell a drum of oil containing 400 barrels. In the flash and explosion which followed the firemen were hidden and it was thought by spectators that they were killed. All escaped injury. The fire destroyed 6,000 drums of an oil preparation used in street paving. The works belong to the Atlantic Refining company.

Won't Treat With Union.

H. E. Gessell, machinist, and Rocco Difalag, boilermaker, both of Harrisburg, Pa., met General Superintendent Creighton of the Pennsylvania railroad to discuss the grievances of the suspended men at Harrisburg. Creighton informed the two men that he would treat with them as individual employes or as a committee representing employes, but not as union men, so the visitors left.

Miners Burned in Explosion.

In a terrific gas explosion at the Henry Clay shaft at Shamokin, Pa., operated by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal and Iron company, Frederick Starzel, David Meredith and Richard Morgan were blown along a gangway. They were found by a rescuing party and removed to the surface. The men were badly burned, while a section of the mine was badly wrecked.

Penitentiary For Meredith.

The climax of the sensational "house of mystery" case in Pittsburgh came when Dr. C. C. Meredith pleaded guilty before Judge Marshall Brown in criminal court to having committed an illegal operation. The court sentenced Dr. Meredith to pay a fine of six and one-quarter cents and serve not less than five nor more than six years in the penitentiary.

Woodrow Huerta Thompson.

Woodrow Huerta Thompson, chaplain of the army, made his advent in the tent of D. O. Thompson, a Romany chief, camped with about 150 gypsies in Hays borough, near Pittsburgh. "I want him to be a fighting man," said the chief. "I'll just name him Woodrow Huerta Thompson."

Washington County Good Roads Day. By an official decree the courts of Washington county, Pa., placed the stamp of approval on the first good roads day planned for the county, a day on which it is expected to get out every able bodied individual with pick and shovel to do some real road work.

Girl Asks \$10,000 of Heart Balm.

Miss Bertha Klyer of Clearfield, Pa., has entered a trespass suit at the Blair county (Pa.) court at Hollidaysburg, Pa., against E. B. Gulich, a prominent business man of Altoona, Pa., to recover \$10,000 damages for breach of promise to marry.

Girl Commits Suicide.

Grieved, it is alleged, because relatives objected to her receiving the attentions of the man of her choice, Effie Cousins, nineteen years old, committed suicide at the home of her aunt in Kittanning, Pa., by drinking acid.

Yeggs Get Only 95 Cents.

Amateur burglars who were unable to open a safe broke into the Red Raven (Pa.) station of the Bessemer and Lake Erie railroad and for their trouble secured ninety-five cents. The money taken was from a telephone box.

Chose Bichloride Process.

Dependent over the lack of employment Richard Whalen, aged forty, of Arch street extension, Northside, Pittsburg, swallowed seven bichloride of mercury tablets, while sitting on a bench in West park.

Explosion Kills One.

One man was killed and six hurt in an explosion at a blast furnace at the Carnegie Steel company's plant at Duquesne near Pittsburg. The dead man was Frank Whitacre, aged twenty-two, of Duquesne.

Five of Family Burned to Death.

A mother and her four children were burned to death in their homes at Mt. Union, Pa. The dead are: Mrs. Mildred K. Varner, aged twenty-six; Elmer, nine; Ruth, six; Albert, four; Frances, two.

Suicide Suspected.

Mrs. Elizabeth Stein, wife of Jacob Stein, a farmer of Union township, near Greenville, Pa., is dead as a result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, it is alleged.

Foreman Killed by Freight Train.

John Keefe, aged fifty-eight, yard foreman of the West Pittsburg Steel company, Leechburg, Pa., was instantly killed by being run down by a freight train.

Eric Carpenters Strike.

Union carpenters of Erie, Pa., went on strike demanding an eight-hour day. Their demands are for an eight-hour day at \$3.60 per day. At present they receive \$3.82 for a nine-hour day.

Woman Strangles on Pea.

Strangled in swallowing a pea at the supper table, Mrs. William Hoey, aged fifty-six, of Blairsville, Pa., died before physicians could remove the obstruction from her windpipe.