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Mexicans Open Fire On the American City of Laredo, Texas

FEDERALS BLOW UP AMERICAN CONSULATE AND CUSTOMS HOUSE

Border Patrol Returns Fire and Mexicans Fall—Three Americans Reported Killed—Nuevo Laredo, Mexico in Flames Mexican Soldiers on Train and Shoot Indiscriminately at Any Person in Sight—Postoffice, Theater and Railroad Offices Dynamited.

WAR DEPARTMENT BUSTLES WITH ACTIVITY

Ten Thousand Troops Sent to Vera Cruz—Orders for Movement of Marines and Troops Sent to Pacific Coast—Every Available Warship Ploughing South to Mexican Waters on Both Coasts—Badger Lands More Men and Prepares for Possible Attack by Mexican General Maas.

Laredo, Texas, April 24.—Mexican federals today wrought destruction in Nuevo Laredo across the river from this place, blew up the public buildings with dynamite and then turned their guns across the international boundary.

At 3 o'clock the Mexican town was burning in several places. All available United States troops here have been called out to control the situation.

It was reported that three persons had been killed by the Mexican's fire, but, in the excitement prevailing, it was impossible to verify this report immediately. Americans attracted to the border said that probably ten or twelve Mexicans were seen to fall when American troops on the border returned the fire.

Among the buildings destroyed in Nuevo Laredo were the United States consulate, the municipal building, the flour mill, one of the largest in this section of the southwest; the post-office, theatre and the customs house. At 3:15 the fire, originating from the explosions or deliberately set, had spread to all quarters of the city which appeared doomed.

Another report was that the Mexicans and American troops had a brisk skirmish across the international boundary, the accurate American fire driving the federals back.

The federals opened fire on the Americans as the federal troop train pulled out of the city. From car windows and platforms the Mexicans began a rapid fire, aiming indiscriminately at any person in sight.

San Antonio, Texas, April 24.—A long distance telephone message received here at 2:35 p. m., said that Mexican federals in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, had fired the town and were firing across the river into Laredo, Texas.

The federals evacuated Nuevo Laredo yesterday, but returned during the night. They found the Mexican town deserted, the inhabitants having fled to the Texas side, fearing attack by bandits. According to the reports received here the federals dynamited the customs house, the telegraph office and railroad property in Nuevo Laredo and then started an attack on Laredo.

What damage has been done to the American town was not known, but great excitement prevails.

There is Uncertainty. Washington, D. C., April 24.—The war department bustled with activity today, following the first actual movement of the army in the Mexican crisis, the departure of the Fifth brigade of the first division from Galveston for Vera Cruz. Major General Leonard Wood was in charge of the movement.

Despite the friendly attitude assumed by General Villa in his statement to the department received several applications for additional border guards. General Wood and his aides carefully scanned all information as to the concentration of constitutionalist forces in the neighborhood of Juarez, where Villa is.

carrying on further operations by the president increased today. The war department considered the need for volunteers and estimated on the funds that would be needed for mobilizing the militia. At the navy department, Representative Paggett of Tennessee, chairman of the house naval affairs committee, was called into conference with Secretary Daniels.

After the conference Representative Paggett introduced a resolution to make immediately available \$200,000 of the funds for the New Orleans navy yard, with a view to enabling that yard to make any necessary repairs to naval vessels that otherwise would have to go to Atlantic yards.

Washington, April 24.—The war department had under consideration today means for the protection of the international bridge at Laredo, Texas, which is threatened with destruction by Mexican federals.

The officers commanding the American forces at Laredo reported that the bridge was threatened and General Bliss asked the war department for authority to insure the protection of the bridge at both ends.

Washington, D. C., April 24.—Symptoms of uneasiness over the present indefinite status of the relations between the United States and Mexico are beginning to manifest themselves in diplomatic circles here and it is expected that the attention of the state department soon will be called to the advisability of issuing some statement to make it clear whether or not a state of war actually exists.

Some diplomatic representatives here have been in receipt of inquiries from their own government on this point. The president wished it to be impressed generally that the United States had not adopted a threatening attitude toward the Constitutionalists, but merely that it expected them to remain neutral while this government continues to seek reparation for the dignities from the Huerta government.

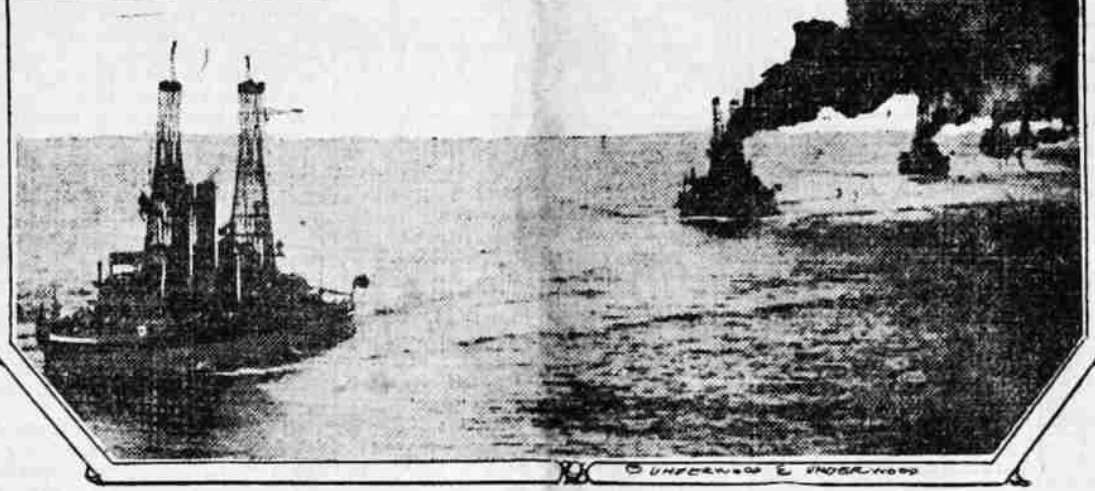
Messages from Carothers. Official messages from American Consul Agent George C. Carothers, describing his meeting with General Villa, reached the president. In these it was specifically stated that Villa would not join with Huerta and the intimation was conveyed that General Carranza by his strong protest against the capture of Vera Cruz, was in reality, seeking to prevent disintegration of his forces.

Future steps are dependent on a more definite announcement of the intentions of General Carranza. Huerta May Cause General War. It was stated that a brigade of infantry and artillery from Galveston to reinforce the naval forces at Vera Cruz is not intended as an indication that the United States would develop a campaign against Mexico City but, should Huerta provoke the American government further, there will be a continuation of efforts to obtain reparation. President Wilson considers, in accord with international precedent, the American government could even push its way into the interior of the country to obtain redress for wrongs without actually being in a state of war with the Mexican people as a whole.

Secretary Daniels said the government's attitude now was one of "watchful waiting" to determine what Huerta would do. Villa's Attitude. General Villa's attitude was again

HERE'S HOW INCOMING FLEET LOOKED TO FOLKS AT TAMPICO

This picture of the North Atlantic squadron gives some idea of how the incoming war fleet looked to the people of Tampico. This fleet is the most powerful that ever was seen in Mexican waters. Among the battleships that have just reached Tampico are the Arkansas, Vermont, New Jersey, Michigan and New Hampshire. These vessels were accompanied south by nearly a dozen tugs, gunboats, cruisers, etc.



subject of discussion and it was apparent that some of the officials took it with a "grain of salt." They evidenced a disposition to await further proof of the neutrality of the Constitutionalists.

Secretary Bryan had no comment beyond pointing to the fact that most of the time of the cabinet meeting had been occupied in other matters. Another cabinet officer, when asked whether more troops would be sent to Texas, said he thought there was not the slightest danger of any invasion but that more troops might possibly be sent to relieve uneasiness among the border residents.

tal force on shore will probably reach 6500. These outposts have been equipped with twelve machine guns and several three-inch field pieces, which were taken to the front today by means of six horses to each gun.

Rear Admiral Fletcher's headquarters at the terminal hotel are guarded by machine guns, while seven field pieces are held in reserve in the vicinity. The commissary, ordnance and quartermaster's quarters worked efficiently. All supplies were promptly distributed among the troops, who also received distilled water from the ships under the supervision of the medical servants.

Hospital Conditions Bad. Conditions in the hospitals were found to be so bad that three navy surgeons were detailed today to assist there. Food and medicine were supplied from the Solace. All the American wounded are on board the Solace.

The medical department today opened negotiations with the Mexican health officials in the hope of inducing them to return to their work. With Commander Herman O. Stickney of the Prairie, appointed commander of the port, the American authorities today undertook the administration of the customs. For a time there will be in reality two custom houses. Mariano Ascarraga, the Mexican customs collector, is not inclined to serve under American supervision, but declared he will take charge of the undischarged business which was in hand at the moment of occupation.

Commander Stickney and his men are to look after the new business. One of the reasons given by Ascarraga for declining to continue his duties was that he would be violating the Mexican law, as the port of Vera Cruz has been closed by orders from the federal capital.

Fletcher Supervising City. Rear Admiral Fletcher has begun the general supervision of the city and he and his staff are working arduously in straightening out local affairs. The sanitation plant of the municipality was placed in operation again today and the street car lines have resumed partial service.

Numbers of shops and restaurants were opened yesterday. Except for the passing of an occasional patrol, the city seems to have resumed at least normal conditions. Mexicans Plead for Friends. Many Mexicans called at Rear Admiral Fletcher's headquarters today, pleading for the release of friends and relatives who had been made prisoners. They were told that all whose innocence could be established would be released in a short time. Captain Huse, chief of staff of Rear Admiral Fletcher, addressed one group in Spanish, telling them that sniping from the house tops must cease and that all Mexicans within the American lines must respect American authority.

The total number of prisoners taken was about 300, but many have already been released. Wounded Doing Well. Only three of the Americans wounded are in a critical condition, according to the report issued from the Solace. These are First Class Fireman H. Pullian, Ordinary Seaman E. G. Wright, and Private Jeremiah G. Poles.

Owing to the prompt and efficient field hospital corps and the quick arrival of the wounded men on board the Solace, no infected wounds were discovered. The dead have been embalmed and their bodies are lying on board the Solace, ready to be sent north at the first opportunity. Naval surgeons say that the majority of the wounded men will be able to return to their duty in a short time.

SUPREME COURT TO DETERMINE

Proceedings Begun to Decide Status of National Guards in Call for Troops.

Washington, April 24.—Proceedings were begun in the supreme court today to determine whether the National Guard may be sent to Mexico or territory outside the United States without first being mustered in as volunteers.

The proceedings are in the nature of an appeal from the action of Judge Day in the federal court in northern Ohio, in dismissing an action of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel T. Sterns against Adjutant General George H. Wood of the Ohio National Guard, growing out of preparations for militia movements outside the country.

VOLUNTEER BILL PASSES CONGRESS

Washington, D. C., April 24.—The senate today, without debate, passed the volunteer army bill as agreed to by the conferees of the house and senate.

The house passed the volunteer army bill today. It now goes to the president.

VILLA SENDS SALUTE TO GENERAL SCOTT

Washington, D. C., April 24.—"Just had an interview with Villa. He wishes to salute you affectionately and say you need have no anxiety."

This message was delivered today to General Hugh Scott, assistant chief of staff of the army, from Dr. Carlos E. Rusik of El Paso. General Scott had known Villa for some time, the two having faced each other across the Rio Grande for many weeks at El Paso and Juarez.

INCORPORATION OF A NEW COMPANY

Articles of incorporation of the Kendall-Darnielle company were filed with the county clerk today. The company is capitalized for \$10,000, divided into shares of the par value of \$1 each.

COLORADO STATE TROOPS AND ARMED STRIKERS FIGHTING

Coal Miners Capture Two Trains—Cavalrymen Turn Horses Loose and Entrench—Flank Attack With Artillery on Union Men Results in Victory for Guardsmen.

Trinidad, Colo., April 24.—Fighting between state troops and armed strikers began shortly after 11 o'clock at Bunker Hill, a short distance south of Monson, according to reports just received here. The strikers are reported to have captured two trains. The cavalrymen have turned their horses loose and are entrenching.

General Chase has established communications with Rouse and has received several messages concerning the location of the attacking parties. A later message from Rouse says: "At 11:35 seventy cavalrymen at full gallop have just passed Rouse with artillery."

The two messages indicate that a second troop, which detained at Monson, has executed a flank attack upon the band of strikers which is said to have attacked the scouting party. Guardsmen Win Victory. The skirmish between militia and strikers near Bunker Hill resulted in a victory for the guardsmen, according to reports this afternoon. A message from Rouse says: "Strikers have split. Half gone up Curtis canyon, other half gone south."

The message was relayed to General Chase at Rugby with the troop train. John McLennan, president of district 15, United Mine Workers of America, is under arrest at Ludlow. According to advices received here he is held by the militia without a charge against him.

Trinidad, April 24.—Fifteen hundred silent armed-faced men, sobbing women and awe-stricken children crowded in front of the Holy Trinity church while open air funeral services were held for fourteen victims of the Ludlow fire. Two heavy trucks draped in black conveyed the flower-strewn caskets from the morgue to the church and Catholic cemetery.

Trinidad, Colo., April 24.—General John Chase, who reached Walsenburg with the first train bearing troops into the strike zone shortly after 1 o'clock this morning later abandoned his plan of detouring there and marching into the strike zone. With soldiers posted on top of the box cars the special train, consisting of eight box cars, a baggage car, ten coaches and a caboose, moved slowly south at 7 o'clock in the direction of the hills near Monson and Rugby where an armed force, estimated at 1000, is believed to be massed waiting to open an attack.

The entire force will be kept together, General Chase said on leaving Walsenburg, until the disturbed district is reached. Developments will determine their distribution later. Provisions Run Low. Provisions are running low among the strikers and the leaders say if it becomes necessary, in order to secure food for their men, they will take provisions from company stores at Aguilar and vicinity.

While the fighting was raging at the mines all about Aguilar no disturbances of any sort occurred in the town. The strikers of the Aguilar district are now believed to have moved north in the direction of Rugby, where another large body is said to be stationed in the hills today.

MEXICAN RUNS AND POLICEMAN TAKES A SHOT

Vir Mirchl, a Mexican, will have a taste of American prison life during the next ten days, having been sentenced to serve that length of time in the city jail by the judge of the municipal court this morning. He was arrested on Twenty-fifth street near Wall avenue yesterday evening by Patrolman Russell for creating a disturbance in the Montana rooming house.

Cesare Enrietto, the proprietor of the rooming house, testified for the city and said that Mirchl was singing and shouting in his room and disturbing the other roomers. He remonstrated and the defendant tried to hit him, but only succeeded in tearing

his shirt, after which he broke away and ran out onto the street. Officer Russell said that he had answered a call from the rooming house and, as he approached the place, Mirchl ran down the street and someone in the crowd, that had gathered, said, "There he goes." The witness gave chase and fired a shot at the fleeing man's heels, which only made him run the faster. He ran in behind the Troy laundry and doubled back onto Twenty-fifth street, the officer following.

The defendant finally stopped when he got back to the crowd, and, when Patrolman Russell caught up with him, he fell on his knees and begged for mercy. He was then taken to the station.

Through an interpreter, the Mexican said that he had been in the United States seven years, but could not learn the language. He could not recall any of the occurrences of yesterday and said that he was drunk at the time the disturbance occurred. Clarence Preshaw forfeited \$3 bail on a charge of breaking the bicycle ordinance, and Ed Wilson, a drunk, pleaded guilty and was given a suspended sentence. Pat Smith also pleaded guilty to a charge of drunkenness. He was told to tell his story and said that yesterday he celebrated his 61st birthday. He had a little bottle and drank too much out of it. Patrolman Blackburn, the arresting officer, said that his attention was first drawn to Smith in the rear of the Cohen store on Twenty-fifth street. He was "mauling" and was trying to carry off a step-ladder, with which, he told the officer, he was going to "clean the street." The patrolman took the ladder from him and after warning him to behave, let him go. He found it necessary, however, later in the day, to arrest him.

TEXAS TROOPS ARE SENT TO THE BORDER. Austin, Texas, April 24.—An entire regiment of the Texas National Guard was today ordered to mobilize at Brownsville for border patrol duty. Governor Colquitt, it also became known, will order the other two regiments to the border unless a request to Secretary of War Garrison for additional troop protection for Texas border points is granted.

TODAY'S GAMES

NATIONAL LEAGUE. St. Louis at Pittsburgh: R. H. E. The score: 059 020 100—8 11 0 Pittsburgh 000 000 000—1 8 0 Batteries—Perritt and Snyder; Harmon, Kautleher, Conzelman and Gibson.

Philadelphia at New York: R. H. E. The score: 500 000 021—8 14 6 New York 000 000 101—2 7 3 Batteries—Marshall and Kilmer; Trammor, Marquard, Wiltze and McLean, Johnson.

Brooklyn at Boston: R. H. E. The score: 022 100 300—8 10 0 Boston 000 000 001—1 9 1 Batteries—Aitchison and Fisher; Perdue, Coehren and Gowdy.

AMERICAN LEAGUE. Boston at Washington: R. H. E. The score: 003 000 002—5 4 1 Washington 009 110 001—3 8 0 Batteries—Collins and Carrigan; Engel, Ayres, Shaw and Henry.

FEDERAL LEAGUE. (First Game) Brooklyn at Pittsburgh: R. H. E. The score: 000 000 101—2 5 0 Pittsburgh 000 000 000—0 4 1 Batteries—Maxwell and Owens; Adams, Walker and Berry.

(Second Game) Brooklyn at Pittsburgh: R. H. E. The score: 010 100 000—2 6 3 Pittsburgh 240 000 22—19 11 3 Batteries—Somers, Juual and Land; Dickson and Berry.

GO TO CHURCH SUNDAY