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FEARLESS, INDEPENDENT, PROGRESSIVE NEWSPAPER

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Four Americans are Reported Killed by Mob in Mexico City

AMERICAN WAR DEPARTMENT HUMMING WITH EXCITEMENT

Officials Much Disturbed Over Serious Eventualities in Mexican Capital—Situation Throughout Country a Grave One—War May Be Forced on United States—Army and Navy Prepared for Extensive Movement and Any Emergency.

CONSUL CANADA REPORTS REIGN OF TERROR

Another American Hotel Is Demolished—Americans Take Refuge in Legations—Appeals for More Troops at Border—Americans Taken From Refugee Train Carrying Charge O'Shaughnessy and Family and Arrested—American Stores Sacked and Heavy Loss Incurred.

Vera Cruz, April 25.—El Dictamen, a Vera Cruz newspaper, today says four Americans have been killed by mobs in Mexico City. It declares it has received this information from the federal capital.

Vera Cruz was today isolated from direct communication with the interior, but the sparse news brought here by refugees indicates that the state of affairs is bad and rapidly growing worse so far as Americans are concerned.

The refugees arriving here bring word of intense anti-American feeling in all directions.

The American military authorities in Vera Cruz consider the situation of Americans in the capital and all over the republic grave.

Three of the American victims were taken out of street cars and killed on the streets, while the fourth was killed in the Young Men's Christian association buildings by members of the baseball team, to which he belonged, according to El Dictamen, which made its re-appearance today.

The information as to the massacre of Americans is not confirmed from any sources and is considered doubtful in many quarters.

Washington, April 25.—Unconfirmed rumors of the killing of Americans by mobs in Mexico City, the arrest of American railroad employes yesterday at Orizaba, and information forwarded to Washington that American military authorities at Vera Cruz considered the situation at Mexico City and throughout the Mexican republic a serious one for Americans there, aroused activity of the Washington government today.

While the authorities were exerting every possible effort to get verification of the disquieting reports from the Mexican capital, Secretary of State Bryan conferred with the Brazilian ambassador here, Mr. Da Gama, and informed him that he had requested the Brazilian diplomatic representatives in Mexico City to seek the release of the prisoners. Ambassador Da Gama urged the Brazilian minister in Mexico City to do all he could for the release of the Americans.

Assassination Causes Anxiety.

Officials here were much exercised over the reported assassination of Americans in Mexico City. Serious eventualities there, it was pointed out, might aggravate the present situation and serve to arouse sentiment among the people that would demand more aggressive action in Mexico on the part of this government. It was further emphasized, however, that mob violence could not be construed as any deliberate act of General Huerta and that it could be claimed by his government that it was powerless to control the situation, owing to the anti-American feeling aroused by the seizure of Vera Cruz.

Although no new military orders were issued by the war department, plans perfecting the operations at Vera Cruz and along the Mexican border were considered by Secretary Garrison, General Wotherpoon, chief of staff, and Major General Wood, who has been chosen to direct the military operations in co-operation with Secretary of the Navy Daniels.

Troops Sent For Duty.

After a long conference of the department officials, early in the day, Secretary Garrison declared that the troops sent to Vera Cruz to reinforce the naval forces there were being sent there "for duty." What form this duty would take or how extensive or aggressive the operations of the troops would be, the secretary would not say. It was declared, however, that there had been no change in the policy of the government to "sit tight" at Vera Cruz, unless retaliatory tactics should be resorted to by General Huerta or

some overt action by the Constitutionalists should demand a forward movement into Mexico. Neutrality by the Constitutionalists, officials believed, would be observed.

Should war be forced on this government, it was pointed out, the base of operations would be at Vera Cruz and the plan would be to confine the advance if possible to the territory controlled by Huerta, with Mexico City as the objective point of the American forces.

Army and Navy Prepared.

The movement, it was generally believed, would be an extensive one. Although it still is the determined policy of the president to prevent war, the army and navy are prepared for any emergency and should the word come to advance to the interior in order to protect life and property, it is said the war department is ready to send in an army of 20,000 to 30,000 men and to increase the forces to a great degree along the Mexican border.

Today there were appeals for more troops from the border states, and the war department officials, while considering plans for cooperating with the militia in those states, also were working out plans for calling into the service the militia of various states, under the terms of the volunteer army bill just passed.

War Department Humming.

The war department throughout the day was humming with excitement. Reports that General Wood already had been ordered to Vera Cruz were emphatically denied.

Reports of dissension in the cabinet over the policy being pursued in the Mexican crisis also were denied, the Secretary of State Bryan branded as false rumors again circulated that he would resign his post in the event that war is declared.

Announcement today by the Spanish ambassador, Mr. Raino, that Mexico had turned its affairs in the United States over to his government, came as a surprise to officials here, the general expectation having been that France would be asked to act in Mexico's behalf.

Alfonso as Mediator.

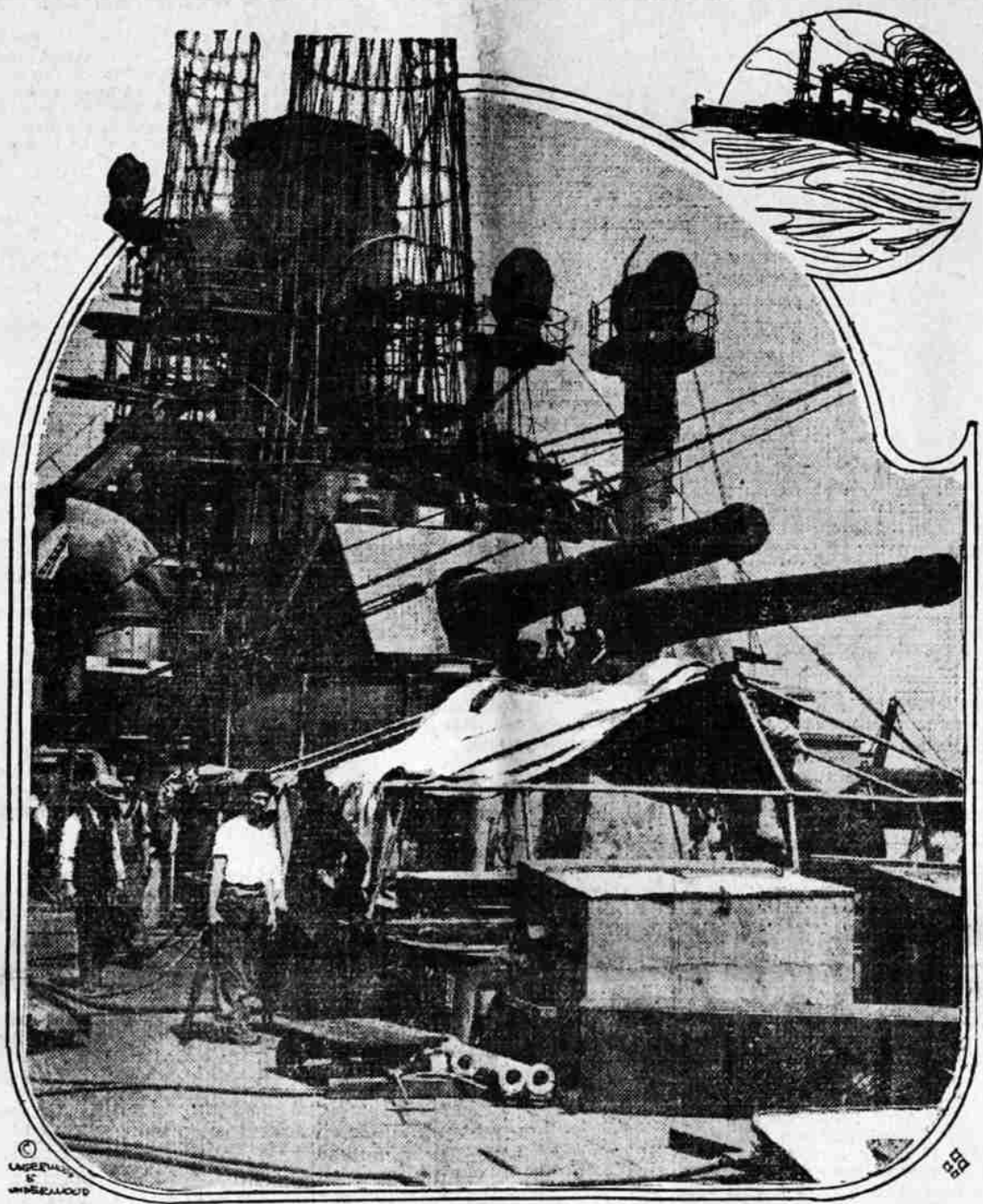
Following reports from Madrid that King Alfonso was willing to act as mediator in the differences between this government and Mexico, the selection of Spain to look after the affairs of Mexico was regarded with significance. Although there have been several informal suggestions of diplomatic intervention from various quarters, it is declared at the state department that no formal offers had been made nor were any expected.

More Americans Arrested.

In an official report from Consul Canada at Vera Cruz, the state department was informed today that several Americans were placed under arrest in Mexico City after being taken from the refugee train that carried Charge O'Shaughnessy and his party to Vera Cruz. J. Starr Hunt and his family were among those arrested. Burton Wilson was taken from the train at the first station out of Mexico City.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—Americans remaining in Mexico City are entirely dependent on the Huerta government and the small guards maintained at the foreign legations for protection, it was stated at the state department today. There are between 60 and 100 men, it was said, attached to the various foreign legations in the Mexican capital armed with small arms and machine guns, on whom the Americans might depend. These, the department said, would be effective only against sporadic mob violence, and would be practically powerless against any general movement or any mob attack the Mexican government might ignore. It was expected that the Americans in the event of an attack would take refuge in the other

HERE'S CLOSE VIEW OF FLORIDA, U. S. BATTLESHIP AT VERA CRUZ



On the deck of the Florida.

Here's a close view of the giant battleship Florida, whose great guns now overlook Vera Cruz. The picture gives a good idea of how a battleship looks to one on deck.

foreign legations.

The state department said that no official dispatches confirmed the report that four Americans had been killed in Mexico City, and that Consul Canada at Vera Cruz, still in communication with the department, made no mention of such an occurrence.

Consul Canada has reported nothing more serious from Mexico City than the pulling down of the Washington statue and the stoning of the American club.

Reign of Terror Reported.

Further details as to conditions in Mexico City were given Consul Canada by the refugees who have reached Vera Cruz. They report a reign of terror in the capital and confirm the reports of anti-American outbreaks. A mob entered Porter's hotel, an American institution, insulted the guests, smashed windows and emptied the hotel. The guests were taken to other hotels and the managers of the hotels went to Vera Cruz.

The American club was attacked and several stores were sacked, with a loss estimated at 50,000 pesos. Consul Canada said that the refugees reported the American colony well organized for defense. All foreigners had concentrated to withstand any attack. They are well armed, but fear an attack by overwhelming mobs.

On Tuesday all business houses in the capital were closed and the streets were filled with disorderly crowds.

Huerta Conscripting.

Refugees reported that prior to April 22, the Huerta government had been conscripting soldiers, securing 2000 by forcible conscription in Mexico City on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. On April 22, it was stated, Mexicans began to volunteer for service.

Officers of both the war and navy departments were concerned today over the report from Vera Cruz that a small Mexican force was prepared to blow up the railroad bridges between Vera Cruz and Mexico City. Several of these bridges could not be replaced and temporary provision for getting trains by them would be impossible. The plans of the navy and war departments for possible operations out of Vera Cruz hinge on the possession of the railroad, and it was feared they would be seriously

hampered if the bridges were destroyed.

The navy department believes that an expedition out of Vera Cruz along the railroad could insure the safety of the bridges, but it is pointed out that this would be an act of war. This probably would be the first move in case of war is declared. Meantime, the naval forces in Vera Cruz must confine their operations to that city and its immediate environs.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—Secretary Garrison said today that the United States troops which have been ordered to Vera Cruz were going there "for duty" when asked as to the purpose of the military movement. He would make no further explanation.

The military heads received word that the troops ordered from the Pacific coast to the Texas border were enroute for Fort Sam Houston.

Reports that General Wood and General Scott had been ordered to Vera Cruz to take charge of the army movements there were emphatically denied, and General Wotherpoon declared that absolutely no new army orders had been issued.

The attack on Laredo, Texas, by Mexican federals evacuating Nuevo Laredo, across the border, was especially discussed, and the sending of the Texas militia into the field as an aid to the federal troops on border patrol also was taken up.

The conference further considered and prepared to meet the possibility of a change in the situation which might put the constitutionalists in northern Mexico on the defensive.

Status of Militia.

The possibility of mobilizing the militia under the new volunteer army bill, which was laid before the president for his signature was deliberated on.

Ways and means for future possible operations were discussed at length. The conference reviewed several possible operations which might be made necessary by a declaration of war, or by an attack by Huerta forces.

The war department announced later that as many of the troops of the Fourth field artillery as can be taken on the liner San Marcos, will leave Galveston late today for Vera Cruz. The troops will take their equipment with them. The remainder of the regiment and the animals will sail

later on the liner Satilla.

A lengthy conference in the early morning hours today between Secretary of War Garrison, Chief of Staff General Wotherpoon, Major General Wood and other officers, was the culmination of a night of hustling activity at the war department. Strict secrecy was maintained but conditions on the Texas border and the movement of the troops to Vera Cruz were said to have been considered.

Bryan Notifies Rice of Arrests.

Secretary Bryan said today that he has notified Ambassador Spring-Rice of the reported arrest of a British subject at Orizaba. He was one of twenty foreign railroad employes, 19 of them Americans, who were reported arrested there. Mr. Bryan denied the reports that these prisoners had been released and stated that the Brazilian consulate has been appealed to for their release.

Governor Colquitt of Texas today telegraphed the war department asking if the department would bear the expense of moving the Texas militia to the border, where it would co-operate with the regular troops in patrolling the border. Governor Colquitt will be told that there is no authority to give his state troops such financial assistance.

New York, N. Y., April 25.—Officers in charge of army recruiting stations here called the attention of former soldiers to the army reserve act of 1912 under which provides that men honorably discharged with a rating of "good" can enlist in the reserves if not over 45 years old and physically capable.

Chicago, Ill., April 25.—On orders from the commissary department of the United States army, a Chicago packing company yesterday shipped a trainload of fresh beef and other supplies to Galveston for transportation to the American troops in Mexico.

Vera Cruz, April 25.—Fighting between the Mexican federal troops and the Constitutionalists was in progress at Tampico last night, according to a report received by Admiral Badger from the British war vessels there.

CONGRESSMEN URGING ACTION

Cabinet Officers Warned That Declaration of War Cannot Long Be Averted.

CONFERENCE IS HELD

Military Affairs Chairman Confers With Garrison—More Troops Should Be Sent.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—An underground desire in congress for more aggressive action in Mexico became apparent today, several members of the house and chairmen of important house committees agreeing that the plan to "sit tight" at Vera Cruz awaiting retaliatory developments might result in embarrassing international complications.

Some members argued that this government eventually would be forced into war against Huerta and that more troops should be sent at once to the Mexican border and also to Vera Cruz.

Congress Urged to Act.

That congress would take some action as soon as the troops arrive at Vera Cruz to reinforce the naval forces there was predicted by several who declared that they were refraining from a public expression of view until the regular troops of the United States could reach Vera Cruz Monday.

Some members have urged on cabinet officers that a declaration of war could not be long averted, asserting that congressional action should be taken.

Hay Confers With Garrison.

Representative Hay, chairman of the military affairs committee, conferred today with Secretary of War Garrison with reference to the situation.

"I wish I were as well satisfied with the strength of our land forces at Vera Cruz as I am of the naval strength there," said Representative Farr of Pennsylvania, in a speech on the naval appropriation bill today.

"Are our forces there protected against possible overwhelming numbers?"

Mr. Farr portrayed the international rivalry for south and central American trade, declaring that it was the Monroe doctrine that brought on the Mexican complications.

"Can any one," he asked, "foresee the trouble, turmoil and tragic history that would follow a surrender of the Monroe doctrine?"

Representative Padgett of Tennessee, chairman of the naval affairs committee, in a tribute to naval officers, defended the navy from the attacks made on it in the house.

BRITISH ADMIRAL SAVES REFUGEES

Mexicans Refuse to Allow Yacht With 130 Aboard to Sale From Tampico.

OFFICER ACTS QUICKLY

Englishman Boards Vessel, Hoists British Flag and Orders Her Out to Sea.

Port Aransas, Texas, April 26.—The yacht Wackiva arrived in port today with 130 refugees from Tampico. Captain Jullison said the Mexican federals refused to allow the Wackiva to sail, and a British admiral boarded her and hoisted a British admiral's flag. He then ordered her out to sea and they were not molested further.

Admiral Mayo requested Washington to have refugees released from quarantine at once as there is no accommodation on board the yacht for them.

The refugees are officials and employes of the Huasteca Petroleum company.

Mexican Gunboat in Action.

The British commander off Tampico said he had heard a Mexican gunboat in action but was unable to learn the extent of the fighting. The American war vessels were lying a considerable distance out from the coast. Refugees to the number of 1,550 have been removed from Tampico during the last few days.

At Puerto Mexico everything was quiet last night. Rear Admiral Badger is relying on the British vessels there, which are in charge of the situation.

The American liners at the docks of Puerto Mexico have not been interfered with in any way.

Americans Rescue Chinese.

The American torpedo boat destroyer Patterson, which is at Tuxpan, has been instructed to take on board 25 Chinese refugees and send them to Galveston at the first opportunity.

It is probable that the liner Monterey, now here, will be chartered today to proceed to Yucatan and pick up refugees at the small intermediate ports.

Naval officers are of the opinion that the bluejackets and marines on shore will not be relieved immediately on arrival of the first brigade of the army and express the belief that the re-embarkation of the naval forces will be begun only when sufficient soldiers to garrison the city have been landed.

Rear Admiral Badger has received congratulations from Secretary Daniels and has communicated them to the fleet.

WAR NEWS SENT FROM VERA CRUZ

Vera Cruz, Mexico, April 25.—Mexicans desiring to reach the interior from Vera Cruz are to be exchanged for American refugees who wish to reach the coast, according to an arrangement made today.

American naval officers on duty in the city became convinced after an investigation of the sniping which occurred last night, that they had to deal with a secret organization which posts snipers after dark and at points where their fire is most effective.

A demand has been made on the German legation in Mexico City to surrender the arms imported for the protection of the German residents, there, according to information reaching here.

Admiral Von Hintze, the German minister, replied:

"If you get the arms you will have to fight for them."

The American embassy in Mexico City saved fifty out of the 300 rifles in its possession when the order for their seizure came from General Huerta.

The fifty rifles were hidden and Nelson O'Shaughnessy took a receipt for the rifles and machine guns confiscated.

The British consul here has received a report that 100 British subjects are among the refugees marooned at Cordoba in the state of Vera Cruz on the railroad from Mexico City.

BASEBALL

For Today's Games See Page 6.

GO TO CHURCH SUNDAY