
NEWS NARRATIVE

The figures in brackets at the ends of paragraphs refer to volumes and pages of *The Public* for earlier information on the same subject.

Week ending Tuesday, April 28, 1914.

Correction.

The House resolution of approval of President Wilson's use of the armed forces of the United States in Mexico was not passed by the Senate as reported on page 392 of last week's *Public*, but was amended in Senate committee, and finally passed by the Senate and concurred in by the House of Representatives in the following form:

In view of the facts presented by the President of the United States in his address delivered to the Congress in joint session on the 20th day of April, 1914, with regard to certain affronts and indignities committed against the United States in Mexico;

Be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President is justified in the employment of the armed forces of the United States to enforce his demand for unequivocal amends for certain affronts and indignities committed against the United States.

Be it further resolved, That the United States disclaims any hostility to the Mexican people or any purpose to make war upon Mexico.



Mexico and the United States.

The Mexican crisis assumed a grave aspect immediately upon the action of Congress, justifying the President's use of the armed forces of the United States in upholding the dignity of the country. To anticipate the landing of a large consignment of arms, for General Huerta, United States marines, from the fleet under Admiral Fletcher, were landed at Vera Cruz on the 21st to take possession of the customs house. The first landing force, of about 600 men, met with little opposition. Later, the Federal troops opened fire on the marines, aided by citizens on the rooftops. The engagement was mainly with rifles. Three shots were fired from the three-inch guns of the warship *Prairie*, and field artillery was used sparingly in the streets. Four Americans were killed, and twenty wounded in the first day's fighting. Desultory fighting occurred on the 22nd and 23rd as the American forces took complete possession of the city of Vera Cruz, and extended their lines far enough into the surrounding country to control the water supply and prevent surprise from the Federals. The total casualties reported were 19 Americans killed and 60 wounded. The reports of the Mexican killed varied from 150 to 200. [See current volume, page 391.]

It being President Wilson's plan to avoid war and confine his operations to measures of reprisal, no further action was taken on land by the United States authorities. Rear Admiral Badger proceeded to Tampico, but has not landed forces. General Funston, in command of the 5th Brigade, left Galveston on the 24th with 3,400 men. They arrived off the port of Vera Cruz on the 27th, but have not disembarked.



General Carranza, head of the Constitutionalists, on the 22nd, issued a protest against the United States' occupation of Vera Cruz. General Carranza declared himself to be the only legal representative of Mexican sovereignty, and threatened to join with the Federals in driving out the Americans. The next day, however, brought relief to the strained situation, by a declaration from General Villa, declaring he could not be dragged into a war with the United States. General Carranza has given no further public utterances, but his friends have tried to minimize the effect of his declaration. President Wilson renewed his declaration that the United States had no quarrel with the Mexican people, but would insist upon proper treatment from whoever might be in authority.



The crisis became less acute on the 25th, when the Ambassador of Brazil, Domicio Da Gama, and Ministers Romulo S. Naon of Argentina, and Eduardo Suarez Mujica of Chile offered their friendly offices as mediators between the United States and Mexico. President Wilson, after a brief conference with Senators and Representatives representing the Foreign Relations Committees of the Senate and House, accepted the offer on condition, as reported, that the mediation should extend to Generals Carranza, Villa and Zapata, and that as a further condition of the cessation of warlike measures, Huerta should be required to resign, an orderly government should be set up, peace and order should be established in Mexico, and suitable reparation should be made for all the insults to the American flag.



The Spanish Ambassador at Washington, Don Juan Riano y Gayangos, who now looks after General Huerta's interests at the capital, submitted the offer of the three South American countries to the government at Mexico City, and has received General Huerta's acceptance. The other Mexican generals have not as yet acted upon the offer. Some delay is expected because of the friction that has developed between General Villa and his chief, General Carranza.



Many reports of violence, death and insult to Americans came from Mexico City after the cap-

ture of Vera Cruz, but later accounts agree that these have been grossly exaggerated, and that in reality there has been comparatively little lawlessness. Refugees fleeing from interior points were delayed and harrassed, but they are now permitted to leave Mexico City, and Secretary Bryan announces that there have been no authentic reports of deaths for several days.



Military operations have been confined mainly to the capture of Monterey by the Constitutionalists on the 24th, after five days of fighting. This was the strongest post left to the Federals in Northern Mexico. The defeated forces retreated toward Saltillo, some fifty miles to the southwest of Monterey. The Constitutionalists are also renewing their attacks on Tampico, but so far without success.



Army Bill a Law.

The Senate bill on April 24 passed the Hay army bill and on the following day it was signed by the President and became a law. The bill authorizes the creation of a volunteer army. It places under Federal control in war time or "while war is imminent," and after Congress shall have given special authority, the State militia and all other volunteer military organizations, but consent of three-fourths of the membership of any company, troop or battery, will be required before it can be taken over into the Federal service. On taking such organization over, the President may, if he sees fit, appoint an entirely new set of officers. The organizations taken over may, like the regulars, be sent on service out of the country. [See current volume, page 393.]



The Labor War.

At least twenty-nine dead, the greater number women and children, is the result of a three days' battle near Ludlow, Colorado, on April 20, 21 and 22. Details of events that led up to the fight are being reported slowly and unsatisfactorily. The most complete account was in the Chicago Day Book of April 24. According to this the trouble started on April 19. About 1,200 strikers and their families, having been evicted from the company's houses, were living in tents on land leased for them by the union. A number of these were playing ball on Sunday when the guards tried to break up the game, but were driven away. Three machine guns were then set up and trained on the tent colony. On Monday, April 20, Louis Tikas, a Greek striker, protested against pointing the guns at women and children and was promptly shot down. A different version of the occurrence was, however, given by Major P. J. Hamrock of the militia, who is reported by the Associated Press to have said that Tikas and a

crowd of strikers opened fire on his men while drilling. The battle then began in earnest. The women and children fled for safety into cellars while the fight proceeded. The experience of one woman reported in the Day Book is as follows:

All day long we lay down there without anything to eat or drink. I had six children, the oldest eleven, and they all cried. All through the camp we could hear women shrieking and calling to God and the Virgin to come and save their children. The firing continued and the bullets whistled over us hour after hour, and after a while I heard a woman cursing terribly. Later I heard that she had had her hand shot off at the wrist when she reached up from her cellar and tried to get a pail of water to give her children a drink. My children begged me for water, and finally little William—he was my eldest boy—said he was going to get them a drink. So he climbed up out of the cellar and he never came back. I know now that a bullet tore his head all away. I should have gone for the water myself, but I had to stay with the babies.

Just when it was beginning to get dark the gunmen dashed in among the tents and set fire to some of them. Our tents were all close together and the fire spread fast. All the time they kept shooting into the tents, although they knew our men, with their guns, were all away up in the hills. I took my children and ran to a deep arroyo (gully) where there were about 50 other women and babies. Lots of the others, though, were afraid to come out of their cellars and they suffocated under the burning floors and side walls which had been built up of boards.

In a cave under one tent were found after the battle the bodies of eleven children and two women. All the strikers retreated to the hills. The surviving women and children were sent to Trinidad by the militia, where they were turned over to union officials. Altogether twenty-one persons are known to have been killed on this day. [See current volume, page 393.]



On April 22 there was a clash between strikers and guards at Delagua. After a sharp fight the strikers were driven toward Aguilar. Here the Empire mine was attacked and much property destroyed. J. W. Siple, president of the mine company, and Superintendent William Waddell, with twenty men, three women and two children were forced to take refuge in the mine, where they were held prisoners. Finally an offer of release was made on condition that the imprisoned men would give up their arms. Siple rejected the offer for his men but allowed the women and children to leave. On April 24 Siple and his men were rescued by the militia. In the meantime there had been skirmishes between strikers and guards at Ludlow, Primrose, Cameron and other places in the strike district. At least eight men were killed in the fighting of the 22d and 23d, four guards and four strikers.