

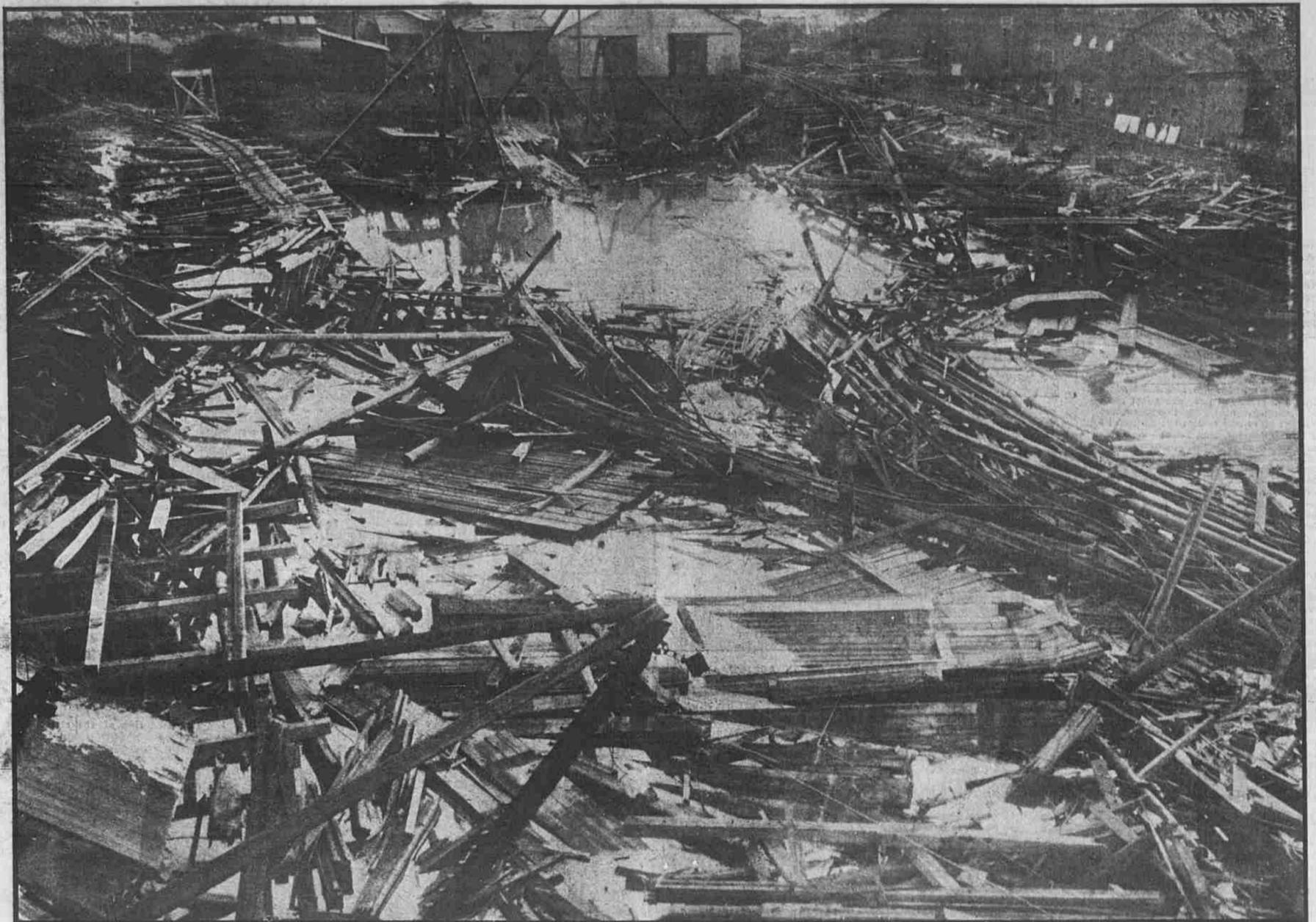
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HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1913—SEMI WEEKLY.

WHOLE NO. 3789

DISASTER OVERWHELMS PEARL HARBOR PROJECT—THREE SECTIONS OF DRYDOCK COLLAPSE IN MASS OF WRECKAGE



(Photo by Staff Reporter of The Advertiser.)

SCENE OF THE WRECKAGE IN SECTIONS ONE AND TWO OF THE DRYDOCK, YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, SHORTLY AFTER THE DISASTER.

BODIES LITTER CITY'S STREETS IN THE CAPITAL

President Madero Telegraphs to Loyal Governors of the Republic.

(By Federal Wireless Telegraph.)
CITY OF MEXICO, February 17.—(Special to The Advertiser)—Although scores of corpses were buried and burned during the armistice yesterday, the streets near the palace still are littered with dead bodies. No estimate of the number killed yesterday was obtainable.

Official dispatches from President Madero to loyal governors were sent out from the City of Mexico today. The Governor of Chihuahua was informed that the federal troops are holding their own and that the end of the revolt seems near.

Anti-American sentiment throughout the interior of Mexico is reported to be rising and hundreds of Americans are flocking to the border.

Communication Again Cut.
(By Federal Wireless Telegraph.)
EL PASO, Texas, February 17.—(Special to The Advertiser)—Wire communication continued with the City of Mexico via Indianapolis, was restored here for the first time. It was stated that fighting in the City of Mexico continued intermittently during the night, but showed the general command that Madero's army is in a satisfactory state. Communication was

ARMY AND NAVY ARE BOTH READY

Six Thousand Sailors, Officers and Marines Now Within Striking Distance.

(By Federal Wireless Telegraph.)
WASHINGTON, February 17.—(Special to The Advertiser)—The United States Army is ready and the naval force continues to move into position to cope with the Mexican situation.

The battleship Georgia already is at Vera Cruz. The Virginia is at Tampico, both on the Atlantic side, and the big dreadnought cruiser South Dakota is at Acapulco and the cruiser Colorado is at Mazatlan, both on the Pacific.

The Vermont, a 16,000-ton dreadnought, the flagship of Rear Admiral Fletcher, commanding the second division of the Atlantic fleet, arrived at Vera Cruz today. The Nebraska, another 15,000-ton dreadnought, also arrived there today.

This will make a total number of six United States men-of-war in Mexican ports, bearing approximately 6,000 sailors, officers and marines who could land for the relief of the Americans of Mexico City, should they become endangered.

Rear Admiral Botherland, commander of the Pacific fleet, has gone with the cruiser Colorado from Mazatlan to Manzanillo, in response to a call by the United States consul there, who reported anti-American demonstrations.

Work of Years Destroyed In Few Minutes As By Some Great Cataclysm of Nature.

The work of four years was destroyed in four minutes yesterday afternoon at Pearl Harbor, when the entire frame crib and concrete work in the great naval drydock collapsed and crumpled until the 1,000-foot basin was jammed with a chaos of wreckage. The eight-foot layer of concrete at the bottom of the excavation was heaved up with cyclopean force when the water in section two had been pumped out almost enough to expose it. The crib-work splintered and the side collapsed.

With hardly a moment's warning, the great structure of false crib work upheaved with its mass of top machinery of pumps, derricks and engines, while the two adjoining sections entirely collapsed and, within four minutes, became part of the mass of splintered timbers, twisted iron and steel and jagged blocks of masonry.

RUSHING TO SAFETY.

More than a hundred workmen were engaged in and on all parts of the structure, when a diver emerged from the corner of section three and running along the timbers to the shore shouted that the structure was giving away.

Warnings were shouted from all parts and the men scurried like rats to safety. Hardly had the last man passed from the structure to the shore, when a mighty surge took place in the center, or number two section. Like a great vessel which has been sunk, the five-storied false crib-work rose steadily as if on some gigantic piston rod.

Slowly but surely the timbers emerged from the water, and then began to crumple. There was a rending of huge beams, splitting and tearing from their iron-bound sockets. Great derricks and cranes toppled over on the trembling and crunching mass and smashed through the tough woodwork.

TWO SECTIONS GO DOWN.

While the upheaval drew all eyes to the center section, it was seen immediately that the adjoining section—one and two—were collapsing, but instead of rising first and falling afterward, they began to sink. There was a hurried withdrawal from the shore bluff, for it was first thought that the bottom was falling out of the basin. With the center coming up and the two sides going down, great masses of water shot in from end to end of the sections, while the rush of water into section two, meeting the water spouting up from underneath, caused the rending timbers to mass into an indescribable tangle.

Upon the shore watching the collapse of all his years' work was Francis B. Smith, engineer of the San Francisco Bridge Company, contractor for the great work. After shouting warnings to the men to leave the hearing structure, his first thought was to get off the dynamite charge to blow down the water gate in the partition between section two and three to flood the pumped out section again. This disaster came so quick that no time was available to get off the charge. Had this been done there is a probability that the disaster in the dock might have been stayed, although even then great damage would have resulted.

AWAITING WORD TO BEGIN WORK

Investigation May Be Ordered By Congress, However—Means Delay.

Immediately following the catastrophe it was noted by the naval engineers that the entire dock structure had moved twenty feet in the direction of the dock opening.
In the event of the concreting system being again followed it will be by the Tremay method, but the entire length will be concreted without any partitions or attempt to divide the dock into sections. The concreting of the entire floor and sides, including the great steps, will be done entirely under water, after which the water will be pumped out.

Rear Admiral Cowles, commandant of the naval stations, will probably be authorized today to appoint a board of inquiry to determine the extent of the disaster in the Pearl Harbor drydock. The board will be appointed immediately and report at an early date, and will probably make any recommendations they may see fit.

It may be within the board's province to change the whole procedure and adopt new methods for completing the dock or recommend starting work on a new one.
While another attempt may be made with the present system of concreting, with modifications found necessary by reason of the knowledge just gained of the instability of the flooring of the dock basin, it is thought by many that since the full reports from Washington a floating drydock may be decided upon as the only solution of the problem which now confronts the naval authorities.
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PRESIDENT TAFT GIVES WARNING TO BELLIGERENTS

Writes Madero That American Citizens Must All Be Protected.

(By Federal Wireless Telegraph.)
WASHINGTON, February 17.—(Special to The Advertiser)—An ultimatum carrying a veiled threat is the construction placed by diplomats here today on President Taft's answer to President Madero's message, that the United States maintains its previous "hands off" policy with regard to Mexico. The last one sent practically demanded that Madero immediately ameliorate conditions in the Mexican capital, and the fact that the note contained assurance not to send troops across the border is regarded here as highly significant.

In view of the special friendship and relations between the two countries," the note said, "I cannot too strongly press upon your Excellency the vital importance of an early establishment of real peace and order, a condition this government so long has hoped to see, because American citizens and property must be protected and respected."
"In reciprocating the anxiety shown by your Excellency I feel it my duty to add sincerely and without reserve that the events of the past two years, culminating in the present most dangerous situation, has created in this country extreme pessimism and the conviction that the present paramount duty is to secure prompt and immediate relief from the situation. Your Excellency is somewhat misinformed as to America's policy towards Mexico which has been uniform for two years and as to such movements and other matters that far taken which are matters of national protection."
(Continued on page 8.)