

Nevins Story How History was Made in Washington on Sunday

Staff Correspondent of United Press Gives Picturesque Narrative of the Events of the Day in the Capital.

[By John E. Nevins, Staff Correspondent of the United Press.]

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Another effort at delay—more quibbling—by Huerta, was squelched today by President Wilson himself.

This developed shortly after 10 a. m. when it was learned that the president and Secretary Bryan had been in communication and that immediately afterward a code message was rushed to Charge O'Shaughnessy at Mexico City.

With characteristic effrontery, Huerta had asked O'Shaughnessy to get the United States to extend the time limit fixed in its ultimatum to forty-eight hours. His excuse was that he would require the additional time to consult his cabinet and the Mexican senators regarding the United States' demand.

The request was submitted to President Wilson at White Sulphur Springs and promptly rejected. The president told Secretary Bryan to inform Huerta through O'Shaughnessy that yesterday's ultimatum meant just what it said and that Huerta must agree to salute the American flag and announce this decision before 6 o'clock tonight or accept the consequences.

This word has been sent to O'Shaughnessy and he is expected to return Huerta's answer to the state department within the next few hours.

An expert operator and translator remained within call in the telegraph room of the state department while Secretary Bryan went to church. The secretary made arrangements to be notified there in case of emergency.

Bryan would not discuss the situation. He would not even admit that he had been in communication with the president nor would he admit that it was the request for further time which reached him early this morning and caused him again to characterize the situation as encouraging but not final.

Despite the secretary's reticence, it is known that this was the case. O'Shaughnessy reported his delivery of the Wilson ultimatum and stated that Huerta had asked immediately for additional time. That is all that has come to the capital from Mexico City and it is now (10:20 a. m.) expected no further word will be transmitted until Huerta has made up his mind what his final action will be.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—Dictator Victoriano Huerta of Mexico—still quibbling—has withdrawn his demand for a simultaneous salute by the American fleet while the Mexican guns at Vera Cruz wipe out the insult placed upon the American flag by Huerta's subordinates.

Huerta has agreed to fire the salute as originally demanded by Rear Admiral Mayo. But—and here is the obstacle—he has demanded that the United States assure him personally through Charge O'Shaughnessy in Mexico City that if a salute of twenty-one guns is fired by Mexico, Admiral Mayo will return that salute.

President Wilson to this demand has sent an emphatic refusal. He has told O'Shaughnessy to tell Huerta that there will be no dickering of any character. O'Shaughnessy shortly before noon today told Huerta that the United States stands on the position it assumed last night. It demands that he formally agree before 6 o'clock to fire the salute as originally demanded by Rear Admiral Mayo.

What subsequent action this gov-

ernment will take after that salute is fired will be for this government to say and not for Huerta to demand.

This was the exact situation at 1:45 p. m. (eastern time) this afternoon. From the sources highest in the government it was learned that the above situation was the result of exchange of messages between O'Shaughnessy and Secretary Bryan, which started yesterday afternoon and continued to the present time.

Secretary of State Bryan at his home in Calumet place made a statement that he believed Huerta was weakening. Bryan said he believed before the time limit expired, Huerta would agree unconditionally to salute the American flag. While Secretary Bryan would not say so, it was learned that if the salute is fired it will be returned and Admiral Mayo's original proposition will be strictly adhered to letter for letter. Other high officials of the government in touch with the situation also interpreted Huerta's abandonment of his simultaneous salute demand as a distinct backing down and they also said they expected the crisis to pass without hostilities. One of them who had examined all of the dispatches to date, said:

"I think the worst is over. Huerta has one leg over the fence now, and we hope he will go the whole way."

This belief was confined entirely to diplomatic circles. War preparations continued. There was no halt in plans for the blockade of the Mexican coast and there was no let up in the preparations in the war and navy departments. Officers were at their desks regardless of the fact that the day was Sunday and the telegraph bureau in most branches of the service were working overtime. At the headquarters of the constitutionalist junta there was a generally pessimistic feeling. The men who have raised the cash for Carranza were very downcast. They do not believe that Huerta can yield. Refusing to be interviewed they privately asserted that if Huerta weakens he will be assassinated before the week is out, while if he remains adamant he will wreck the revolutionary cause through force of public opinion and effervescent patriotism.

Secretary Bryan said that he expected the next word from O'Shaughnessy would reach him between 4 and 5 o'clock this afternoon. Communication with Mexico City is reasonably prompt and the code messages to and from the state department are being given the right of way.

Secretary Tumulty left the white house for home before 2 o'clock and said he would not come back before 6 o'clock unless sent for. He characterized the proposition of whether Huerta would yield as a good fifty-fifty betting proposition although he said that he believed Huerta would accept the terms of the United States.

WASHINGTON, April 19.—A little group of officials, their faces tense, convinced that they were about to give the world news of a war, listened vainly in the telegraph room of the state department at 7:35 tonight for word that President Huerta had made reply within the time limit of President Wilson's ultimatum.

There was no message from Charge O'Shaughnessy at Mexico City. In reality none was expected for an hour or more, but the very fact that at 7:35, Washington time, down in

Mexico City Huerta had cast the die of his future—for war or peace with America—made it an extremely grave occasion.

It is expected that O'Shaughnessy's report on events at Mexico City cannot reach here until 9 or 10 o'clock.

State department rules require cipher dispatches. If Huerta remained silent up to the hour of expiration—6 o'clock, Mexico time, or 7:35, Washington time—Secretary Bryan believes O'Shaughnessy could not put his fateful report into cipher, transmit it here and that cipher be translated in less than two hours. If it is a long dispatch, three hours will be required.

At the telegraph room were concentrated representatives of the executive and legislative departments. Chief Clerk Davis of the state department sat anxiously by a telephone ready to call his chief, William Jennings Bryan, who exhausted by a day of waiting, had gone home for a brief period before a vigil he anticipated would last through most of the night. Secretary Daniels was away for a bite to eat. High army officials were in the little room, waiting on the Morse message which they personally hoped would mean "President Wilson's call to them for active service. Arrangements had been made to notify Senator Shively, acting chairman of the foreign relation committee of Huerta's choice of war or peace. It will be Shively who will set in motion the legislative machinery for a joint "war" session if Huerta has ignored America's demands for apology to the stars and stripes.

Not since the fateful days following the blowing up of the Maine has Washington so tensely waited as today and tonight. There was a thrill of expectancy in the air. Despite the fact that it was Sunday night, the down town streets were full of little knots of people, awaiting newspaper extras. The huge state, war and navy building was lighted almost throughout, glowing out of a sombre night.

The white house executive offices just across the street were ablaze. There the telegraph operator sat with his hands on the key, ready to send the flash to President Wilson at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., over a direct wire, the course that Huerta had chosen.

The day had been marked for the most part by ominous silence. Charge O'Shaughnessy had reported briefly that Huerta, still quibbling, was demanding a written promise on the part of the United States that his salute of apology would be returned. He had apparently withdrawn the insolent demand for a simultaneous gun for gun return.

His latest request was as quickly rejected. Charge O'Shaughnessy was told to inform the dictator that the United States would require the salute from him first and that its course thereafter would be dictated by circumstances. High administration officials said naturally that a salute would be returned but they did not relish that Huerta should dictate the form of acceptance of his apology.

Secretary of State Bryan maintained an optimistic air. So did Secretary Tumulty. They both believed the crafty dictator would acquiesce and choose peace. Secretary of Navy Daniels returned at 4:30 from Cleveland, Ohio. In his absence and after consultation with navy chiefs, it was decided to order the armored cruiser Birmingham and the tender Dixie, with the torpedo flotilla of twenty-two boats at Pensacola, to join Rear Admiral Badger's fleet, now steaming southward to Tampico. At 6 o'clock the battleship Mississippi at Key West is ordered to proceed to Pensacola, there to embark five hundred marines and take aboard all aviation equipment. It was learned that the Birmingham and the Dixie carried two hydroplanes, with a corps of the navy aviators.

Wireless reports tonight to the navy department told that Rear Admiral Badger's battleship fleet was making even better time on its swing southward than had been expected. Badger reported that he now expected to be in Tampico by Tuesday night, or at the latest, Wednesday morning. When he sailed from Hampton Roads it was not believed that he could reach the Mexican seaport before Wednesday.

However, Professor Taft did not arrive on the morning train and it was learned that the former president was in Syracuse, New York, yesterday afternoon. The president was plainly gratified at the improvement he noted in Mrs. Wilson's health. He planned to spend a quiet Sunday here unless there should be news from Washington, when the president was ready to break records in a dash back to the national capital.

The message from O'Shaughnessy which Bryan in Washington at midnight declared was "encouraging but not definite," was read by the president at breakfast. It was learned that the president's reply to Bryan was to tell O'Shaughnessy that the United States will stand on the ultimatum dispatched yesterday.

The president refused to disclose the O'Shaughnessy dispatch but it was intimated that it contained nothing leading to any hope of settlement of the crisis.

The president announced that he would remain in his apartments all morning. This afternoon he plans to take a drive with Mrs. Wilson, and probably attend church at 3 o'clock. There are no morning services at White Sulphur Springs.

When the president returns, Mrs. Wilson and his daughters, Mrs. Sayre

OVER THIS BIG MEXICAN SEAPORT U. S. BATTLESHIPS WILL FROWN



Birdseye view of Vera Cruz.

Some of the U. S. battleships which are now on the way to Mexico will go to Vera Cruz, where there is already a strong force under Rear Admiral Fletcher. In case of trouble with Mexico Vera Cruz would be the first city to be seized by Uncle Sam. It is the largest Mexican seaport.

HOW PRESIDENT SPENT SUNDAY

With Family at White Sulphur Springs Receiving Messages From the Front.

IS READY TO GO BACK

Special Train Headed for Washington With Steam up and Prepared to Start.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. Va., April 19.—President Wilson reached here at 8:30 (central) today. He went immediately to his apartments in the Greenbrier Hotel. No messages had been received for him from Washington during the night.

As an evidence that the president considers the Mexican situation likely to require his instant attention, he ordered his private car turned around to face toward Washington and an engine attached to it, with steam up, so that he might make a hurried dash to Washington if news came requiring his immediate attention.

The private wire by which the president will keep in touch with the white house was opened in the Greenbrier hotel at 8 o'clock. It was believed that the communication received by Secretary Bryan in Washington from Charge O'Shaughnessy after midnight had been transmitted to the president's private car during the night. The president, however, left orders not to be disturbed except in case of extraordinary emergency and his wishes were respected.

It was a beautiful sunshiny morning and the president appeared to enjoy it. His face was not nearly so careworn as yesterday when he sent his ultimatum to Huerta. Former President Taft was understood to have engaged a suite of rooms here today and speculation was rife whether Wilson would meet and confer with his predecessor.

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When the president returns, Mrs. Wilson and his daughters, Mrs. Sayre

and Miss Margaret Wilson, will accompany him.

Wilson Not Excited.

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. Va., April 19.—7:30 p. m.—The hour on which his ultimatum to President Huerta expired found President Wilson quietly dining in his apartments in the Greenbrier hotel. He had not received any word from Secretary Bryan since a telephone message about 2 o'clock this afternoon. The president spent the day quietly, making the most of his rest preparatory to assuming charge of the united service as commander in chief of the army and navy. His address to congress, detailing events culminating in the present crisis and asking recommendations for future action was almost completed. The president had worked away with paper and pencil at odd moments during the day. He wired Charles Swin, his confidential stenographer at the white house, to be on hand tomorrow morning at 8 o'clock to be ready to transcribe this rough draft. While the president preserved a calm exterior, he had made all preparations to rush to Washington in case of extraordinary emergency. An engine with steam up stood hooked to his private car on the sidetrack. It was pointed toward Washington. The president hoped, however, not to be forced to leave until the regular train at 11 p. m. He planned to leave the hotel at 10 p. m. and board his car. Arrangements had been made to keep in touch with Washington both up to the time he left and while he was enroute to Washington.

—Read the want column.

ACCOMPANY FLEET TO MEXICAN WATERS



Captain William S. Sims (top) and Rear Admiral Frank E. Beatty.

BUILDING WAS BUSY LOCATION

Home of State, Navy and War Departments Seldom is Scene of Such Bustle.

EVERBODY IS ON JUMP

All Expected Trouble Brewing Would Burst Before Nightfall on Sunday.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, April 19.—The solemn solid granite building, which houses the state, navy and war departments, was the scene today of unwarranted activity. Where on other days only a few sleepy messengers stand guard against visitors, today there was a bustle of work in many branches.

The bureau of fleet operations of the navy department was manned by a full staff, keeping in touch each minute with the chart that marks war vessels Mexico bound. The bureau of navigation was open; the offices of the secretary of navy and Admiral Blue were in action while in the state department anxious aids followed the code reports from Mexico. The secretary of state himself was expected to stay "on the lid" all day. From the messengers to the highest official, there was an impression of serious trouble—brewing up to burst before nightfall.

WARNING SENT TO ALL FOREIGNERS

Americans and Others Invited to Get on Board U. S. Ships at Vera Cruz.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] VERA CRUZ, April 19.—United States Consul Canada stationed at Vera Cruz today advised all consulates throughout Mexico, foreign as well as American, that Secretary Bryan has instructed him to state that all refugees will be well taken care of at Vera Cruz by the United States (Canada strongly hinted in his message that they should start for this port at once.

Rear Admiral Fletcher commanding American vessels here, went aboard the Essex soon after the arrival of the British warship and was in conference with Admiral Craddock for several hours.

Wilson Salutes Flag.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W. Va., April 19.—President Wilson saluted a flag here today. It was not a Mexican banner; it was the stars and stripes. On a walk with Mrs. Wilson the president met five-year-old Albert "Billy" Clabough of Riverside Drive, New York City, who was carrying an American flag. The president, a great lover of children, shook "Billy's" hand and then probably with his mind full of the crisis over the Huerta salute, the president raised his hat to the flag in the boy's hand.

The president and Mrs. Wilson enjoyed an hour's rest, seated on a bench from which they could obtain a view of the golf links.

CENSORED NEWS FROM MEXICO

Sunday Dispatches Tell of Delay by Huerta and Conferences During the Day.

THE CAPITAL WAS QUIET

No Signs of Dictator Coming Down From His Lofty Perch During the Afternoon.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] CITY OF MEXICO, April 19.—(Censored.)—Local newspapers have been permitted to print reports of the approach of the American fleet to Mexican waters, but it apparently has had little effect as the people in general are not advised of the negotiations that have been in progress between General Huerta and President Wilson. The city was quiet last night. Indications were that Sunday, the chief holiday of the week for Mexicans, would be celebrated as usual.

El Imparcial, the government organ, under the heading "No reason for alarm," says: "A great nation like our neighbor would dishonor itself by attacking Mexico. It would take time and an enormous expenditure of money. We must encourage the military spirit and make every effort to increase the army and be prepared for eventualities. Now that the cry has been raised that the fatherland is in danger and that a stranger is invading our country, it may put an end to our dissensions and cause all Mexicans to unite to defend the flag to the death.

"Fortunately no such danger exists and it is foolish to become frightened at shadows."

At Noon.

MEXICO CITY, April 19.—(Censored.)—President Huerta and his cabinet at noon had not yielded to the demands of the United States that Mexico agree to salute the flag at Tampico by six o'clock. There is no prospect that they will agree to do so. The capital is quiet. General Huerta, it was learned at the foreign office, wants further assurance than that given by Admiral Mayo in the original negotiations that the Mexican salute will be returned. It appeared certain here that the dictator would not recede from his position before the time limit set forth in the ultimatum of President Wilson. [This message received from the United Press staff correspondent in Mexico City, carries the approval of the Mexican government as it was passed by the censor. It was not sent in code.]

At 2:00 O'clock.

[By staff correspondent of the United Press.] MEXICO CITY, April 19.—(Censored.)—At 2 o'clock this afternoon (3:36 New York time), General Huerta had shown no signs of inclining to the United States. No settlement being in sight, Charge O'Shaughnessy went for an auto ride through the park. O'Shaughnessy was up throughout the night engaging in repeated conferences with the dictator and his advisers.

Two Hours Later.

[By a staff correspondent of the United Press.] MEXICO CITY, April 19.—(Censored.)—At four o'clock this afternoon, Charge O'Shaughnessy was making a last attempt to bring about a settlement with the Mexican government. After a conference with General Huerta, Minister of Foreign Affairs Portillo returned to his office where he received O'Shaughnessy. The conference on which the decision of the government will probably be hinged, then began.

Statement from Rojas.

[By a United Press staff correspondent.] MEXICO CITY, April 19.—(Censored.)—Senator Portillo Y. Rojas, Mexican minister of foreign affairs, tonight issued the following statement after his conference with Nelson O'Shaughnessy, American charge d'affaires:

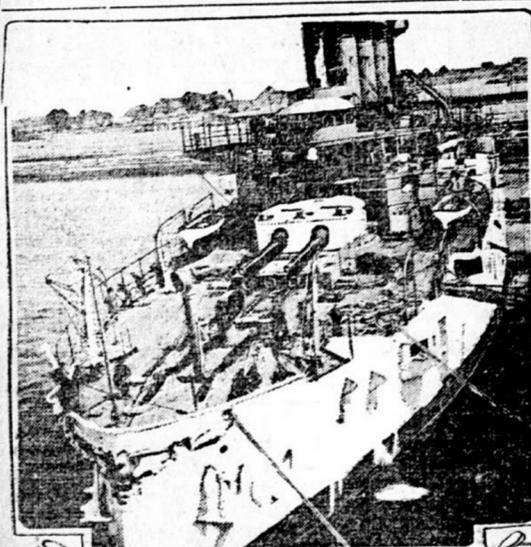
"Mexico has made her last offer. We suggested that if a simultaneous reciprocal salute was not agreeable to the United States, O'Shaughnessy and I should sign a protocol in which the United States would agree to salute the Mexican flag after we had saluted the American flag. This the United States has refused."

To this the United Press correspondent added these significant words: "Six o'clock flash upheld." This apparently means that the Mexican censor refused to pass the news that all negotiations were off.

Father's Day.

Father's Day is any day he is able to get out and hustle for the wherewithal.—Detroit News.

CRUISER DES MOINES IN MEXICAN WATERS



Des Moines.

The cruiser Des Moines is one of Uncle Sam's warships now in Mexican waters. This vessel, together with the Chester, Dolphin, San Francisco, Prairie and Hancock, at Tampico, has a total landing force of 2,500 marines.