

evacuate the sand hills. Tonight the forces were widely scattered, most of them hastening toward the interior and out of range of the aeroplane fleet.

For the first time, the American officers saw aeroplanes in use when actual conditions of war prevailed. The Mexican forces in the sand hills might have been wiped out had bombs been dropped upon them.

Additional details of measures taken by General Huerta to put all Americans and other foreigners entirely within his power within the capital were learned here today. Paul Von Hintz, German ambassador in Mexico City defied 200 federal soldiers who had been sent to the embassy to demand the rifles the Germans have stored there.

"If you want the guns you will have to fight 300 Germans to get them," was the ambassador's reply to the demand. The soldiers argued no further and departed.

A committee of officers and citizens left here today to treat with General Maas who is still at the head of federal troops about fifteen miles from the city, in an effort to arrange for the release of Americans in the interior cities and towns. Another effort will be made to persuade the Mexicans to agree to permit all Americans who desire, to come to Vera Cruz. In return all Mexicans wishing to leave here will be escorted outside the American lines and put aboard trains bound for Mexico City or other interior points.

Although Americans are now forbidden by Huerta to enter or leave the capital, Rear Admiral Fletcher today sent a train load of native refugees from Vera Cruz to Lejea where they were transferred to a federal train. The city was quiet tonight and further steps toward restoration of normal conditions were taken by the American officers in the appointment of men from the ships to all municipal positions. Local officers finally refused to act for fear of disapproval of Huerta. A number of arrests were made as there was persistent sniping last night. One outburst occurred on the plaza while the cafes were filled with diners. There were no casualties but many a diner was left unfinished, as civilians hurried away to their homes or the hotels, further from the crack of rifles.

Several hundred peones have been hired by the naval officers at sixty cents a day to move naval stores and clean up the city. The commissary is feeding the natives. All commerce is in charge of Commander Sellers of the Arkansas.

The Mexican Herald, formerly published in Mexico City, appeared here today. The paper was gotten out by its regular full staff. El Dictamen, a local paper which resumed publication today, claimed to have a report from the capital that four Americans had been killed there. Three it was stated had been dragged from street cars. The fourth was killed in the Y. M. C. A.

The best estimates available tonight placed the Mexican dead in the fighting about Vera Cruz at from 165 to 200 and the wounded at from 250 to 300.

After sweeping over the sand hills the aeroplanes flew as far as Soledad, fifteen miles away where the troops under General Maas are encamped. Many federal soldiers had never seen an aeroplane before and the entire camp was thrown into a panic. The Mexicans were terrified at the sight of an air craft. In Vera Cruz great crowds in the streets gazed upward in wonder at the first sight of the fliers. The marines and

blue jackets cheered lustily as the machines circled over the city while the ignorant peons and timorous women hid in their houses and prayed for protection from what they believed to be some new destroying monster.

A heavily armed guard from Captain Reed's battalion was sent to the water works tonight to prevent an attack by Mexicans who have threatened to cut off the water supply of the city. The marines were ordered to shoot to kill if any federals approached.

Admiral Fletcher took special precautions tonight to keep the natives indoors and to prevent sniping, as Saturday night and Sunday are apt to be riotous even under normal conditions.

AMERICAN AS MEXICAN HOSTAGES

(Continued from page 1.)

sieged the train, pleading that they be permitted to accompany the fleeing party. Colonel Ramon Carona, assigned by Huerta to escort O'Shaughnessy from the city flatly refused.

Before the departure Huerta sent 200 soldiers to the embassy to seize the 275 rifles and two machine guns which were stored there for the defense of American citizens. The American volunteer guards were prepared to defend their arms, but on the advice of O'Shaughnessy, they surrendered the weapons without resistance. Then began the trip for Vera Cruz, during which the hearts of every one in the diplomatic party were to be touched by the appeals of their countrymen for aid. At the towns of Orizaba, Cordova and Jalapa, Americans were crowded about the stations. They pleaded with the American charge to be taken aboard his train. O'Shaughnessy was helpless. These stranded Americans had been taken from trains bound for Vera Cruz. At Cordova, an American wearing a British flag, sneaked to the side of the train and handed a note to one of the consulate employes. This note read:

"Blisser, Berford, Whitcombe and a good many other Americans are being held in jail here. They were taken off a train and are being held as hostages in case Americans attack the town. They want to know if you can't help." At Tejeria, the last station before reaching the American lines, O'Shaughnessy saw several Americans who had been taken off trains. They pleaded piteously to be carried the remaining thirty miles to safety. They told O'Shaughnessy they had been on a refuge train which left Mexico City Thursday morning. Some of the party had been sent clear back to the capital. Their train passed O'Shaughnessy's during the night. When O'Shaughnessy left the capital, Huerta had issued orders that no more Americans would be permitted to leave the city. The order prevented Americans in the little towns reaching the capital.

Huerta ordered that the homes of all Americans be searched for arms, and Thursday night the rooms of Americans in the hotels were stripped of arms. The protectorate established by Sir Lionel Carden, British ambassador, was unavailing in this matter.

The newspapers of the capital have issued the wildest extras. One advised the "chopping up of the dogs." On a railroad embankment running through a tropic swamp and with the sky line marked by cocoanut trees, the transfer of the O'Shaughnessy party from the Huerta train to the American lines was made last night. A mile of up-torn track separated the American train from the Mexican.

Capt. H. McL. Huse, carrying a flag of truce, proceeded across the open space alone. As he approached the Mexicans,

he waved his white flag, as well as the Mexican flag which he carried. Colonel Carona had gone out to meet him and half way between the lines they met.

Colonel Carona and Captain Huse shook hands in friendly fashion and the Mexican officer said:

"I deliver by the order of my president, the American charge d' affaires, the American consul and their staffs.

Captain Huse, shaking hands with O'Shaughnessy and Shanklin, thanked Carona and then said:

"I have brought to the line on my train a large number of Mexicans who desire to leave Vera Cruz. Admiral Fletcher desires me to say he understands many Americans are in the capital who wish to depart. He would be pleased to open passenger traffic both ways between the two cities. As an earnest proof of his wish he desires me to turn over to you the wife and daughter of General Maas." At this point Colonel Carona greeted both women who are relatives of Huerta. Carona had been ordered to secure them in trade for Charge O'Shaughnessy and other members of the diplomatic staff.

Huse then permitted 250 Mexicans and members of the diplomatic party to cross with the Americans. "Perhaps you can make arrangements to permit the escape of the Americans," said O'Shaughnessy.

Carona smiled saying, "I have no authority to discuss any matter other than the delivery of this American party."

Carona changed entirely after he reached the train with the Maas party. He held the train only long enough for the removal of Mrs. O'Shaughnessy, her baggage and one auto. He said he must hurry and departed with two autos belonging to the embassy still on the train. He promised to send the autos to the Americans Saturday. Two hours elapsed from the time he arrived, when Carona ordered the train on the return trip and the American party was being bundled aboard the train which bore them to Vera Cruz and safety.

Applied the Torch. [By William G. Shepherd, United Press staff correspondent.]

VERA CRUZ, Mexico, April 25.—More than a score of American women with babies and children were turned back by Huerta's soldiers, to face the mobs of Mexico City, when they attempted to leave the riot ridden capital on the refuge train that reached here this afternoon. Huerta absolutely refused to allow any Americans to leave the city. Thirty Americans escaped, posing as British subjects under assumed names. They are afraid to speculate on the possible fate of those left behind.

The refugees said that Huerta's soldiers went through the train as it stood in the station and every one identified as an American was put off and forced to remain. Huerta's firm determination to hold the eight hundred Americans remaining there, was shown by the fact that he insisted upon strict identification of every person wishing to depart. He compelled Sir Lionel Carden and Paul Von Schintz, German ambassador to go in person to the station to identify refugees. Carden had done everything possible to help Americans and it was through his assistance that the thirty passing as English, were able to escape. All brought confirmation of reports of anti-American riots, evidently encouraged by Huerta. The gravest fear for Americans remaining in the capital was expressed.

John Phillip told how John McPhail saved him and wife and baby. McPhail told the soldiers that Mrs. Phillip was his wife and that Phillip was his secretary. The baby has small pox but the distracted parents induced McPhail to pretend it was his child and to save it. An English family gave up a state room to the Phillips after the train got under way so that they could be isolated with the child.

Mrs. Albert Simmons, an American woman, who escaped from the capital after harrowing experiences, faintly at the point of transfer. She had walked a mile along the upturn tracks under a British flag, accompanied by Mexican soldiers of whom she was afraid. Several British men picked her up and carried her to the train on which the refugees came to Vera Cruz.

The scenes all along the way were most pathetic, said Phillip. "At many stations we saw Americans waving British flags. They tried to get on the train and begged and pleaded for help. But we could do nothing for them. Men and women were holding up babies to arouse pity and pleaded piteously. It was a heart-rending sight."

"All along the way we heard tales of suffering."

"We were told that three American refugees were taken from a train Thursday and executed."

just appropriated by congress for the work. He directed that all available merchant vessels necessary be chartered. Aid of all foreign governments represented in Mexico was asked to protect and assist foreigners leaving the war stricken country.

Reports that barbaric massacres were threatened against Americans and other foreigners by federal soldiers along the railway from Mexico City to Vera Cruz were received all day.

Unspeakeable atrocities were feared against Americans. At all large seaports tonight, refugees were massing. The congestion is greatest at Tuxpam, Tampico and Vera Cruz. Hundreds are sheltered aboard American and British warships. Galveston is the concentration camp for refugees. Five thousand, it is expected, will be landed there within ten days. Secretary Bryan stated tonight that he did not know how many more Americans are in Mexico. It is believed there are 4,000. About 1,500 refugees are now at Vera Cruz and Tampico. Several hundred more are at Tuxpam. Admiral Howard, commanding the fleet on the west coast, reports at least five hundred at various ports here, including Guaymas and Mazatlan.

WANTS TO SINK IN A SEA OF BLOOD

(Continued from page 1.)

if need be. The raging mobs had chosen the embassy as their chief mark and it seemed a fool hardy thing for him to do to stay, but he was determined. The last words he said to me were, "They've got to kill me before I go."

Burns said that all the Americans left in the city were keeping off the streets. Just as the train pulled out, a report was received saying that the bandit, Zapata and his men were coming. It was stated that the brutal, barbarous Zapatistas would be turned loose in the city and allowed two hours for looting.

It was reported that Huerta had reached an agreement with Zapata by which in exchange for their support, Huerta would permit the Zapatistas to loot American homes and stores for two hours.

Women and Babies. [By William G. Shepherd, United Press staff correspondent.]

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"All along the way we heard tales of suffering."

"We were told that three American refugees were taken from a train Thursday and executed."

"The credit for as many Americans escaping as so far reached here is due to Sir Lionel Carden. He has been the big figure in aiding Americans. This capital is in the hands of a blood thirsty mob. The embassy offers no protection to Americans now, of course, and they are practically at the mercy of Huerta's murderous soldiers. Most of the Huerta soldiers are cut throats and criminals, impressed from prisons."

Each refugee train brings new reports of aid given Americans by the British. The Americans in Vera Cruz tonight were wildly demonstrative whenever the Union Jack appeared. The British Jackies were cheered on the streets by civilians and American marines and blue jackets.

Everywhere could be heard the sentiment that blood is thicker than water. The Britisher is standing by his American brother in this crisis in a fashion that cannot be forgotten. There is the most intense feeling on both sides.

The mobs had repeatedly attempted to set fire to the American embassy, Burns said. All who escaped with Burns assumed names of British subjects and wore British flags for protection. All along the route, they heard of outrages against Americans. The refugees brought a report that Professor Parker, an economist of Columbia University, New York, who went to Puebla from the capital on the day before the United States marines landed, at Vera Cruz, has been arrested and is held as a hostage in Puebla.

Burns said that Huerta's soldiers searched the train three times before it was allowed to leave the capital and that every passenger had to be identified.

Quiet at Vera Cruz.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The following telegram was received at the navy department tonight from Admiral Fletcher: "A train under a flag of truce left Vera Cruz at 10 a. m. Saturday with 350 Mexicans, proceeded ten kilometers to the break in the Mexican road, meeting with a train there with about 400 foreigners, fifty of whom were Americans and all of whom were brought to Vera Cruz. No change in situation here. Additional conferences with city officials today and proclamation issued, disarming all inhabitants."

GENTLE WORDS INSTEAD OF BULLETS

(Continued from page 1.)

on the honor and dignity of this country.

President Wilson tonight through Secretary Bryan accepted the offer of mediation from the "A. E. C." confederation of South America—Argentina, Brazil and Chile. The offer came unolicited. It was unqualifiedly accepted so far as the spirit went. But in his acceptance, the president emphasized that if war comes that Americans have fallen victims to Mexican lust and hate, those responsible must face the course. Three ambassadors who accepted the reply of this government, told Secretary Bryan they realized conditions in Mexico were such that their effort may have come too late.

The offer and acceptance were couched in the formal phrases known to diplomacy. The offer was appreciated by this government. President Wilson took occasion in his reply again to tell the civilized world that we have no designs on Mexico and are willing to meet her in the frankest and most conciliatory spirit. However, in his conference with the diplomatic representatives of the three latin-American nations, Secretary Bryan very frankly told them that President Wilson stood squarely today on the doctrine enunciated when he took office, that "Huerta must go." He told them that the only basis of settlement must be one which assures the nations of the world that the constitutional rights and guarantees of the Mexican people were to be restored to them and to provide for a stable government to take the place of the present chaotic condition.

The complex character of the language of the offer and acceptance, puzzled even the members of the senate and house foreign relations committee who were consulted by the president before it was made public. The president explained that no definite offer had been made. He told senators and representatives that the three countries named through their embassies at Mexico City, would ask Huerta whether he too will accept. The president would not venture a guess as to what Huerta's reply will be.

After leaving the executive offices Senators Stone of Missouri, chairman of the senate committee said:

"I hope that this may be a move of far reaching importance. But anyhow it has enabled us to tell the people of the world and especially the Latin American nations that the United States has nothing but the purest of motives in what it has done and that there is no plan of territorial aggrandizement hidden in our massing of the army and navy of the United States."

"But it is just as well to let it be known here and now, that this country has not the slightest intention of relaxing its grip on the situation. Our warships are in Mexican waters. Our troops are on her borders and en route to her shores. They are going to enforce our demand that this government be respected and to uphold our national honor. And if Ameri-

cans are killed, they will go to avenge them. Whether Huerta will accept I don't know. On the other hand, he must go and his successor must represent the people of Mexico. But it was a splendid tribute to this country to receive this offer of mediation and we do ourselves and these nations honor in accepting it."

Representative Flood of Virginia, chairman of the house committee on foreign affairs, echoed Stone's sentiment. "This offer does not change our policy of aggression in the slightest degree," he said. "Of course if Huerta, realizing that he is facing defeat, wants to accept this offer as a means of getting out of his present predicament it will be glad news to us. We will not accept any tribute, territorial or otherwise, from Mexico. Huerta and all he represents must go and the Mexican people must come into their own."

That was the general opinion expressed everywhere in congressional and official quarters. The president and Secretary Bryan were hopeful that pressure of the three strongest nations in South America would have a telling effect on Huerta and that he would accept. But the bulk of senators and representatives did not believe this possible. They argued that latest advices from interior Mexico and especially from Mexico City pointed to the contrary. There was hardly a man here in Washington who did not fear that when the story of today and tomorrow is recorded, it will be one of outrage that will force our hand.

Sunday is a holiday throughout Mexico and especially in the capital. Anxious officials here tonight were asking what the holiday fiesta will be. Not in years has Washington been so stirred as it was today. The stories of Americans dragged from trains and thrown in prisons, of whole families maltreated because of their nationality, and of other Americans being held as hostages in case of possible reprisals by the United States, aroused most bitter enmity here. Border senators and representatives protested in person to the president and Secretary Bryan. Grim visaged officials waited for word anxiously, that would start a forced march on the city of Mexico. Secretary Bryan sought vainly through friendly embassies and legation for some word as to just what is going on behind the scenes in the southern capital.

The Brazilian, Chile and Argentine embassies at Mexico City have used their utmost persuasive powers all day to compel Huerta to protect all foreigners and especially Americans. The three embassies were expected to throw their doors open to American citizens in case of urgent need. But they can do very little. Officials here who are familiar with the situation, openly admitted that even though Huerta might desire to give protection to Americans, he is not now in position to do so. Most of his best troops have been sent out of the city. The flower of his army was annihilated at Torreon. The troops now under arms in Mexico City are the riff-raff of the nation; the impressed men who hate Americans with the most bitter hatred and who blame Americans for their present predicament.

These men will welcome the chance to maltreat Americans, rather than protect them, in the opinion of officials who know most about the situation. There are grave fears also that reports from here that the United States had accepted a proposal providing for mediation with Huerta, might cause an outbreak among the constitutionalists. There was no one in official circles who cared to hazard a guess as to how Carranza and Villa would accept the report that Argentina, Chile and Brazil were to mediate. Both are suspicious of the South American nations.

The question of sending additional troops to the border and to Vera Cruz was still undecided at a late hour tonight. The president held several conferences with Secretary of War Garrison. The entire question was thrashed out. Garrison renewed his recommendation that the entire army be rushed to the border and that an entire division be sent to Vera Cruz. In his suggestion he was backed up by Postmaster General Burleson, who, as a Texan, is familiar with everything Mexican and who insisted that an overwhelming show of force was the best thing under the existing circumstances. Secretary of State Bryan took an opposite view. He has not actually come into conflict with Garrison at any time but there have been differences of opinion between them. Bryan argued that any enormous movement of troops just at the time when an offer of mediation had been accepted, would at least seem to be a reflection on American good faith in such an acceptance. The matter was finally held in abeyance although orders for movements of certain troops were drawn and held by Garrison ready for signature the instant the necessity should arise.

Night Conference.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—President Wilson, Secretary of War Garrison and Secretary of the Navy Daniels, conferred in the executive offices tonight until 10:15. At the end of the conference, the secretaries said that they had merely laid before the president all of the dispatches at his disposal, which dealt with the Mexican situation.

While they would not divulge the contents of the dispatches, it was learned that they emphasized the real peril of the Americans in all of Mexico; weak at great length on the anti-American feeling within the ranks of

the constitutionalists and explained how necessary it was that this government land men and take possession of the Tehuantepec railroad. President Wilson teased real war with the heads of his division. There was no attempt to disguise the seriousness of the situation. At the same time, there was acceptance of the optimism heretofore manifested by the president and Secretary Daniels who believe that Huerta is only anxious for some excuse to save his own face. The president went to bed at 10:30 and Secretary Tumulty returned to his home but left word they were to be awakened if anything serious developed. Up to a late hour, the Brazilian, Chile and Argentine representatives were in conference at the home of the first named. The Mexican situation was gone into entirely.

No member of the diplomatic corps of the three nations would discuss in any way what happened, but there was not one of them who evinced an optimistic frame of mind. An indication that the administration holds little hope for success of the mediation plan, was the statement from the white house tonight that nearly all retired officers of the United States services are to be called back to duty during the next forty-eight hours.

Ten minutes before six o'clock, President Wilson by adding the thirteen letters of his name to the bottom of the engrossed copy of the army bill added upwards of 150,000 men to the armed forces of the nation.

The bill not only provides for the enlistment as an organization of the entire guard of forty-eight states, but also gives the president authority to send them beyond the border of the United States in case of war.

The president will sign the army appropriation bill on Monday. It will make immediately available, millions which can be used for emergencies that may arise. It will obviate the necessity for a special appropriation bill until a state of war actually exists, something the democratic leaders have been very anxious to avoid.

It Suits Villa. JUAREZ, Mexico, April 25.—Gen. Francisco Villa tonight showed intense interest in the proposition made by the representatives of Argentina, Chile and Brazil to mediate in the difficulties between the United States and Mexico. He had translated to him the terms of the proposition and especially the statement that America would insist on the elimination of General Huerta.

"That manner of settling the difficulties suits me," he said. "Any settlement based on the retirement of Huerta is satisfactory to me. I hope, however, that the United States will retain a firm grasp on the situation and not permit the South American republics to obtain too strong a hold. Personally, I am willing that the United States handle the matter alone."

WAR NEWS, UP TO DATE

(Continued from page 1.)

More than 3,000 refugees were aboard vessels in the gulf today en route to Galveston. About 1,200 more will be taken from Mexico next week.

British Ambassador Spring Rice was informed here of arrival of an Englishman named Boyd at Orizaba. He also told Secretary Bryan that Huerta is holding all Americans in Mexico City as hostages for safety of Mexicans in Vera Cruz.

At Bryan's request, British and Brazilian representatives in Mexico City, notified Huerta that Mexican non-combatants are not under arrest at Vera Cruz although federal soldiers captured, are held prisoners. The gunboat Yerktown and the Mexican gunboat Guerrero, arrived late today at Guaymas.

During the day formal denial was made by Bryan and Daniels that Bryan contemplated resigning. Daniels characterized such reports as "mighty near treasonable, under present conditions."

THE WEATHER

[United Press Leased Wire Service.] WASHINGTON, April 25.—Weather forecast:

Iowa: Fair in east, increasing cloudiness west portion Sunday. Showers and cooler at night or Monday.

Illinois: Fair Sunday, Monday cooler and unsettled, probably showers.

Missouri: Fair Sunday, warmer southeast portion, Monday showers and cooler.

Local Observations. Bar. Ther. Wind W'th'r April 25 7 a. m.—29.06 61 S.W. Pt. Cl'd'y 25 7 p. m.—29.00 76 W Clear River above low water of 1864, 3.5. Change in 24 hours, rise 1 tenth. Mean temperature, 70. Lowest temperature, 60. Highest temperature, 79. Lowest temperature Friday night, 60.

FRED Z. GOSEWISCH, Observer.

Mrs. Hay Dead. [United Press Leased Wire Service.] NEW YORK, April 25.—Mrs. John A. Hay, widow of former Secretary of State Hay died here today at the home of her daughter Mrs. Payne Whitney, after an illness lasting ten days. The body will be taken to Cleveland for burial.

—Read the next column.