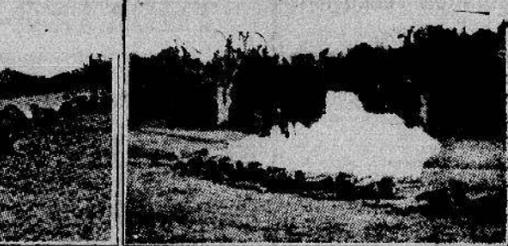
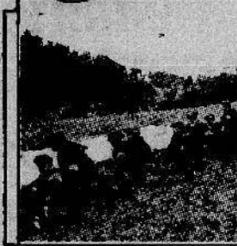
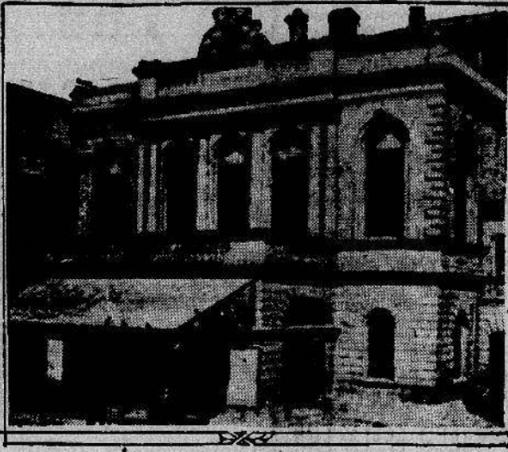


President Wilson's Greatest Administrative Fight Is on at Last
Champ Clark Opposes Scheme to Force Gag Rule Upon House



The Marquis of Londonderry; Ulster Hall at Belfast, headquarters of the rebellious Ulsterites; sham fighting during maneuvers held recently by Ulster volunteers in preparation for war.

SEELY MAY RESIGN AS SACRIFICE TO WRATH

PREMIER IS NOT PREPARED TO MAKE STATEMENT AND TENSION IS GREAT.

London, March 26.—That the government is facing a situation of extreme difficulty is proved by the fact that Premier Asquith was not in a position tonight to make his promised statement in parliament and it was postponed until tomorrow.

The only new facts in the situation today were to be found in the resignation of Field Marshal Sir John French, chief of the imperial general staff, and Sir John Spencer Ewart, adjutant general of the army council.

MISS ASQUITH HAS HER OWN TROUBLES

London, March 26.—Being an English premier's daughter isn't the pleasantest position in the world just now, with so much strife and bitterness between the warring political parties.

An extraordinary incident happened in the ladies' gallery of the house of commons during a recent debate. In the select section of the gallery that is sacred to the relatives of ministers and ex-ministers were, among others, the Marchioness of Londonderry and Miss Asquith.

A Few Cents for a Girl

This class ad, which appeared in The Missoulian-Sentinel classified ad columns for just three days, secured the girl wanted. There were many answers, and from the applicants the advertiser was given opportunity to select the most likely candidate for the situation.

Here is the ad:

HELP WANTED—FEMALE. WANTED—DINING ROOM GIRL TO go out of town; 526 E. Cedar, Mrs. John Lewellyn.

Do you want a girl? Have you something for sale or rent? Do you want anything? The Missoulian-Sentinel classified ads reach all of the people in western Montana who are interested in the things you want or have to sell.

At your service for 2 cents a word a day; 40 cents a line a week; \$1 a line a month.

The cabinet at his residence after it was decided to postpone the statement to parliament. Later it was announced, with a show of authority, that both French and Ewart had at last consented to withdraw their resignations.

In Ireland no change has occurred. Belfast remains quiet and although it is asserted that the officers at the Curragh camp are determined to resign because of the reputation of Colonel Seely's guarantee by the government, no actual resignations, so far as known, have occurred.

FIGURED ON PAPER VILLA IS IN A FIX

ARMY STRATEGISTS CONCLUDE HIS POSITION IS CRITICAL ACCORDING TO DOPE.

Washington, March 26.—Not since the successful assault of Olnaga has there been so much interest manifested here in the details of the Mexican campaign as in the present attempt of the rebel general, Francisco Villa, to capture the important federal base at Torreon. The state department has its representative at the front in the person of Vice Consul Carothers, on terms of personal intimacy with Villa, but so far it has heard nothing from the vice consul except a brief message last night that results had not been determined.

Army officers here believe that Villa's situation is critical. They point out that it would be impossible for him to proceed on his march toward the City of Mexico leaving a strong federal base on his line of communication, while on the other hand, he cannot remain indefinitely in his present position outside of Torreon for lack of means to keep his army in food, water and ammunition. The necessity of gathering most of his troops at the front has thinned the constitutionalist leader's lines of communication with his base at Chihuahua and if these should be cut by a force of federalists from Saltillo or Monterrey the rebel army would be in a desperate plight. The army strategists here are convinced, therefore, that if Villa does not succeed in breaking down the opposition at Torreon quickly he will be obliged to undertake a hurried retreat to Chihuahua to reorganize and strengthen his forces.



MISS VIOLET ASQUITH.

man who was present, an Ulster peer's son, who is employed in the Egyptian civil service, exclaimed violently: "I wish I were there. I'd be the first to hang your old father to a gas lamp." The Sirdar intervened to protect Miss Asquith, but the rest of the company, which was wholly military and official, silently approved the young man's insulting conduct.

WON OR LOST IS GREAT FIGHT

EACH SIDE SENDS OUT BULLETINS CLAIMING VICTORY IN TORREON BATTLE.

RUMORS NOT BELIEVED

Rebel Sympathizers Held a Celebration Upon the Strength of Reported Capture of Gomez Palacio, but Folks on the Border Are Waiting for News That Can Be Depended On.

Washington, March 26.—The constitutionalists' agency here tonight gave out the following telegram from Rafael Muzquiz, constitutionalist agent at El Paso: "Gomez Palacio and Lerdo are in our hands and Torreon is completely surrounded. We are expecting victory at any hour."

Advancing. Chihuahua, Mexico, March 26.—An official report today says that the rebels have established headquarters within a mile of Gomez Palacio and are trying to get closer to Torreon. Fighting was heavy today, but the relative positions of the opposing armies with respect to Torreon practically are unchanged.

Celebrating. Juarez, Mexico, March 26.—General Villa's dispatch was given out by General Chao stating that he took Gomez Palacio this morning. This was made the basis of an informal celebration among the peons here tonight. There was music by the military band, much throwing of confetti and a dozen impromptu parades. Only one press telegram came through—that of the Associated Press correspondent at Chihuahua—but it did not confirm the alleged Villa report.

Fighting Resumed. Eagle Pass, Texas, March 26.—After the repulse of General Francisco Villa and his rebel army, fighting has been resumed near Torreon at Noe, a few miles north of Gomez Palacio. This was the substance of a dispatch to federal headquarters in Piedras Negras late today, said to have been sent direct from the battlefield by General Joaquin Maas.

Our arms victorious at Gomez Palacio. More than 2,000 killed, wounded and prisoners. Cavalry pursuing. Federal officials at Piedras Negras interpreted the latter message from General Maas as meaning that Villa had been driven from Gomez Palacio, but whether the engagement at Noe was a final stand by the rebels in retreat or a renewal of the attack on Torreon could not be explained.

The federal dispatches reached Piedras Negras over the government wire into Monterey. General Maas, military governor of the Northern zone of Mexico, was reported in a Mexico City dispatch to have gone from Monterey with 700 men in armored automobiles to reinforce Velasco at Torreon.

Conflicting Reports. El Paso, Texas, March 26.—Conflicting reports today left the situation at Gomez Palacio and Torreon a matter of conjecture. General Villa telegraphed to Manuel Chao at Juarez that he had been in possession of Gomez Palacio since morning and predicted that the rebels would have Torreon not later than Saturday. On the other hand, Miguel Diebold, of Huerta's consular service, exhibited telegrams declaring that the rebels had been repulsed at all points. Diebold alleged that when at first the rebels thought they had Gomez Palacio, they were the victims of a trap as a result of which they lost heavily in dead and wounded, not to mention the loss of 600 prisoners.

The federal retreat, he said, was a lure to draw the rebels over 127 dynamite mines, which, he said, were exploded under the invaders with the result mentioned. General Villa's telegram as given out by General Chao asserted that the rebels were still maintaining a base at Elverjel, five miles from Gomez Palacio, while the railroad line between the two places was being repaired. He added that the federalists had attempted to evacuate Torreon through the hills to the south, but were driven back into the city.

Villa is said by Chao to have asserted that for the 24 hours preceding his taking of Gomez Palacio the battle was confined mostly to artillery practice. Villa is quoted today as saying that his men were moving into positions for the attack on Torreon proper.

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Resolution to Limit Debate in the House Precipitates the Opening of the Struggle With Strong Men Lined Up in Opposition



CHAMP CLARK.

Washington, March 26.—The greatest legislative battle yet undertaken by President Wilson's administration was begun today with the presentation of a special rule in the house to limit debate and prohibit amendment on the administration's proposal to repeal the provisions of the Panama canal act allowing free passage to American ships.

For two hours the rule was alternately defended and attacked in heated debate in the house. When adjournment came, with an hour of debate on the rule left for tomorrow, Speaker Champ Clark, who had not yet announced his position on the repeal policy, issued a statement vigorously opposing the rule.

"Surely there is nothing sacred about this repeal bill, and there is no reason for this mad rush," Speaker Clark said in his statement. "I will not be a party to ramming such a rule down the throats of members." Impressed with the importance of a measure which President Wilson has characterized as necessary to the conduct of his administration's foreign policy, an extraordinary attendance of members was on the floor when the rule was presented. Galleries and floor were crowded. Throngs of spectators occupied the stairways and overflowed into the corridors. The spectators came when the house met at 11 o'clock this morning as routine business delayed the tolls bill and the nervous tension on the floor grew more tense.

The legislative way finally was cleared and at 4 o'clock Representative Henry, chairman of the rules committee, presented the rule limiting debate on the Sims bill to 20 hours and precluding amendment except for a single motion to recommit. Brief argument brought about agreement for three hours of debate on the rule and the preliminary skirmish of the greatest legislative struggle of a decade was on.

Representative Henry, to a house silently attentive, explained the rule and launched into a defense of the repeal bill. Then followed an argument in which the rule received little attention as compared with the merits of the measure, and the president's foreign policy, the right of the American government to exercise control of the canal it has built and the economic advisability of free tolls for American ships were dragged back and forth into the discussion.

The foreign situation was the particular subject for most of the speakers. The president's adherents that spoke, all democrats, asserted that under the treaty the United States has no moral right to pass its ships free. His opponents, republicans and progressives, attacked the foreign policy of the administration and denounced the proposed repeal as an "abject surrender to Great Britain." Throughout the discussion Majority Leader Underwood for the first time opposing the Mann and Progressive Leader Murdock, both made arguments against the rule and bill.

Administration leaders tonight vigorously sought to keep their supporters in line and to obtain recruits. The opposition directed their efforts to procuring votes to defeat a motion to close debate on the rule which will be made after an hour's debate tomorrow, and which, if beaten, would allow the amendment of the rule. In this situation, the opponents of the bill would attempt to open the Sims bill to amendment, and might secure the adoption of a compromise amendment, repealing the tolls section, without surrendering the contention that the United States, under the treaty, has the right to grant free tolls.

Sims Pleads. Speaker Clark's statement tonight encouraged the opponents of the rule and Representative Sims, author of the repeal bill, later issued a statement declaring: "I have heard that there will be an organized effort by enemies of the administration, both in and out of the democratic party, to defeat the motion for the previous question on the rule tomorrow. The object of this would be simply to allow embarrassing amendments to be offered to the bill. A vote against the previous question will be practically a vote against the bill."

Both sides displayed great activity throughout the evening, preparing for the reopening of the struggle tomorrow. Speaker Clark's statement read:

Speaker Clark. "I am dead against the rule on the tolls question and intend to vote against it. I will not stultify myself by voting for any such rule. I feel the fight to liberalize the rules and practices of the house, thereby imperiling my political future. We won that long and bitter fight and it was the first democratic victory in 18 years. Time and again I declared that I would not advocate a thing when in the minority that I would not advocate in the majority.

"The democrats won the house in 1910 the first time in 16 years. I was unanimously nominated for speaker and duly elected by every democrat in the house with the hearty good will of every republican, because they believed that I am a truthful man. In order to liberalize the rules and practices of the house, I voluntarily relinquished a large portion of the powers of the speaker which I could have retained by making a fight, but I honestly believed that the speaker had too much power under the old system for the good of the house and of our institutions. "Among other things I declared that I was in favor of throwing bills open to ample discussion and amendment, and I am going to keep the faith. If I were to vote for the pending rule, I could not look the house in the face. When I made that statement I was speaking particularly of tariff bills,

but my statement is equally applicable to all great bills. Here is the situation: We have a rule reported on a bill on the greatest question presented in my 20 years in the house, besides which tariff bills sink into pitiable insignificance, a bill which, if passed, will change our foreign policy, which we have maintained for 125 years and only 20 hours for debate are permitted under this proposed rule and the right to amend is absolutely prohibited, and no intervening motion permitted except one motion to recommit. On such an important and far reaching measure there should have been at least a week for debate with the unlimited right of amendment. Surely there is nothing sacred about the Sims bill and there is no reason for this mad rush. I will not be a party to ramming such a rule down the throats of members."

In the House. Washington, March 26.—A rule to limit debate on the Panama canal tolls exemption repeal bill to 20

hours was presented to the house at 4 o'clock this afternoon. A vote on the rule was expected before adjournment. By agreement debate on the rule was limited to three hours, one half under control of Chairman Henry and one-half under control of Representative Campbell, ranking republican of the rules committee, 40 minutes of the time to be allotted to the progressives.

Representative Henry opened the argument for the rule. He declared that the free tolls plank of the Baltimore platform did not represent democratic sentiment and pointed out that when the Panama canal act was passed only 72 democrats in the house voted for free tolls while 94 voted against the provision.

A Blunder. "I propose," he said, "to aid in the correction of a blunder that has been committed by the American congress. This free tolls provision violates a

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PATRIOTISM CALLS DECLARES WILSON

Washington, March 26.—President Wilson in talks with callers today argued that members of congress were not being asked to change their personal opinions on the tolls exemption, but to vote patriotically for its repeal in order to correct a serious international situation which threatened to embarrass the United States in future negotiations of treaties and trade agreements.

The president told congressmen who visited the White House that those who issued their opposition to the repeal on economic grounds or even on their individual interpretation of the Hay-Pauncefote treaty were losing sight of the main point—the united and unanimous opposition of the civilized world against the tolls exemption. The president has been informed that the press of South America, speaking, he thinks, also for their governments, has joined the press and governments of the rest of the world in the view that the United States is interpreting treaties to suit itself regardless of obligations. Mr. Wilson emphasized that it was no personal question with him, although he himself believed the tolls exemption was a form of ship subsidy and a mistaken economic policy as well as a breach of the treaty. He reiterated that he did not go to congress with his message to express his personal views, but to state a situation which had arisen internationally, involving circumstances which were

not before members of congress when they last considered the Panama canal act. He did not believe members of congress would be compromising themselves by changing their votes now because he knew they could not have foreseen the worldwide protest at that time.

Asked what the international situation was, the president explained that so long as the judgment of the United States on a question of national honor and a treaty obligation, foreign governments generally would not be enthusiastic about entering into further treaties or trade agreements. For this reason he held it as vital to repeal the tolls exemption clause. There was deep feeling in the president's voice as he considered the subject with a group of callers. He referred to the American nation as too big and powerful to be ingenuous or captious in its construction of treaties. The United States, he believes, is too big to say, "We will do just as little as possible and as we please in interpreting our obligations." He insisted that the thing for the United States to do was voluntarily and ungrudgingly to make its own ships pay tolls on an equality with other nations as the points involved were too small as compared with the international inconvenience and loss of prestige which he thinks permanently would be occasioned.