

VERA CRUZ SHOWS UNIQUE SPECTACLE

Striking Contrasts Exhibited in City of Assembled Army and Navy.

MEN OF EVERY RANK MEET IN GLAD REUNION

Strange Kaleidoscope of Movements in Official and Social Life With War as Prospect.

BY WINGROVE BATHON,

Staff Correspondent of The Star at Vera Cruz. VERA CRUZ, May 8.—Here is one of the most extraordinary spectacles which 20,000 soldiers of the regular army, marines and bluejackets are waiting word any moment to march inland to take Mexico City. This is a city of glad reunion and comradeship.

The heard officers, who were boys together at West Point and Annapolis and separated for nearly a lifetime, are greeting one another. Enlisted men who served in the army and navy years ago in the Philippines and have since been scattered to all corners of the country are recognizing one another on the streets here.

Many recent officials of the War and Navy Departments are here and their presence lends emphasis to the general belief that there is to be field service soon and plenty of it. In strange contrast to the impatience manifested among the soldiers and sailors for the word to go forward for battle is the attitude of a few American women here who are enjoying the social life as they do it as well as winter season in Washington. Each of these women is attended by at least four gold-laced butlers. While thoughts of fighting that may come on the morrow are always intrusive, yet the merry dance goes on and the ship bands are playing "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here."

American Flag Is Raised Over Headquarters of Army

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, VERA CRUZ, Mexico, April 27 (by mail steamer).—The correspondent of The Star had the honor of being present today at one of the most solemn and memorable events since the American forces landed, when the Stars and Stripes were formally unfurled over this building in the presence of Admiral Badger, commanding the Atlantic fleet; Admiral Fletcher, who took possession of Vera Cruz, and the paraded troops, marines and bluejackets, who have participated in the history-making events of the past week.

The headquarters of the United States expeditionary force are the Union railroad terminal, facing the water front. At 2 o'clock this afternoon, while the bands played the "Star Spangled Banner," civilians uncovered and the troops stood at attention. Capt. F. H. Delano, adjutant of the 2d Regiment of Marines, in charge of a small party on the roof of the railroad terminal, ran up a brand-new American flag proclaiming to the world that the United States is in charge here. Capt. Delano was given this honor because he was the second man ashore when Vera Cruz was taken, Col. Neville, commanding the 2d Regiment, United States Marines, having been the first during the ceremony of raising the flag. Col. Neville stood below in command of the 2d Regiment, paraded in the plaza before the railroad building, and flanked by the landing battalions of the battleships Utah and Florida. Before these troops, who were spiked and span in uniforms, in contrast to the working clothes they have worn the past week, stood Admiral Fletcher and his staff, Admiral Badger and his staff.

As "Old Glory" came to the top of the flagpole, the Minnesota flagstaff of Admiral Fletcher, fired the national salute of twenty-one guns, and the crowd cheered again and again, and the "boom" of the guns came across the water.

Object Lesson for Vera Cruz.

The event presented a most vivid picture. It was particularly striking to those troops and civilians who have been fired on from buildings over which the Mexican flag still waves by "hot-shooters" and "snipe-shooters." Tears came to the eyes of Consul Canada, who stood

on the roof of the building, as he observed the Star correspondent: "I have waited a long time for this, as you can well imagine. It does my old heart good."

Nearly, also, none the less affected. A British subject, Mr. Forke, the brave young correspondent of the Central News agency of London, uncovering with the Americans as the great flag took the breeze.

"Beautiful colors you chaps have. Glad to see them there," this Englishman said, as others of his race nodded approval, and those present relaxed from their rigid stand at attention.

In the glaring, burning tropical sun whose rays have shivered every palm or other evidence of vegetable life which has tried to force existence from the sandy, dusty plaza before the Terminal building, the troops raised their eyes to the colors that have called them to death on so many foreign shores, inspired, as they said afterward, with the belief that now that the American flag is formally waving over Vera Cruz, in at least one prominent place, the treacherous Vera Cruz assassins who have been shooting and sniping will be unable to heed and warning of what the "Stars and Stripes" stand for.

Capt. Delano said to me, as he came down from a little temporary platform that had been built around the pole on the roof: "Look at the faces of the men! We don't often get a chance to raise this flag this way in a foreign country! Long may she wave."

AMERICAN SPIRIT REVIVALS.

The spirit of "My country, right or wrong" was everywhere manifest among the Americans. The event was taken in and around the city, and although there was at first but a small gathering of Americans, because it was not generally known that the flag was to be raised, great numbers of them stood in the streets and windows and avenues as they saw the troops take position before the depot. Soon the crowd swelled to a large one.

"Bond, young barbarians," as the swarthy Vera Cruzans call the Americans, in some cases gazed with apparent awe at the Mexicans, who watched the cheering Americans, who have overrun this city, and who are showing themselves so capable and efficient that they are arousing the jealousy of Vera Cruzans, who cannot even run their own post office, but who are trying to live, evidently, for the "bond barbarians," the marines and bluejackets, have one point of view, terse, and seemingly to the point.

"Why pity them because we run up the Stars and Stripes in place of the Mexican flag?" they cried. "They don't know how to honor any flag, their own or the Red Cross insignia, under which they prove themselves assassins."

There was no Mexican flag, however, on the building here. The building had come down today, although there has been time to time. Occasionally, too, there has been an American flag, run up there unofficially by "some of the boys." Until today the only instance of an American flag flying officially in Vera Cruz except over the consulate was the incident of the Michigan battalion running up the Stars and Stripes over the barracks of the 19th Federal Infantry, and the men of this command took that down shortly after when the Mexicans advised them to get out because of the short-pox and spinal meningitis record of this barracks.

SIBERT WITHDRAWS OFFER.

Canal Engineer Prefers Mexican Service to Red Cross Mission.

Lieut. Col. William L. Sibert, Corps of Engineers, builder of the great Gatun locks and dam of the Panama canal, who is now in this city on waiting orders, has withdrawn his tentative acceptance of the offer of the American Red Cross to go to China and assist in the big engineering project for the protection of the Hwai river district from flood.

His action is based on his desire to serve in the field with the United States Army in case of war with Mexico, and his disinclination to go so far away as China in the present critical state of affairs in our neighboring republic on the ground that he has made formal application for service in the field in case of action, and undoubtedly would be among the first of the applicants chosen for command of a brigade or regiment of volunteers.

JUDGE PROPOSES PROBE.

Instructs Grand Jury to Take Up Bribery Charges in Frank Case.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 8.—It has been announced that Judge Ben Hill of the superior court, who Wednesday denied a new trial to Leo M. Frank, will instruct the grand jury, which begins its sessions a week from Monday, to make a thorough and rigid investigation of the charges of perjury, coercion and intimidation of witnesses made against each other by both sides in the famous murder case.

Counsel for Frank were busy yesterday preparing to take his plea for a new trial to the state supreme court. It was said the solicitor would not oppose steps in this direction, he having stated that he desired to expedite final determination of the case.

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GEN. BLISS EXPERT ON FEEDING TROOPS

Contents Well Fed Soldiers Can March Farther and Shoot Straighter.

COMMANDS U. S. FORCES ON THE TEXAS BORDER

Banks High as Strategist and Linguist and Is Expert on Coast Defenses.

Gen. Tasker Harmon Bliss is in command of the United States troops along the Texas border. Every one hopes that there will be no conflict there between the American soldiers and the Mexicans. But if there should be a conflict, those who know Gen. Bliss are fairly sure in their minds. He is regarded as one of the most thoroughly competent soldiers in the army. And as a fighter he is simply grand. But his especially long suit is in feeding the troops.

"A well fed soldier," says Bliss, "can march farther and stay awake longer and shoot straighter than the other sort."

Some one told the other day a story of the Spanish war. Bliss was in command of a company stationed near a village which was held by an overwhelming force of Spaniards. Bliss ordered them to keep his eye peeled like an onion. If he saw anything—if he heard anything—if he just had a telepathic hunch of anything—he was to gather his men and fall back as far as he could and wouldn't trip him, and chased the loathsome Spaniard out of that village with whoop and hallo. Next day headquarters happened along to find Bliss sitting in front of the village hotel, wearing a smug and satisfied smile. Headquarters issued a hard call.

Odor of Onions Did It.

"Why did you attack this village," asked headquarters, "when you knew you were largely outnumbered?" "Shucks," said Bliss—except that he used the regular army substitute for shucks, which isn't a West Point word—"shucks, I didn't attack this dog town. My men have been living for four days on half a cracker and a swallow of water. And last night the wind was just right and some squaw over here started to fry onions."

Bliss was born in Pennsylvania in 1853. Those who know anything about that state know that it just reeks with pies, doughnuts, beans, raised biscuits and other things that keep the inner man happy. He graduated from West Point in 1875 and was assigned to the artillery as a second lieutenant. He made his mark there, and when his Pennsylvania sentiment for food came over him, he saw an opening in the commissary department, and he knew that the soldiers were not being as well or as promptly fed as might be, and he hopped right into the opening. Then he went right up the line. He knows all about rations, how many of them a man needs and how few

of them he can get along on if the merry villagers keep chickens. Just previous to the Spanish war he was military attaché at Madrid.

The Spanish war gave him his first chance to make good in a conspicuous way. He knew Spanish as well as he does English—he knows most of the continental tongues, by the way—and had specialized in coast defense plans. He became chief of the customs service and secretary of finance in Porto Rico. Five years ago he won the war game in Massachusetts. Perhaps civilians didn't know it, but that war game attracted international attention, and Bliss won more praise on that occasion than he has since. He took for provisioning his men under modern conditions in a populated countryside. Expert on Coast Defenses.

Perhaps no officer is more thoroughly familiar with our coast defense system than Bliss, nor is there a better linguist in the army. As a strategist, as has been said, he is ranked very high by foreign experts. And in the months that have preceded the actual breaking out of hostilities in Mexico he has been of great assistance in planning to defeat hunger and cold as well as snipers and bandits when our men cross the border.

He never loses sight of the fact that his army's digestive apparatus. He isn't a gourmand, but one would certainly call him a "good feeder." Some one told him the story of the Klondike miner who came back with nuggets in every pocket and headed for Delmonico's.

He had heard of a forty-dollar dinner served in that person's establishment, and he had determined to eat one. But when he looked over the French menu card he couldn't find the dinner.

"Oh, well," said the miner, in disgust, "bring me \$40 worth of ham and eggs."

"Well," said Bliss, "well, what's the joke?"

INJURED ARE DOING WELL.

Statement by Assistant Surgeon Higgins of Hospital Ship.

Dr. Montgomery Earle Higgins of Boyd's, Montgomery county, Md., son of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Higgins of Boyd's, has been stationed at Vera Cruz ever since hostilities began there as assistant surgeon on board the hospital ship So-lace. His ship left yesterday for Key West, Fla., to land those who were injured, but who are becoming convalescent.

Surgeon Higgins served some years in Panama and the Philippines as assistant surgeon. He wrote home yesterday that he was doing well and had many injured under his care, all of whom were getting along fine. He sent his parents a photo of himself, who he styles "the man of the hour" at this time.

Pointed Paragraphs.

Boaster may be a polite term for liar. Many a man gets left because he doesn't do right.

Wrinkles are little ruts made by the wheels of time.

Words are used either to express ideas or the lack thereof.

Most of the things to be had for the asking are not worth it.

When a man's wife also talks in her sleep, well, that's the limit.

Many a man's success is due to his not making the same mistake twice.

Schoolboys say there are too many switches along the road to knowledge.

Most men who are good at guessing conundrums are not much good at anything else.

Many an expert mathematician is unable to work out the sum of human happiness to his own satisfaction.

How a married woman does envy a spinster who has more of her own and doesn't have to ask any one for a cent!

Hundreds of little boys and girls in Washington would like to play the Piano.

They may have talent! Children learn easily! The knowledge they gain now through studying the Piano may be their means of livelihood later in life.

Will you give your little boy or girl a chance? DO IT NOW!

Our easy payment plan makes it possible for you to own a Piano. Our prices the lowest! If your child progresses you will want a finer Piano some day. We will exchange with you at any time on a fair basis. We don't want your notes! Only a promise to pay a little each month.

SAW FORCES OF U. S. CAPTURE VERA CRUZ

H. S. Bolton, Former Washington Resident, Describes Taking of City.

Men of British Warship Essex Frequently Applauded Marksmanship of Americans.

Expert on Coast Defenses.

H. S. Bolton, former chief engineer of the Potomac Electric Power Company in this city, and for several years superintendent general of the Sultee Electric Light and Power Company at Toluca, Mex., has returned to this city. He had not left Mexican soil for seven years, he says, until the impending trouble made it necessary for him to leave Toluca.

Mr. Bolton left Toluca the night of April 19 and reached Vera Cruz the next morning. He was there during the fighting and witnessed the exciting incidents from a transport in the harbor, the transport being only a short distance from the Chester, a scout cruiser.

"I want to say for the American sailors and marines," said Mr. Bolton to a Star reporter this afternoon, "that they deserve the highest commendation for their fearless and effective manner in which they participated in the firing and for the way in which they deported themselves when not in action."

Mr. Bolton explained that, owing to the impending danger, he had a secret code pertaining to travel and health, copies of the code being in possession of friends in this city, and it was because of the receipt of a code message that he left Toluca the night of April 19. Toluca is about fifty miles from Mexico City in the direction of the Pacific coast.

Changed by Troop Landing.

"During the revolution," he stated, "Americans were fairly well treated by both parties in Mexico. They had been welcomed before that time, but the landing of the marines wrought a change, making it impossible for Americans to

return until the troops make it safe for them to do so.

"American interests in Mexico represent approximately \$1,000,000,000, and this business is lost for the present. Only American troops can save it."

Mr. Bolton explained that when members of the party with which he traveled reached Vera Cruz they were advised by the British consul to go aboard a merchant ship at anchor in the harbor. He witnessed the landing of about 400 marines the morning of April 21, at 11:00 o'clock, he stated, and it was 12:20 o'clock when the Mexicans fired upon the Americans, the firing being principally from the tops of buildings, the Diligencia Hotel being one of them.

Firing was intermittent during the entire afternoon. Mr. Bolton stated, and that night Admiral Fletcher gave Gen. Bliss orders to put an end to the "sniping" under threat of bombardment of the city. At the request of the British consul, he stated, the firing was delayed until 6:30 o'clock the morning of April 22, and then only buildings occupied by Mexican troops and snipers were attacked.

British Cheered Marksmen.

"The principal building attacked," he said, "was the Mexican Naval School, a two-story structure about 200 feet long. We were aboard the transport Esperanza and could see every move that was made. The Esperanza was only about two ships lengths from the Chester.

"Only three and five inch guns were used," he continued, "and for fifteen or twenty minutes the fire of machine guns and small arms on both sides was heavy. The guns on the Chester were trained directly beneath the sills of the windows of the school, where the soldiers were thought to be in squads awaiting an opportunity to fire, and every shot hit its mark."

"The marksmanship of our men was magnificent. The Americans did only what was necessary to make the occupation of Vera Cruz possible, and while the firing was going on the sailors on the British flagship Essex frequently applauded the marksmanship of the Americans."

One of the most interesting things witnessed from the transport, said Mr. Bolton, was the cutting down of wireless towers two and one-half miles down the shore. Four shots from the Chester wrecked the towers.

Oil Men Ask Protection.

NEW YORK, May 8.—Representatives of sixty-eight oil companies with interests in the Tampico region met here last night and adopted resolutions asking President Wilson to remove gunboats in Tampico harbor and afford protection for Americans operating in the oil districts. A committee of five was appointed to place the request before the President.

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The Pianos offered in this sale are used ones, "trade-ins," as we call them. We may need a day or two after you have selected a Piano to tune and polish it, as nothing is sent out that isn't up to our standard! Give us the time we ask for, it will accrue to your advantage.

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Regal Upright, 18662.. \$75
Stultz & Bauer, 8250... \$90
Richardson, 24288.....\$100
Victor, 10205.....\$100
Gabler, 32404.....\$100
Bradbury, 19147.....\$100
New England, 72708...\$100
Lawrie, 12134.....\$110
Berkeley, 12781.....\$120
Biddle, 58433.....\$125
Krakauer, 8495.....\$125
Huntington, 32182.....\$200
Emerson, 32709.....\$200
Shoemaker, 26610.....\$175

\$10 Cash \$6 Monthly
Knabe Baby Grand, 35743.....\$225
Huntington Up., 34328..\$225
Clarendon Up., 29177...\$225
Huntington Up., 38855..\$250
Laffargue Up., 42431...\$250

\$10 Cash \$10 Monthly
Knabe Upright, 21373..\$240
Steinway Up., 46009...\$250
Steinway Up., 58581...\$250
Steinway Up., 70041...\$350
Steinway Grand, 40367..\$300
Brambach Grand, 25563, nearly new, mahog...\$390

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Cedillac Cecilia, 15055, nearly new, mahog., bench and music rolls.....\$395
Remington, mahogany, new, \$1357; last one of this style in stock; 88 note; rolls and bench included.....\$400
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FORREST'S CAVALRYMEN WOULD FIGHT MEXICO

Seventy Sons of Veterans, Successors of Confederate Cavalry, Would Fight Mexico.

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JACKSONVILLE, Fla., May 8.—Gen. Bennett H. Young of Louisville, Ky., late yesterday was re-elected commander-in-chief of the United Confederate Veterans at the annual reunion here. Richmond, Va., was chosen for the 1915 reunion. Gen. Young defeated Gen. Felix Robertson of Texas.

After the election of a commander-in-chief adjournment was taken until today. Gen. Young received approximately 1,100 votes and Gen. Robertson 80. Texas cast its entire 34 votes for Robertson.

Forrest's Men Offer Services.

One hundred survivors of Gen. Forrest's famous cavalry have offered their services to President Wilson in the event of war with Mexico. The following resolution was adopted: "We read with indignation of repeated insults offered to American citizens by Mexicans, and imbued with the patriotism derived as a heritage from our ancestors, we hereby tender his excellency, the President of the United States, if called upon, a company of 100 men to be selected from our corps."

"We assure him that they will be able fully to fulfill their duties and bear the hardships that will be required of regular soldiers. We hereby guarantee to be among the first to plant the American flag on the battlements of Mexico City or any other fortress within her bounds."

Heads Sons of Veterans.

Seymour Stuart of St. Louis, Mo., was elected commander-in-chief of the United Sons of Confederate Veterans, succeeding W. W. Old, Jr., of Norfolk, Va. A lively debate was presided at the meeting of the Sons of Veterans by the introduction of a resolution calling upon Congress to pension Confederate veterans. The resolution was introduced by Judge H. Hairston of Roanoke, Va., judge advocate general, Department of Veterans of Veterans.

Scarcely had the resolution been announced when W. W. Old, Jr., commander-in-chief of the organization, left his official chair in order to make a speech denouncing it.

"I am willing to take my coat off and work for funds with which to supply our Confederate soldiers," he declared, "and until we are no longer able to do so we should not ask the government to help them."

The speaker was heartily cheered as he asserted that he had consulted hundreds of Virginia veterans and had found none who was in favor of beseeching aid from the government.

Delegates from Georgia, Florida and South Carolina voiced disapproval of the resolution. Speeches against it were only checked by the adoption of a motion to enter into the election of officers in five minutes. Before that time had elapsed the resolution was tabled by an overwhelming vote.

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Smiles in Our Next Sunday Magazine

Ideal reading for the glad springtime! Humor predominates, and the names of some of the authors indicate the nature of the treat in store.

The Eternal Feminine

By Glenmore Davis

A circus tale by one who knows the life from having lived it, and whose style is a perpetual picnic and joy-ride in itself.

The Up Call for Torchy

By Sewell Ford

Great doings in the Corrugated office! The irrepressible one is promoted, and his affair with Vee progresses to an intensely interesting stage.

Pulling Off a Thriller

By William Harper Dean

This is humorous, too, although there are some near-tragic features. "Quick death and a fearful one hovers above the twentieth century movie thespian," and Mr. Dean tells of many daring things done by actors in this field.

Students Will Be Students

By Frank Andrews Fall

"Putting the cow in the chapel, though not an authorized part of the curriculum, is considered good form in most American colleges and universities," says the bursar of New York University, beginning an article about students' pranks.

Tales from the Road

By Traveling Men

There is humor in these tales also, especially in the chief prize winner of the week, "Base Ball and Matches," by L. D. Maxfield, and in "The Last Laughter," by Billy Lorraine. Seven new stories in this collection.

And you don't need to be told that there is humor as well as dramatic power in The Voice in the Fog, by Harold MacGrath, the fifth installment of which appears in the next

Sunday Magazine of The Sunday Star