

GERMANS WILL MAKE DESPERATE EFFORT TO STEM TIDE OF THEIR RAPID RETREAT

AMERICAN TROOPS TO BE WITHDRAWN FROM VERA CRUZ

President Orders Evacuation After Long Cabinet Meeting. CONCLUDING CHAPTER OF RECENT CONFLICT Action Taken on Urgent Appeal of Carranza, Constitutionalist Chief. PRESENCE CONSTANT MENACE Wilson Confident Stable Government Soon Will Be Established.

WASHINGTON, September 15.—Evacuation of Vera Cruz was ordered today by President Wilson. American soldiers and marines under General Funston, who have held Mexico's principal seaport since it was seized by the fleet on April 21 last, will be sent for home as soon as transports can go after them, and shortly afterward all of the war fleet except a few light draft vessels will be withdrawn. The evacuation order was announced at the White House today after a long cabinet meeting. It is the concluding chapter of the second armed conflict between the United States and Mexico, which a cease-fire agreement last month brought to a temporary halt. Their lives, nearly 100 were wounded and upwards of 300 Mexicans were killed or wounded.

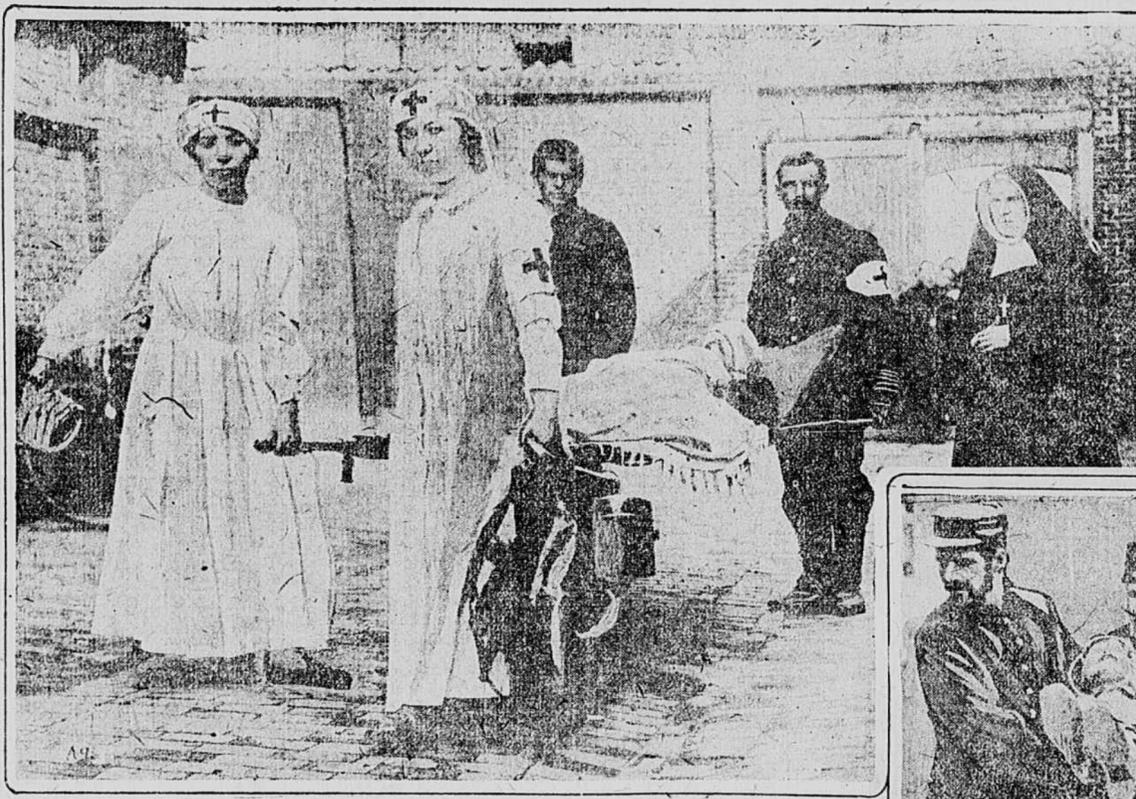
The reasons for the step were set forth in the following statement from the White House: "The troops have been ordered withdrawn from Vera Cruz. This action is taken in view of the entire removal of the circumstances which were thought to justify the occupation. The further presence of the troops is deemed unnecessary."

Specifically the American forces were withdrawn at the urgent appeal of General Carranza, first chief of the constitutionalist army. Through Paul Puffer, a personal representative of President Wilson, in Mexico, General Carranza set forth that the presence of American troops, instead of being a safeguard against revolution and peace with the United States, constituted a constant menace to friendly relations. The Mexican chief contended, and he was supported by Generals Villa and Obregon, that the Mexican people would not understand the continued presence of American troops on Mexican soil and would cherish resentment no matter how well intentioned the American government was.

Until today the Washington government had not decided on any fixed time for the withdrawal, and awaited negotiation with the new government. At first the President believed it desirable to keep American forces at Vera Cruz for salutary effect, hoping a constitutional election would be conducted peacefully and the elected executive would be a constitutionally elected executive in power. Carranza argued, however, that no election could be free with a part of Mexican territory controlled by American forces.

Oppose Withdrawal. The President discussed the subject with his cabinet, some of whom, it is understood, did not favor the move. It finally was the consensus of opinion that the main purpose of the American expedition to Vera Cruz, to punish the usurper and to restore order, had been achieved. Another circumstance which influenced the President's judgment was the approaching general convention of military chiefs on October 1, when a Provisional President will be designated. General Carranza wished to be able to turn over the power to a successor with the country absolutely at peace with its Northern neighbor.

The United States, as well as Argentina, Brazil and Chile will consider the popular acceptance of the Provisional President, chosen at the convention as the fulfillment of the protocols signed at the Niagara Falls mediation conference. President Wilson is confident a stable government soon will restore Mexico to its normal condition. MEANS TO TAKE OVER GOVERNMENT OF CITY Secretary Bryan today asked Secretary Bryan to designate competent Mexicans to take over the Vera Cruz custom house and the city government. An inquiry on this subject was sent to Carranza government by Secretary Bryan, but no answer has been received. The troops at Vera Cruz, including 7,200 soldiers and marines, are expected to begin their departure in about two weeks. Orders were sent today to transports at Newport News and Galveston to proceed to Vera Cruz. The transports include the Sumner and Kibrick and the chartered boats, City of Denver and Christal. Boat for carrying horses and freight are at Galveston. Marines on duty at Vera Cruz will be sent back to Washington stations from which they were taken, and troops will be sent to Texas City. General orders for the withdrawal of ships in Mexican waters will not be issued for several days. These ships include the battleships Virginia, North Dakota, Arkansas, Delaware, Kansas, Vermont and New York, the cruisers Des Moines



TRAIN HITS CLOUDBURST: TWENTY-SEVEN DROWNED

Two Passenger Cars Topple Into Gully, Swollen With Water, Near Lebanon, Mo.

LOSE LIVES WHILE THEY SLEEP Some of Occupants Climb Through Windows and Swim to Safety. Several Pulled From Water Exhausted—Eighteen Injured.

ST. LOUIS, September 15.—Twenty-seven persons were drowned early today when a St. Louis and San Francisco westbound passenger train plunged into a cloudburst two miles west of Lebanon, Mo., and two passenger cars toppled into a gully swollen with water. Fifteen persons were injured, but none seriously. For several hours the train had been going carefully, as the engineer feared the heavy rains had weakened the track. Just as the locomotive hit a curve, marking the edge of a ravine, the engineer saw a wall of water ahead. Though going only fifteen miles an hour, the train could not be stopped. The twelve-foot embankment on which the track crossed the ravine had been swept away by the rush of water.

The locomotive crossed the sagging track, but the chair car and the smoking car rolled over into the torrent. The locomotive and the small baggage car, forced by momentum across the ravine, finally left the rails, and three feet under water. The freeman was crushed to death, but the engineer escaped injury. The four sleeping cars remained on the track, behind the wreckage.

Occupants Drowned While They Slept. The chair car and the smoking car sank, and the occupants were drowned while they slept. Others climbed through the windows and swam to safety. Miss Nona Campbell, of St. Louis, a nurse, climbed to the upturned side of the chair car and rescued five imprisoned passengers by pulling them through the windows. Passengers in the sleeping cars, caused by the shock, went to the rescue of those who had not drowned immediately. Several passengers were pulled from water exhausted.

Identified dead: Henry Wagener, Harrison, Ark. W. A. Childers, Clover, Mo. Mrs. John Myers, Thayer, Mo. Lena Myers, Thayer, Mo. J. H. Stockstill, Springfield, Mo. Freeman. Vernon Calvin, Rumley, Ark. Elsie Calvin, Rumley, Ark. George Cox, Green Forest, Ark. H. W. Newkirk, Hannibal, Mo. C. Neal, Ketchum, Okla. Mrs. Elizabeth Rostetter, Alliance, O. Mrs. George Brown, Rush, Ark. Daisy Perry, St. Louis, Mo. W. W. Naylor, Springfield, Mo. August Wetters, St. Louis, Mo. The unidentified dead include seven women, two men and three children.

NO FAVOR IN DISTRIBUTION

Ten Thousand Night Shirts Being Manufactured for Soldiers in War Zone. (Special to The Times-Dispatch.) NEW YORK, September 15.—Ten thousand night shirts are being manufactured in New York. They are for the Red Cross stations in the European war zone, and will be distributed without favor among Germans, British, French, Russians, Belgians, Austrians and Servians, wherever night shirts are needed. The garments are of cotton flannel, and are being made by the young women of the Girls' Vacation Bureau. The material being furnished by a New England mill firm.

RAILROADS SEEK RATE INCREASE REHEARING BEFORE I. C. C.

Permission to Impose 5 Per Cent Increase Recently Denied. Next Fifteen Months Obligations Will Exceed \$500,000,000.

WASHINGTON, September 15.—Rehearing of the Eastern advance freight rate case and permission to impose the 5 per cent increase recently denied them was sought today by the Eastern railroads in a petition filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The roads contended they faced an "extremely serious" emergency resulting from diminishing revenues and aggravated by war in Europe. Adequate additional income, the petition declared, could not be derived from the increases granted in Central Association territory, and from putting into effect some of the commission's suggestions as to charges for certain free services and improvement in personnel and equipment.

The petition, signed by Daniel Willard, chairman of the executive committee, and several counsel for the roads, was in part as follows: "Your petitioners, 112 rail-road companies, comprising the thirty-five railroads in official classification territory, respectfully petition the commission for such a modification of the order of July 29, 1914, as will permit the carriers to make effective the rates specified in the tariffs which were by said order directed to be cancelled. Since the filing of the report and entry of the order by the commission in these cases, facts and circumstances have arisen which, taken in connection with the facts already before your commission, your petitioners believe will justify the relief herein prayed for. These facts and circumstances are briefly as follows:

"The reports of your petitioners for the year ending June 30, 1914, show a decrease in total operating revenues of approximately \$2,500,000, while during that same period operating expenses have increased about \$22,200,000. After deductions of taxes and deficit in outside operations, there was a decrease in operating income of approximately \$73,700,000, notwithstanding an increased proportion in investment. Thus, such figures as are available for August, 1914, show a continuance of this declining tendency, notwithstanding the extraordinary efforts to reduce expenses.

"Second, the unforeseen European war has brought about an unparalleled destruction of wealth and dislocation of credit throughout the world. It is certain competition for capital will be keener and interest rates higher. The emergency thus resulting is extremely serious. "It is conservatively estimated that the railroads of the United States have obligations maturing in the next fifteen months amounting to well over \$500,000,000, and it is imperative in the public interest that these obligations shall be duly met in order to compete effectively for this new capital, they must have a material increase in revenues. "Third, your petitioners are proceeding as rapidly as possible to put into effect the increase in freight rates in Central Freight Association territory authorized by the report of the commission, and are giving earnest attention to other rates and practices. "It is believed, however, that the additional revenues which may be secured by the adoption of means other than a general advance in freight rates cannot be obtained.

BRYAN SIGNS PEACE PACTS WITH FOUR MORE NATIONS

Great Britain, France, Spain and China Enter Into Treaties With United States.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 15.—Treaties between the United States, Great Britain, France, Spain and China, were signed today by Secretary Bryan and the British, French, Spanish and the Chinese ambassadors. These pacts, the Washington government believes, "will make armed conflict between the United States and these nations almost, if not entirely, impossible."

They provide that all disputes which cannot be settled by diplomacy shall be submitted to a permanent commission for investigation for one year. "The signing of the four treaties signed today by Secretary Bryan and the Chinese ambassadors, together with the American ambassador and legation in Germany, Russia, Austria and Belgium notifying them of what had occurred, and expressing the desire of the United States to sign similar treaties with those countries, Japan alone has not accepted the principle of entering into negotiations, because of the desire of the ministry there not to confuse the Japanese public with the alien land controversy which is being adjusted.

One of the practical effects of the treaties signed today is to make more remote than ever the possibility of the United States being drawn into the present European war over any delicate questions of neutrality which might arise with Great Britain or France. Members of the Cabinet and administration officials witnessed the signing ceremony in the office of the Secretary of State. Afterwards Mr. Bryan issued the following statement: "The signing of the four treaties today with Great Britain, France, Spain and China, bring under treaty obligations more than 500,000,000 of people. These, when added to the population of the United States and the population of the twenty-two countries with which similar treaties have heretofore been signed, brings under the influence of these treaties considerably more than two-thirds of the inhabitants of the globe. As these treaties provide for investigation of all matters in dispute before any declaration of war or commencement of hostilities, it is believed they will make armed conflict between the contracting nations almost, if not entirely, impossible."

MRS. GOETHALS NOT ABROAD

Report of Her Arrest in European War Zone Is Erroneous.

WASHINGTON, September 15.—Mrs. George W. Goethals, wife of the Governor of the Canal Zone, was not abroad at the outbreak of the European war, and the report that she was arrested was erroneous. The report of Mrs. Goethals' arrest was received here at height of the flood of stories relating to experiences of Americans in the warring countries, and the accuracy of the dispatch was not questioned. It is presumed that some woman falling under suspicion of French military authorities used Mrs. Goethals' name.

BELGIAN RED CROSS WORKERS BRINGING WOUNDED ENGLER INTO HOSPITAL



BELGIANS CARRYING THEIR WOUNDED COMRADES THROUGH THE STREETS OF MALINES

SPANISH WAR STAMP TAX IN NEW REVENUE MEASURE

Democrats in Caucus Abandon Freight Transportation as Means of Raising Needed Amount. NO SPIRIT OF ANTAGONISM Expected Wide Disagreements Fail to Develop—Amusement Places, Gasoline, Tobacco Manufacturers and Liquors Must Bear Burden.

WASHINGTON, September 15.—Abandoning the proposed tax on freight transportation, Democrats of the House caucus to-night agreed to a war revenue measure to include the Spanish war stamp tax on commercial and legal papers, the Spanish war tax on bankers and brokers, a tax on theatres and other amusement places, a tax of 2 cents a gallon on gasoline, a special tax on tobacco manufacturers and dealers, and a tax on domestic wines and beer.

The caucus adopted a resolution directing the Ways and Means Committee to draft a bill along these lines. President Wilson having approved the plan at a conference with Majority Leader Underwood and Senator Simmons late to-day. The committee also was given authority to revise details of the Spanish war tax in its discretion. Expected wide disagreements which threatened to embarrass the administration did not develop in the caucus. Representative Underwood announced that the proposed bill would yield an estimated revenue of \$165,000,000, the stamp tax to yield \$25,000,000, special taxes on bankers and brokers, \$5,000,000, one special tax on tobacco dealers, \$4,000,000, an increased tax on beer of 50 cents a barrel, \$32,500,000; gasoline, \$9,000,000; dry wines at 12 cents a gallon and sweet wines at 20 cents a gallon, \$8,000,000.

Representative Page, of North Carolina, opposed the attack on the proposed freight tax and submitted a resolution designed to prevent its being included in any war revenue bill. Debate on the resolution was extended. Representative Underwood related the substance of a conference held a few hours before with President Wilson and Senator Simmons, in which the President had expressed the opinion that action in the war revenue should be quick and decisive. BREAK WITH PRESIDENT NOT WELL FOR COUNTRY Mr. Underwood told his colleagues that a break with the President over the pending issue would not be well for the Democratic party or the country.

The leader's speech brought the Democrats into an amicable frame of mind. (Continued on Third Page.)

ALLIED ARMIES IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH GERMANS

Official Report Relates That Forward Movement Continues Between the Meuse and Argonne. Although Germans Are Considerable Distance Away and Likelihood of Return Is Remote, There Is No Cessation in Preparing for Defense.

PARIS, September 15 (11:15 P. M.).—An official communication issued by the French government to-night gives no details from the battle line except to say that the allied armies are in close contact with the Germans everywhere, and that the forward movement continues between the Meuse and Argonne. "There is nothing to report concerning our left wing our armies are in close contact with the enemy on the whole front from the heights north of the River Aisne, west and south of Rheims. "On the centre our forward movement between the Argonne district and the Meuse continues. "It is absolutely untrue, as has been published time and again by the official Wolff Agency that the army of the crown prince is besieging and bombarding Verdune. This city never has been attacked. Only the Fort of Verdun defenses, but protects the heights of Meuse, had been bombarded on several occasions. "It is known that the violent attacks of which it has been the object have not succeeded and that since yesterday it has been relieved. "There is nothing to report concerning the right wing."

STRENGTH OF FORCES ABOUT EQUAL PARIS, September 15 (3:50 P. M.).—It was generally anticipated to-day that an attempt to stem the tide of their rapid retreat would be made by the Germans after the allies had compelled them to retire, defeated, from the great field of battle to the east of Verdun, where they had fought stubbornly for seven days and suffered enormous losses. It has been revealed that British and French aviators ran great risks following the retrograde movement of the German army, but succeeded in gathering the information that the Germans had erected field works at various places along the northern plateau beyond Rheims. These works were intended by the Germans for use in the event of meeting superior forces, and being obliged to retire and reform. It is understood they left several

TAKE UP POSITIONS TO STOP ADVANCE OF ALLIED ARMIES

Germans Halt in Their Retreat and Make Stand on River Aisne. COHESION IS MAINTAINED DESPITE HEAVY LOSSES Striving to Present Solid Front When Time Comes for Another Clash. BETTER CHANCES FOR DEFENSE Next Combat Will Be Fully as Important as Battle of the Marne.

Seek to Maintain Undivided Front

A French official statement makes brief mention of the fact that the allied armies are in close touch with the Germans north of the River Aisne, in the neighborhood of Rheims, in this territory General von Kluck's army apparently is making ready for a stand, while the other German armies under von Below, von Hausen, the crown prince and the Duke of Wurttemberg are falling back, and in doing so are endeavoring to maintain an undivided front. The French War Department denies that the Crown Prince has bombarded Verdun, and adds that only Fort Trovan, which does not belong to Verdun's defenses, has been attacked, although lately it was relieved. The British official press bureau gives out a statement on authority of Sir Edward Grey, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, replying to a communication issued to the press by the Imperial German ambassador. The statement is based on the German Chancellor's reply to a question as to whether England would have intervened to protect Belgium's freedom against France, and the answer given is that England would unquestionably have done so. President Poincare and Emperor Nicholas, of Russia, have exchanged telegrams of congratulations on the victories credited to French and Russian arms. Russian official reports announce that no fighting has occurred in the last twenty-four hours in the Prussia, and that the Russian troops, having reached a difficult position, are awaiting further movements.

From Berlin comes the announcement that the efforts of French troops to break through the right wing of the German line, which have been repulsed, after heavy fighting, Berlin also announces that the British and the American forces on the Serbian front along the line of the River Save. On the British side in the recent fighting was Brigadier-General Neil Douglas Finlay, commander of the British forces, who gained a reputation for bravery in the South African War.

A Rome dispatch giving news from Albania says Montenegrin troops, in conjunction with Serbians, have repulsed the Austrians on the Bosnian frontier. In the recent fighting the German casualties were estimated at 4,000. An Austrian official communication received in this city asserts that 100,000 Russian prisoners and nearly 500 guns have been captured. Rumania is reported to have advanced to Italy for common action against Austria. The Japanese troops, who are marching against the German province of Kiauchow, in China, have captured the town of Chimo, a short distance outside of Kiauchow. The first encounter between German and Japanese land forces occurred at this point. Reports from Washington describe government officials and diplomatic correspondents of this city as being German Emperor to make early answer to the informal peace inquiry made by the United States.

LONDON, September 15 (9:25 P. M.).—The battle of the Marne has almost come to an end, and although the allied armies are keeping in touch with the retreating Germans, it is evident the latter are taking up positions to stay the northward advance of the British and French. General von Kluck's army has made a stand north of the River Aisne, on a line marked by the forest of Lieuchamps and Craonne, while the armies of Generals von Below and Von Hausen, the Duke of Wurttemberg and the Crown Prince are falling back to strengthen the front on which the next big battle is likely to be fought. Although the Germans have been punished badly in their long retreat, and have lost many guns and men, they maintain cohesion, and unless the French succeed in their attempt to get between the army of the Crown Prince and those operating west of him, Emperor William's forces will present a solid front when the time comes for another clash, which will be fully as important as the recent battle. If the Germans can gain the new position, it offers better opportunities for defense than the ground they have passed over the last ten days. Their right apparently extends as far west as St. Quentin, though a country intersected by rivers and streams that will embarrass the attacking forces. The main German forces under Generals von Below and Von Hausen, the Duke of Wurttemberg and the Crown Prince stretch along the River Aisne to the hills behind Rheims, and then north to Verdun, thus securing the roads and railways running north from Bethel to the Belgian frontier, and eastward to Luxembourg and Metz in Lorraine.

COVERED ON ONE WING BY THEIR OWN FORTRESS Thus by bringing the army of the Crown Prince of Bavaria more into