

FLETCHER'S OWN STORY OF FALL OF VERA CRUZ

Admiral's Report Made Public by the Department.

PRaises WORK OF THE NAVY

Declares That the Efficiency and Spirit of Officers and Men Brought Speedy Conclusion—How Final Advance Was Made.

Washington.—Rear Admiral Fletcher's own story of the taking of Vera Cruz was made public by the navy department here. The report, dramatic despite its official tenor, covers the whole action from the receipt of President Wilson's cablegram early in the morning of April 21 ordering the seizure of the Vera Cruz customs house to the complete pacification of the city.

The report shows that the American naval forces had studied a plan of seizing Vera Cruz even before the order came from President Wilson. When the command came the landing of the marines and seamen and the occupation of the city followed swiftly and surely.

Admiral Fletcher gives unstinted praise for the discipline and spirit of the officers and men under him.

Rear Admiral Fletcher's report follows:

"When the cablegram of April 21 to seize the customs house was received the following officers were in my cabin: Capt. W. R. Rush, U. S. N., commanding naval brigade; Capt. H.



Rear Admiral Fletcher.

McL. P. Huse, U. S. N., chief of staff; Commander H. O. Stickney, U. S. N., commanding Prairie; Lieut. Col. W. C. Neville, U. S. M. C., commanding marine regiment. They had been called on board to be informed of the situation and to assure me that the plans previously prepared for the employment of the naval forces against Vera Cruz were understood by them, and that they were prepared to carry them out.

"The method of procedure adopted was to land marines from the Prairie, Florida and Utah, and the seaman battalion from the Florida, and to seize the custom house, railway terminal and cable office. The seaman battalion of the Utah was held on board awaiting news of the Ypiranga.

"At 10:30 a. m. the Prairie reported, 'Am ready,' and I directed Captain Rush to land his brigade and carry out orders.

"The following signal was sent to the Prairie at 10:50 a. m.: 'Land and take pier No. 4; be prepared to cover landing by necessary gunfire.' At 11:45 a. m. the Prairie signaled, 'Battalion has shoved off.' The landing force of the Florida shoved off at the same time and was joined by the Panama contingent of marines from the Utah. This made a total force of 787 officers and men, of whom 502 were marines, all under the command of Capt. William R. Rush, U. S. N., captain of the Florida.

"At 11:55 a. m. Rush signaled, 'Telegraph and post office occupied and doing business as ever.' This was followed by: 'Firing in town; no casualties as yet,' and at 12:21 p. m.: 'Commenced firing on shore; federals have commenced firing on U. S. troops.'

"Again at 12:30 p. m. Rush signaled, 'One thousand men with machine guns reported in this vicinity; desultory firing at intervals; hurry Utah's troops. I signaled Utah: 'Send your battalion ashore; urgent; you may steam in closer.' At 12:41 p. m. Rush reported his first casualties.

"Immediately on landing the marine regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Neville, advanced up Calle de Montenos, seizing the cable office and detaching one company to seize the power plant north of the terminal station and to cover approaches from the westward along the railroad tracks. The head of the marine column had advanced to Avenue Bravo when, at 11:57, they were fired into from all directions.

CAPTIVE GORILLA IS HAPPY

She Smiles and Laughs and Likes to Be Ticked—Has Very Bad Manners.

New York.—After a two-year search in the wilds of East Africa, the New York zoological expedition, headed by R. L. Garner of Philadelphia, has captured a large female gorilla, said to be the finest specimen of the race ever seen.

The animal will be brought to New

"The marines' Colt automatic guns went into action at Independencia, Cinco de Mayo, Cortes, Hidalgo and Bravo, and cleared these streets immediately. The men took positions in front of warehouses, lining the north side of Montenos and fired at the enemy, who had occupied the houses, windows and towers on the opposite side of the street. The marine regiment was then ordered not to advance, but to hold its original position.

"In the meantime the Florida seaman battalion, under Lieutenant Wainwright, had advanced and seized the customs house and customs warehouse, post office and railroad terminal. They were under steady fire from the enemy in houses in Benito Juarez and Morelos streets, which was returned. The artillery section of Florida went into action in front of the American consulate and shelled the enemy out of the old lighthouse tower on Benito Juarez street. When the first report of casualties was received the Solace was ordered from Tampico to Vera Cruz by radio.

"At 1 p. m. I repaired aboard the Prairie with Captain Huse and Lieutenant Courts of my staff, and from this point directed joint operations ashore and afloat. The Prairie opened fire at 1:10 p. m. with three-inch gun on the enemy's mounted troops in the sandhills beyond the city. Indirect fire was used with a church tower as a point of aim, range 2,500 to 3,000 yards. The second shot fell among their troops and drove them beyond the sandhills.

"Sharpshooters in the naval school building and the new market had been firing steadily on pier No. 4, where all of our boats were landing. Chief Boatswain McCloy, in charge of three picket launches, armed with one-pounder guns, put out from pier No. 4 and steamed full speed around the end of fiscal pier, directly toward the naval school building.

"When within a few hundred yards the launches opened fire simultaneously with one-pounders at the windows of the naval academy. They thus drew the fire of the Mexican forces along that section of the water front, but located their position for the Prairie, which immediately opened fire with three-inch battery over the heads of the launches, silencing the fire of the Mexicans in that section of the city.

"The picket launches in their gallant dash were hit many times with rifle bullets and three times with one-pounder shells from the naval academy. Chief Boatswain McCloy was wounded in the leg and one was fatally wounded.

"3 p. m.—I did not desire to force the fighting through the city and use the guns of the ships as long as there existed a reasonable chance to avoid this severe measure. Every effort was being made to get into communication with the Mexican authorities, both direct and through the American consul, and to represent to them the futility of further resistance on their part and the serious consequences that would ensue.

"Any further advance at this time of the day would have brought the fighting into the most densely populated part of the city after nightfall. It was, therefore, decided to hold our present position.

"Desultory firing continued until midnight, with occasional shots throughout the night.

"At 9 p. m. the San Francisco entered the harbor and anchored 300 yards north of the Prairie. It immediately landed its battalion of two seaman companies, which reported to the brigade commander ashore. The Chester entered the harbor at 15:05 a. m., April 22, and anchored off Sanidad pier. Its battalion of seamen and marines was landed immediately. At 1 a. m. censorship was established over the cable station.

"Rear Admiral Badger with five battleships of his fleet came to anchor in the outer harbor and with my chief of staff I repaired on board the flag-

OLDEST AND YOUNGEST AT WEST POINT



At the graduation exercises of the United States military academy at West Point this year the oldest graduate of the academy was H. W. Gibson, class of 1847, and the youngest was G. W. Weissenheimer of this year's class.

York in August. In a letter to Doctor Hornaday, director of the New York zoological park, he says that the animal which he has named Dinah, is a "rough house" creature, with an affectionate disposition. Unlike most gorillas, who are morose and sullen, she is lively and possessed of a happy disposition, her captor says.

"Dinah," Mr. Garner wrote, "is the only gorilla I have ever known to attempt a laugh or even a smile; but she does both when tickled under the arms or on the bottom of the foot. She

ship at 2:45 a. m. After explaining the situation to the admiral, he decided to land his forces and the seaman and marine battalions of the Arkansas, New Hampshire, South Carolina, Michigan and New Jersey, landed at 4 a. m., under cover of darkness and promptly moved to their assigned positions joining the organization on shore.

"Early in the morning of April 22 efforts to get in communication with the authorities were renewed. By eight o'clock it was definitely ascertained that the firing of the enemy was not under organized control or acting under the direction of competent authority.

"The marine forces advanced through all the streets to the north of Avenida Independencia, where they were met with heavy rifle and machine gun fire from houses, hotels, hospital, church steeples and military barracks. They advanced slowly, clearing houses and roofs of snipers and entering every house in every block as they advanced.

"The second seaman regiment under Captain Anderson, U. S. navy, was marched toward the waterfront and in front of the new market, naval school and artillery barracks. In crossing the open ground between the naval school and Benito Juarez lighthouse, about three hundred and fifty yards in width, they were met by a heavy rifle, one-pounder and machine gun fire from the naval school building.

"This situation looked critical. The Chester, Prairie and San Francisco simultaneously opened fire with three-inch, four-inch and five-inch batteries against the second story of the naval school building. In a short time the upper story was riddled by 40 shots and the fire silenced.

"Our forces advanced steadily through the city, entering houses from which they were being fired upon and disarming the occupants. The Chester, from a favorable position commanding the southern part of the city, shelled the enemy out of houses along the water front, old Fort Santiago, and from the vicinity of the military barracks. By 11 a. m. our forces were in complete possession of all parts of the city and fighting had practically ceased.

"The following signal was sent to the cruisers Chester, Prairie, San Francisco, and to brigade headquarters on shore:

"The division commander desires to express his appreciation and admiration for the splendid and efficient work of the naval brigade in their capture of the city of Vera Cruz, and the efficient support given them by the cruisers in the harbor reflect a great credit on the accuracy of fire of their gunners.

"FLETCHER"

"The Atlantic fleet under command of Rear Admiral Badger approached the harbor of Vera Cruz on the night of April 21 at full speed, all ready to land, and came to anchor in the outer harbor several hours ahead of the expected time. I am not allowed to commend my superior officer, but I think it only proper to say in this report that Rear Admiral Badger during the naval operations on shore at Vera Cruz afforded me the most prompt and willing assistance and my slightest request or recommendation or call for aid was in all cases met with immediate compliance. It is a great pleasure for me to record the thoroughly fine and generous spirit that was shown by him and his staff in their hearty support of the work on shore.

"The work of the three vessels, Chester (Commander Moffett), Prairie (Commander Stickney), and San Francisco (Commander Harrison), in supporting our troops on shore was most effective and is deserving special praise. Initiative and clear judgment were required on the part of the commanding officers and the results showed in a striking manner the efficiency of the ships under their commands."

WICKER'S MANY USES

ARTICLES OF FURNITURE GIVE DISTINCTION TO ROOM.

By No Means Costly, and Any One With Taste Will Be Able to Select Just What Is Required for the Apartment.

While rooms are delightfully attractive furnished throughout in wicker, it still remains true that one or two pieces of wicker furniture add distinction to almost any room. Sometimes this piece or two has been added for effect; sometimes for comfort. Perhaps some of the older wooden furniture has given out, and some wicker has been added at a lower cost than it would have been possible to duplicate the older pieces for; or, again, perhaps it has been impossible to match in color or kind the worn-out furniture. So it can be seen that wicker will solve many problems, writes Ethel Seal Davis in the Philadelphia North American.

Among the different colors offered for choice, we find the natural willow—unstained. And, instead of this seeming raw and crude, in some rooms it gives a very unusual note, especially an hour-glass armchair at six or eight dollars. Another good color is mocha brown, and there are two particularly attractive greens—forest and sea green.

A wicker sofa costs about thirty-five dollars, the covering of the upholstered seat cushion being extra.



In Dainty Wicker.

But a five-foot box davenport in willow has been seen for \$23. The wicker flower stand is about four dollars and a half, and the footstool, three dollars.

Imagine a living room in a little summer cottage furnished in this wise: Cream walls and white woodwork, a sage-green summer wicker rug, sea-green wicker furniture, including table, desk and desk chair, davenport, window bench, bookshelves, two straight wall chairs and two armchairs—one a wing and the other with a side pocket for magazines. For the notes of color in this room we will depend on the window hangings, which are dull-rose upholsterer's silk; the pictures, which should all be framed in black, and the flowers, which should be used in profusion.

One of the prettiest sets is a window bench—a most attractive piece of furniture, and a nifty little book trough. What will we not adapt! Time was when troughs were used only for holding water or feed for animals; and here we have them in our best Sunday-go-to-meeting rooms, with books in 'em! In almost any shop the seat might be priced at \$15 and the book trough at eight dollars in a 12x3-foot size.

For Chapped Hands.
There is nothing better to keep your hands from chapping, and to keep them soft, than glycerine and vinegar. Fill a bottle about half full of glycerine, then fill up with strong vinegar and shake well. Keep where it is handy. After washing your hands and while still moist put on a few drops and rub until dry. You will never be troubled with rough hands.

Chiffon Blouses.
One of the interesting developments of the styles is the blouse of chiffon or crepe de chine which shows a little tucked vest of organdy or linen, with a folding or flaring organdy or linen collar. The use of handkerchief linen with chiffon strikes one as a little heavy at first, but the combination is really attractive.

Unique Bridal Shower.
Give the bride who is going into a new home a shrubby shower, to which each friend brings a bulb or cutting of her favorite shrub, with directions as to its care. To have these lasting suggestions of friends would make her new grounds not only a place of beauty, but a garden of happy memories.

FOR HOUSE OR STREET WEAR

One-Piece Styles, in All the Popular Materials and Colors, Are Making Their Appearance.

With the advent of warm weather and the no-jacket season come prophetic of gowns of a one-piece style distinction, which are verified daily by crepes and foulards.

These between-season costumes, made of softly woven, beautifully colored, exquisitely designed silks and crepes, are the most fascinating dresses of one's wardrobe, except those which are set apart for dance wear.

For street wear, the most modish fancies express themselves in dark-toned silks, either black, blue or brown taffetas, or charmeuse crepes, enlivened by trimmings of brilliantly hued Roman striping or else indistinct but colorful plaided silks, which repeat the color note of the plain materials in their composition very happily.

One interesting model is made of

KERCHIEFS ALL IN COLORS

Modest White No Longer In Fashion, Even for Wear With the Afternoon Costume.

New handkerchiefs are a riot of color. White kerchiefs are certainly not on display. The fashionable handkerchiefs to be worn with tailored suits are in solid colors, or the same thing with a quarter-inch hemstitched hem in white. The colors run all the way from a dainty shell pink, palest blue and most delicate lavenders to navy blue, dark brown and crimson.

For afternoon wear the colors are not quite so pronounced. There will be the merest threads of color bordering the white handkerchief or the initial will be worked in a color.

Again, the background of a white embroidered letter will be of a color woven in with the white, but there is sure to be a touch of color somewhere.

While most of the handkerchiefs are finished with a narrow hemstitched hem, even for formal wear, there are others showing the dainty scallop inclosing a bit of mairra embroidery, also the initial, all carried out in a pretty color.

It would seem the polka dot never goes out of fashion, for one of the new designs shows in the center of the handkerchief in a solid blue, while the wide border is dotted with white. Stripes, cubes and odd colorings may be found by those seeking after the freakish.

Borderings in plaids are new and are not at all as loud as one might think.

The white centers with wide border of the plaid finished with a very narrow hem of lawn in the predominating color of the plaid are very smart indeed.

Those with solid, dark color centers are nice, too, but they suggest the handkerchief less than do those with the white centers.

NOVEL FANCIES IN FOOTWEAR

Shoes, With Their Trimmings, Have Become a Most Important Part of the Costume.

The fan-shaped plait and the rosette are the prominent trimmings of the house and evening shoe now, and the place to wear them is at one side of the shoe instead of in the center. There must also be a handsome ornament or buckle made of chased metal with a huge colored cabochon stone in the middle.

Brocade, gold and silver tissue, and ribbon are used for the plaits, and furnish a change from the tulle or velvet background employed lately for the purpose.

The value of the buckles makes the remark "without ornaments" necessary when the price of the footwear is stated. They are copies in many cases of old designs and some are so cleverly contrived that they look really antique.

Furniture brocade has been found so comfortable for house footwear that it is in high favor and the short, rounded toe is popular, the rosettes and ornaments making up for the paucity of covering on the instep.

CHARMING ROBE



Robe of old blue souple satin formed or made with a long cape.

Variety for Afternoon Wear.

There are two types of afternoon gowns this summer, the more simple kind of sprigged Dolly Varden materials, frilly to a degree, and the afternoon dance frock, which is of more pretentious fabrics.

black taffeta souple, rather bouffant, and combined with a corsage and short yoke of black, green and copper-hued plaid, girdled with a black felt which is tied at the back of the wide looped bow, indicative of the fashion of the moment for these things.

The widely-filled, three-quarter sleeve is edged, as is the neck piece with white organdy, while a strip of the plaid is coquettishly used to edge the hem of the rather short skirt.

Slippers of black satin, buckled with green stones, provide another modish touch worn with black silk hose.

When the Bustle Comes Back.
When the bustle comes back—and they say it is coming—we can't see where it's going to dovetail with the progress that has been made during its absence. Just how it is going to fit into the tonneau of a touring car and remain intact while the machine goes bumping over a rough piece of road, is one of the mysteries that the future will have to solve.—Telegraph Blade

RULES FOR RAISING BEEF IN THE SOUTH



Excellent Type of Shorthorn.

Useful rules for raising beef successfully in the South are given in farmers' bulletin 580, just issued by the United States department of agriculture, under the title of "Beef Production in the South." After discussing in some detail the available pasture lands and grasses, the bulletin summarizes conditions as follows:

Eradicate the tick on the farm. Good pastures are essential for profitable beef production.

Plant pasture grasses over the waste lands.

Use pure-bred beef bulls for grading up the native stock.

Always select the best heifers for breeding purposes.

Use the coarse fodder, straws and the stalk fields for wintering the breeding herd.

Wean the calves when pastures get short. Put them in the corn field and pea fields while weaning and teach them to eat cottonseed cake or cottonseed meal.

Raise and finish beef cattle on the same farm when possible.

A mixture of cottonseed meal, cottonseed hulls and alfalfa hay is a good ration for fattening calves.

Silage is the best roughage for fattening any class of cattle.

More care is necessary in feeding calves than in feeding grown cattle.

At the present prices corn silage is a cheaper and better feed for fattening beef cattle than cottonseed hulls.

Hulls and cottonseed meal make an excellent feed for a short feeding period, but do not produce good gains on cattle after the third month.

It is not entirely satisfactory to use corn stover as the sole roughage.

When Johnson grass hay costs \$10 and hulls \$7 per ton it is more profitable to feed the hulls alone.

Summer feeding on the pasture is usually more profitable than winter feeding.

Finishing cattle early in the summer is usually more profitable than finishing them later in the season.

Fattening steers on grass and cottonseed cake is nearly always more profitable than grazing them without feed.

Thin steers make larger and cheaper daily gains than fleshy ones when put on pasture.

Pounds of pound cold-pressed cottonseed cake is not equal to the common cottonseed cake.

This was very satisfactory, as in addition to this profit, the farm had rich manure to fertilize the land with.

The calves were kept free from tick by dipping.

It pays to keep cows just to raise calves when the best methods are followed. The South can beat any other farming section at it.

SHEEP ARE GREAT AID FOR THE ORCHARD



Sheep Thrive in the Air and Sunshine and Fine and Fall Away When Deprived of These Essential Elements.

The greatest value of sheep in an orchard is found probably in their being used as a means of fertilizing orchards that are bearing.

If put in somewhat early in the spring and fed a suitable supplementary food with the grass which the orchard may furnish, it will be found that the sheep will thus convey fertility to the land, and they will do so in a marked degree if fed on rich kinds of food.

Such food may consist very largely of wheat bran, which is in itself a valuable fertilizer.

It may be wise, to encourage the sheep to eat freely, to add a little grain in the form of oats.

A little oil-cake will also improve the food.

The droppings thus left in the orchard will tend very much to its enrichment.

The outcome will be that where this system is persevered in during consid-

erable portions of the season, the orchard will thus be provided with a liberal application of fertility.

This statement is based, of course, on the supposition that there is some relation between the number of sheep grazed and the area of the orchard.

Protect Farmer's Friend.

Protect the toad. He is the farmer's friend. Without toads it would be difficult to keep down the ravaging insects that infest the farm or garden.

They consume thousands of flies, ants, potato bugs, cut worms, celery worms and such things. It is said that a pet toad in a farm residence will keep it free of flies.

Start With Good Breeders.

The beginner should start with good breeders. Pure-bred animals can be had at living prices and are as good for growing pork as prize animals costing high prices.

Never whip the shying horse, for it will never induce it to approach the object it shied at. If a horse shies talk to it, let it smell and sniff the object if it likes. The next time it meets the object it will pay no attention to it.

Successful Farmer.

The farmer who is already beginning to plan for next year's work is the farmer who is likely to be successful again in 1915.

The use of a small amount of corn in addition to cottonseed cake has proven profitable for feeding steers on grass.

The bulletin, with its 20 pages and nine illustrations, also contains an interesting discussion of the various breeds most serviceable in grading up the native stock. It is sent free on request.

GOOD PROFITS FROM CALVES

Experiments Conducted by Department of Agriculture and Alabama Station in Raising Beef.

The United States department of agriculture and the Alabama experiment station have been conducting experiments in raising beef calves. Eighty cows were kept and two bulls were used on the herd. A very fair average of 64 calves or calves from 80 per cent of the cows was secured.

During the grazing season the cows were kept on pasture. It consisted mainly of Japan clover and sedge grass, although there was a small field of 30 acres of Bermuda adjoining that was used for some of the calves. When the pasture began to fall the cows and calves were separated and placed on different feeds. The cows were run in corn and cotton fields and given a small feed of cottonseed cake. The calves were placed on a fattening ration and were given cottonseed meal, cottonseed cake, corn silage and broom-sedge hay. The cows were provided no shelter, but the calves had access to a good barn.

After being finished for the market the calves were sold in New Orleans. Forty-nine were sold and 15 heifers were kept for breeding purposes. After placing a proper valuation on feeds used, interest on investment, labor used in taking care of cattle, etc., a profit of \$6.81 was left for each calf raised, or of \$5.45 for each cow kept.

This was very satisfactory, as in addition to this profit, the farm had rich manure to fertilize the land with.

The calves were kept free from tick by dipping.

It pays to keep cows just to raise calves when the best methods are followed. The South can beat any other farming section at it.

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