

U. S. READY TO INTERVENE; BATTLING IN MEXICO CITY

FIRST STEP IS TAKEN TO SEND TROOPS INTO MEXICO

TRANSPORTS ARE PUT IN READINESS AND ARMY CORPS IS MOBILIZED

El Paso Will Be One of the Points of Concentration in Event That Invasion of Mexico Is Undertaken—Two Admirals and Numerous Warships With Ample Supply of Bluejackets for Landing Are Dispatched to Mexican Coast.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—The first brigade of the first army division, numbering three thousand men, are resting on their arms ready to entrain at a moment's notice for Newport News, to board transports for Mexico.

Twenty-five hundred marines from the Atlantic fleet and the Guantanamo naval station prepared today to sail for Veracruz to go to the relief of the foreign legations, should they become besieged, as they did at Pekin.

Four dreadnoughts of the battleship fleet are steaming at top speed to Tampico and Veracruz, and two other warships are rushing on the Pacific side to Mexican ports to afford refuges to Americans and other foreigners.

President Taft and the cabinet are firm in their determination not to land an American soldier in Mexico unless the most dire necessity forces it.

These are the developments of the day in the attitude of the United States toward the newest revolution in Mexico.

READY FOR INTERVENTION.

The United States is fully prepared for intervention if necessary. Only orders for mobilization of troops and warships are needed to send a majority of the army into the Republic and a fleet of battleships to her ports.

If it appears that the Diaz revolt in Mexico City is to spread and repetition of yesterday's and today's battles in Mexico City are likely in other cities, or if the Mexico City fighting forces American non-combatants into the zone of actual fighting or results in anarchy, the United States is ready for an armed demonstration.

READY FOR THE WORD.

The army is ready in every branch. The moment the president says: "Intervene," the wheels will move like clock-work. Transports will immediately sail for Galveston, Texas, and there pick up a portion of the army for transportation to Veracruz, Tampico and Turpam. This would be known as the "southern campaign."

The object would be to cut off all communication with Mexico City, thus shutting off supplies of food and munitions of war. Probably not more than 6000 troops would be landed on the coast.

TO SEIZE MEXICAN ROADS.

These, assisted by marines and bluejackets from the battleships, which would be stationed in the harbors, according to the present plans of the general staff of the army, would seize all railroads leading to the interior. Gradually the forces would draw toward the objective center—Mexico City.

It is estimated by strategists at the army war college, that the movement would require nearly two months. With these precautions taken, Mexico City would be at the mercy of the invading army from the north.

EL PASO A MOBILIZATION POINT.

From the east coast no attempt would be made to enter the city, but the forces there would effectively block escape toward the Atlantic. The main body of the army would be mobilized at three points on the border—El Paso, Eagle Pass, and Nogales. A few hours after the president's order to intervene, thousands of troops with arms and food supplies for a two months' campaign would be en route for the border.

Every fort in the country would send its quota. Fort Sam Houston, Texas, would probably be the first to get its troops in motion. The main body would move south through the heart of the Mexican mountains, over the Mexican international railroad. About 10,000 troops would then slowly proceed toward Mexico City from Eagle Pass.

SOUTH INTO CHIHUAHUA.

From El Paso a body nearly as large would leave on the Mexican Central railroad for Chihuahua, and then the troops now stationed there would get to go in. Until that time, there will be no change in border troops. None now at El Paso would go in on the transports. From Nogales about 5000 men would leave for Sonora.

All this has been carefully mapped out at the army war college. The navy would have the west coast to look out for. Its duty would be to land small forces to hold the seaports and prevent filibustering.

It is feared by both war and state departments that if the United States sends an invading army across the Rio Grande, thousands of Mexicans will take to the mountains and then will begin a campaign to wipe them out. It is estimated that the entire campaign would require at least a year and it might require three or four years.

ANOTHER CONFERENCE HELD.

Secretaries Knox and Stimson went in conference further with president Taft after luncheon today at the white house, after holding lengthy conferences last night. It was announced that secretary Stimson, who had planned to accompany the president to Philadelphia tonight, would remain in Washington, to be in close touch with the situation and keep the president informed.

Some changes in orders to commanders of battleships on their way to Mexico were made today by secretary Meyer after a conference with his naval aides. Rear admiral Fletcher, commanding the second division of the Atlantic fleet, with his flagship Vermont, was ordered from Guantanamo directly to Veracruz with the battleship Nebraska. This supplants previous tentative orders to the Illinois, New Jersey and Rhode Island, and puts two admirals with the naval force on the Gulf of Mexico.

Four Warships on Gulf Coast.

The two additional battleships, which are to go to Mexico, as decided upon at the midnight white house conferences attended by president Taft, secretaries Knox, Stimson and Meyer and officers of the army and navy, will bring the total number of American men of war in Veracruz harbor up to three. The dreadnought Virginia already is steaming to Tampico and the Georgia is on her way to Veracruz. This will make a total of four American battleships on the Gulf coast of Mexico.

Two on the Pacific Side.

The two on the Pacific side, the Colorado and South Dakota, are under orders for Mexico ports and other ships may follow at any moment.

TWO ADMIRALS IN MEXICO.

There will be two rear admirals in Mexican waters ready to direct the movements of the ships operating on both coasts. On the west side, rear admiral Sutherland on his big armored cruiser Colorado, is now well off the coast of Lower California and should arrive at Acapulco by Friday. On the Gulf coast, rear admiral Fletcher is on the flagship Vermont.

All the ships under orders for Mexico service are of the first class, with complements of about 700 men each. The navy will have an effective force of about 5000 men on the Gulf and the Pacific side of Mexico before the end of the week.

The big army transports at Newport News will be ready to sail by tomorrow morning at the latest. They would take some of the first infantry brigade from New York state and perhaps troops from Fort Monroe, Ballinrobe and Fort Meyer near this city, should it be decided that the crisis in Mexico had assumed such proportions as to demand the dispatch of a military force to reinforce the naval contingent already under way.

"Conditions are Justifiable." Fighting in the heart of Mexico City, endangering thousands of lives, is looked upon with apprehension, but army men and students of international

MADERO PREPARING FOR FLIGHT

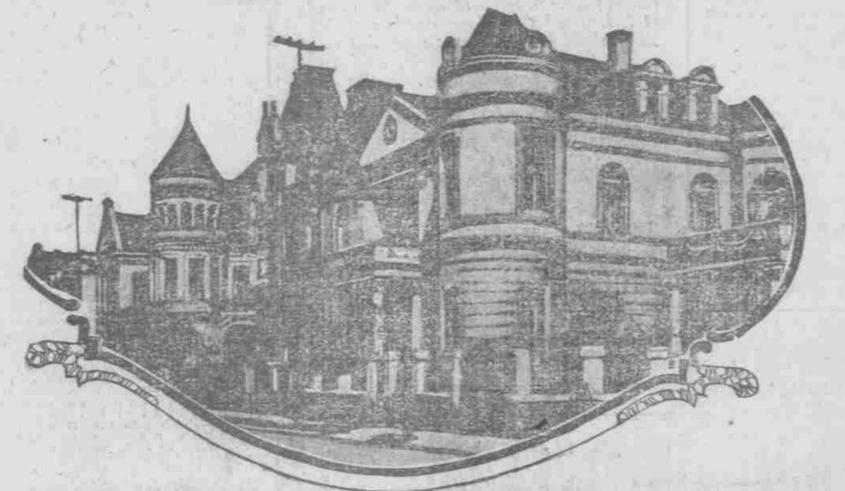
Mexico City, Mexico, Feb. 12.—President Madero may within a few hours remove the national capital to some other point in Mexico.

He fears foreign intervention if he continues the fighting with the rebels in the capital, and, having gained no advantage over them in all his efforts to dislodge them, is planning to slip out of the city and leave it in their hands.

He made the statement this afternoon that he would not yield in any case, but if Diaz persists in the bombardment, he will move the capital to San Luis Potosi or some other point.

Minister of fomento Manuel Bonilla, according to an American who traveled with him from San Luis Potosi, has been attempting to arrange with the governor of the state for the proclamation of the national capital there, but he found the governor obstinate.

Portion of American Colony, Mexico City



Mexico City, Mex., Feb. 12.—The escape of consul general Arnold Shanklin and his staff from the American consulate building during the seven hour battle between the federal troops and the rebels in the streets of Mexico City yesterday was a sensational one. Mr. Shanklin broke down two doors, and was thus enabled to pass into and through an adjoining building and make an exit on a cross street, which was at the moment free from rifle fire. The consul general and his staff carried along with them a wounded man, who had been brought into the consulate for temporary treatment.

Mr. Shanklin is a cousin of W. H. Austin, of El Paso. He visited Mr. Austin at El Paso during the Taft-Diaz celebration. Mr. Austin has been telegraphing the American consul general for information about his daughter, Mrs. Thomas R. Hasam, formerly Miss Lillian Austin, who is a resident of Colonia Loma, between the city and Chapultepec castle. Mr. Austin has telegraphed for his daughter to come to El Paso and has asked the American consul general to assist in getting her out of the beleaguered city.

merchant ship owners to see what could be done to abort notice. The state department made public today the substance of telegrams received over night from Mexico. Ambassador Wilson's report was confirmatory of the news dispatches. Mr. Wilson estimates that both sides were equally balanced numerically. Madero and Diaz each commanding about 4000 men. He states that while four Americans were reported to have been injured, none was killed. Consuls at Laredo and Toluca report all quiet in their sections.

Secretary of war Stimson had an early conference with president Taft in the white house proper, during which he advised the president of the preparedness of the army to carry out the plans formulated last night.

"There is nothing new to be said," he declared at the end of his talk with the president. "The situation is the same as last night."

Hilles Issues Statement. After the conference of the president and cabinet, which lasted almost all night, this morning shortly before 2 o'clock secretary Hilles issued the following statement:

"After a conference called by the president with the secretaries of state, of war and of the navy, was not believed that the news from the City of Mexico warrants any action of an affirmative character other than to order more battleships to Veracruz. These, including the one ordered to Tampico, will make three battleships on the Gulf coast of Mexico, or one division of the fleet under the command of an admiral.

"The war department will hold itself in readiness, but no affirmative action was directed to be taken by the secretary of war except to put two transports, now at Newport News, in commission.

Troops if Necessary. "These transports will receive troops, should further action be deemed necessary. The purpose of the American precautionary steps to protect Americans and foreigners in the City of Mexico, should conditions of violence continue and anarchy succeed.

"The attitude of the government is strong against intervention and it was determined to take no step at this time which would commit us to such a policy, and to take only the precautionary steps to meet an exigency which it is earnestly hoped and believed will not arise.

Army Transports Ready. Orders were sent promptly to Newport News by Brig. Gen. Aleshire, chief of the quartermaster's corps of the army, to have the army transports made ready at once. By noon today arrangements were completed for prompt action in case the situation in Mexico grows more active.

At the conference all of the president's advisers were of one mind that some precautionary steps should be taken immediately.

Mobility at Galveston. President Taft's anxiety was said to have been increased by a rumor received from Mexico that American ambassador Wilson had been forced to flee from the embassy. At an early hour no confirmation of this report could be obtained through official sources. Immediately on leaving the white house, Maj. Gen. Wood went directly to the war department where he remained at his desk until nearly daybreak working out details for the quick movement of troops should the occasion arise. These troops would probably be mobilized at Galveston, Texas, and would embark as soon as the transports arrived from Newport News, Va.

United States Film-Sound. The officials of the United States government have begun to realize that the false reports of Mexican officials relative to the conditions in Mexico, and the ability of the government to put down the revolution. The fact statement in the Mexican senate last week by former ambassador Calero to the United States that he resigned because he was forced by his government to misrepresent conditions to the United

States, caused an awakening here among American officials and now they are accepting Mexico City reports with great caution.

Chihuahua Army Defeated. Confidential dispatches from Mexico which reached Washington last night indicated that the regular army in the state of Chihuahua has deserted president Madero and that it is prepared to go over almost to a man to Felix Diaz. This was the most alarming bit of information that has filtered in to Washington since Diaz engineered his coup d'etat Sunday. Other states of Mexico may follow. It is feared by officials and precipitate a situation far more serious than the present situation facing Madero.

Guatemala Ready to Flee. Acting on information received here, the prospects of revolution in Guatemala are so grave that its governor, Abraham Gonzalez, is reported to flee at any moment. He is declared to be convinced that the friends of Diaz are strong enough to overturn his own forces at any time and that revolution there is imminent.

There are 3000 regulars in Chihuahua, and 2000 volunteers, most of whom can be counted on to remain loyal to Madero. The experience of the regulars, how-

ZAPATISTAS REINFORCE REBEL ARMY OF GEN. FELIX DIAZ

PRISONERS RELEASED FROM BELEM, JOIN REBELS AND SCATTER OVER CITY

United States Ambassador and German Minister Demand Cessation of Hostilities, but Without Avail—Mexico City Is Being Shot to Pieces by the Artillery and Small Arms of the Two Contending Armies. British Legation Under Rebel Fire.

Mexico City, Mexico, Feb. 12.—Hopes of the United States and German ambassadors of securing a cessation of the fighting between the Diaz rebels and the Madero loyal troops today were without avail. The bullet-riddled city is being shot to pieces; foreigners and natives alike are being shot down and property is being ruthlessly destroyed as two factions of Mexican troops battle for supremacy.

Americans and other foreigners living in this city found themselves in a desperate situation today. The foreign residential and commercial districts lay in the direct line of artillery fire from both the rebel and federal positions. Many people who had taken refuge in the more important buildings found themselves penned in, while heavy shells whistled about them, tearing through walls and roofs.

CABLE OFFICE BADLY DAMAGED.

The cable office was severely damaged by shrapnel and it was feared that communication with the outside world might be temporarily cut off.

All surrounding streets were occupied by troops and throughout infantrymen kept up a constant rifle fire.

Neither side gained any perceptible advantage up to noon, when plans for a conference between the leaders of the rebels and representatives of the government were taken up for discussion at the national palace, following a visit to Madero by the American ambassador and the German minister, who demanded that fighting cease.

PRISON OPENED; ZAPATISTAS ARRIVE.

From the Madero point of view, two of the most serious of the day's developments were the releasing by rebels of several thousand criminals from the city prison, and the arrival in the city of Alfonso Miranda, one of Zapata's lieutenants, with a band of 300 followers who are said to have plotted the wholesale looting of the capital. They are aiding the Diaz troops.

Later it was reported that Geneyvo de la O, another Zapataista leader, had entered the city and was working his way toward the rebel position, to join Felix Diaz.

When Belem jail, the famous old prison, was thrown open by the rebels, from 3000 to 5000 desperate prisoners were let loose, many of them robbers and murderers.

REBELS SUFFER BUT LITTLE.

For four hours continuously during the forenoon the federal troops shelled the positions of the rebels without great effect. The rebels returned the fire much more vigorously than yesterday. Their heavier guns hurled shrapnel and solid shot into the heart of the business district.

The artillery fire of the rebels from their positions at the arsenal extended in several directions on account of the encircling tactics adopted by the government troops.

Diaz turned his guns in the direction of the British legation shortly after noon in order to reply to the fire of a federal battery stationed there.

SCARCITY OF FOOD.

A scarcity of provisions is already causing suffering among the poorer classes. Ordinary food is obtainable only in small quantities and at prices from five to ten times the usual rate.

The bulk of the government troops are stationed in the northwestern part of the city this afternoon.

An effort made by the federals to isolate the rebels from their water supply was ineffective because there are a number of artesian wells in the portion of the city occupied by the rebels.

NO CESSATION OF FIGHTING.

Hopes of a conference to stop the fighting diminished this afternoon. There was a cessation of firing for a time but this appeared to be due to a change in the federal positions and was regarded by the rebels as a trick to draw them out. It was first reported that Madero had ordered a suspension of firing, as he dreaded foreign interference, but, although there was a slight lull, the firing did not entirely cease at any time.

REBELS STRENGTHEN POSITION.

The rebels strengthened their position during the day by placing more men and field guns on the Y. M. C. A. building, commanding the arsenal, against which the government troops continued a fire from their artillery and small arms.

DIAS BETTER FORTIFIED.

According to reports from the rebel lines, Felix Diaz utilized the night hours in further fortifying the positions he had taken up and which even yesterday had proved strong enough to withstand the attacks made by the government troops. The federal force was strengthened during the night by reinforcements of both artillery and infantry. The new arrivals took up positions along the streets leading to the scene of battle.

DIAS ARTILLERY FIRE IS BEST.

For many hours after the opening of today's battle, the artillery fire of the federal troops did not appear to do great damage to the rebel positions. Diaz soon brought his heavy guns vigorously to bear. He made every effort to dislodge the federal riflemen and machine gunners from the higher buildings. At the same time he directed a constant fire on the new national theater, about which a considerable portion of the federal artillery was stationed. In this latter effort he was fairly successful.

FEDERALS REPULSED IN CHARGE.

At about half past 10 there was a virtual cessation of firing, but this was due presumably to the troops changing positions, as neither side had at that time won a decided advantage.

The federal troops at one moment made a valiant but ineffective effort to obtain possession of Belem jail, in the neighborhood of the arsenal. The followers of Felix Diaz repulsed their vigorous attack and then released a portion of the prisoners, some of whom they incorporated in their ranks, arming them with rifles from the arsenal stores.

ZAPATISTAS ACT AS GUERRILLAS.

The group of Zapatistas commanded by Alfonso Miranda, who entered the city in the night, worked in conjunction with Diaz, but, instead of attempting to join him, adopted guerrilla tactics and caused great trouble to the federals.

A most spectacular display of artillery firing occurred in the center of the city. The federal cannon were in action in San Juan de Letran street and just off Juarez avenue, in locations midway between the arsenal and the national palace.

BATTLE REOPENS EARLY.

The federal troops reopened the battle in the streets of the Mexican capital at 5:35 this morning with a light artillery fire.

The action soon became general, all the artillery on both sides being brought into play. The cannon fire was augmented by sweeping salvos from the machine guns, while the infantry came into action with volleys and individual shooting.

The Mutual Life insurance building was set on fire at 8 o'clock by a shell from a rebel field gun. It is a four story marble structure on the corner of Cinco de Mayo and San Juan de Letran streets. The fire was extinguished, but not until great damage was done.

AMERICANS IN LINE OF FIRE.

Shortly before 9 o'clock this morning a shell tore a hole through the iron shutter protecting the cable office and fell inside.

Porter's hotel and the American club, in both of which scores of American visitors and residents are gathered, are in the direct line of fire.

Another heavy shell struck a building in front of the cable office at about 10 o'clock, ripping away a corner of the structure.

ADVANCE ON PALACE.

The rebels under Felix Diaz started to advance toward the national palace at a quarter to nine.

The rebels seemingly were employing heavier cannon than they did yesterday. They directed their fire toward the national palace and on the higher buildings in

American Ambassador and Embassy in City of Mexico



The American ambassador and his staff are seen in the photograph above. The scene captures a moment of activity in the city of Mexico during the conflict. The ambassador's presence is a key element in the international relations surrounding the Mexican Revolution.