

VERA CRUZ TAKEN WITH LOSS OF LIFE

Bluejackets and Marines, at First Unopposed, Meet Resistance in Streets.

WATERFRONT IS OCCUPIED

Americans Now Hold Customs-House, Important Piers and Railroad Terminals—Refugees Continue to Arrive.

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three blocks south of the main plaza. The marines replied immediately, but the action ceased in a moment. There was a lull for 10 minutes and then another brief exchange from the west end of Montesinos street, where a federal outpost was stationed.

Transport Opens Fire.

At 12:30 the firing became general and at 1 o'clock the guns of the transport Prairie went into action. Prior to this a detachment of blue-jackets from the Utah, holding the ground between the consulate and the waterfront, opened fire with two of their three-inch guns. The first shots from these pieces were directed against an ancient tower which once served as a lighthouse. This was occupied by Mexican sharpshooters.

Lieutenant-Commander Buchanan, of the Florida, ordered that it be destroyed. Five shots brought the old Benito Juarez tower down.

The women of the American colony in Vera Cruz had already been placed aboard the chartered steamers Esperanza and Mexico, but the foreign colony, especially the American section, was greatly agitated this morning when three trainloads arrived from the capital. Some of these remained ashore, but many were taken aboard the steamers. So far as can be learned none of the refugees was injured.

Civilians Fight From House-tops.

The postoffice, government telegraph office and cable office were the first buildings occupied after the custom-house. A squad of marines was placed in charge of the cable office. The telegraph wires were found intact, and enough Mexican operators were retained to man the lines to Mexico City.

After General Maas had been driven from his position in Central Plaza, the Americans found themselves the object of fusillades from the tops of houses, where small groups of soldiers and citizens had taken up positions. It was learned only tonight that the greater part of those engaged in this resistance were civilians who refused to accept the American occupation passively. They obtained guns and stationed themselves at points of vantage and did much to prolong the action.

Precautions Against Attack Taken.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wendell C. Neville commanded the marines from the Pacific, and Majors Reid and Berkeley and Captain Hughes, Haver along the line. Every precaution is being taken to prevent a Mexican attack and the lines have been reinforced by a detachment of marines originally in position beyond the terminal works.

Toward the middle of the afternoon a large body of Mexicans evacuated their position and are now somewhere in the sandhills back in the interior, where it is reported from Mexican sources they are expected to be joined by reinforcements from the capital.

This withdrawal, however, was not entirely unpremeditated. Those watching on the ships observed, through their glasses, a large force of Mexicans move inland over the hills in the western outskirts of the city, apparently with the intention of flanking a battalion of marines in the railway yards and along Montesinos street, which runs east and west not far from the American Consulate.

Guns Break Flanking Movement.

Apparently the Spanish force of the Prairie let go, breaking the Mexican formation and causing a hasty retreat. This ended the flanking movement.

Only a few minutes before the three-inch guns of the Prairie were used effectively near shore. A small detachment of Mexicans had gained positions near the custom-house and their concealed marksmen were doing some trouble. A few shots from the Prairie's guns served to silence that position. From time to time the same guns played their shells along the line of the shore, keeping that territory comparatively free of sharpshooters.

In the action about the custom-house two of the bluejackets, in a launch which carried a rapid-firer were wounded.

AGGIE TROOP PLANNED

STUDENTS BESIEGE LIEUTENANT TO ORGANIZE CAVALRY.

Army Officer, Commandant of Cadets, Says College Could Get Together Efficient Military Body.

OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, Corvallis, April 21.—(Special.)—Lieutenant Peter J. Hennessey, Fifteenth United States Cavalry, commandant of cadets at the Oregon Agricultural College, has been besieged this week by college students, who have been urging him, in case the Mexican trouble demands military action by the United States, to organize a troop of cavalry composed of Oregon Agricultural College students exclusively, and to command this organization in the field. Lieutenant Hennessey said today:

"The request which has come to me from many students to organize an Oregon Agricultural college troop for participation in the war with Mexico, if we are to have war, indicates that a surprisingly large percentage of the men of the college are in favor of going down if the situation demands it. That being the case, I think it would be advisable for Oregon Agricultural College men to keep together, and I would favor the organization of a cavalry troop."

"Many students here have had experience in horsemanship, and I am confident that we could organize, in a comparatively short time, a cavalry organization which would be efficient and which would prove a greater help to the United States Army than if the boys here enlisted as individuals. I would, of course, have to obtain the consent of the military department before taking such an action."

There is no possibility, according to the military department here, of the Oregon Agricultural College cadet regiment being moved as a body.

THE FIRST STEP



MARINES EMBARK AT SAN FRANCISCO

Battleship South Dakota and Collier Jupiter Scheduled to Sail Today.

THRONGS JOIN IN SALUTE

Extra Workmen Put at Task of Completing Repairs on Maryland and Cruiser Cleveland Will Go South Sunday.

VALLEJO, Cal., April 21.—With the band playing "The Girl I Left Behind Me," 500 marines, under command of Major John T. Meyers, left Mare Island today and boarded the battleship South Dakota, which, with the collier Jupiter, has received orders to sail for San Diego as soon as the full complements of marines have embarked.

The sailing of the two vessels was postponed until 8 A. M. tomorrow. Throngs of people cheered and waved farewells, while the bay craft joined in a continuous salute to the departing marines.

Orders for Captain Arthur B. Owens to accompany the men were revoked today and Captain Charles H. Lyman substituted because the service of the former officer was needed on the court-martial board, now in session here.

Colonel L. W. T. Waller also received orders to leave within 12 hours for League Island, near Philadelphia. Waller is under orders to assume command of League Island barracks May 1. This transfer is supposed to be the result of a shortage of ranking officers on the east coast or the intention of the department to send Colonel Waller to Vera Cruz with a command.

Following the receipt of orders extra shifts of workmen were put to work on the Maryland so as to complete her repairs by Thursday. The Maryland probably will be the next ship dispatched south.

The cruiser Cleveland is under orders to sail for Pacific-Mexican waters Sunday.

WAR ONLY TOPIC IN CITY

(Continued From First Page.)

here, it was regarded as an indication that the War Department wished the Oregon troops to be ready for service in the tropics. Later it was learned that the shipment had come here as a result of a quartermaster's error.

"Call it what you like, protest whatever friendliness you will for the Mexican people, war is inevitable," retorted Colonel Martin, commander of the Third Regiment, when he heard the news of the fighting at Vera Cruz.

Colonel Martin passed the day at militia headquarters in the Morgan building, where Adjutant-General Finzer, Major Knapp and other attaches of the office were poring over maps of Mexico, with particular regard for altitude, roads and water.

State Forces Ready.

As far as the condition of the Third Regiment and the other branches of the service in Oregon are concerned, all is in readiness for mobilization, and the officers are looking ahead to service south of the Rio Grande. The occupation of Northern Mexico and a possible campaign against Mexico City were discussed. It was thought possible that the Mexican capital would be moved on simultaneously by two armies, one from the north and one from Vera Cruz, as was done in the Mexican war of

1846-48. In this event the opinion was that the city would be taken by the army from Vera Cruz before the invasion from the north could get that far south.

New Law Pleases.

The officers were greatly pleased with the new volunteer law, regarding it as a measure that will make the Army non-political and prevent glory-seekers from capturing commissions at the eleventh hour before a war breaks out, without having had any military training or having manifested any previous patriotic spirit.

"The organization of the Oregon National Guard will be preserved intact," said Adjutant-General Finzer on his arrival from Salem, where he had a consultation with Governor West. "No one will be displaced to make room for politicians. Those who desire to enlist are welcome, but all must take their regular turn up the ladder of promotion."

General Finzer admitted that both he and Governor West have been bombarded with applications from politicians who are eager for commissions, and confirmed the report that all such applications had been turned down and the applicants told to apply to the recruiting officer.

Many would join Naval Branch. The opening of hostilities gave a

FOREIGN WARSHIPS NOW AT VARIOUS MEXICAN PORTS.

At Vera Cruz—French cruiser Descaartes; the German cruiser Dresden; the British armored cruiser Essex, and the Spanish cruiser Canale V. At Tampico—British cruiser Hermione. At Puerto, Mexico—British cruiser Lancaster. At Ensenada—British gunboat Albatross. At Manzanillo—Japanese cruiser Idzumo. At Guaymas—French armored cruiser Montcalm. At Manzanillo—German cruiser Naumburg. At Acapulco—British sloop-of-war Shearwater.

tremendous impulse to interest among the men in the Oregon Naval Militia.

All the two-year men who did not re-enlist when their terms expired have expressed their eagerness to resume the service. Recruiting officers and examining surgeons are on board the cruiser Boston every day and according to A. J. Capron, quartermaster, the recruits enlisted in faster than they can be handled, either in new enlistments or re-enlistments of men whose time has expired.

Drills are held twice each week. At the drill last night all members of the naval board and officers were on the Boston to talk to the men and encourage the movement to enlist.

120 VETERANS WOULD GO

Centralia Company Will Volunteer if Needed in Mexico.

CENTRALIA, Wash., April 21.—(Special.)—Lieutenant William Scales, a staff officer in the state militia and a member of the John A. Wheeler Post Centralia's representation in the Spanish-American War Veterans, announced yesterday that in case Uncle Sam decides to invade Mexico, the veterans are called for, 120 members of the local post will offer themselves to Governor Lister for active service.

At the noon luncheon of the Commercial Club yesterday, Lieutenant Scales asserted that Company M, the Centralia militia company, is in condition for instant response in case it is called into service.

Soldiers Not Taken Captive.

BISBEE, Ariz., April 21.—A denial that any United States soldiers had been captured by rebels below the border near Naco, was issued tonight by Colonel Gresham, commander of the American soldiers at Fort Huachuca. Nearly all of the American women and children who had been in Cananea came out by train this afternoon.

Smelter and Brewery Taken.

JUAREZ, Mexico, April 21.—An official report received today says that the smelter and the brewery at Monterey have been occupied by the rebels, who began their attack yesterday.

MILITIA EXPECTED TO DO BORDER DUTY

Regulars to Be Held in Readiness, so Far as Possible, to Make Invasion.

RETIRED OFFICERS CALLED

Those Not Over Age Limit to Be Examined as to Fitness for Temporary Service—Coast Artillery Doing Good Work.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 21.—(Special.)—Western department officers are expecting orders hourly to rush troops to the front and department headquarters were held open until midnight tonight.

There were many important developments in the military situation on the Pacific Coast today. First in importance was the news that National Guard troops will need to be called out to patrol the Mexican border between California and Mexico, in order that the regular troops may not be obliged to perform such duty, if being the intention of the military authorities to hold regiments, brigades and if possible the third division on the Pacific Coast, which is scattered through the states of California, Oregon, Washington and Utah, intact for work in Mexico.

Illustrating the gravity of the situation as military authorities see it, letters were sent out today to all retired Army officers, with the exception of those who have retired because of the age limit, to report to the nearest Army post for physical examination to determine their fitness for temporary active service. It is the intention to put these men, or such of them as are not entirely incapacitated for duty, at recruiting and similar work, and a few may even be called on to go into the field. Retired officers are under the same regulations as all other officers, but they are not called on for active duty, saving at their own request, except in emergency.

Western department officials today received word from the California border line that the coast artillerymen at Fort Rosecrans, near San Diego, have the situation well in hand and that everything is quiet. It is acknowledged, however, that the present state of calm may not continue, and for this reason the militia will be called on for border work, leaving the sterner duty of entering Mexico to the regulars.

The commanding officer of Huerta forces at Mexicano, across the border from California, where the head staff of the tremendous irrigation project of the Imperial Valley is situated, has assured Western department officials that his men will patrol the irrigation canal on the Mexican side and prevent harm from coming to the immense venture, excepting in case of the invasion of Mexico by American troops, in which case he refuses to be responsible for the safety of the canal.

Troop D, of the First Cavalry, reached Calexico at noon today, and Captain Arthur Pollion, commanding, immediately entered into negotiations with the Mexican commander to the end that pending open hostilities between the United States and Mexico the Mexican soldiers would do the best to prevent the ruining of an enterprise in which more than \$1,000,000 is invested. The irrigation canal extends something like 30 miles into Mexican territory.

Rickrall to Have R. F. D. No. 2.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, April 21.—Representative Hawley has secured the establishment of rural free delivery route No. 2 at Rickrall, Or., to begin June 1, the route to be 25 miles long and serve 102 families.

Leaving Port San Luis for Juneau, 1908 miles north of San Francisco.

Goodness Gracious

The great three-reel laughofilm, especially produced by the Vitagraph Co. for the opening of its magnificent Broadway Theater. It was presented there 250 consecutive times to capacity audiences at admission rates of 25c, 50c and \$1.00. We have the satisfaction of offering it to our patrons today and balance of week.

Adventures of Kathlyn

We shall show in addition the latest and best of Kathlyn's Adventures in two reels, which, with Miss Lewis and Our Still Unequaled Globe Organ, makes the most remarkable programme of the year.

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PICKED MEN OFFER SERVICES FOR WAR

Oklahomans Want to 'Help Put Stars and Stripes Above Halls of Montezuma.'

CLUB OFFERS REGIMENT

Spanish War Veterans Rally at First Sign, and University Cadet Major Wants to Raise Personal Regiment.

WASHINGTON, April 21.—Offers of volunteers for service in Mexico are being received by Representatives in Congress.

Representative Ferris, of Oklahoma, today forwarded to the President a telegram from Hollis, Okla., tendering on behalf of a mass meeting of citizens of two counties a company of 100 picked men, all native Americans, to "help place the Stars and Stripes above the halls of Montezuma." Representative Igoe, of Missouri, submitted to the President a telegram announcing the readiness of the Army and Navy Club of St. Louis to furnish a regiment of seasoned Spanish War veterans in case of trouble.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., April 21.—Many offers to raise regiments and companies for war service have been received by Governor Dumm. The veterans of the Philippine War telegraphed today from Chicago that they could put a regiment in the field. Major Webster, in charge of the cadets of the University of Illinois, also telegraphed for permission to recruit a personal regiment.

SOUTH BEND, Ind., April 21.—Hungarian residents of South Bend today began applying for naturalization papers so they can enlist in the Army and take part in the war with Mexico in case of a conflict. They had previously been rejected when they applied to the recruiting station to be enlisted. Many of them have served in the Hungarian army.

The Polish factions of South Bend, a military organization of 1906, and the local camps of the University of Illinois, consisting of 90 men, have decided to volunteer if war is declared.

W. H. Hosmer, Traffic Expert, Dies.

CHICAGO, April 21.—William H. Hosmer, chairman of the Western trunk line committee, and one of the

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A sworn certificate of purity is with every bottle. You may receive a sample size bottle of Swamp-Root by Parcel Post. Address Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., and enclose 10 cents.

For sale at all drug stores in bottles of two sizes—50c and \$1; also mention the Portland Daily Oregonian—Adv.

best-known traffic experts in the West, died at his home here today from pneumonia. He was 55 years old and was born in Boston.

Junction City Students Elect. JUNCTION CITY, Or., April 21.—(Special.)—The high school student body has elected the following officers: William Harper, president; Margaret Bailey, vice-president; Jewel Hays, secretary; Frances Pitney, treasurer; Helen Love, editor, and Otto Hoppes, sergeant-at-arms.

Pennsylvania, Balboa for San Francisco, 201 miles south of San Francisco.

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Man, maturing in twenty-one years or more, long outlives his best steel, which requires but six years to mature. And the horse outlives the ox, which requires but four; while the ox, in turn, outlives the sheep, which completes its growth in three years.

There are exceptions, but precious few, in the piano business. The longer it takes a piano to reach its completed state, the longer that piano will wear—and what is more important, the richer, deeper, and more permanent will be its qualities of tone.

Conover Pianos are a year in the making, to say nothing of the three to five years required for the thorough seasoning of their woods. They are built from top to caster with made to order care, and under the direct supervision of J. Frank Conover, one of America's greatest tone specialists.

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