

# KNOX DEFENDS TAFT MEXICAN POLICY

## Reply Is Made to Assertion That Wilson "Inherited" Troublesome Problem.

### BRIEF TIME LEFT TO ACT

#### Mr. Taft Out of Office Within 12 Days of Huerta's Accession, and Diplomatic Inquiry as to American Rights Pending.

ST. LOUIS, April 27.—Phillander C. Knox, Secretary of State in President Taft's Cabinet, explained at a Republican banquet here tonight why Mr. Taft did not recognize General Huerta as President of Mexico, replied to the assertion that President Wilson inherited the troublesome Mexican situation from his predecessor and denied that President Wilson's course might be likened to President Lincoln's during the period preceding the Maximilian empire.

Intervention in Mexico, the ex-Secretary declared, seemed "dangerously near, if not inevitable."

"It has been asserted time and again by the apologists for the Democratic blundering in Mexico that President Wilson inherited the Mexican situation from President Taft," said Mr. Knox. "Nothing could be farther from the truth than this statement, as a review of the situation will conclusively disclose."

"When President Taft assumed office on March 4, 1909, Mexico was at peace. Her credit was good, her coffers filled, her industries thriving and Porfirio Diaz, who had been constitutional President of the republic since Lerdo de Tejada, seemed likely for the remainder of his life to preside over the destinies of the land he had done so much to free from the empire of Maximilian, set up by a coalition of European powers.

**Madero Revolution Follows.**

"The Madero revolution broke out some two years later and resulted in driving Diaz from power. Although the Madero regime was recognized by the United States and the other powers, it was not accepted by powerful factions in Mexico. Rebellion against its authority was almost coincident with its birth, and finally in February, 1913, General Felix Diaz carried the war against Madero to the streets of the capital city itself.

"When it was apparent that Madero's downfall was imminent, it was made certain by Huerta and a portion of the army going over to Felix Diaz, who then seized the palace, and on February 19, 1913, Francisco I. Madero, and Jose M. Pino Suarez resigned as President and Vice-President, respectively. Of course they resigned under compulsion, but there was nothing un-American about that. Sensible people here have no illusions about stability of Mexican governments.

**Huerta Not Successor by Death.**

"It has been attempted with a great measure of success to make the American people believe that Huerta became President through Madero's death. Perhaps 90 per cent of the ignorant Americans so understand it. But this is not true. Huerta became President through Madero's and Laugarin's resignations. Madero's death did not occur until some days later.

"Huerta became provisional President of Mexico February 19, 1913. Mr. Taft ceased to be President of the United States March 4, 1913. There were thus 12 days within which President Taft could have extended recognition. Why did he not do so?"

"What Mr. Wilson inherited from Mr. Taft was an outstanding unanswered diplomatic request to the de facto government at Mexico City for definite assurances for the security of American rights and the adjustment of American claims as a prelude to the consideration of the question of recognition. What Mr. Wilson did was to repudiate the policy of his predecessor in this, as in all other things, and create a situation that made the adjustment of American rights impossible.

**Anarchy Almost Continuous.**

"The revolutions with which the Taft Administration had to contend were of comparatively short duration, while there has been in Mexico practically ever since Mr. Wilson came in and refused to recognize Huerta continuous anarchy. There never was a time during the Taft Administration when there was not in Mexico City a government recognized in a large part of Mexico and conducting its foreign relations with the world. Huerta, who came in so shortly before President Taft went out, was recognized by some 20-odd countries, as I recall it, including practically all the great powers of Europe, so that Mr. Taft left the Mexican situation with Mexico pacified and with the strongest man who has appeared since the days of Diaz in power."

"The assertion that President Wilson's course had been that of Lincoln's Secretary of State, reading Lincoln's instructions to the American Minister to the government of Benito Juarez, in which Lincoln declined to join France, Spain and England in an attempt to break down the de facto government."

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# SAFETY WORK IS SHOWN

## GOVERNMENT EXHIBIT TO SHOW LIFESAVING METHODS.

### Six Federal Departments Represented by Displays That Will Visit Hundreds of Cities.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—Hundreds of exhibits illustrative of the methods of the Federal Government in caring, through its many agencies, for the life and property of its citizens, are being assembled here for the safety first special, a 12-coach train that will leave the capital Monday on an educational tour through thousands of cities and towns.

A half dozen Government departments are co-operating in equipping the exposition train. How lives are saved under ground by the Bureau of Mines and at sea by the Coast Guard Service will be shown in illustrated lectures and in motion pictures. Other pictures and exhibits will demonstrate what the Forest Service and Reclamation Service are doing for conservation of property in the West, and a large picture gallery will show in rich color the range and magnificence of the country's National parks.

The Public Health Service will have an extensive exhibit and one large section will be occupied by the Weather Bureau. Lifesaving methods of the Army and Navy will be portrayed in other sections arranged by the War and Navy Departments. Still another display will show the part the Interstate Commerce Commission has played in the safety first movement, and the Red Cross, although not a Government institution, also will be represented.

# ELLEN DU PONT TO WED

## Wilmingtn Girl to Be Bride of Holiday S. Meeds, Jr., April 29.

WILMINGTON, Del., April 28.—Miss Ellen Coleman du Pont, daughter of General and Mrs. T. Coleman du Pont, and Holiday S. Meeds, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Hollyday Meeds, of Chevy Chase, Md., will be married April 29.

The ceremony will be performed in Trinity Episcopal Church by the Rev. Frederick M. Kirkus, rector of the church, and the bride will be given in marriage by her father. Her sister, Miss Renee De P. du Pont will be maid of honor, and the bridesmaids will be Miss Elizabeth Massey, of Selbyville, Ky.; Miss Gerta du Pont Barksdale, Miss Ethel A. Tallman, Miss Henrietta L. Stadelman, of Wilmington; Miss Mary Frances Jewell, of Lexington, Ky.; and Miss Katherine Clark, of Northampton, Mass.

The best man will be Cuyler Orndoff Meeds, brother of the bridegroom, and the ushers will be Francis Victor du Pont, brother of the bride; G. Dare Hopson, of Wilmington; Louis Talbott Penniman, of Wilmington; Louis De B. McCraly, of Charleston, S. C.; J. H. Montfair, of Bernardsville, N. J.; and William Hughlett Naylor, of Baltimore.

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The steamer, flying the Dutch flag and with the submarine proceeding, was in close attendance, crept through the Cattegat, across Bohus Bay, up the coast of Norway and thence north and west, leaving the Orkney-

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