

HUERTA AUTHORIZES HIS RESIGNATION PRESENTED TO THE MEDIATION BOARD

Dictator Will Resign Office If Necessary

Mexican President Authorizes Mediation Delegate to Submit Resignation, if Such Cause Will Aid Settlement. Form of Provisional Government a Puzzle to Diplomats.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—General Huerta has authorized the Mexican mediation delegate to submit his resignation, in case such a course is found necessary to a settlement in peace negotiations. This was stated positively in despatches today from a thoroughly competent diplomatic source in Mexico City, to one of the foreign representatives here, and confirms intimations given by friends of the delegates here yesterday.

Ready to Quit Office
According to this information from Mexico City, General Huerta at first authorized the delegates to discuss only the question of the Tampico conflict, leading to the American occupation of Vera Cruz. Later the Mexican dictator, it is explained, came to recognize the necessity of a broader settlement and then conveyed to the delegates assurances that he was prepared to step down should this course be found necessary by them.

The problem causing chief concern to diplomats in Mexico City now is that of the form of administration to be established during the interregnum before a constitutionally elected president could assume office. No intimations concerning the name of a possible successor to Huerta were contained in the despatch, this subject being one in which it would be necessary to consult the opinion of constitutionalists and other leaders in Mexico.

Delegates Meet Tomorrow
Supreme Court Justice Lamar and Frederick W. Lehmann, who will represent the United States at the peace conference at Niagara Falls, Ontario, today arranged to leave Washington tomorrow morning. This arrangement will put the American delegates at the scene of the conference about the time the Mexican delegates arrive there from New York.

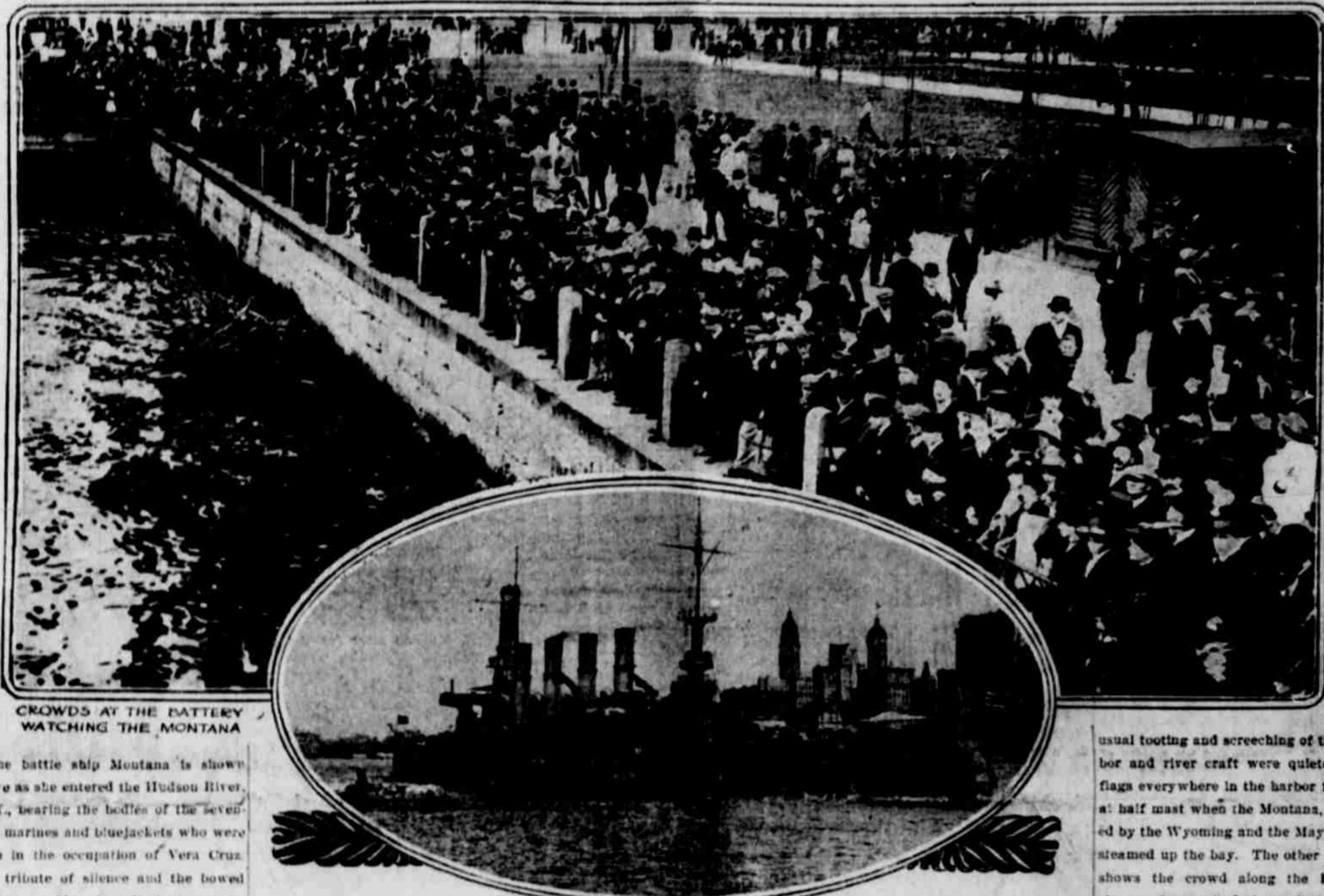
The information of Huerta's attitude agrees with the view obtained by some of the close friends of the Mexicans during their stay here. According to this view the delegates realized the present administration at Mexico City was fast going to pieces, and it was inevitable that Huerta give place to some other authority. It did not, however, displease that Huerta had authorized his resignation, if they considered that course necessary, and this more definite phase was made known in the dispatch through diplomatic channels.

Who will come after Huerta, whether an individual or a provisional administration still is an open question, but it is gathered the succession will not be likely to fall on military leaders who have come to prominence "by arbitrary force."

RAILROADS LOSE BIGGER MAIL PAY

WASHINGTON, May 18.—The court of claims today, in a test case decision, blasted the hopes of mail carrying railroads for the collection of large sums, based on the claim that the government's mail weighing system results in under-payment to the roads. The court, in an opinion by Chief Justice Campbell, dismissed the petition of the Chicago and Alton railroad, for \$53,604. The railroad contended that the average weekly weighing of mail allowed compensation for only about six-sevenths of the matter really carried by the railroads.

SCENES IN NEW YORK AS THE FUNERAL SHIP ARRIVED WITH THE BODIES OF THOSE WHO FELL AT VERA CRUZ



CROWDS AT THE BATTERY WATCHING THE MONTANA

The battle ship Montana is shown above as she entered the Hudson River, N. Y., bearing the bodies of the seventeen marines and bluejackets who were slain in the occupation of Vera Cruz. The tribute of silence and the bowed head was paid by New York city on the occasion of the sad homecoming. The



THE FUNERAL SHIP

usual tooting and screeching of the harbor and river craft were quieted and flags everywhere in the harbor flapped at half mast when the Montana, escorted by the Wyoming and the Mayflower, steamed up the bay. The other picture shows the crowd along the Battery shore, who awaited the arrival of the funeral ship.

BECKER'S PRESS AGENT EXPOSES MASTER'S GUILT

Charles B. Plitt, Former Advisor of Accused Police Officer, Betrays Former Employer—Tells of Establishing Alibi and Plea for Damage in Case of Execution.

NEW YORK, May 18.—Charles B. Plitt, one time press agent and advisor for Charles Becker, on trial for the murder of the gambler, Herman Rosenthal, took the witness stand for the state today, and corroborated in many details the stories of Jack and Rose and others that Becker was the instigator of the murder plot.

After Rosenthal had been murdered, the witness swore, he met Becker, who was indignant at the way the killing had been accomplished. "What is the matter with Jack Rose and the bunch?" Plitt quoted Becker as having said. "To pull the stunt the way they did was very bad. You would suppose it was being done for the moving pictures."

Proving an Alibi
July 15, the day before the murder, Plitt said he saw Becker at police headquarters. "Becker told me," said the witness, "that he and I had to have an alibi for that night. 'Keep away from Times Square tonight,'" he told me.

Plitt said he saw Becker many times in the Tombs. He visited him every day for three weeks after his arrest, until Becker went to the deathhouse at Sing Sing. Once he told Becker, he said, that a friend of the gunman had told him to tell Becker the gunman wanted \$500 and that if they did not get it quick, there'd be trouble.

Plitt said he wrote Becker almost constantly after his conviction and that Becker wrote him from the deathhouse. After Becker's conviction and sentencing he said he journeyed with the party up to the prison.

Becker Asked Favor
"I gave Becker a drink on the train," said the witness, "and said it would probably be the last for some time." Becker put his arms around me and started to cry. "Old pal, he said, 'if I do go off in the chair, I want you to do me one favor. Kill that squealing Jack Rose.'"

M'KEE ACCUSED OF SETTING OUT FIRES

Simon McKee, an aged pioneer mining prospector of the Siskiyou Mountains, well known in Jacksonville, was arrested Thursday at Portland by Deputy Marshal Fuller on a charge of starting fires in the National forest and lodged in the county jail in Portland. It is expected that relative will furnish bond for him in a few days. District Attorney Reames and the forest service officials believe that McKee is largely responsible for forest fires that occurred in Southern Oregon last summer and fall.

The arrest was made on the testimony to the Federal grand jury this week of three prospectors that they had seen McKee going through the forest with a torch made of ferns setting fires as he went.

MEDFORD BOY HURT IN RUNAWAY NEAR ASHLAND
Sunday, several Medford boys went to Ashland to visit the Hellman Baths. On the way home, Freshborn Garretson was thrown from a buggy, when the horse taking fright at some passing bicycles, ran away, throwing him to the ground and running over him. He was picked up unconscious and brought home in a passing auto. While his injuries are not of a dangerous character, they are severe enough to keep him in bed for several days.

TOO LITTLE GOD IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS STATES MARSHALL

WASHINGTON, May 18.—Vice President Marshall's declaration that one of America's ills today "is that there is too much science in the so-called educational system and too little God Almighty," occasioned comment in Washington today. "There is this thing wrong in many of the churches," said the vice president, "that because church and state are separate and the state makes the schools, the church has felt itself absolved from any duty in the direction of education of youth. "But now the church is awakening to the fact that children should be reared in the way of Christian faith from the nursery upward. I believe there is in this country today a great spiritual awakening, and the church is beginning to see it has turned over entirely too many of its functions to the state."

The vice president also let it be known that some day he would forget all of the other political parties and join the socialist. "But," he added, "I shall never do this until it becomes a friend of the church; never while it flaunts on the streets a red banner in the face of faith in God and the marriage service. The socialism in which I believe, and to which I hope some day to adhere, is not that which concerns itself with consideration of power and property, but that of spirit."

POSED AS DETECTIVE TO ROB MOVIES

NEW YORK, May 18.—Posing as detectives four men gained entrance to a Broadway motion picture theater early today, made the watchman a prisoner, handcuffed three workmen who were in the theater, then blew open the safe in the box office, obtaining \$19,000.

REPORTED ATTACK UPON VERA CRUZ A FALSE ALARM

VERA CRUZ, Mexico, May 18.—A rumored concentration of Mexican federal troops before the American lines, in the vicinity of Vergara station, two miles out on the Inter-oceanic railroad, failed to materialize into the early morning attack which had been predicted by natives, who entered Vera Cruz yesterday.

The night passed without any incident at the American outposts and no indication was given that General Mayarrate or General Pena contemplated any violation of the armistice.

From several quarters, rumors were persistently circulated yesterday concerning Mexican troop movements in the vicinity of the American outposts. The American army headquarters staff was disinclined to take these rumors seriously, but precautions were taken to guard against any possible surprise.

Under the general precautionary plans drawn up by the headquarters staff, the marines and bluejackets on board the American fleet are held in readiness to come ashore at an hour's notice in case the garrison should be attacked.

RESERVE BANK OF NEW YORK ORGANIZED

NEW YORK, May 18.—Representatives of five banks assembled here today to take the formal action necessary to call into being the federal reserve banks of this district. In all of the twelve reserve districts of the country, except San Francisco, meetings are being held today, to execute certificates. In San Francisco this action will be taken on Wednesday.

REBEL TROOPS ABOUT SALTILLO

PAREDON, Mexico, May 18.—The first engagement in force of the rebel campaign against Saltillo cannot be long delayed. The rebel troops rapidly are taking up the positions assigned them in General Villa's plan of battle and are closing in on the town in such a way the rebel leaders believe will check any attempt of the federal garrison to evacuate and retreat to the south, even should the soldiers of Huerta contemplate such a move.

Spread widely to east and west of the railroad line from Paredon to Saltillo, the constitutionalist troops are combing the country throughly and sweeping the federal outposts and scouting parties before them. There has been some skirmishing reported, but it has not been of such a character to develop the positions of the federals or the plan of attack of the constitutionalists.

REBELS RAISING FUNDS AT TAMPICO

WASHINGTON, May 18.—That General Caballero, constitutionalist commander at Tampico, had requested through the chamber of commerce there all business firms, Mexican and Spanish, to subscribe to a voluntary fund for the constitutionalists, was reported to the navy department today by Admiral Mayo. Circumstances of the request for voluntary contributions were described in a statement from the navy department. "It was made clear," said the statement, "that this fund was not to be in the form of a regular war tax. In response to this request Admiral Mayo reports that considerable sums have been contributed by Mexicans and Spaniards to Tampico, but that so far no demand has been made on other foreign business firms to comply with the request."

TELLEZ OFFERS CAPITULATION OF MAZATLAN CITY

LOS ANGELES, Cal., May 18.—General Tellez, federal commander at Mazatlan, has offered to surrender, the remnant of his troops, provided he is accorded the honors of war by General Obregon, according to advices received today by Adolfo Carillo, constitutionalist representative here. The telegram also informed Carillo that a rebel aeroplane wrecked La Pedra fort at Mazatlan today, killing 20 men and putting all of the artillery there out of commission.

Further advices stated that Carranza was on his way back to Torreon and that General Buena, who captured the city of Tepic, was on his way to attack Guadalajara with 15,000 men. Before starting for Torreon, Carranza went to the state of Zacatecas to confer with General Natera regarding plans for the march on Mexico City, which, it was stated, would be started as soon as the constitutionalists have entered Saltillo.

PRESIDENT DISCUSSES COLORADO SITUATION

WASHINGTON, May 18.—Representative Keating of Colorado, conferred with President Wilson today concerning conditions in the strike district of his state. Although the president had advised Governor Ammons that federal troops would not be allowed to remain indefinitely in the strike sections, Mr. Keating said the president was not disposed to withdraw the government forces immediately, and is willing to do everything within the reason for the preservation of peace in the coal region. M. Keating expressed doubt as to the ability of the state militia to maintain order in the strike district after the withdrawal of federal troops, unless mine owners consent to the mediation of disputed questions.

SPECTAGULAR FIRE DESTROYS BARN ON SOUTH RIVERSIDE

Ray Toft's barn, on Riverside avenue, between 11th and 12th street burned down Sunday night, entailing a loss of \$5000, covered by \$3000 insurance. Within this barn were stored the accumulation of many years of business wreckage, household goods, harness, wagons, farm implements, odds and ends of necessities, hay, and a recently installed creamery. When the fire that leaped high into the sky, and made bright as day, territory within six blocks of the burning structure, was at its height, a kimona parade took place, the like of which for variety and number has never been witnessed in Southern Oregon before. Scores of women and girls, appeared thus attired, with their hair braided down their backs.

The origin of the fire is attributed to two sources, careless tramps and revenge. Toft supports the tramp theory. The revenge supposition is strengthened by the fact that those who reached the fire first noted that the four corners of the barn was ablaze as if a firebug had done his work well. The fire alarm was turned in at 12:30, and 1000 people gathered to see the blaze.

Scores of sparrows and pigeons died in the flames. The birds were awakened from their night slumbers by the bright blaze, and flew into the vacuum caused by the heat to be destroyed in the flames. Clouds of moths and insects were destroyed in the same manner.

The fire was more spectacular than the Day Planting mill blaze last Monday, and was shorter. A half hour after it started it was finished. The fire department strung 1100 feet of hose to reach the fire. WASHINGTON, May 18.—American citizens only are to be trusted to pilot vessels passing through the Panama Canal, under the rules just laid down by Colonel Goethals to govern the appointment of pilots.