

Fleet Due on Historic Date. WASHINGTON, April 15.—A historical coincidence was discovered here today in that the Atlantic fleet is due to reach Tampico on the sixteenth anniversary of the declaration of war between Spain and the United States on April 21, 1898.

The Spanish war was actually declared by passage of a joint resolution in Congress on April 23, but the declaration was antedated to be in effect on April 21, Congress declaring that war had existed since the 21st, when President McKinley's ultimatum to Spain was rejected.

It was also noted that the revolutionary war began on April 19, the Mexican war on April 24 and the civil war on April 14.

have been sent to meet this series of deliberate insults and to force a proper respect for the American flag and the American uniform.

Up to a late hour to-night the State Department had received no intimation that President Huerta intended to reconsider his refusal to meet the American demand.

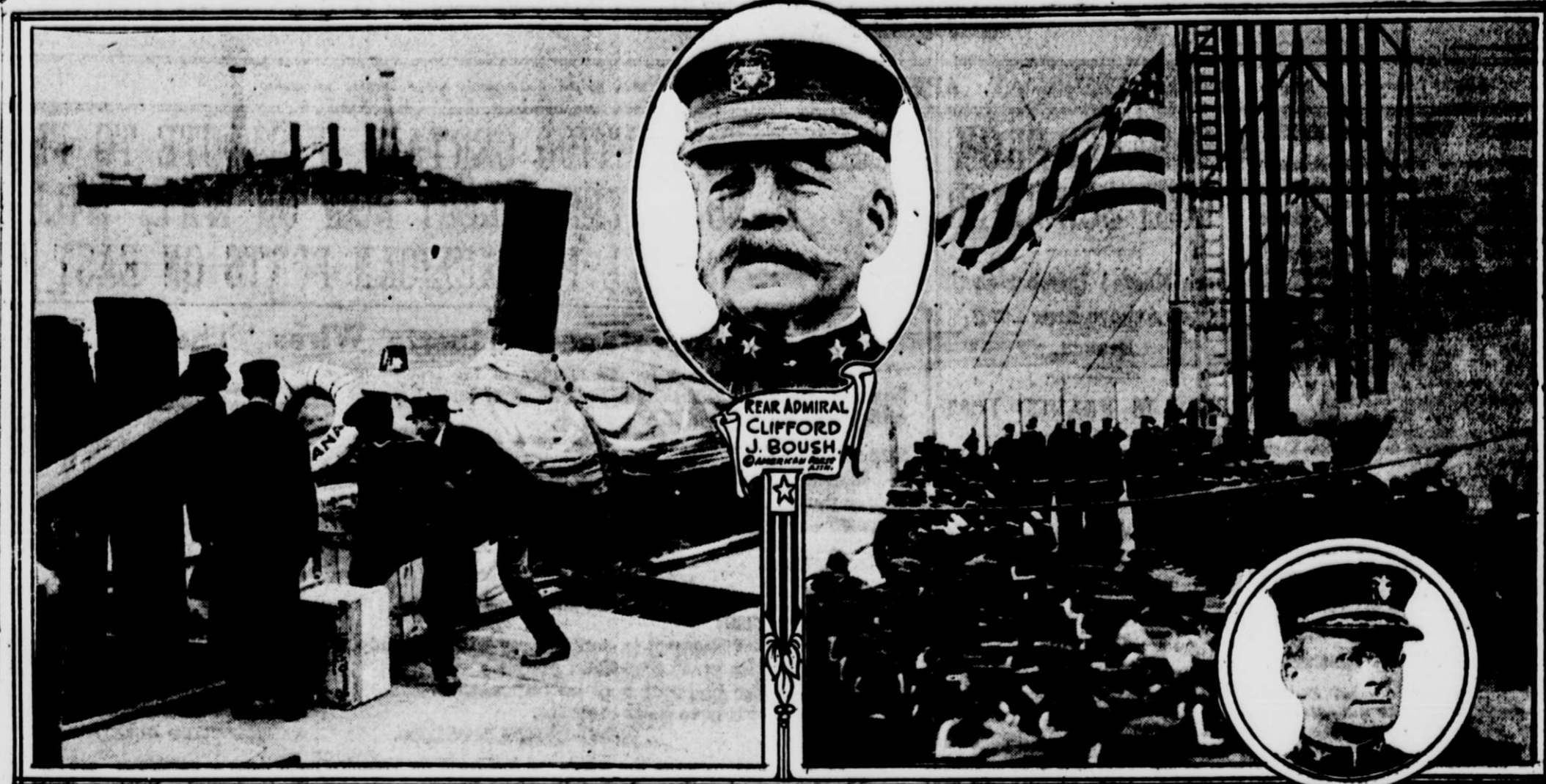
A report reached Washington through unofficial channels that Huerta was about to call the national legislature together at Mexico City for the purpose of submitting the question to it as to whether or not he should yield to the demand for a salute.

So far as Washington is concerned, however, Huerta's statement that the incident is closed has been accepted and no further diplomatic effort will be made to obtain a reconsideration.

As yet no ultimatum has been delivered to Huerta fixing a time limit in which the United States will expect favorable action by him, but if he has not signified his intention to make reparations when the American fleet arrives in the Gulf waters of Tampico early next week steps will immediately be taken to blockade the important ports and seize them.

Before any act of this character is undertaken, however, President Wilson will appear before Congress and ask for legislative sanction. That he will have the hearty support of Congress regardless of party, was indicated today.

Wilson Sees Committee Members. The first of today's developments came when President Wilson went into conference at the White House with the ranking members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.



Believe Sanction of Congress Is Not Needed for Blockade

Washington Experts Cite Many Precedents for Action by Atlantic Fleet at Tampico and Vera Cruz.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—While realizing that the blockade of Mexican ports and the seizure of custom houses will be likely to lead to war, authorities here contended today that there were many precedents to show that the plan of campaign now contemplated in Mexico would not in itself constitute a declaration of war.

State Department officials and others were busy today looking up so-called precedents for the programme about to be inaugurated by this Government.

It has often happened that a powerful nation has found itself compelled when dealing with a weak yet bellicose country to go to the length of shutting off the ports of that nation from intercourse of any sort with the outside world without open display of hostility except the presence of a commanding force.

The necessity even for Congressional sanction to a "peaceful blockade" of the ports of Mexico in the present juncture is questioned in Washington. At the same time it is also questioned whether it will be necessary for Congress to authorize the landing of marines.

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full blockade is tantamount to a commercial embargo the executive branch of the Government should be able to deal with the question without the consent of Congress being necessitated.

Officials also discussed the possibility of landing marines for the purpose of protecting American property in the vicinity of Tampico. Regarding the landing of marines it was pointed out that American marines have been landed in many cases recently without Congressional action preceding the act or being sought thereafter.

War After French Blockade. In 1858 France declared a peaceful blockade of Mexico's ports, which declaration was resented to such an extent by the Mexicans that they declared war on Louis Philippe's Government.

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Badger Leaves Hampton Roads With First Division of Fleet

Eight Warships Sail for Gulf of Mexico—Cruisers and Auxiliary Ships Rushed to Western Coast.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—The actual beginning of the naval operations designed to enforce the demand of the United States for a salute to the Stars and Stripes at Tampico was made today at noon, when eight warships steamed out of Hampton Roads and headed for the Gulf.

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FEDERALS LOST 3,500 IN FIGHT, SAYS VILLA

General Accuses Huerta Commander of Great Cruelty at San Pedro.

EL PASO, April 15.—Pancho Villa now holds the entire Laguna district surrounding Torreon, which he has freed of Federalists according to his report wired to the border at Juarez to-day.

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Whether you're a Grouch or a Sunshiner

you will fall in love with "Sunshine Jane," by Anne Warner, for Jane is a joyous ray of Sunshine.

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Wireless Says Fleet is Now Off Cape Hatteras. Wireless to THE SUN. ABOARD U. S. S. BATTLESHIP ARKANSAS, via Cape Hatteras, N. C., April 15.—This ship, with Rear Admiral Badger on board, was leading the battleship fleet off Cape Hatteras at midnight. The fleet is proceeding at eleven and a half knots an hour and is due at Tampico Wednesday afternoon.

The South Carolina and the Michigan are expected to join the fleet in the Florida straits. The North Dakota and the Louisiana are followed by the colliers, tugs and supply ships. The naval movement is the biggest since the fleet encircled the world.

the Atlantic fleet, in charge of the mobilization, was aboard the Arkansas, the flag ship. An earlier start would have been made but for the delay in loading the New Hampshire.

Unable to Clear Yesterday Because of Absence of Bluejackets. The battleship Louisiana was not able to get away yesterday from her anchorage in the North River because she lacked by more than fifty her complement of bluejackets.

MICHIGAN HAS BAD START. Battleship Crashes Into Pier When Leaving Philadelphia Navy Yard. PHILADELPHIA, April 15.—The battleship Michigan sailed for Mexico from the League Island Navy Yard at 3:40 o'clock this afternoon.

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