

INTERVENTION SEEMS NOW A POSSIBILITY

Washington Fears It Will Be
Forced on This Country by
the Helplessness of Diaz.

MR. TAFT VERY UNWILLING

Repeats That He Will Take No Action
Unless Congress Directs It—Test
of Troops' Mobility.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, May 3.—The greatest interest was manifested in Administration circles to-day in Mr. Bonsal's dispatch from Mexico City printed in THE NEW YORK TIMES this morning picturing the gravity of the situation of the Diaz Government.

Mr. Bonsal's message is quite in keeping with information which has reached the State Department from its own sources in Mexico. Official telegrams which were received in Washington this afternoon give no brighter view of the situation than that contained in THE TIMES's dispatch.

There is no gainsaying the fact that this information is of most serious import to this Government. The Administration has been hoping fervently that the peace negotiations with Francisco I. Madero would lead eventually to a settlement of the Mexican troubles, which would remove the load of unpleasant responsibility from this Government. But the information from Mexico City tends to justify the fear that, after all, Madero may not be able to control the revolutionary sentiment in his country, and that, even if he is willing to make peace so far as his forces are concerned, that will not end the matter.

The fact is, the power which Gen. Diaz has wielded for so long is almost gone. The old strong organization is disintegrating. The system of law and order is disrupted, and the Mexican Government is almost in a state of liquefaction.

Despite the fact that this all points toward the ultimate necessity of intervention by the United States for the restoration of order and the establishment of a stable Government, President Taft is still hopeful that something may develop which will avoid this eventuality. He reiterated this evening what he has said several times recently—that he will not order any troops into Mexico on his own motion and that Congress will have to direct intervention before any step toward it is taken by him. The President is extremely loath to take such action, and will not discuss it even as an ultimate possibility further than to declare that it will not be undertaken except on the direction of Congress.

But there is no ignoring the fact that events are tending to force Congress to take cognizance of the Mexican situation. Through the protest of the German representative in Mexico City a third foreign Government became actively interested in the matter. Spain had already become involved, following the representations made by the United States.

What action the German Government will take in following up the protest of its representative in Mexico City remains to be seen. The continued helplessness of the Diaz Government to protect the persons and property of foreigners is bound before much longer to bring to the United States from such Governments suggestions or requests that this Government take action to put an end to the disorder.

When that time comes the point will have been reached where the President will probably feel compelled to refer the whole case to Congress. Thus far there has been almost no disposition manifested in Congress to criticize the action of the Administration regarding the Mexican trouble, and the expectation is that, whenever the President finds himself forced by circumstances to lay the whole situation before Congress, action will be taken promptly giving him full authority to deal with the matter.

The forces of the United States Army and Navy, as now distributed near Mexico, embrace 2,000 marines in camp at Guantanamo, which force may be increased by detachments from New York, Philadelphia, and Norfolk; thirty-six companies of coast artillery in a provisional brigade at Galveston; the manoeuvre division in camp at San Antonio, consisting of nine regiments of infantry, two regiments of field artillery, and four regiments of cavalry; two regiments of infantry and two regiments of cavalry patrolling the border, and two regiments of infantry and six companies of coast artillery at San Diego, Cal.

The navy has in various vessels stationed on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts upward of 10,000 bluejackets.