

TAFT AND CONGRESS AGREE TO HOLD BACK

no more knowledge is necessary in order to have true elections. The change noticeable in the proceedings of the Mexican Congress, where free speech has been finally heard, is remarked by another writer.

Even Killing of Americans Incident to Warfare Will Not Bring Intervention.

WOOD'S VIEWS CAUSE STIR

Talk of Need of 200,000 Soldiers Brings Quick Disavowals—Knox Said to be Displeased.

WASHINGTON, May 6.—The suspension of the armistice between the Mexicans and even the active resumption of hostilities by the insurgent forces in Chihuahua will cause absolutely no change in the determination of the United States to refrain from intervention in Mexico. The President is "as firm as a rock" in his purpose to live up to the obligations of neutrality; and even the killing of Americans, provided it were an incident of warfare, would not be regarded as sufficient ground for a single American soldier to cross the international boundary, arms in hand.

This statement was made to-day without reservation by the highest authority, next to the President himself, and undoubtedly reflects the President's policy. He insists on absolutely technical adherence to the instruction already given the American military commanders on the border to keep their soldiers north of the line. Therefore Gen. Wood, Chief of Staff, has again cautioned the army officers to use civilian messengers in case they find it necessary to communicate with the Federals or insurgents on Mexican soil.

Notwithstanding a feeling of temporary depression caused by the receipt of newspaper dispatches to the effect that Madero had terminated the armistice that has held the two forces in check for more than a week past, the Washington officials still are hopeful that the peace negotiations will not be permanently interrupted, and that eventually they will result successfully. Some color for this renewed hope was found in a telegram received by the State Department from one of its trusted agents in Mexico stating that a persistent rumor was in circulation there that President Diaz, while not prepared to abdicate at once, had signified to his intimate friends his willingness to fix a date for his resignation in the near future.

It is felt here that the Madero party could scarcely afford to renew the strife if President Diaz were willing to make this concession, even though it did not completely meet their demands for his immediate resignation.

Taft Takes Emphatic Position.

Stories printed to-day to the effect that Gen. Leonard Wood, Chief of Staff of the Army, at an informal gathering of members of the House Committee on Military Affairs on Thursday, expressed the opinion that intervention in Mexico was inevitable and it would take 200,000 American troops to patrol the troubled republic, brought no little chagrin to Administration circles.

Official denials were put out from a number of sources and care was taken to express anew the Administration's position that intervention was a most remote possibility. One of President Taft's callers to-day went so far as to quote the President as saying that "blood would have to be so deep in Mexico that a man could wade through it" before the American army would cross the border. This has been reported to be the President's position throughout the Mexican troubles, and again was generally accepted as such to-day.

Members of Congress were inclined to the belief that the reported utterances of Gen. Wood were to be taken as that officer's personal view that intervention was inevitable.

Gen. Wood himself and Secretary of War Dickinson were particularly bitter in denouncing the circulation of stories of intervention at this time, declaring that they considered them calculated to work infinite mischief, to endanger the lives of Americans in Mexico by inflaming the natives to murderous assaults, and even to plunge the two countries into war. "It is like poisoning a well," said Gen. Wood. Secretary Dickinson was even more emphatic.

Through all of the conflicting reports as to the American attitude to-day there stood out the fact that intervention in Mexico can come only through the action of Congress. This fact served to maintain placidity at the Capitol. President Taft, conscious of the constitutional restrictions as to invading a foreign country and thereby committing an act of war, has time and again made the declaration that he would lay the whole matter before Congress if the time should ever come for intervention by this country, and that the responsibility for action would be placed squarely up to the Congress. Congress leaders, it can be stated, are of the same opinion as the President as to intervention, and matters in Mexico would have to reach an extremely desperate stage before American troops were ordered across the line.

The fight in Mexico's, and the United States proposes to keep hands off unless unwarranted outrages should be perpetrated against Americans and other foreign interests.

Knox Reported Dissatisfied.

To-day's happenings brought out a fresh rumor that friction exists between the War and State Departments over the handling of affairs connected with the Mexican situation. It is said that Secretary Knox feels he has not been consulted as freely in the matter as his place at the head of the Department of State demands, and that the War Department and officers of the army have too much sway in dealing with the affair.

A report also was persistent to-night that Secretary Knox's resignation in the near future would not cause great surprise. No confirmation was obtainable. In fact there was every indication that with its publication denials would be forthcoming. At the same time members of Congress who have had occasion to consult with the Secretary about foreign affairs recently have indicated that he was in anything but a happy frame of mind. A suggestion that Secretary Knox might retire from the State portfolio was current even before the Mexican situation came up. The report that the troops were ordered South without consultation with him carried with it the suggestion that this incident had served to increase the tenacity of the situation in the department.

MEXICAN PAPER'S VIEWS.

The Blade Calls on Diaz to Resign or Call a Presidential Election.

An article in the second issue of The Republic in Mexico City, which has reached THE TIMES, relates to the demand for the resignation of President Diaz. The writer describes the last Presidential election as a farce, and remarks that President Diaz, in his last message to the Congress, stated that he was ready to meet the demands of public opinion. He adds that there are only two ways to obtain peace, one Diaz's resignation and the other a convocation for a new Presidential election. He proposes that all the independent papers in the country unite to draft a petition to Diaz asking him to act on one or the other of these courses.

Another article is signed by the former editor of the paper, who states that he has been imprisoned, charged with having disturbed public order, and that he ceased to be connected with the paper, to protect it from Government interference in connection with his alleged offense.

The paper also contains an attack upon Limantour, who is told that the Mexican people are advancing toward democracy, but that it requires more than one generation to educate them in that direction. The writer states that the people have good sense to vote, and that