

The Never-Ending Morocco War.

By Jar (Madrid).

The Morocco problem, especially the questions relating to the Spanish protectorate zone, are at present of extraordinary political interest. As in 1921, the tribes are, one after another, rising against Spain; and the Riffis "in the service of Spain" are aiding their countrymen in their fight against the Spaniards. The present situation is similar to that created by Abd-el-Krim in 1921, when he was the leader of the Riff troops against Spain.

The present leader, Tensamani, has for a long time been the chief of the Ketama tribe. This tribe is now in revolt. Tensamani, who fought at the side of Abd-el-Krim, never submitted either to Spain or France. When Abd-el-Krim surrendered Tensamani took to the mountains, where he prepared the present attacks. His war tactics are exactly the same as those employed by Abd-el-Krim, which consist in seizing the offensive by attacking the most isolated French or Spanish posts.

Tensamani follows in everything Abd-el-Krim's policy. He calls himself Abd-el-Krim's representative in order to arouse rebellion among the tribes. He sent out emissaries with letters in which Abd-el-Krim expresses his trust in him and tells how he (Abd-el-Krim) has been cheated by the French and Spanish governments. All these facts show that Abd-el-Krim, even after his surrender, still possesses a powerful prestige.

Sheriff Sulitin Kamliski has also played an important part in recent events. About a month ago, this Sheriff who is an important personage in the Riff district, joined the rebel forces. His secession and that of other members of his family brought matters to a head in the Sinhaja district. The Ketama tribe rose and on March 25, invaded the territory of the Tarjut tribe, which joined the revolt. The Spanish garrison of an important strategical post, at Bab Slib, considering the position to be untenable, crossed the frontier and entered the French zone. The effect upon the neighbouring tribes was to induce them also to raise the standard of revolt.

The situation of the Spanish troops in the last few weeks has really been difficult and wretched. The Riffis offensive was very fierce particularly in Ketama's districts. The columns of Generals Mola, Pozas, and Solans were for many days blockaded by snow; the condition of the ground was so bad that it was impossible to help them. Only a few Riffis with some provisions succeeded in reaching them. The bad conditions which the Spanish troops have to endure have caused demoralisation in the Spanish army. Primo de Rivera was compelled to set out immediately for the Spanish protectorate zone in order to restore authority. On the day when Primo de Rivera's trip to Morocco was decided on, General Jordana stated to some press representatives that a real disaster had occurred in the Riff which compelled the dictator to leave at once for Morocco. Owing to the censorship, however, General Jordana's statement was not published. Primo de Rivera himself declared that "the casualties were not so heavy as had been expected". These words only confirm the serious nature of the catastrophe.

Abd-el-Krim's surrender did not result in any favourable change for Spain in Morocco. It is officially stated that 57 tribes out of 69 tribes living in the Riff districts have surrendered to Spain; consequently only 8 are still in revolt. It is further maintained that 30,000 rifles have been collected from the Riffis, and that in the whole of the Spanish zone the Riffis only have 7000 rifles.

The surrender of the majority of the tribes has no political significance. These surrenders have been obtained by bribing the most important chiefs with large sums of money. But these chiefs can only command obedience from the Riffis when they succeed in the fight against the enemy. The recent attacks have shown that the Riffis have at any rate more than 7000 rifles. The Spanish authorities are trying to ascertain by what means munitions are conveyed into the Riff districts. The African League (Liga Africanista) affirms that France is supplying the rebels with arms.

In order to put an end to the present state of things the

Spanish army is using more cruel methods than ever. Brutal raids are carried out every day. Primo de Rivera himself has declared that the methods of the Spanish army in the Riff are most severe.

Some days ago regiments from Saragossa and Barcelona sailed for Morocco. Primo de Rivera has repeatedly declared that the number of Spanish soldiers in Morocco has been considerably reduced since Abd-el-Krim's surrender. The censorship does not permit anything to be published regarding the sending of fresh troops to Morocco. Press representatives who were present at the embarkation of troops say that the spirit of the soldiers reminds one of the mutiny of Malaga during the embarkation of troops in 1923. The Moroccan war is being conducted in spite of the hostility of the Spanish people.

The difficulties of the present situation are well understood by military experts who are familiar with conditions in Morocco. They know that the position will soon be disastrous for Spain. Tensamani's emissaries are visiting all the tribes and calling upon them in the name of Abd-el-Krim to take up the fight against Spain.

Primo de Rivera has decided to put an end to this state of affairs. For this purpose he is using any methods however violent. He wants to give other nations the impression "that Spain is capable of succeeding in any military enterprise". Should he fail in Morocco it will mean the failure of his imperialist plans in regard to other countries.

Great military preparations are being made in secret. The "Correspondencia Militar", the organ of the military party, published a picture of the first 40 cannons manufactured in Spain, and announced that the Spanish army will very soon have 400 more. "We will manufacture 4000 if necessary" it declares. The same article stated: "Spain may be called upon in the near future to participate in an alliance with its men and blood, and must be fully prepared in order to achieve its great ideal." The alliance, of course is with Italy.

Primo de Rivera's policy towards France is becoming more hostile every day. The Liga Africanista is conducting an active campaign against France. Primo de Rivera's organ and the newspapers in his pay are organising a similar campaign, particularly in regard to the Moroccan question.

The late Riffian offensive will render the differences between the French and Spanish imperialists more acute.