

# DE LA HUERTA'S LAST HOPE LIES IN ESTRADA'S ARMY

## Fascisti Forces May Cut Railroad Lines

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MEXICO CITY, Feb. 18.—Exactly two months after de la Huerta and his associates raised the standard of revolt in Vera Cruz, they abandoned the city and fled by sea to the Yucatan peninsula.

They will make their last stand where they can easily cross the border into Guatemala. But this by no means indicates the end of the rebellion, for the strongest of the two revolting contingents, that of Enrique Estrada on the western front has not been beaten decisively.

However, the battle for Esperanza station on the Mexico City-Vera Cruz line was very important. The rebels were completely routed. They tried to reform for the defense of Cordoba, but after a day and a night of fighting retreated again. Cordoba is the last mountainous place between the capital and Vera Cruz, the last place where numbers do not count for much, the last possible ambushade ground.

### Mountain Campaign.

This terminates the mountain campaign in which the superior numbers of the federals were partially compensated by the rebels' superior knowledge of the difficult territory. From Cordoba to the sea, ground is comparatively level. Open country fighting means victory for the larger force. That is why the rebels abandoned Vera Cruz, several hundred miles away, when the federals took Cordoba.

The financial importance of Vera Cruz to the government is incalculable. The government owes its employes here 49-odd days of pay, but with the opening of the country's principal custom house and export center all that will change.

The battle on the other front between Obregon, who is personally leading his forces, and Estrada is not a battle—it is a race. Estrada, with his superior knowledge of his own territory, is racing northward at full speed, trying to give the enemy the slip and thus circle over to the railroad lines that connect the capital with Laredo and El Paso. To cut these lines only for a few days would be to cut off supplies and injure the prestige of the central government.

### Obregon Commandeers Jitneys.

The rebels are at no time far from the great railroad lines. But the federals are still nearer and thus far have been able to keep between them and the rails, without being able to get close enough to force a battle. In order to increase his speed in the race, Obregon has commandeered vast numbers of cannons (jitney busses) in the capital and is transporting his troops in them.

The executive committee of the central labor council of Colombia has expressed sympathy with the Obregon government in the present rebellion.