

NEXT DECISIVE BATTLE SET FOR NORTH MEXICO

Workers in Capital Face High Living Costs

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MEXICO CITY.—The next decisive battle in the rebellion will be fought in the north of the republic where the counter-revolutionists have sent powerful detachments to assume the offensive in a desperate effort to take possession of the railroads connecting the capital with El Paso and Laredo, in order to capture the ammunition coming down from the United States to the federalists.

The government has suspended traffic to El Paso in order to move troop trains but the Laredo line is running on regular schedule. At the same time, the federalists are resuming the offensive on the eastern or Vera Cruz front.

Mexico City Peaceful.

Aside from price fixing commissions and daily published price lists, life in the capital shows no signs of the fact that a large portion of the country is torn by civil war. Theaters, movies, stores, business, everything is running as usual. Occasionally the excited whispering of a little knot of foreign or domestic "fifa" (dudes) stops as a band of grim looking, newly armed but ununiformed workers or peasants passes down the fashionable boulevard of the Paseo de la Reforma, but for the most part the ill-wishers talk as freely as the well-wishers of the present government.

The price fixing commissions resulted from the skyrocketing of prices by the Gachupins (Spaniards) who own the entire grocery and meat and provision trades here, and the consequent threat of "direct action" on the part of the workers.

Face Economic Misery.

Economic misery is slowly settling down upon the country as the result of the civil war. To the textile factories, already closed for many months, have been added sections of the railroads, mines, the petroleum fields, and factories of every description as the tearing up of rails, burning and dynamiting of bridges, disintegration of train service and embargo of counter-revolutionary areas, slowly destroys the transportation fabric of the nation.

The textile factories may provoke an acute class conflict. The Confederacion General (anarcho-syndicalist) which is dominant in the textile industry, has decreed factory seizure as a means of compelling the resumption of work in this industry. The shutdown here is a large part artificial and much sadder than the new military rebellion.

The textile men closed their factories to compel the government to lower its tariffs on raw cotton and to compel the workers to accept lower wages. The "red" unions, as the anarchist unions are called, have decided to exhaust all other means before resorting to factory seizure. The "yellow" unions oppose this measure but join the reds in advocating a joint conference of the workers, the government and the factory owners.