

SOVIETS CONTINUE ATTACKS ON POLES

Bolsheviks Open Spring Campaign With Fighting Along 400-Mile Front

MEET STIFF RESISTANCE

By the Associated Press Warsaw, March 25.—Bolshevik attacks have been launched against the Polish line at scattered points along a front of approximately 400 miles and the long planned spring attack by the Russian soviet armies apparently has been commenced.

While the Bolsheviks have made small advances at some places, despite the desperate resistance of the Poles, the latter have been holding the enemy in check in most sections, say official statements. The Reds have been compelled to retreat from several newly acquired positions along the front, but fighting still continues, the soviet troops using heavy artillery, tanks, armored cars and other apparatus captured from general Denikin on the south Russian front.

Most severe fighting took place on Tuesday on the Polesian-Podolian front near the Galicia frontier, the Bolsheviks concentrating their attacks on this sector in an effort to capture Rovno, an important railroad center, and Kamenez-Podolsk, a city highly prized because of its strategic importance. Further north in the region of Rzeczyca and Kalesowicz, northeast of Minsk, the enemy took several small villages which were recovered by the Poles after a day's fighting.

Heavy engagements are also reported in the vicinity of Zaslava, southeast of Rovno and Staro-Konstantinov, where the Reds attempted to cross the Slutch river. East of Kamenez-Podolsk the battle is still going on, both sides using artillery and bringing up reinforcements. Some crack Bolshevik divisions are in line along this sector and cavalry is being used.

Rovno is particularly valuable to the Poles, as through it runs the only railroad by which supplies can be shipped to the army along the southeastern front. In their drive against this city on Tuesday the Bolsheviks hurled two divisions in the battle in an attempt to outflank the Poles. Hand-to-hand fighting ensued in villages just to the east of the Slutch river and the enemy was finally compelled to retire. He resumed the onslaught, however, and the struggle is still going on in the vicinity of Bubar and Ostropol, where, in spite of their use of heavy artillery in preparation for their assault, the Reds have not succeeded in crossing the Slutch.

In sectors where the Poles have repelled the soviet hordes they have found great heaps of bridge material which were brought up in preparation for crossing several streams that flow along the front.

Northeast and east of Kamenez-Podolsk near the Dniester river the Bolsheviks have been using their heaviest guns and apparently have made slight gains, having captured the village of Mowiley (not the important city of the same name) several days ago.

Chinese Robbers Kill Missionary Pekin, March 25.—J. R. Menzies, a Presbyterian missionary of Toronto, Ont., has been killed by robbers at Szeatingou, Province of Szechwan, according to advices received here.



Central News Photo. IZZETT PASHA

Among the names frequently mentioned in dispatches from Turkey, where the Allies are being defied, is the name of Izzett Pasha. When the Turkish cabinet resigned recently he was asked to form a new cabinet.

VILLA WIPES OUT MEXICAN HAMLET

50 Men, Women and Children Massacred—Homes and Crops Burned

By the Associated Press El Paso, Tex., March 25.—According to reports brought to the border last night, an entire Mexican farm settlement near Santa Barbara, Chihuahua, was wiped out March 14, when Francisco Villa and his followers massacred more than fifty men, women and children, burning their homes and crops.

Angered, it was said, because a small party of his men had been fired on in that vicinity on the previous day, Villa, with 150 men, attacked the place. The farmers defended their homes desperately, and it was not until twenty-five or thirty of them had been killed and their ammunition exhausted that the twenty-five survivors surrendered, the reports said.

According to the story one young man, crazed with grief over the loss of his wife and family, tried to wrest Villa's gun from his hand. Villa subdued the man and after a struggle shot him dead. Then, it is said, Villa ordered the men put to death, and the houses, grain and other possessions burned. Only three of the men escaped, the reports said.

It is declared that fifteen of the attacking party were killed by the farmers.

AMBROSE BIERCE SHOT BY VILLISTAS

San Francisco Journalist Learns Fate of Dean of Pacific Coast Letters

DISAPPEARED 5 YEARS AGO

San Francisco, March 25.—A signed statement that he has evidence that Ambrose Bierce, noted writer, who disappeared in 1915, was put to death by a Villista firing squad near the village of Icamoli, on the trail to Monterey, was made in the San Francisco Bulletin by J. H. Wilkins, a special writer, who has returned from Mexico after a search for evidence as to Mr. Bierce's fate.

Mr. Wilkins' informant, he said, was a member of the band that executed Mr. Bierce, and showed the writer a picture of Mr. Bierce taken from his clothing after the execution.

After the split between Villa and Carranza Mr. Bierce was attached to the Carranza forces as a military expert, Mr. Wilkins said, and was captured while directing a mule train bearing a shipment of arms out of Torreon and shot.

Although a wide search had been conducted by industrial friends, the American army and the State Department in the last four years, no trace of Mr. Bierce was ever found until Mr. Wilkins put out his statement. Various reports reached the United States, one that he was on Lord Kitchener's staff in France in 1915, but his actual whereabouts were never established.

Bierce was a veteran of the Civil War, a novelist and essayist, popularly known as the Dean of Pacific Coast Letters.

SHAMOKIN HAS 21,204

Census Bureau Gives 1920 Figures for Many Cities

WASHINGTON, MARCH 25.—(By A. P.)

Population statistics for 1920 announced today by the census bureau included: Shamokin, Pa., 21,204; increase 1616, or 8.2 per cent. Bloomfield, N. J., 22,011; increase 6941, or 46.1 per cent.

TWO SALOONS RAIDED

Owners and Bartenders Must Answer Fake Whisky Charges

The proprietors and bartenders of two saloons must appear at the Federal Building for a hearing today, following a raid upon their places yesterday by federal prohibition agents. It is declared a quantity of alcohol colored to represent whisky was seized.

Mrs. R. F. Fratis is the proprietor of one of the saloons, at Ninth and Vine streets, and George Kohler is the bartender. The other saloon, at 150 North Eleventh street, is owned by John Campbell, and Frank Connella is the bartender.

Letters. When the Mexican trouble developed in 1915, Bierce, at the age of seventy-five, left his Washington home to cast his fortunes with Pancho Villa.

Among Bierce's best-known books were "Tales of Soldiers and Civilians," "The Shadow on the Dial and Other Essays" and "The Devil's Dictionary."

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