

## AMERICAN TROOPS CIRCLE VILLA—MEXICAN FEDERALS LOYAL TO CARRANZA

El Paso, March 24.—Villa is surrounded and may be engaged by American troops today. According to message from Col. Francisco Bertani, after his column had routed Villa's force just east of Namiquipa in the Santa Clara canyon, Villistas were surrounded by victors and by U. S. soldiers under Gen. Pershing.

Carranza Consul Garcia, who made public Bertani's report, stated there was no possible chance of Villa cutting his way out and that his capture was momentarily expected.

Those familiar with Villa tactics and his hatred for Americans believe he will never be taken alive and that his entire command may be wiped out in the predicted fight.

Bertani reported that in preliminary engagement Villistas retreated to El Oso, five miles south of Namiquipa, after losing several killed and about 100 horses captured. American troops in touch with Carranzistas surrounding Villa believed to be either Col. Dodd's cavalry column or Pershing's men who got behind Villa by railroad trip from Casas Grandes southward.

Report of Villa's whereabouts did not exactly fit with story brought by Garcia Flores, reputable Spanish business man of Chihuahua City, who declared on his arrival in El Paso that Villa held up a Mexican National train at Moctezuma, nearly 100 miles east of Namiquipa, on Wednesday. He was positive it was Villa who went through the coaches. Hardly considered possible that outlaw's large force could have covered difficult country to Namiquipa within a day.

Flores reported that Villa said Gen. Luis Herrera had revolted from Carranza and joined him. Preponderance of evidence today was that Herrera was still loyal to the de facto government. Other arrivals from

Chihuahua City reported seeing Herrera there Tuesday.

Telegram given out by Consul Garcia, purporting to come from Herrera himself, as well as principal officials in Chihuahua City, emphatically denied Herrera's defection.

Brig. Gen. Geo. Bell, Jr., commander at Ft. Bliss, is one of few officials here who believe rumors of Herrera's defection. Declined to make public to newspapermen source of his information.

Police arrested Emilio Valenzuela, publisher of El Constitution, a Mexican newspaper. He was charged with printing editorials seeking to arouse hatred for Americans by Mexican residents of city. Eight employes also taken into custody. Newspaper suppressed.

Washington, March 24.—Pres. Wilson and his cabinet will consider sending more troops to reinforce Gen. Pershing in Mexican campaign today. Will also consider problem of strengthening border patrol and protocol being arranged with Carranza for use of Northern Mexican railway.

Doubt prevails here regarding reported defection of Gen. Luis Herrera and 2,000 men from Carranza's to Villa's standard. Until Pershing's forces get in touch, friendly or hostile, with Herrera's outposts in Chihuahua, not believed mystery will be solved. Reports from Gen. Bell indicating belief in rumors of Herrera's revolt were to be laid before cabinet.

Herrera is loyal to de facto government head, is still military commander at Chihuahua City and is not heading any revolt, according to a state department message from Consul Litcher at Chihuahua City today.

### AVIATOR, FOUND IN DESERT, BACK WITH ARMY

Columbus, N. M., March 24.—Army messages from Casas Grandes today