

FIGHT BETWEEN TWO MEXICAN FORCES—WHERE'S VILLA?

El Paso, April 12.—Battle was reported to have been fought between Jimenez and Parral, but on account of Carranzista censorship, forces engaged were not made known.

Mexican Central train ran into the fight, later returning to Jimenez, whence censored reports were sent to border. It is not known here whether American forces engaged in the fighting. Information from mining men in Parral placed American detachment in that vicinity and Villista bands also were recently reported thereabouts. Carranza authorities in Juarez silent regarding the battle.

Where Villa himself is today is a mystery. Rumors of his death believed to have been inspired by Mexican sources to bring about the withdrawal of American troops. Marquis de Lao, formerly prominent Villa adherent and now a Carranza follower, stated on his arrival from Chihuahua City that a Mexican came there with positive information of Villa's death from wounds suffered in the Guerrero engagements with Carranzistas, March 30. However, all mining company reports tend to show Villa was with a small column of bandits last reported near Tepehuanes, Durango.

That the main American cavalry squadron is in Southwestern Chihuahua is shown by negotiations between quartermaster's department and El Paso dealers for large shipments of hay and oats to be sent over Mexican Central railroad via Chihuahua City. This was another indication that American forces are in the vicinity of Parral and Jimenez, where the fight is reported to have occurred.

San Antonio, Tex., April 12.—Gen. Funston was highly optimistic for a quick, successful termination of the chase. His messages of the past week have repeatedly emphasized the friendliness and co-operation of Carranza commanders. In addition he has received encouraging reports on the

physical welfare of expedition. Both men and horses are in splendid condition, according to advices to headquarters.

Funston today gave unstinted praise to Col. Dodd for pushing his pursuit so persistently.

Despite handicaps of chasing bandit in a strange country, Dodd's cavalry so far has administered one severe defeat and kept fugitive Mexicans on the jump ever since expedition started. Just how near to Villa's force American cavalymen are today was not definitely known, but it was believed Dodd is not far behind.

Rumors of Villa's death were met with derision at headquarters. Officers there regarded them as result of hysterical talk among natives in the interior, which gradually spread and finally found their way to the border.

Sniping Again Reported.

Columbus, N. M., April 12.—Sniping again reported by drivers of incoming army motor trucks today. Bullet holes appeared in body of one machine. Guards found rifle behind barricade below Casas Grandes. At headquarters here firing is believed to have been done by small groups of bandits still roving behind American expedition advanced columns.

Care was taken today to prevent lynching of six Mexicans held here on charges of having participated in Villista raid on Columbus. Military plans to turn them over to civil authorities at Deming for trial on murder indictments.



VILLA IS EXPENSIVE

Washington, April 11.—More than \$1,000,000 has been spent thus far by United States in its hunt for Pancho Villa.

War department estimated today monthly cost over and above regular running expenses has been \$100,000, while \$900,000 has been spent for auto trucks and gasoline tank cars.

Arrieta brothers, Carranzista leaders at Durango City, will not join Villa's raiders, according to dispatch