

ESTRADA DEFEATS FORCES OF ZELAYA

Victory Complete, Rout Being Thorough Along Entire Line Of Eight Miles.

FIGHTING WAS DESPERATE.

Next Step May be to Force Retirement Of Madrid as Mere Tool of The Ex-President.

Bluefields, N.C., Dec. 21.—The revolutionists under Gen. Estrada have completely routed the Zelayan forces near Rama. Estrada has captured Revreo, Mesquez's strong position, and he has been victorious all along the line, which stretches for eight miles.

Among those in the revolutionary army was Capt. Godfrey Fowler, formerly of the Thirty-third Infantry, U. S. A., who was in command on the firing line.

WILL TRY TO FORCE UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER

Washington, Dec. 21.—Zelaya's troops were routed by the Nicaraguan revolutionists today in a fierce battle at Rama, lasting several hours, according to advices received here this afternoon. Gen. Estrada, in command of the revolutionary army, is reported to have been successful all along the line. The

battle will be renewed tomorrow, and will bend all efforts to compel the unconditional surrender of the government forces.

There is some doubt as to the extent of Estrada's success. From revolutionary sources the word is sent that victory over the Zelayan troops is complete. The state department has received word from Thomas H. Moffatt, United States consul at Bluefields, that Estrada had "partially routed and defeated the forces of Zelaya." It is agreed, however, that the moral effect of such initial success on the part of the revolutionists can hardly be exaggerated.

The first announcement of the success of Estrada's arms came in a cablegram to Dr. Castillio, representative here of the provisional government. It was signed "Diaz."

Diaz is secretary of state for the provisional government. The cablegram said: "Complete victory is ours. Zelaya's troops are in retreat."

Later tonight the state department gave out the following message from Consul Moffatt, which had been sent by wireless from Colon:

ESTRADA CONFIDENT.

"Estrada's forces at Tumbula and Revreo, near Rama, commanded by Gen. Mena at the former place and Gens. Chamorro, Mattuty and Fornos Diaz at the latter place, partially routed and defeated the forces of Zelaya after desperate fighting for several hours. The Zelayan forces were commanded by Gen. Gonzales. A great many were killed, the number being unknown; 100 were wounded and 150 prisoners were taken by the revolutionists. The Zelayan troops at Rama, who have occupied what has been considered a strong position, Estrada is confident of defeating the enemy when he renews the attack tomorrow, and of forcing their surrender."

The clash between the two armies was not unexpected here. For days the armies have been lying practically idle in their trenches around Rama, skirmishes only marring the peace that brooded over that section. Estrada played a waiting game in the hope that the Zelayan commanders would take

the initiative and attempt the capture of his position, which was reported to be strong. Furthermore, with the waning of President Zelaya's star he expected a large number of accessions.

When Zelaya abdicated and practically dictated the election of Dr. Madriz as his successor, Estrada, according to his diplomatic friends here, determined to strike. Accordingly, he moved his army forward yesterday and took the field forward against the enemy. Dr. Castillio and his friends look forward confidently to the receipt tomorrow of word of a complete victory and of the beginning of the march of the triumphant army on the capital.

No official of the state department would discuss the reported victory. It is known, however, that the news was not unexpected. Had the Zelayan army won, this government would have been in a somewhat embarrassing position, having espoused openly the cause of the provisional government.

VICTORY BRINGS JOY.

In Central American diplomatic circles the word brought joy and there was a general feeling of triumph. The diplomats join in the prediction that this first victory is the "beginning of the end" of Zelayism, and that the next step will be to force the retirement of President Madrid on the ground that he is a tool of Zelaya and not the real choice of the country.

MADRIZ BECOMES PRESIDENT OF NICARAGUA

Managua, Dec. 21.—Jose Madriz was inaugurated today as president of Nicaragua. The ceremony was held at the palace instead of at the parliament building. Ex-President Zelaya was kept waiting 15 minutes by Dr. Madriz, who entered the hall accompanied by Julian Irias, minister general.

Zelaya, who wore the order of the Legion of Honor, made a brief speech, saying:

"I entreat the Nicaraguans to rally to the support of President Madriz, who has made a vow for the early termination of the fratricidal war. I wish to pay tribute to the ability and integrity of my successor. I am confident that his administration will be beneficial."

SPEECH OF ACCEPTANCE.

"I assume the presidency unmoved by personal ambition, but by the spirit of a good son going to the rescue of a beloved mother, harassed and imperiled. I shall not be able to restore peace and prosperity unaided, and I ask for the assistance of all true patriots. My aim shall be to make Nicaragua a united family and my one and only program peace with honor, justice and liberty and the maintenance of friendly relations with foreign nations and particularly with Central America."

The oath of office was administered by the president of congress, after which salutes were fired by the artillery, accompanied by the ringing of church bells.

Later groups of men paraded the streets, crying "Death to Zelaya!" "Viva Estrada!" There was no interference by the police.

Reports are current that a battle has been fought near Rama.

Returning to his hotel, President Madriz read a decree from the balcony announcing political amnesty and the release of the inmates of the penitentiary. This was greeted with tremendous cheering.

Minister Irias attempted to speak, but was cried down, and he desisted after futile efforts had been made to quell the hostile demonstration.

In the riots at Granada, Rudolph Downing, an American citizen, who was born at Granada, was arrested. The American consul at once filed a protest.

MEXICAN OFFICIALS FAVORABLE TO MADRIZ

Mexico City, Dec. 21.—The election of Dr. Jose Madriz as president of Nicaragua is looked upon favorably by Mexican officials. Ignacio Mariscal, minister of foreign relations, said:

"While Mexico has no candidate for president of Nicaragua, Dr. Madriz was regarded as a good selection. Dr. Madriz has visited Mexico City and we believe him to be a man of prudence and honesty. In addition, he is well educated and enjoys the confidence of all who know him, as is evidenced by the fact that he is judge of the Central American court of justice at Cartago."

Speaking of the possible confederation of Central American republics, Mr. Mariscal said:

"We have always believed a confederation of states in Central America would be the best thing for those countries, but this is the worst possible time to make such an attempt."

"It would be difficult under the most favorable circumstances to find a man acceptable to all five republics and would be impossible under present conditions."

Asked what would be Mexico's attitude should Zelaya attempt to board the Guerrero, now at Corinto, the minister said that would be a problem that would have to be solved, should it arise, at the same time disclaiming any purpose in the visit of the gunboat to Nicaraguan waters to offer a refuge to Zelaya.

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PROVISIONS OF MANN'S "WHITE SLAVE" MEASURE

Washington, Dec. 21.—The Mann "white slave traffic" bill was favorably reported to the house today by Chairman Mann of that committee. The report accompanying the presentation of the measure distinctly disclaims any purpose to usurp in any way the police power of the states and declares the provisions of the bill to be mostly based on the power of Congress over interstate and foreign commerce.

Among other things the report says: "The use of interstate commerce in sending prostitutes from one state to another in connection with this traffic in women would seem to be as directly connected with interstate commerce as the sending of tickets from one state to another in furtherance of operation of a lottery. So far Congress has not enacted legislation to insure the carrying out of the provisions of the international treaty for the suppression of the traffic."

The proposed legislation is needed to put a stop to a villainous interstate and international traffic in women and girls, not needed or intended as an aid to the states in the exercise of their police powers in suppressing or regulating immorality in general. It does not attempt to regulate the practice of voluntary prostitution, but aims solely to prevent panders and procurers from compelling thousands of women and girls against their will and desire to enter upon and continue in a life of prostitution.

"These women are practically slaves in the true sense of the word. Many are kept in houses of ill fame against their will, and if necessary, force is used to deprive them of their liberty. The victims are then the women and girls, who, if given a fair chance, would, in all human probability, have been

good wives and mothers and useful citizens. Liqueur, trickery, deceit, fraud and the use of force are resorted to by the procurer to place the girl under his power."

Chairman Mann said today he did not know just when the bill would be brought up on the floor of the house.

He declared there was no reason for any clash between his committee and the committee on immigration, and that the proper legislation to meet the evil in the best possible way, which he believed, was through his bill, was all that was sought.

Chairman Mann asked and was

granted unanimous consent for setting aside sufficient time for the minority of the committee to file objections to the bill. Their report will be presented after the holidays by Representative Richardson of Alabama, supported by Representatives Adamson, Bartlett and Peters of the committee.

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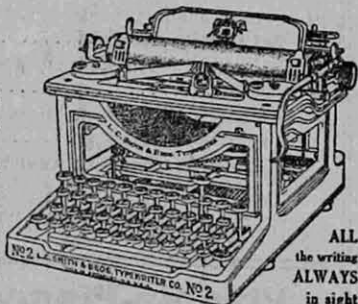
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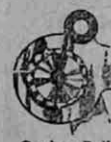


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