

ture of Vera Cruz, but later accounts agree that these have been grossly exaggerated, and that in reality there has been comparatively little lawlessness. Refugees fleeing from interior points were delayed and harrassed, but they are now permitted to leave Mexico City, and Secretary Bryan announces that there have been no authentic reports of deaths for several days.



Military operations have been confined mainly to the capture of Monterey by the Constitutionalists on the 24th, after five days of fighting. This was the strongest post left to the Federals in Northern Mexico. The defeated forces retreated toward Saltillo, some fifty miles to the southwest of Monterey. The Constitutionalists are also renewing their attacks on Tampico, but so far without success.



Army Bill a Law.

The Senate bill on April 24 passed the Hay army bill and on the following day it was signed by the President and became a law. The bill authorizes the creation of a volunteer army. It places under Federal control in war time or "while war is imminent," and after Congress shall have given special authority, the State militia and all other volunteer military organizations, but consent of three-fourths of the membership of any company, troop or battery, will be required before it can be taken over into the Federal service. On taking such organization over, the President may, if he sees fit, appoint an entirely new set of officers. The organizations taken over may, like the regulars, be sent on service out of the country. [See current volume, page 393.]



The Labor War.

At least twenty-nine dead, the greater number women and children, is the result of a three days' battle near Ludlow, Colorado, on April 20, 21 and 22. Details of events that led up to the fight are being reported slowly and unsatisfactorily. The most complete account was in the Chicago Day Book of April 24. According to this the trouble started on April 19. About 1,200 strikers and their families, having been evicted from the company's houses, were living in tents on land leased for them by the union. A number of these were playing ball on Sunday when the guards tried to break up the game, but were driven away. Three machine guns were then set up and trained on the tent colony. On Monday, April 20, Louis Tikas, a Greek striker, protested against pointing the guns at women and children and was promptly shot down. A different version of the occurrence was, however, given by Major P. J. Hamrock of the militia, who is reported by the Associated Press to have said that Tikas and a

crowd of strikers opened fire on his men while drilling. The battle then began in earnest. The women and children fled for safety into cellars while the fight proceeded. The experience of one woman reported in the Day Book is as follows:

All day long we lay down there without anything to eat or drink. I had six children, the oldest eleven, and they all cried. All through the camp we could hear women shrieking and calling to God and the Virgin to come and save their children. The firing continued and the bullets whistled over us hour after hour, and after a while I heard a woman cursing terribly. Later I heard that she had had her hand shot off at the wrist when she reached up from her cellar and tried to get a pail of water to give her children a drink. My children begged me for water, and finally little William—he was my eldest boy—said he was going to get them a drink. So he climbed up out of the cellar and he never came back. I know now that a bullet tore his head all away. I should have gone for the water myself, but I had to stay with the babies.

Just when it was beginning to get dark the gunmen dashed in among the tents and set fire to some of them. Our tents were all close together and the fire spread fast. All the time they kept shooting into the tents, although they knew our men, with their guns, were all away up in the hills. I took my children and ran to a deep arroyo (gully) where there were about 50 other women and babies. Lots of the others, though, were afraid to come out of their cellars and they suffocated under the burning floors and side walls which had been built up of boards.

In a cave under one tent were found after the battle the bodies of eleven children and two women. All the strikers retreated to the hills. The surviving women and children were sent to Trinidad by the militia, where they were turned over to union officials. Altogether twenty-one persons are known to have been killed on this day. [See current volume, page 393.]



On April 22 there was a clash between strikers and guards at Delagua. After a sharp fight the strikers were driven toward Aguilar. Here the Empire mine was attacked and much property destroyed. J. W. Siple, president of the mine company, and Superintendent William Waddell, with twenty men, three women and two children were forced to take refuge in the mine, where they were held prisoners. Finally an offer of release was made on condition that the imprisoned men would give up their arms. Siple rejected the offer for his men but allowed the women and children to leave. On April 24 Siple and his men were rescued by the militia. In the meantime there had been skirmishes between strikers and guards at Ludlow, Primrose, Cameron and other places in the strike district. At least eight men were killed in the fighting of the 22d and 23d, four guards and four strikers.