

Contemporary New York Times Articles

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REBELS KILL CHINESE BANKER.

Drag Him in Streets of Torreon— Hard Fighting for Three Days.

LAREDO, Texas, May 21.—A few details of the heavy fighting a week ago which resulted in the capture of the important city of Torreon by the Mexican rebels reached here to-day. The fighting took place May 13, 14, and 15.

The reports from Torreon were brought out by an American locomotive engineer, who escaped on a horse, and later found a hand car, on which he reached Jaral, Coahuila, and by a conductor who got to San Luis Potosi after four days' travel. Four railroad men who arrived in Laredo to-day had talked with the two refugees, and found that their stories tallied in every detail.

The railroad men declared that at least 200 Federal soldiers were killed during the battle, but they did not attempt to estimate the rebel losses. It is stated that seventeen Chinese were killed. The wrath of the revolutionists was kindled against the Chinese because they fired upon the rebels who approached large truck gardens where the Chinese were at work.

After the capture of the city Dr. J. W. Lim, a Chinese banker, was dragged, at the end of a rope which had been tied around his neck, around the plaza until his body was badly crushed. He was then shot and killed. He was one of the wealthiest Chinamen in North Mexico and was at the head of a banking institution controlled by Chinese capitalists.

Another report said that one of the Sternau brothers, hotel proprietors at Torreon, was hanged by rebels after a number of Spaniards had fired at revolutionists from doors and windows in the hotel.

Statements that the Chinese hotel, the railroad station, and other buildings were burned were made. So far as known, no American was injured, though it is said that a man named McCarty died from fright.

KILLED IN TORREON NUMBER HUNDREDS

Over 200 Chinese Slain by Rebels
After the Federals Evacuated the Town.

TWELVE HOURS OF LOOTING

Insurrecto Leaders Did Not Control
the Men—Three Rich Mining
Camps Captured.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
MEXICO CITY, May 22.—Incomplete reports of conditions in Torreon are beginning to reach this city. A desperate situation is described.

The Federals defended the place with great valor for two days and nights until their ammunition was exhausted, when they evacuated the town. This was followed by twelve hours of loot and rapine before the insurrecto leaders got the situation under control.

The death list in the fighting and rioting is said to be several hundred, while the property loss will reach \$1,000,000.

Great fear is entertained here for American interests at Teziutlan, Del Oro, and El Alpujahu, three highly developed mining camps which were taken yesterday by rebels. At El Alpujahu much English capital is invested in some of the richest mines in Mexico.

MEXICO CITY, May 22.—Official reports received here to-day by couriers traveling the devious trails of the plains and mountains before arriving at a telegraph station tell the story of a massacre of 206 Chinese at Torreon, following the rebel occupation of that city last week. Upon receipt of the news at the Chinese Legation the Chargé d'Affaires immediately made formal representations to the Mexican Government.

The story, as received, of the three-day battle and sacking of the city of Torreon is replete with incidents of cruelty and indicates that the rebel leaders did not hold their men in control, or that they turned them loose to prey on conquered and defenseless people. The official advices do not give the number of dead, but taking the 206 Chinese as a basis it is probable that the number is larger.

The last day of the Torreon battle was May 15. On that day Gen. Lejero retired with his Federal forces and the rebels entered the city. Citizens found themselves utterly unable to control the mob, and reports received to-day indicate that scores of innocent residents were added to the list of victims.

Always antagonistic to the yellow race, the rebels and the Federals engaged in a race riot. Part of the business of Torreon is conducted by Chinese, some of whom are wealthy, and, according to reports received, the rioters shot down or stabbed without mercy every Oriental they encountered.

That the Chinese Chargé d'Affaires will be able to get indemnity for many of the victims is doubted here, for since Sir Chentung Liang Cheng visited this country five years ago and advised his countrymen to become Mexican citizens, almost all have taken out naturalization papers.

EAGLE PASS, Texas, May 22.—In a desperate fight between Mexican insurrectos and Chinese at Torreon, 225 Chinese were killed, according to information received here to-day by Sam Wah, owner of the International Hotel, at Porfirio Diaz, across the river from here.

Among the Chinamen reported killed were fifty of Wah's ranchmen.

WASHINGTON, May 22.—As soon as the outrages on Chinese subjects at Torreon are officially reported to the Chinese Minister at Washington, who is also accredited to the Mexican Government, he will take steps to protest to Mexico. The Minister has already instructed his Chargé d'Affaires at Mexico-City to make vigorous representations in regard to the reported murdering of eight and wounding of three Chinese at Imures, Sonora. The gardens and stores of the Chinese there were looted.

The matter was called to the attention of the Minister by Chinese residents of Nogales, Ariz., who were in communication with refugees from the scene of the butchery. They pleaded for protection for their countrymen.

No word has yet been received by the legation in regard to the reported massacre at Torreon. The State Department likewise is without advices on the subject.

Sigmund Sternau, a manufacturer, of 195 Plymouth Street, Brooklyn, in a communication to THE NEW YORK TIMES says that the Sternau who, according to press dispatches was hanged by Mexican rebels after the capture of Torreon, was one of his cousins. Two brothers, Julius and Carlos Sternau, were hotel proprietors in Torreon.

Mr. Sternau received last Feb. 8 the following letter from one of his cousins:

My dear Sieg: I have not heard from you lately, but as I promised to send you some news once in a while, I am writing. The town directly across the river from where Sieg and Helene live is in danger of being attacked. From what we can learn, the forces on both sides are more or less equal. It is a good thing that the forces are a good distance from us. So far they are not near enough to affect us personally, and business has been better than usual, as people from the country, not feeling any too safe, have come in to trade with us. Then, considering that this year's crop will be good, we have no kick coming. We are in good health.

Though ranches get robbed quite often, our town has been quiet as usual. Foreigners, and Americans especially, are never molested. The rebels have come with money to the stores belonging to foreigners, and have paid cash for what they needed. The constitutional Government is the same as usual, so we do not complain. Those mountaineers are great sharpshooters, and the number of their victims is said to be horrible. That is all for today. With my kindest regards for all of the folks, and yourself in particular, I am,
yours,
JULIUS.

Mr. Sternau has asked THE NEW YORK TIMES to obtain, if possible, further particulars regarding the reported murder.

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WE HELP MADERO TO SUPPRESS REBELS

Mexican Troops to Travel to
Lower California Over Rail-
ways in This Country.

BIG CHINESE DAMAGE BILL

Indemnity for Killing of 303 Persons
at Torreon and \$500,000 for Prop-
erty Loss to be Demanded.

Special to The New York Times.

LOS ANGELES, June 8.—The Mexican government is making preparations to move between 1,500 and 2,000 troops from Juarez to Tijuana over the Southern Pacific line to Los Angeles, and from Los Angeles to San Diego over the Santa Fé, thence into Lower California on foot.

The traffic department of the Southern Pacific at Los Angeles received instructions yesterday from the offices at El Paso, and the work of forwarding special trains to El Paso for the transportation of the troops is being rushed with all speed.

Apparently the utmost secrecy has been maintained on the part of the Madero officers at Juarez as to this movement of troops, and the messages to the Southern Pacific in Los Angeles have been as meager in information as they could be made.

Arrangements are being made for the departure of the troops from El Paso to-morrow. If this is accomplished they will pass through Los Angeles either late Saturday night or on Sunday morning.

WASHINGTON, June 8.—Mexican soldiers will be allowed to travel across American territory to Lower California. The State Department has given its consent to this operation, with the stipulation that the troops shall not carry arms, but that the arms may be carried in sealed baggage cars until the party reaches its destination on the boundary line near San Diego.

Precedent for this action is found in the permission granted to the Mexican Federal forces early in the revolution to send a body of men across the same route to protect the great dyke connected with the Imperial Valley irrigation works.

JUAREZ, June 8.—China will uphold the assertion of Chinese residents of Torreon, Mexico, that they did not fire on the insurgents prior to the massacre of May 15, and besides indemnity for the killing of more than 300 Chinese will enter a claim of \$500,000 against the Mexican Government for property loss.

This is the substance of the official report received to-day from Wu Lan-Pee of the Chinese Legation, who has been investigating the Torreon massacre. Mr. Wu reports that 303 Chinese were killed.

"All my countrymen in Torreon deny that they bore arms or that they fired on the insurgents," says Mr. Wu in his first official statement. "A circular issued by the Chinese on May 12, the day preceding the attack on Torreon, called on all Chinese to make no resistance under any circumstances in the event of an assault.

"An association composed of Chinese business men warned Chinese residents that even though the opposing forces should enter their places of business by force, rifle their cash drawers, sack their stores, or commit any offense of which a looting army might be guilty, they must stand hands down and submit to all in preference to resorting to the slightest violence."

A number of Chinese corpses are yet in wells, into which they were thrown. Mr. Wu says that many of the 200 Chinese who were saved were sheltered by peon men and women at great peril to themselves.

Mexican Chinese Seek Our Territory.

EL PASO, Texas, June 10.—Forty Chinamen left yesterday for San Francisco for deportation. More than 300 Chinese from the interior of Mexico have arrived in Juarez during the last two days, and in their efforts to get into the United States are giving the customs guards and inspectors a great deal of trouble.

MEXICANS WORRIED BY CHINESE DEMAND

**Diplomat Now Puts Indemnity at
\$16,800,000 and Says Cruiser
Is Under Orders.**

SLAUGHTER DUE TO ERROR

**Chinese Blamed for Effects of Poi-
soned Brandy, a Court Exhibit—Ten
Killed in Durango Riot.**

Special Cable to **THE NEW YORK TIMES.**
MEXICO CITY, June 10.—Shung As Sune, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Chinese Legation here, is authority for the statement that China will expect an indemnity of no less than 33,600,000 pesos (\$16,800,000 gold) for losses of Chinese lives and property in the rebellion. Mexican officials view this situation with unconcealed apprehension.

Statements from the legation yesterday indicated that the amount of indemnity to be demanded would be more moderate, but to-day, following further advices from his Government, the head of the legation said that the Chinese would expect \$50,000 for each life taken and a full return for the property loss, which amounts to no less than \$1,000,000. There were 316 Chinamen known to have been killed throughout the republic during the revolution.

Shung As Sune says that a Chinese cruiser, now at Shanghai, has orders to sail for Manzanillo at once to conduct a minute investigation of the killings.

A probable cause for the massacre of hundreds of Chinese after the capture of Torreon by the rebels lies in the discovery that the Maderist leaders took several bottles of poisoned cognac from the courtroom which they looted.

Several years ago an attempt was made at wholesale poisoning at a banquet in that city. In the investigation the cognac was produced in court and was shown to contain poison. The exhibit was kept while the case was on and was forgotten among the odds and ends in a storeroom.

The looting Maderists found this liquor and took it to the Chinese restaurant, where many of them ate breakfast. Shortly after the meal those who partook of the liquor became ill and several died. All thought the poisoning was the work of the Chinese, and according to some persons the massacre was a result of this suspicion.

A riot yesterday at Durango City resulted in the killing of ten persons in the principal street, while many were wounded. Further trouble is feared and urgent requests have been sent to Torreon for a Maderist force sufficient to control the situation.

Several policemen in this city, in attempting to arrest two Maderist soldiers yesterday, were attacked by a crowd of the lower classes and were forced to use their pistols. They killed one man and wounded several.

President de la Barra has accepted an invitation to be the guest of honor of the American colony at their Fourth of July celebration.
