

REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS IN THE COLONIES

The Continuation of the Morocco-Spanish War.

By J a r (Madrid).

After Abd-el-Krims surrender, the Spanish imperialists imagined that the Morocco problem had been solved entirely according to the aims of the Liga Africanista. But subsequent events have shown that the Riffians, as they always were, are still ready to fight for the independence of their country.

The surrender of Abd-el-Krim created a very dangerous situation for the Riffians as it meant the end of a single and centralised leadership or command by means of which they had accomplished so much since 1921.

Since June 1925, the Riffians have lacked such leadership; nevertheless they are continuing to defend their country. Keriro, one of the more brave and intrepid chiefs, was killed whilst fighting in December last. Since Abd-el-Krim's surrender he was the leader possessing the greatest authority in his tribe. Of late the two brothers Tensamani and some other chiefs have been leading the struggle against the Spanish forces.

Spanish imperialism has not yet secured control over Morocco. There are parts of this country on which the Spanish soldiers have never trod. Nearly every day the Spanish army has skirmishes with the natives. Of late the Spanish forces have been involved in quite important combats with the Ktama tribe: Mohamed el Fost, leader of the Riffian troops in the Spanish service, was killed in one of these encounters. The Ktama tribe is one of the most active in the fight against Spanish imperialism; it is led by illustrious chiefs, the brothers Tensamani already mentioned, and the chiefs Ellil and Hadjil, the later from Ghomara.

On the 14th of February a Spanish convoy was captured in the territory of the Beni Aros tribe. During the night the convoy's camp was surrounded and attacked; the entire force was captured, together with the supplies it was conveying to the Spanish post. In the territory occupied by the Jebel Habib, a tribe in the extreme West of the Spanish zone, the tribesmen have been attacking posts and making raids into the territory of those inhabitants of the Riff who have submitted to the Spanish authorities.

The tribes in the less accessible mountainous districts of the Riff still refuse to submit to Primo de Rivera, and a certain number of Riffians along with their families have recently migrated into the Jeballa district which is still in revolt.

The actual condition is similar to that prevailing in 1921, previous to Abd-el-Krim's success. Peaceful tribes who suffered greatly as a result of the war, where French-Spanish troops launched attacks and intensive aerial bombardments were carried out, were forced to submit, but tribes living in the less accessible districts are still carrying on their fight for independence.

Between those tribes who have submitted and those who are still in revolt there exists a close understanding by means of which they are informed of all the plans and movements of the Spanish army. It must be borne in mind that the Riffians who are fighting most obstinately against Spain are those who were formerly in the "Spanish service". The Riffians are characterised by a calm and stubborn persistence, so that they fight when conditions are favourable, if not they submit and patiently wait until a more suitable opportunity.

At present Spain is employing a considerable number of colonial troops in Morocco. These troops are inspired by just the same feelings as they had when they were fighting against Spain. It must be remembered that most of the Riffians in Abd-el-Krim's army formed part of the Spanish colonial troops in 1921. The defeat of the Spaniards in 1921 was mainly due to those colonial troops who fought on the side of Abd-el-Krim.

Primo de Rivera is very optimistic regarding the Moroccan problem, but the military chiefs have pointed out only recently that the position in Morocco is very serious for Spain. A new rebellion is anticipated which, of course, will prove more dangerous than ever. On the other hand the Moroccan war is costing Spain enormous sums of money. In spite of Primo de Rivera's assertions that the war is at an end, the number of soldiers in Morocco is exactly the same as before the surrender of Abd-el-Krim. If in the very near future the Riffians should find a new chief, equally capable as was Abd-el-Krim to organise the tribesmen, it will mean the end of Spanish military rule in Morocco.