

# AMERICAN REFUGEES TELL OF HARDSHIPS

Left Everything Behind in Flight  
from Mexico—Arrive at  
San Antonio.

ONE TRAINLOAD MISSING

Not Heard From for Ten Days—Min-  
ing Man Slain, and Others For-  
tifying Their Camps.

Special to The New York Times.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, May 7.—The northbound International & Great Northern express, which arrived here this afternoon, was crowded with refugees from Mexico, half of whom were women and children. They had come out of Mexico by a circuitous route via San Luis Potosi and Tampico, their train being more than twenty-four hours late when it pulled into the Nuevo Laredo terminal early this morning.

Two-thirds of the refugees had no baggage, not having had time nor a way to carry it in the long cross-country journeys they were compelled to make in order to reach railway stations where traffic is still maintained. Three of the women refugees wore divided skirts such as are worn by women when riding horseback. One of the women said she had ridden from a small mining town in the State of Guanajuato to San Luis Potosi, a journey of three days on horseback.

Seventy-eight of the refugees left the train at San Antonio, and about half as many proceeded North. The stories told by these people all agreed in the one important point that chaos is imminent in Mexico. One man told of the rumored murder of an American mining engineer at a mining camp in Durango. The man, whose name was Rice and who was Superintendent of the Sultana copper mines in Durango, was held up for money by insurrectos, and when he said that he had none was murdered, according to the man who arrived here to-day.

Other refugees from mining camps said the managers of the mines were fortifying their places and were arming their men preparatory to making a defense of their property in the event they were attacked by the rebels. One of these who brought this news was E. J. Stanley, a mining engineer, who has been working in the State of Zacatecas. Mr. Stanley was accompanied by his wife.

## All Americans Fleeing.

"Every American who can is getting out of Mexico with all possible speed," Mr. Stanley said. "They all realize the great danger they are in and can see no hope for a return of peace for months to come. It is quite true that the mining camps are being fortified and the miners armed, for the purpose of resisting in the event the insurrectos try to destroy the properties.

"We had a hard time getting out," added Mr. Stanley, "and I can assure you that few of us did any sleeping on the train that brought us out of Mexico and which got into Nuevo Laredo this morning over a full day behind time. When our train got to Saltillo Federal soldiers boarded it, and all night all of us, particularly the women, were fearful that it was to be attacked by the insurrectos. Fortunately, our fears were unfounded, and we managed to get through without being held up."

Another of the refugees was E. Belden, an oil man, who has been visiting at a mining camp in Durango. It was Mr. Belden who told of the reported murder of Supt. Rice of the Sultana mines.

"While I was in Durango," Mr. Belden said, "a Mexican came in from the Sultana copper mines and told us that Mr. Rice had been murdered. A band of insurrectos had gone into the Sultana mines, the Mexican said, and had demanded all of the company's ready cash of Mr. Rice. When Mr. Rice told them that he had no cash on hand they shot him through the head, killing him instantly, according to the Mexican."

One of the women refugees, who asked that her name be withheld and who was one of the three women who arrived in divided skirts, told the story of her ride of three days and nights from Guanajuato to San Luis Potosi.

## Woman Refugee's Story.

"It is almost anarchy in that part of Mexico from which I managed to make my escape," she said. "Nobody, particularly Americans, feels safe down there now. I was unable to bring any baggage at all, and all that I came out of Mexico with is the somewhat embarrassing traveling costume that you see me wearing now. My husband came as far as Nuevo Laredo with me, and although I begged him to come on North with me, he insisted on trying to get back to the mines

and do his part in protecting our property."

Franklin W. Smith, a consulting engineer of Parral in the State of Chihuahua, another of the refugees, said that the country of which Torreón is the centre is now in a state of anarchy. As indicating the terrible conditions existing around Torreón, he said that when he tried to get to Parral a month ago it required seven days' traveling to make a journey that usually requires only half a day. He traveled over 1,250 miles, he said, to make what in time of peace is a journey of only 130 miles. Parral is on a branch of the Torreón & Juarez Railroad. The road, he said, has been completely torn up by the insurrectos. Ten days ago he said the road was repaired and a train crowded with refugees started for Torreón.

"We have not heard a word from that train or any of the people who were in it since that night," Mr. Smith said. "The only news we have is that it did not reach its destination, due to the fact that the track was torn up in fourteen different places the night the run to Torreón was attempted. I have heard that Torreón has fallen, but when I left there was no way of confirming it as both rail and wire communication with the place was suspended.

## Bandits Turned Loose.

"I can assure you that it is anarchy pure and simple in the Torreón country. For instance, when the insurrectos captured the towns of Lerdo and Gomez Palacio recently they liberated over 300 prisoners who were in the jails in those places. These men were the worst characters in that part of the country, and since their liberation they have been pillaging the country. Some of them joined the rebels, but most of them are operating independently of them."

Edward Atkins of Elkhart, Ind., another arrival, came from Mexico City. He said that he had not seen any fighting, but that he knew that the situation was terrible. He said that most of those with whom he talked believed that intervention by the United States was certain within the next thirty days.

It would be hard to imagine a more bedraggled looking lot of men, women, and children than were those who got here to-day. Many of them were scantily clad and some of them wore clothes that were full of holes as a result of the cross-country journeys they were compelled to make in order to get to places on railroads.