

POLES ATTACKED BY LITHUANIANS

Cavalry Outposts Driven from Two Towns on Territory In- vaded in Pursuit of Reds.

RUSSIAN RALLIES ALL FAIL

Machine Guns at Rear Said to Have Kept Bolsheviki in Line Dur- ing One Battle.

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By WALTER DURANTY.

PARIS, Sept. 5.—Lithuanians have attacked Polish cavalry outposts in some force and driven them from the towns of Seiny and Lipovo. This action was only to be expected.

All through last Summer, when the Poles, thanks to the support of France and other Allies against the Bolsheviki, had the most powerful army in the neighborhood, they persistently encroached on Lithuanian territory. Before they drove the Reds from Vilna, Lithuania's historic capital, and requisitioned the Lithuanian railroad system, the Poles declared they would restore it afterward to the Lithuanians. But they did not.

They managed to get the consent of the Supreme Council of Paris to their retaining the city on strategic grounds. The demarcation line was fixed just outside of it by Foch in July. The Poles everywhere pushed forward across this line, in some cases thirty kilometers deep, and Lithuanian protests to Paris were in vain. In the Autumn there were grave incidents, accompanied by bloodshed, at Seiny, which Poles violently occupied, maltreating and expelling the Lithuanian inhabitants, teachers and ministers of religion. Again the Lithuanian protest was ineffective.

The latest official dispatch from Warsaw declares that the Lithuanians have orders to march on Suwalki, which is not improbable, as it is a Lithuanian town and the Lithuanian army, though small, has been trained by American and British officers and is prepared to fight in defense of the country. The Polish message concludes:

"The Lithuanian Government of Kovno, which has largely profited by British generosity, is obviously operating under the influence of German suggestion and in agreement with the Bolsheviki."

This is evidently a piece of special pleading, meant to prejudice French opinion. Both the American and British Commissioners in the Baltic were impressed last year by the justice of the Lithuanian protests, as I indicated in a dispatch from Riga on the subject to THE NEW YORK TIMES at the beginning of December.

Poles Call Attack Unprovoked.

WARSAW, Sept. 4 (Associated Press).—An attack on Polish forces by the Lithuanians with machine guns and artillery in the region of Selny, thirty-five miles northwest of Grodno, is announced in Polish reports from the northern front. The reports declare the attack was unprovoked, and that the Lithuanians had received orders to occupy Augustowo.

Tonight's official communique asserts that the attack was in pursuance of an

understanding between the Lithuanians and the Russian Bolsheviki. The statement says the Lithuanians have crossed the Curzon line, the tentative Polish boundary drawn by the Allies, without declaring war.

It is also announced that the negotiations regarding the frontier and the future relations of Poland and Lithuania have been broken off and that the Polish delegates are returning to Warsaw. These delegates comprise a special mission which went to Kovno about a month ago to confer with the Lithuanians. It is said the Supreme Council has been informed that the Lithuanians propose a new line of demarkation running through Marggrabowa, Augustowo and Szuzyn.

It is understood the Lithuanian Government places the responsibility for the hostilities upon the Poles, asserting that the Lithuanians were compelled to defend themselves. The Poles, on the other hand, claim the Lithuanians opened fire first.

Advance Against Reds Continues.

With regard to the finding between the Polish and Russian Soviet forces, the statement announces that between Wlodowa and Dubienka, on the centre of the front, the Russians launched an attack with the intention of forcing a crossing of the Bug, but were repulsed. It is asserted that the Poles have learned that at Berzec the Russians were compelled to fight under the pressure of machine guns from the rear.

In the region of Belets, on the old Galician border southeast of Zamosc, the Poles are advancing and repeatedly breaking the Soviet resistance.

To the east of Lemberg the Poles have occupied the railway junction of Krasne (midway between Lemberg and Brody) after hard fighting.

Another detachment of anti-Bolshevist Russians left Warsaw today to join General Wrangel, the anti-Bolshevist commander in South Russia. The detachment is traveling by way of Rumania and the Danube. Eighteen thousand men have left Warsaw so far to take up arms with the Wrangel forces.

Wrangel Pressed by Bolsheviki.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Sept. 4.—The counter-offensive of General Wrangel, the anti-Bolshevist leader in Taurida Province, Crimea, has succeeded.

The Bolsheviki, however, are attacking with increased forces in the peninsula region, and also are pressing back Wrangel's troops from Ekaterinodar.

A Bolshevist mission has arrived in Angora. It includes the Tartar, Ivasoff, and Nouri Pasha, brother of Enver Pasha, the young Turk leader.

Advices received from Trebizond show that the Bolshevist propaganda is making headway slowly. Assurances have been given that the lives of Americans and their property will be respected. The Nationalists continue to enlist troops and to levy taxes and seize food.