

RIFFIANS MASS AGAINST FEZ.

Abd-El-Krim Moves His Forces With World War Strategy.

FEZ, July 9 (A). — Abd-el-Krim's "march on Fez" is being developed with an astonishing resemblance to the military science of the great war. Taza for the time being breathes again, thanks to French successes to the North, but Abd-el-Krim's tactics of filtering through in night war, winning over wavering tribes and terrorizing others, and all the time collecting supplies, indicate a studied plan. This has worked so well that the pressure of the Moors is becoming stronger, and they are expected to launch a straight drive for Fez.

Some of the tribes have joined the dissidents, but others, like those at Taza, remain unswervingly loyal. When the women and children were sent out of the city on the night of July 5 the tribesmen were asked to go also, to avoid the risks of a threatened siege, but they refused; they said if such a situation arose they all wished to be armed and help defend the city.

There is no siege as yet, but fierce fighting to the north and tribal defections constitute in reality a battle for Taza.

Even the tribes turning against the French display a certain nobility, the Branes particularly, after warring against disloyal tribes, were themselves won over, but first they brought back behind the French lines their war chief, Captain Meje, and then went over to the enemy, leaving Taza exposed on the east. These defections started first on the western front, but the movement has now reached the entire line.

Proof of the Riffian general staff's ability is seen in their comprehensive plan and detailed methods; there is never isolated action, there is a constant feeling of the pulse along the French front, seeking a weak place, and when it is found diversions are created elsewhere to occupy the troops.

The "filtering" method consists of a single Riffian regular stealing through between the French posts and reaching a tribal village at night, where adherence to Abd-el-Krim's war is urged upon the chief and tribesmen. If this emissary is unsuccessful he has only to await the coming of others the next night; they present arguments, gradually increasing the menace, and if words fail there is the assassination of the Caïd or other leader opposing the Riffian pressure, or, finally, when the filtering has brought through a strong group of the enemy there may be scenes of terrorism that are often effective in bringing the tribe into the enemy camp.

Before military action is taken anywhere Abd-el-Krim always tries to win the support of the tribes in that region, not only to open passage for his troops but to reinforce them with new dissidents. When the tribes know that the French are near by they resist, but when they are isolated they often listen to enemy suggestions.

Abd-el-Krim's tactics in early June threatened Ouezzan. He began by pillaging, to get provisions; then won over the tribes until the probability of a siege caused the women and children to be sent away. But when Abd-el-Krim's plan failed he was not discouraged; he began sapping the tribes elsewhere, until now the Beni Mesguida tribesmen may turn to him, uncovering Ouezzan to the south and exposing the road to Fez.