

tack from the bandits momentarily. However, his household was not molested.

Between 9 and 10 o'clock Mickey Welsh, the mail driver between Candelaria and Valentine, drove up in a hack. He had two Mexican passengers. They were shot dead, and he was captured. The bandits took the poor fellow into the store, hanged him up with a rope, and cut his throat, wiping their bloody knives on his clothing.

It was to have been a happy day of feasting at the ranch. The Reverend H. M. Bandy and his wife and Miss Lovie Neill, of Marfa, and Miss Lela Weatherby, of Fort Davis, were expected at any minute in an automobile. The occupants of the house were hoping that they would be delayed or that something would prevent their coming, because they felt sure that the bandits would kill them the moment they appeared. Presently they were seen approaching the ranch. Just then one of the Mexican boys employed by Van Neill came into the room, and Van with remarkable presence of mind and a knowledge of Mexican character sent this boy to tell the bandits that the car coming was bringing a minister. They then sent back word that they would allow "The Padre" to enter the house, but no one would be allowed to leave.

Mr. Bandy drove up, little realizing what was taking place. The Mexican boy ran to the car, opened the curtain, and exclaimed, "Quick, run to the house."

All rushed into the house and Sam Neill said, "Those Mexicans out there are bandits and we have been fighting them for hours."

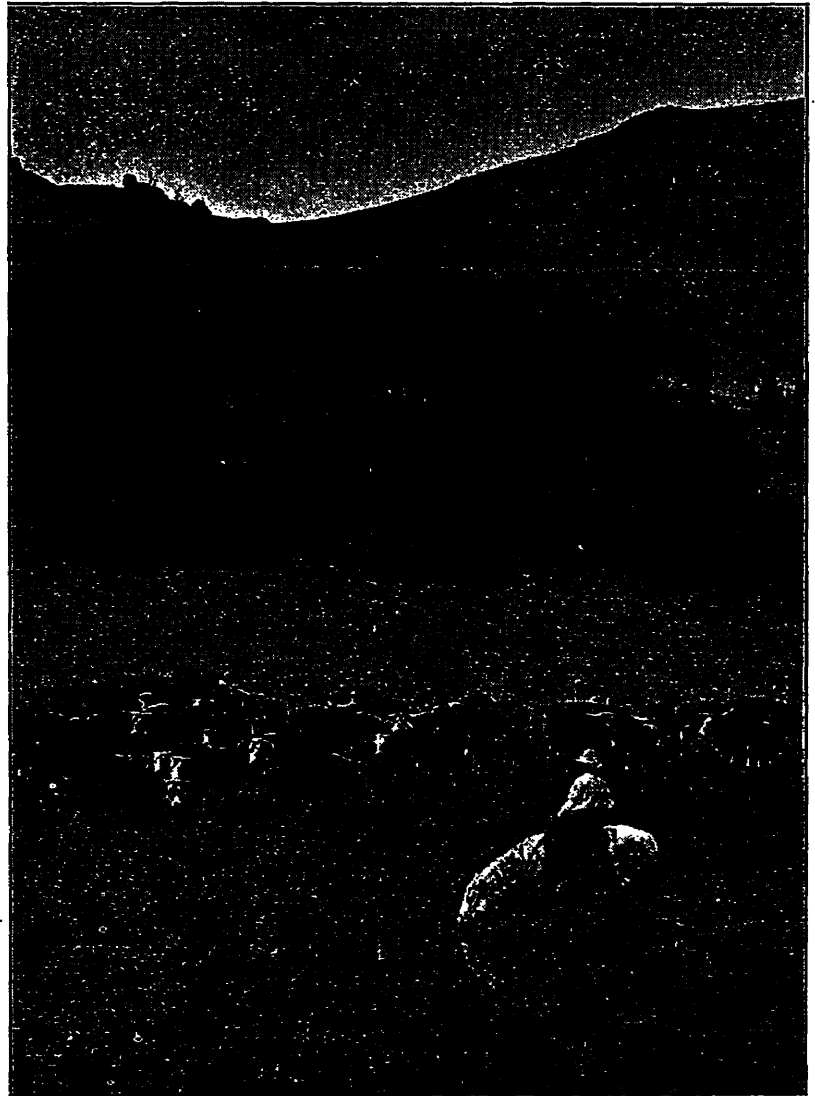
Mrs. Neill requested the minister to offer prayer. They knelt and a prayer was given for protection. Believing that prayer should be backed by all a man can do in a material way, Mr. Bandy grabbed a rifle and took his stand at a window.

For three hours the men waited, expecting an attack at any moment, for they had no confidence in the promise of the bandits and believed that as soon as they finished looting the store they would at least

fire a volley into the house before riding away.

Mr. James L. Cobb, who lived a mile and a half from the store and out of sight, heard firing and went forward to the ranch. On reaching a point within a few hundred yards of the store, he saw so many Mexicans about the premises that he realized what was happening and took his family to the Brite ranch house in the Kennersley pasture twelve miles distant, which was occupied by the family of Doc Gourley, and telephoned to Mr. Brite at Marfa.

On receiving the message from Mr. Cobb, Mr. Brite immediately telephoned the Army Camp. Colonel Langhorne, commander of the Eighth Cavalry, ordered his men to be ready as soon as transportation could be provided. Mr. Brite, having notified his friends, soon had several automobiles in readiness, which were loaded with soldiers and armed civil-



CATTLE SCENE IN THE MOUNTAINS