

# **SOLDIERS BURN BUILDING WHERE COMRADE WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN WOUNDED**

Following Disappearance of Popular Trooper Holmes, His Friends Broke Out of Bounds and Fired the Building Where Rumor Said He Had Been Taken After Being Wounded by Foreigners—Military Authorities Failed to Convince Men That Holmes Was Safe—Such Proof Would Have Averted the Trouble.

Believing that one of their comrades had been the victim of foul play, a number of soldiers were responsible for the burning of a house north of the C.P.R. track last night. One house was gutted and an unsuccessful attempt made to fire another one. At midnight a second call was answered by the fire department, but again the attempt to fire a small building was unsuccessful. The soldiers have not seen their comrade since he was roughly handled by foreigners on Tuesday night. At that time a number of other soldiers were roughly handled, hence the trouble of the past two nights.

Some of the soldiers positively state their belief that the missing man has met with foul play. He has not been seen, although diligent search has been made both by the military and city police. The missing man is Holmes, of Virden and he was so popular that his friends vow action until he is located. They point out that if he had gone home it would have become known, or that if he had deserted his clothes would have been located. They also state that he was of an altogether different disposition to the man who would back out of an affair without notifying some of them. The soldiers were also incensed by the news that he was last seen at a certain house near where serious trouble had been experienced with foreigners.

#### House Gutted

The commanding officers had placed all the area north of the C.P.R. out of bounds. A strong picket was

on duty, but the men were too incensed and demanded action. They and all the citizens have been annoyed of late by numbers of foreigners making seditious remarks and behaving in an attitude extremely offensive to men wearing the King's uniform. Acting as one man, they swept aside the picket and set fire to the place. The Austrians who had been living there were driven out before the fire commenced.

The fire department received the call at 9:15 and when they got there the place was burning furiously. A huge crowd had assembled and all the soldiers in the vicinity were rounded up, being made to place their caps in a heap so as to avoid their getting away. The crowd was cheering for the soldiers and "Tipperary" was sung with gusto as the men were marched away under a strong guard. In fifteen minutes the flames had been subdued by the chief's chemical and one small hose, not before the house had been gutted.

While the fire was being attended to, another call was received to the fair grounds, but this proved a false alarm.

At 12:33 a.m. the department received a third call to No 247 Twelfth street north, where a fire had started under the lean-to of a small house. The place was filled with furniture but had been unoccupied for some time. The origin in this case was also suspicious, but the brigade put out the fire before any appreciable damage could be done. This place was owned by Fred Patrola.