

CALGARY RIOT

DAMAGE HEAVY

Soldiers Wreck Two Restaurants and a Dancing Academy

POLICEMEN LOOK ON, POWERLESS

Girl Cashier and Constable Hurt as Crowd Charges

Canadian Press Despatch.

Calgary, Alta., Feb. 11.—A mob of several hundred soldiers completely wrecked the White Lunch Restaurant on Eighth Avenue east last night, following up the work of destruction by wrecking the premises of the same concern on Ninth avenue.

A rumor that the manager had dismissed returned soldiers who had been hired as waiters and had replaced them with Germans, was the cause of the attack.

The place was owned by the White Lunch Company, and F. H. Naegel is the manager. Mr. Naegel denied that he had dismissed any returned soldiers, or that he had hired any Germans, but said that he had occasion to dismiss a man who had at one time been a soldier, but was not now with the overseas forces. He declared that the affair was the result of conspiracy.

Disregard Police.

Soon after nine o'clock about five hundred soldiers, from four battalions stationed here, marched in a body down Ninth Avenue to the White Lunch.

Mr. Naegel had been warned of impending trouble and had notified both the police and military authorities.

Chief of Police Cuddy, half a dozen constables and plain clothes men hurried to the place. All customers were sent out and the doors locked. When the soldiers arrived the chief asked them to disperse and not to behave in an unlawful manner. He was disregarded and as a preliminary a shower of missiles went crashing through the big plate glass windows. A woman cashier, trying to save some plants, was slightly hurt, and Police Constable Fraser so badly cut by flying glass that he had to go to the hospital.

Police Swept Aside.

The policemen were swept aside like chips in a gale and for an hour the mob did its will with the place. The crowd was increased to two thousand and the officers were helpless. The furniture, fixtures and cooking apparatus were smashed to fragments. Marble counters and stands looked as though artillery shells had exploded. A cash register was ripped open and looted. Coffee urns and gas stoves were torn from their places. Electric fixtures were pulled down. The street outside was littered with wreckage. The safe was thrown down stairs into the basement, breaking the stairs.

The fire department was called out, but could do nothing but look on while the surging mob of shouting men in khaki, with a number of civilians, wrecked the restaurant.

Flags Torn Down.

Mackinnon's dancing academy on the second floor was not spared. Civilians were mostly in evidence here, as, it is said, it was not the intention of the soldiers to attack the academy. The windows were smashed and the furniture demolished and thrown out of the windows. British flags displayed on the walls were torn down and destroyed. One of the employes put another flag at a window, but that was torn down and thrown into the street.

A second division of the mob visited the other restaurant owned by the White Lunch Company on Ninth Avenue and treated it in a similar manner. The cashier and waiter bolted for safety and in a twinkling the interior of the place looked like a building "Somewhere in Ypres."

Street car traffic was held up for a long time. It was two hours before the mob wearied of its work, and the police gained control of the situation. No arrests have been made.

Inquiry to Be Made.

General Cruickshanks, commanding military district 13, says that an investigation will be held.

No military guards were sent to the scene until after the damage had been done, and these were not armed. General Cruickshanks said that it had been verbally reported to him by Mr. Naegel that there might be trouble, but that he had told him to put it in writing. He had received no written notification, however.

Throughout the whole affair there was no public excitement and no other establishment was attacked. The soldiers devoted their entire attention to the two restaurants. The damage is estimated at \$8,000.