

TWO SUSPECTS DISCHARGED

No Evidence Adduced to Show They Were Guilty.—Berlin Chief of Police Gives Them a Good Clean Record.

Considerable public interest and concern was aroused in the case of two young men from Galt or Preston or Berlin who struck town a few days ago registering first at the Copeland House, then at the Albion, and finally were haled into the police court by the military authorities charged with the serious offence of being found by night without lawful excuse on the premises of the Thomas Pink Company.

They were given a preliminary hearing on the morning of March 14, after having been brought back from Carleton Place, and were remanded to Tuesday, Mar. 21st.

The hearing of the case took place at the County Court House under Police Magistrate J. C. Stewart. Crown Attorney J. H. Burritt looked after the crown interest; while the prisoners were defended by W. H. Williams, K.C.

Mr. Williams in taking their case said he wanted them to get a fair and just trial but if they were guilty, none would be more anxious to see them punished than he.

Several witnesses were called, from the guard who fired the first shot at somebody, to the dining room girl at the Albion Hotel.

There was not a tittle of direct evidence to show that they were the culprits and a person would require a very vivid imagination indeed to chage that there was any indirect evidence that pointed—suspectly—their way.

Mr. Butler, proprietor of the Albion, swore that they occupied room No. 6 and that on Sunday evening they retired to their room before he went to his which was No. 5, just across the hallway. He said that they were not out of their room that night and they left orders to be called in time to get away on the morning local C.P.R. train.

Nothing suspicious in any way was found in their baggage and nobody was prepared to give any manner of evidence connecting them with the man that guard Rosetti said he fired at. Rosetti himself could not say that one of them was the man he fired at, the nearest he could say was that the man he fider at looked like one of the defendants in size and build.

The crown attorney was very fair in his presentation of the crown's case and stated to the magistrate that he did not believe that these men should be sent up for trial on the evidence submitted.

The magistrate in summing up the evidence said he did not find anything that in his opinion would warrant him in further detaining these men and he consequently discharged them.

The crown attorney then took occasion to read a letter from the chief of police at Berlin to whom he had written for information relative to the defendants. The chief gave them as good a testimonial as the average citizen could wish for.

It is rather unfortunate for them that they were placed in this disagreeable position, but after all our military and our police authorities are not to be blamed for taking every precaution to protect our community interests.

Spies are abroad everywhere and have done and will do more damage, so its up to our officers to be on the alert.

Every stranger going about these days should be able to give a good and satisfactory account of himself or else be placed where he can do no harm.

Our motto should be "Safety First."