

MYSTERY IN FIRE IN INTERNMENT CAMP

Vernon Hears of Suspicious
Blazes, Suggesting Attempts
at Freedom—Nothing to
It, Says Major Clarke

VERNON, B. C., June 14.—Rumors of an attempted break for freedom by the several hundred German and Austrian prisoners interned in the old provincial jail on the edge of the town, are being discussed in Vernon. These reports seemed to have been based on two or three fires which are said to have occurred in the internment camp within the past few days.

Major Clarke says there is no foundation for these reports. On Saturday, he stated, the third fire started. Previously two fires are reported to have occurred in the brick building, which, with its comfortable rooms, its own heating plant and its barred windows, houses prisoners of a higher degree than those who dwell in the log wooden buildings, erected for the purpose.

Courts of enquiry are said to have failed to trace the origin of the fires.

Two Germans were bayoneted ten days ago and there are reports of another being shot at the Monashee mine, when he refused to continue with his work.

The internment camp is under the command of Major Clarke. The guard is supplied by the 30th Squadron of the B. C. Horse. In connection with the reports of the fires it is said they started where there was no need of fire. The heating plant, kitchen and laundry, are in the basement.