

REIGN OF TERROR IN CALGARY CITY, SOLDIERS ATTACK RIVERSIDE HOTEL

Building Thought Owned by German Completely Wrecked—Bar Was Raided—Colonel Was as Powerless as Were Police.

INTOXICATED CIVILIANS INDULGED IN WILD ORGY

Only Posting of Strong Armed Pickets Prevented Raiding of Rathskeller, Pallisser Hotel and Calgary Brewery.

By Canadian Press.

Calgary, Alta., Feb. 12.—Another riotous outbreak on the part of soldiers belonging to the garrison here occurred last night, and for two hours the authorities, police and militia were powerless to cope with the mob.

Riverside Hotel, a two storey brick and frame structure in the Riverside division, north of the Bow river, was attacked by a crowd of about 500 soldiers and civilians and thoroughly wrecked. The windows were smashed frames and all, and most of the furniture pitched out into the snow where it was broken to bits by the shouting crowd.

Reduced to Shell.

The bar was raided, and the stock passed among the crowd of rioters, which speedily grew to about 2,000 strong, at least half being civilians, and under the influence of the liquor an orgy of wild destruction followed. The building was reduced to a mere shell.

Lieut.-Col. Armstrong, commanding the 56th battalion, one of the most popular officers of the garrison, was rushed to the spot in an automobile and, standing on the hotel steps, begged the men to desist. A few came to his side, but the main rush swept him aside. A number of other officers were on hand, but they were helpless, as were the city police, who could only look on.

Hotel Cordoned Off.

The military headquarters collected every possible reserve, and finally pickets were marched to the spot and the hotel cordoned off.

In the meantime the mob, many of its members by this time under the influence of liquor, marched uptown again and along Eighth avenue with the avowed intention of attacking Cronn's Rathskeller and Kolb's restaurant.

Strong pickets had been thrown about both places, and they were saved. It was also rumored that the Palliser Hotel, the big C. P. R. hotel, was to be "cleaned out," but a heavy guard prevented any approach.

Guards Were Armed.

Still another report was that the premises of the Calgary Brewing Co., in East Calgary, was to be attacked, and a couple of hundred men, armed with rifles, were hurried in special street cars to the district. There was no disturbance, however, the small crowd which gathered around the brewery making no demonstration.

By midnight it was apparent that the authorities had the situation in hand and the crowds began to melt away.

All the threatened places are under guard.

The only motive for the attack on the hotel was the belief that it was owned by a German. It was, in fact, owned by an Englishman, who purchased it from the former owner, John Kiser, some time ago. The landlord is Joseph Rioux, a native-born French-Canadian.

Aliens the Cause.

Cronn's Rathskeller was marked for attack because the proprietors are Austrians. A big illuminated sign, "Rathskeller," that was particularly offensive to the soldiers, was taken down yesterday afternoon.

It was rumored that Kolb's restaurant was employing German help and the name was objectionable.

The complaint against the Palliser, and the brewery was that Austrians were being employed.

Mayor Costello has called a meeting of the city council in the morning to discuss the situation. It is understood that the men in the garrison will be confined to barracks this morning.