

SOLDIERS NOT IMPLICATED

Col. Bickford States Only 18 Men Absent From Hospi- tals Saturday Night

BLAMES ALIEN ENEMIES

They Incite Riots and Then Loot Freely When Trouble Starts

Investigations conducted by Col. H. C. Bickford, Officer Commanding this military district, into the disturbances on Friday and Saturday evenings tend to show that the great majority of men implicated in the lawlessness were civilians. The officer commanding had received reports yesterday from all the commanding officers of the various hospitals, and these showed that the confining the soldiers to barracks had been well carried out. On Friday night there were only thirty-seven patients absent from the hospitals and on Saturday night there were only eighteen. The investigation which Col. Bickford is making has not yet been completed as he had not yesterday received a report from the Provost Marshal, E. F. Osler.

The investigation so far has brought to light the fact that it was a returned man who had been discharged from the service altogether that precipitated the original trouble.

Soldiers Disapprove.

As far as the soldiers are concerned no further trouble is anticipated. As far as Col. Bickford has been able to ascertain the majority of the men at the hospitals entirely disapprove of the lawlessness and very few men were mixed up in it. The soldiers who participated are said to have been mostly discharged men.

"We will look after our men if the civil police will look after the civilians," said Col. Bickford yesterday. He pointed out that the military training which the soldiers received was not adapted to handling mobs. It was not, he said, advisable to use the military when civil police were able to cope with the situation, and he went on to point out the seriousness likely to result if soldiers had to deal with the unruly mob.

Nevertheless it is the intention of the military authorities, according to Col. Bickford, to see that order is maintained. It is his intention to back up the civil powers and to extend any assistance that may be necessary. The military were ready yesterday as on Sunday night to answer any hurry call from the civil authorities.

Alien Enemies Stir up Trouble.

It was the opinion of Col. Bickford following his investigation that the trouble had been largely stirred up by alien enemies. These men were out for loot and were ready to seize on the returned soldiers to make an excuse for their lawlessness.

"There is absolute co-operation between the civil and military authorities for the preservation of order," commented Col. Bickford.

An appeal from Col. Bickford to the soldiers under his command for discipline was read on all parades on Sunday. The appeal which the various commanding officers read at the camps and hospitals was as follows:

Col. Bickford's Appeal.

Lawlessness against civil property is to be avoided.

Soldiers will be reminded that the principles for which they fought are at stake, and they will use every endeavor to dissuade their comrades from embarking in any such enterprises.

Failure to obey the civil law will result in hardships being necessarily inflicted on others who are innocent.

Alien enemies will take every advantage of the returned soldier to sow the seeds of discord and do damage to civil property.

Soldiers who may have grievances are reminded that these alien enemies will use them as their tools on every possible occasion and continue damage beyond all reason where once the soldier has been the instigator.

Soldiers are therefore requested to beware of alien enemies and not to become involved in any manner in unlawful assemblies.

Any soldier caught violating the civil law will be severely punished.