

POLICE HEADS FALL AS RESULT OF PROBE

Inspectors Mulhall and Verney
From Service
by Board.

In a "resolution" filling twenty-one



sheets of type-written paper, the Board of Police Commissioners has issued its findings on the riots which occurred in Toronto in August last. The net result of the investigation is as follows:

The board found

Patrol Sgt. Curry that the police failed "in a sense," to protect property on the first night of the riots, but also points out that this failure was largely due to the understanding that the military authorities were to be responsible for maintaining order among men in uniform.

Inspector John Mulhall and Patrol Sergeant Henry J. Curry are retired at once.

Inspector Verney is retired on January 1, next.

P. C. Gordon Ellis is "advised" to secure some employment "more suited to his capabilities."

The following are promoted—Sergt. Snyder, to be Inspector; Patrol Sergt. R. Anderson, to be Sergeant; Patrol Sergt. Hobson to be sergeant; Acting-Detective Stewart to be full Detective, and P. C. Chas. Peacock to be Patrol Sergeant.

Merit Marks are awarded to Constables Chas. W. Scott, Wm. J. Tate, Cecil Foster, Frank Marocco, Chas. W. Johnston, Robt. Hyndman and Herbert J. House.

After outlining the circumstances which led up to the investigation, and referring to the number of sittings held and the witnesses called, the report then deals specifically with the attack on the White City Cafe. The report continues:

"At this time the police had only 73 men on the streets, throughout the whole of the city, which contains a territory of 32 square miles and 530 miles of streets, and the first intimation that they had of any riot being contemplated was about a quarter to 6 p.m. The place was attacked at 6 or 6.15 p.m. and it was all over at a quarter to seven. The riots ceased at that time, and no further rioting took place until 10 p.m., when the White Star was wrecked, and then the Marathon about 11 p.m. and then in close succession the Colonial, Vendome, Palace, New London, Alexandria and Sunnyside Cafe."

Inspectors Commended.

Sergt Snyder comes in for considerable commendation as a result of his action at the Colonial Cafe, where he was "hit in the eye and had his face disfigured, losing his helmet for ten minutes." Both he and Inspector Tripp "deserve credit" for their action in preventing looting at this place.

The inaction of Inspector Mulhall, during the attack on the Sunnyside Cafe, is severely scored. The report reads:

"At this point, while there were a number of soldiers inside of the restaurant, breaking and smashing things and looting it, there was a number of police, at least 25, outside, sufficient to have prevented this outrage, but instead of doing so, they were totally inactive, and although it was suggested to Inspector Mulhall by one of their own number that they should act, nothing was done; the men apparently waiting for orders from their officers, which never came. Inspector Mulhall, being asked why he did not interfere, stated that it was dangerous.

"As compared with this, the action of Acting Detective Stewart shows to great advantage. Shortly thereafter the crowd dispersed.

Inspector Verney Scored.

"In connection with this raid on the Sunnyside Cafe, the evidence shows that rumors were received at No. 6 Station as early as half-past seven on the 2nd of August that there was a riot going on. At ten minutes to eleven a report from the operator was received to hold men going off duty in reserve, and this report was transmitted to Inspector Verney at his house, three miles distant, at 1.35 in the morning. The inspector stated that at twenty minutes to 2 a.m. Patrol Sergt. Egan called him up, stating that returned soldiers had run amuck down town, and had sacked some Greek cafes, and that they had just gone west, passing the station in autos, with the police in pursuit. 'I did not leave my quarters, as I thought I would not be able to over-



INSPECTOR JAS. VERNEY,

take them to be of any service.' He stated that he did not know of the previous rumors or that any damage was done until the next morning."

Reference is then made to the arrangement between the police and military, "whereby it was understood that the police should show the utmost consideration for all returned soldiers, especially those wounded," and that the Provost Marshal "should picket the streets and arrest their own men and have offenders punished." The report continues:

Called on Military.

"On the commencement of the riots, the acting chief, Inspector Dickson, applied for assistance to the military authorities, believing that this agreement would be carried out, as it had been from 1916 to the present time, but he was informed that they would not do anything unless the Riot Act was read, and instead of sending military police they sent down about 100 soldiers armed with rifles and bayonets and 25 rounds of ball ammunition, and asked to have a magistrate with them to read the Riot Act. This offer was not accepted by the police authorities, but the police undertook to deal with the crowds the next day without any assistance from the military, feeling that they had better endeavor to handle the crowds themselves, rather than have the soldiers called upon to fire down the streets of Toronto with ball cartridge."

Censure For Police.

After referring to the nature of the attacks on the police by civilians and returned soldiers, the report continues:

"The evidence of Mr. W. C. Miller, secretary of the Retail Merchants' Association, showed that it would have been suicidal for the police to have acted differently than they did at any one of the places mentioned except at Sunnyside, the police being in such small numbers and the rioters being so violent and in such strength. The board is of the opinion as to Sunnyside, however, that the police should have acted differently and with more spirit and determination, and it is a matter of regret to the board that the police force at that point should have so thoroughly failed in their duty. This they attribute to the lack of energy and initiative on the part of the officers, and perhaps to a misunderstanding as to the real meaning of the arrangement between the military and the police made in 1916, and acted upon for a couple of years."

"The board draws attention to the fact that after the first night's rioting the mobs were held in check and no further damage was done or loss sustained by the citizens."

A large part of the report is devoted to the case of Pte. Mason Button, who claimed he was struck by three policemen while passing from the corner of Yonge and College streets to the hospital. Pte. Button's evidence is given very fully, as is that of other witnesses.

Inciting the Rioters.

"The evidence of Sergt. Reeves showed that while he and Sergt. Craig and P. C. Anderson were walking up Yonge street on the west side of Buchanan street they caught up to two or three soldiers, one of whom was Button. Button was using very strong language, and the sergeant said to them, 'We don't want to interfere with you men at all; leave the street for half an hour while we get rid of the crowd,' and Button replied, 'You go to hell. I will put a bullet through you, you——'"

Other evidence was reproduced, indicating that Pte. Button had taken an active part, as far as he was able, to incite the rioters to attack the police. The report concludes, on this point:

"The evidence of Major Nailley and the others would indicate that Button was struck while sitting on the bench and afterwards injured his head when he fell down, being pushed by the crowd that was passing by at the time, as he had no cuts on his head and no bleeding, only two or three swellings."

Who Struck Col. Hunter?

Dealing with the case of Lieut.-Col. Hunter, the report reads:

"All attempts at ascertaining who struck Col. Hunter were met by evidence to show that he was not struck by any policeman who admitted doing so. Previous to his being first struck, there were stones and missiles thrown at the police from side streets, and they were instructed to clear Yonge street. The evidence with reference to Col. Hunter does show that a number of policemen were clearing the streets where there was rioting and mobs, and in all probability Col. Hunter was struck in that raid. In spite of every effort, by calling all the witnesses, the board regrets that it was impossible to find out who struck him."

The board is of the opinion that the evidence was not sufficiently strong to establish the claim of Mr. E. A. Wood that P. C. Hamilton was the officer who struck him. Many stones were being thrown at the police at the time, as they were clearing the street.

Police-Sergt. Curry is held responsible for striking Joseph Dwan, while P. C. Ellis is censured in connec-

tion with the attack on Robert Part-
ridge, who was struck on the face.
Referring to Ellis, the report reads:

"The board was not satisfied
with the hesitating and shifty man-
ner in which P. C. Ellis gave his evi-
dence, and he does not appear to be
a man of sufficient intelligence to
occupy a position on the police
force."

Dealing with the cause of the riot,
the report refers to the trouble be-
tween a returned soldier and a waiter
in the White City Cafe. This is
given as the immediate cause for the
attack on that place.

"Behind that, however," continues
the report, "there is plenty of evi-
dence to show that there was a
strong feeling against foreigners.
One of the resolutions passed by a
company of the Great War Veter-
ans on February 11, 1917, is as
follows: 'That a committee be ap-
pointed at once to approach any
employer of labor in Toronto who
is employing Germans and Austrians
on munitions and request that all
such alien enemies be dismissed. If
this is refused, that direct action be
taken to expel such aliens by
force.'"

Added to this was the sympathy
of the citizens with the veterans.

Censure and Praise.

In conclusion, the report refers
to the charge made by Mr. H. H.
Dewart that the police failed to pro-
tect property. The Commissioners
found, on this point, that the charge,
in a sense, has been justified by
the evidence as to what occurred
on the first day, but that the cause
of such failure was largely owing
to the understanding between the
military and the police and the Board
having given instructions to the po-
lice to treat returned soldiers
with every kindness, leniency, and
consideration."

The unexpectedness of the at-
tacks on the first night, however,
is also recognized as a factor. The
following night, when the police
were out in force, the Board finds
that they did their duty, and that
"It was much better to have had
the riot put down in that way than
to have called on the military to
come out with rifles and ball am-
munition to fire upon citizens,
and although some few citizens
were hurt, that the general result
was infinitely better than, if the
Board had taken the offer of the
military authorities and given them
the power of acting."



INSPECTOR J. MULHALL,

who has been censured by Police
Board for failure of duty during raid
on Sunnyside Cafe.