

OFFICIALS CLASH OVER FERNIE TROUBLE

Fernie, B.C., June 20.—(Special to The Herald.)—Everything pertaining to the internment camp and its occupants has been ultra quiet for the last two or three days, the internees behaving themselves in perfect submission to the orders of the officers in charge and receiving good and civil treatment. The habeas corpus proceedings are going along in the regulation legal grooves, and a hearing is set for tomorrow at Vancouver before Mr. Justice Macdonald.

The statement in a Friday's news-sheet that 365 soldiers under command of Major Mason at Calgary were being held under waiting orders to come to Fernie, created a ripple of excitement here, but none of the officials would say anything regarding it.

Authorities Clash

That there is some confusion between the Dominion and provincial authorities over the action taken here, when all alien enemies not married were interned, is evident, but to what extent this exists is mere speculation. By some it is thought that the Dominion officials have refused responsibility for the actions of the provincial officers and advised the release of the 325 men in the detention camp, a step for which the provincial authorities will not take the responsibility.

It is evident that action is being deferred until the result of the legal action has been made known; and it is equally evident here that such action, if it results in freeing the applicants

under the habeas corpus writ, will cause much opposition to be indulged in by those who were the instigators of the internment.

The action taken by the Coleman miners, and the return to work of a large number of the miners at Hillcrest, may prove to be a quieting factor here, and if the writ asked for, be granted, it is a probability that the feeling here will cool down, and no violence result.

Fair Wage Officer McNiven returned to town last night, after a trip which took him as far east as Viriden, Man. He spent a day at Hillcrest, and stopped between trains at Coleman. He is quite optimistic as to the outcome of the movement, although he admits that the situation is not at all free from difficulties.

It is thought here by some that the reported action of the Dominion authorities re the soldiers at Calgary, is a counter to the contention of the provincial authorities, who have represented that the two companies of militia here, being unarmed and the local police force being unable to cope with the threatened conditions. It would be inadvisable to turn the 325 interned men loose while the temper of the men who insisted upon the internment is so threatening. Such a solution of the matter, while very improbable, still might be a factor in the problem to be solved, and the action of the court at Vancouver is awaited with much interest.

An auto load of friends of the interned men drove down today from Michel, and distributed cigarettes and tobacco to them. The prisoners have an accordion, a flute and a melodeon and keep them going all the time. "A Long, Long Way to Tipperary" is a favorite, judging by the frequency of its rendition.

The weather remains cool, thus favoring the men under the iron roof.