

SOLDIERS THREATEN TO SMASH PRINTING PLANT

CUT NAME OF GERMAN PAPER FROM WINDOW.

For a time on Monday evening it looked as though Pembroke was about to experience something along the line of the anti-German rioting which took place recently in western Canada centres. The office of the German Post here was the object of attack, a number of soldiers from Petawawa camp taking offence at the signs displayed on the window and other places outside the office premises, which are located in the Demers block, opposite the Grand Opera House.

That evening there were quite a number of soldiers in town and they were drawn to the vicinity by the playing of the band in front of the opera house. At once they were attracted by the name of the paper on the window and took objection to the fact being proclaimed in such a manner that a German paper was being published in Pembroke. The demonstration was not long in gaining momentum and people quickly gathered around with the dozen or more soldiers, among whom were a number of non-commissioned officers, as the central attraction.

They declared their intention of removing the signs, and with a knife they quickly cut off the name "German Post" from the sign on the window. The police came along, but just then were unable to do anything and the soldiers, not having a ladder, could not take down the painted sign, "Deutsche Post," from above the window.

One of them, a soldier who had seen service in the present war and had been invalided home, then made an impassioned recruiting speech to an audience of about three hundred people, in which he told something of his own experiences and his determination to go back again to help the boys in the trenches. He made a forcible appeal to the young men to enlist and advised the ladies to have nothing to do with any young man who would tolerate such an institution as a German paper in Pembroke. He expressed some very strong opinions about Germans generally, not excepting those in Canada, and issued an ultimatum that unless the publisher closed his doors by the 15th inst. the plant would be put out of commission. Some of the speaker's remarks were cheered by a portion of the crowd, while undoubtedly many others disapproved of the tactics adopted by the soldiers. It looked for a time as though serious consequences would follow, but the arrival of the police probably cooled the ardour of the soldiers and after the speech-making was concluded their motor truck arrived and they departed for the camp, declaring that more would be heard of the matter.

On Tuesday Mayor Behan had a conference with Lieut.-Col. Ogilvie, camp commandant, regarding this matter and the conditions in town generally, the Mayor being determined that order must be maintained in town and that soldiers must not cause disturbances any more than civilians. The local officials are very desirous that there should be no friction between the civil and military authorities, and Col. Ogilvie of course is equally anxious that anything in the nature of friction or disorder should be avoided. Accordingly, if it is found necessary, steps will be taken by the camp officials to co-operate with the town authorities to this end.

It may be stated that several times during the stay of No. 1 Tunnelling Co. here last fall threats were made that they would smash up the Post office, and the men were quite free in expressing their indignation that a publication printed in the German language should be circulated here. It must be admitted that among the citizens there has been a very strong feeling on the part of many against the continuance of the paper in war time, while many others sympathize with the publisher in the embarrassing position in which he has been placed by the war. The paper has been published here for the past ten years, and the business was established with a view to furnishing a newspaper with a local flavor, printed in their own language, for the large German population in this county. To print in English would of course mean that it would be of no value to those of our German citizens who can read only in their own language and it would quickly be forced out of existence. Since war broke out the publisher has therefore found himself in the position of having to continue in the German language or taking the only other alternative, which would be to go out of business altogether.

Speaking with The Observer yesterday, Mr. Christiansen, the publisher, said that he did not know the signs were objectionable to the public, and stated that had anyone in authority come to him and asked that they be removed he would gladly have complied with such a request. He feels himself in a painful position, and regrets very much the action of the soldiers. Feeling that he is engaged in a legitimate

business, and, having no connection with present events in Europe, he nevertheless readily understands the prevalent antipathy to things German, and in order to remove any temptation to further disorder has to-day removed the objectionable signs.