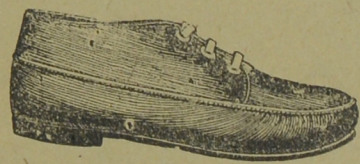


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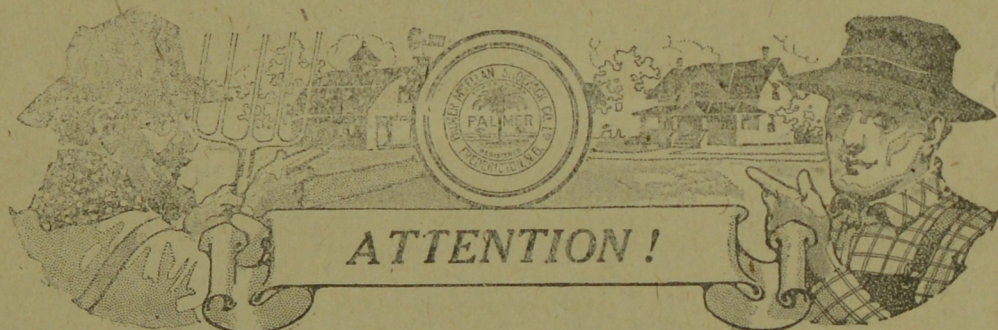
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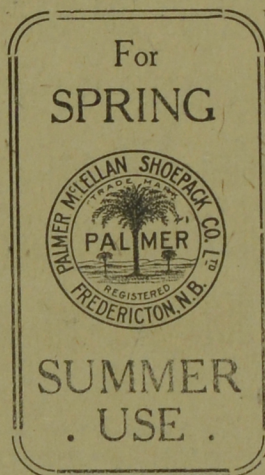
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JOHN PALMER, Manager.

HEAVY DAMAGE IN ANTI-GERMAN RIOT AT VICTORIA B. C.

Victoria, May 14—Damage variously estimated at from twenty to twenty-five thousand dollars was done in a riot on Saturday night, during the course of which a mixed crowd of soldiers and civilians virtually sacked the Blanchard Hotel, formerly the Kaiserhof, at the corner of Blanchard and Johnson streets, broke into the premises formerly occupied by the local German club, smashed the windows, the wholesale premises of Messrs. Simon Leiser & Co., and Mr. Moses Lenz on Yates street, looting large quantities of the contents and did likewise to the wholesale premises formerly managed by Carl Lowenberg, ex-German consul here.

CLAIM FOR DAMAGES MADE.

As a result of the damage done threats of actions against the city were made by parties interested in the wrecked premises. Mayor Stewart will demand an investigation, while the participation of a number of soldiers in the rioting will call for military inquiry. The damage done at the Blanchard Hotel, the proprietor of which is Mr. Kestenbader, a German-born, but now naturalized British subject, was such that the place looked as if a cyclone had struck it.

All the plate glass windows on the ground floor were completely smashed the heavy leaded lights above swept away and few of the windows of the upstairs rooms escaped. The bar fixtures and contents were smashed to atoms and thrown into the street, while the upstairs rooms were sacked and furniture, bedding, etc., hurled through the windows into the street below or tumbled down the stairs.

Police and an early detail of soldiers sent in from the Willows Camp appeared powerless to stop the mob, and while they stood idle on the sidewalk without, the work of destruction went merrily on within. It was midnight before an armed detail from the Willows Camp, under command of Colonel Holmes, arrived at lower Yates street, where the destruction was then in progress, and a stop was put to the rioting.

RUMORED CELEBRATION CAUSE.

What started the crowd on its mission of destruction does not appear certain. The rumor got about that some of the local Germans had celebrated the sinking of the Lusitania as a German victory. The rumor spread and shortly before eight o'clock a crowd of soldiers gathered in the Blanchard Hotel bar. They demanded of the bar-tender that the Union Jack be displayed and as potatoes increased the demands on the part of the crowd grew louder.

It did not require much to lead the ideas of the crowd into a destructive vein, but little damage was done at that time, the crowd contenting itself with climbing onto the bar and singing patriotic songs, some attempting to scrape from the walls the mpttos to which they took exception. Three soldiers climbed the fire escape to the roof and swung two Union Jacks from the flagstaff. Beyond the smashing of one of the plate glass windows the damage done at that time was small.

In the meantime a large crowd had collected around the hotel and many members of it joined in the street procession, formed when the soldiers and others inside came out and started down the street.

GERMAN CLUB STRIPPED.

In an instant the stairway to the club upstairs was packed, the door burst open and a scramble followed by those outside as pictures, furniture, a cash register and scores of other articles crashed through the windows. Everything was stripped from the place and furniture too large to be conveniently shoved through the windows was smashed and the parts cast into the street.

No sooner had the club premises been wrecked than the cry "Back to the Kaiserhof" started the rioters on their most serious work of the evening, headed by two large portraits of His Majesty King George, which had been secured. Arriving at the hotel, the rioters thronged the place and the crash of glassware and the noise of furniture hurled downstairs was echoed by the shouts of encouragement from outside.

The roadway was packed with a curious crowd, which had gathered as reports of the previous doings circulated in the downtown section. There must have been at least three thousand persons in the street and for an hour the wrecking of the hotel continued. Soldiers climbed to the roof of adjoining premises and, busting through the windows, hauled out bedding, etc., and threw it into the vacant lot at the rear.

In the meantime a picket of men from the Willows Military Camp arrived but stood helpless at the entrances to the hotel office and bar. City police were also patient spectators of the depredations of the crowd, no arrests being made.

An officer appealed to the fire chief to turn out the apparatus and attempt to drive off the crowd by those streams but the request was refused, the fire chief taking the stand that such an attempt would only result in his hose being cut to pieces and it was no part of the fire department's duty to quell riots when police and military authorities were available.

WHOLE SALE ROBBERIES MADE.

Apparently the only thing which stopped the wrecking of the hotel premises was the fact that the crowd had tired of its efforts and desired new excitement. Under the leadership of some of the bolder spirits the suggestion that another visit be made to the premises of Simon Leiser and Company was welcomed with delight. Within five minutes the lower portion of Yates street was packed with a shouting mass which greeted every salvo of missiles against the premises with delight.

A number of the crowd broke into the warehouse, pulled down boxes of fruit, cigars, etc., and littered the contents about the floors, while dozens of the intruders bore off quantities of goods. It is estimated that several thousand dollars worth of goods were destroyed or stolen.

It needed but the suggestion to divert the onslaught towards the wholesale premises of Moses Lenz, directly opposite the premises of Simon Leiser and Company. The same tale of destruction was told there, the plateglass windows smashed to atoms and the premises ransacked. Thousands of dollars worth of goods were boldly stolen, men and women carrying off arms full of blankets with a calmness which even induced them to wait boldly past policemen without hesitation. The robbery perpetrated was so barefaced that spectators marvelled.

While the destruction was proceeding on Yates street, a much smaller crowd of rioters but one equally determined, attacked the wholesale premises of Carl Lowenberg, ex-German consul, who left the city just before the war broke out. The contents were hurled into the street with a repetition of the robberies committed at the other places.

ROGERS INCLUDED IN SAME CONDEMNATION

Winnipeg, May 12 —(Special.) The Free Press reviews the record of the Roblin Government in scathing terms declaring that it leaves office without a shred of dignity or particle of honor. Including Mr. Rogers in its condemnation it says:

"Nemesis has at last overtaken them—they are suffering and will suffer a punishment that will in some case fit the case: loss of office of the spotlight on the stage, of the plaudits of the crowd, of all the satisfactions which the possession of power yield to men of a certain type of mind. But on many and he the most guilty of all—escaped, thus far. The Roblin Government was the perfect flower of Mr. Rogers' theory of politics. He was the mind, the intelligence of the Roblin Government. Sir Rodmond was the 'barker' who cried the wares and sought to command them to popular favor. In its corruption, its cynicism, its incompetent business methods, its disreputable election standards, its wastefulness and extravagance, it layed the source of its inspiration. Mr. Rogers, with a sagacity which does him credit, left the laboring ship four years ago for newer quarters, and has this for the moment escaped shipwreck. In the wider field he is applying the tactics and methods which have been so disastrous to this province; and even more so to the Manitoba Conservative party which has for the time being ceased to exist. Given time and space, he will run, at Ottawa, the same course and achieve the same results. Justice will not be done, nor the good name of Manitoba vindicated, until he follows Sir Rodmond into defeat and obscurity. The duty to see that this is done rests upon the people of Manitoba and will be met by them at the first opportunity."

AN UNROMANTIC QUEST

"Delightfully sylvan scene," gushed the artist. "And you fair nymph—is she hunting for arbutus or the anemone?"
"For potato bugs," explained the farmer briefly.

SOLDIERS STOP TROUBLE.

To repeated requests from the police authorities an armed detachment from the Willows Camp arrived at the scene of the disturbance shortly before midnight and the effect was magical. Guards were placed on the front of ruined premises of Messrs. Fisher and Leiser, at the corner of lower Port and Wharf streets, just in time to prevent damage there. A window was smashed but further damage was prevented.

The police, backed by the military, were in a position to take bolder measures and nearly twenty persons were apprehended and taken to police headquarters, but there, it was ascertained, they were let go. Action will probably be taken against some or all of them. No definite charge was laid against any of them.

While the work of destruction at the Blanchard Hotel was at its height a call for all police off duty was issued and after a short time the greater portion responded. The mounted police made a few ineffectual attempts early in the evening to disperse the crowd but nothing in the way of a determined effort was undertaken. The first picket of soldiers sent into town was apparently powerless to control the soldier element of the crowd, which went its own way, given hearty support by an element of the civilian crowd.

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