

The Brownsville Inquiry

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borne by the Mexican and other white roughs in Brownsville. It is clear that Major Blocksom's investigation was very incomplete and unsatisfactory. It is testified that the guns were all accounted for and also the ammunition, and that the guns were all clean, and that it would have been impossible to clean them after half a dozen shots in less than fifteen minutes, and then with good light. There was no opportunity for the men to clean their guns after the firing, for they were all the while from that moment under the eye of their officers, and so situated that it was impossible for them to clean the guns before they were put in their racks and locked up, after which came the inspection, and all were found in clean condition. The witnesses have apparently satisfied every member of the committee that there was no opportunity to get any surplus ammunition, and no cartridges were missing. The testimony also shows that empty shells and exploded cartridges could easily have been secured, and that plenty of Mexicans and others wore the khaki uniform. The conviction grows that others than soldiers "fired up the town," and their bullets whizzed over the soldiers in camp. Certainly the soldiers have made a good impression by their testimony thus far.

The Brownsville Inquiry The investigation of the Brownsville affair by the Senate Committee has been one-sided thus far, but it goes very far to show that the soldiers should have been tried by court-martial, where all facts could have been carefully tested. It looks very much as if not a single negro soldier fired a gun, and we shall be pleased if this is proved; not because we choose that others should be found guilty, but because the soldiers have had a better character than that