

MAY USE OLD JAIL FOR WAR PRISONERS

Former Municipal Detention House May Be Pressed Into Service in Case of Need

ONLY PLACE AVAILABLE

If Conditions Demand Securing of a Place to Look After Such Prisoners—Was Old Political Prison

Should any trouble break out here amongst members of the different foreign colonies, as a result of which it may be necessary to make a lot of arrests, the old jail at the junction of Notre Dame street and Dufourmier avenue, may be turned into a military prison.

The building has been vacant since the new jail at Bordeaux was opened, and it would require very little renovating to put it in order to receive prisoners of war. It would not be the first time that it had been put to use, as in 1837-38, many of those arrested in connection with the rebellion were confined within the walls of the building. There is no building in the city belonging to the Dominion Government, in which a large number of prisoners could be detained, although many might be accommodated in the detention quarters of the immigration authorities. But that is not a prison, while in the old jail, there would also be accommodation for the guards who would have to look after the prisoners of war. There is a high wall around the building, so that the prisoners might be allowed to exercise in the yard, free from public view, under the eyes of armed guards. While the accommodation at the prison is not by any means modern, it is felt that it would suit very well under pressing circumstances, should anything occur here that might make it necessary to cause a large number of arrests.

When men are arrested now, on suspicion of being spies, or for any other offence with which the military authorities have to deal, it is necessary to confine them in some of the city police stations. There is not a police station in the city where the accommodation is as good as it is in the old jail, if prisoners are to be detained for more than a day. The police stations are only for the confinement of prisoners who are held for appearance in court. It is seldom, unless they happen to be arrested on Saturdays, or on the eve of a holiday, that prisoners have to remain in the cells of a police station for more than a few hours.

The old jail building belongs to the Provincial Government. An effort was made to acquire it a year ago by auction, but the upset price that had been placed on the building and ground was not realized. It would be an easy matter for the Federal authorities to obtain a lease of the building, should they require it for a military prison.

Six of the seven prisoners who were arrested Monday by the police are being still held, two of them at police headquarters and four at the East St. Catherine street station. The six who are now in custody are all Germans.

Alexandre Keleman, the Hungarian, who was arrested Monday by Lieut. Hajot, of the Chaboillez street station, was allowed his liberty on parole yesterday morning by Chief Campeau. He was informed that he would have to take off his Hungarian uniform, find work, or get someone to look after him. He was told, also, that if he made any attempt to leave the country during the present disturbance in Europe, he would be again taken into custody. He is still a prisoner of war, but will not be molested so long as he behaves himself.