

ENOUGH IRISH POLICEMEN IN
BUFFALO TO STOP INVASION

Rumors, Rumors, Rumors— But No Sign of Any Form of Trouble

FEW OUT OF WORK IN BORDER CITIES

Lackawanna, Around Which Gossip Centred, Industrious and Peaceful

From a Staff Reporter.

Buffalo, N.Y., Nov. 19.—Every little while since the beginning of the war, and particularly in the past few weeks, reports of impending invasions of Canada by Germans from Buffalo and district have been current, and have, in many quarters, been believed. Statements have been made that in Buffalo at the present time there are 8,000 Germans more than at ordinary times, and some people profess to see in this but one object—a raid on Canada whenever a favorable opportunity presents itself.

There are undoubtedly many more Germans in this city now than there were at the beginning of the war, but this is easy of explanation. A very large proportion of the normal population of the city is German, and it is but natural that in the hard times which have come to many communities, Germans thrown out of employment in surrounding towns and villages should crowd to that metropolis of their race on this side of the water. Help for them in their state of unemployment is more likely to be forthcoming from their own compatriots, and naturally they crowd to where these can be found in any great numbers.

Very Few Out of Work.

And the Germans of Buffalo have answered well to the call of their countrymen. There are but few of those who have come in from other places for whom employment has not been found.

Then again there have been rumors of people going about armed in the streets of Buffalo. Such is not the case, or at least, if it is the case the arms are very well hidden. Buffalo, like most large American cities, is policed by Irish officers, and these men are not likely to wink at any breaches of the law which may be interpreted as threats against the country of their birth and against their own blood-relatives, who are fighting in the trenches of the Aisne and Lys. The Chief of Police is reported as saying that there are enough Irishmen on the force to look after all the Germans in the city who think of an invasion of Canada from this side.

The latest rumor, however, is

that a number of Irish Fenians, Poles and Italians, dismissed from the great steel plants at Lackawanna have a scheme on hand to cross into Canada and wreak vengeance on this country for the war which has caused them to lose their employment. Inquiry has shown that all such rumors are unfounded. In the first place there have been few, if any, dismissals from the steel works as a result of the war. These industries are going ahead full blast, and according to the statements of the management of several of the largest, there is little likelihood of dismissals.

Work Plentiful in Lackawanna.

Work is plentiful, and orders are coming in thick and fast. All the men will be needed. Confirmation of this is seen on the streets of Lackawanna where there are none apparently out of work with the exception of here and there little groups of youths, apparently about 17 or 20 years of age. And to the casual listener their conversation is not of war, nor of possible raids on Canada. One group, however, was overheard discussing the war, and their sympathies were distinctly pro-British. The bayonet charges of the British soldiers were the subject of their conversation, and these excited their admiration. It seemed to be the opinion that even the United States soldier could not stand up against "Tommy Atkins" when he is close at hand with a bayonet.

The war seems to excite but little interest among the rank and file of workmen here except since the firing on the United States cruiser Tennessee.

That brought the war home a little nearer to the people, and some who had previously loudly proclaimed their neutrality in conformity with the President's request expressed the opinion that Germany had made a bad mistake in inducing Turkey to get into the fight.

Made Enemies for Germany.

Throughout the city, however, some sensation was caused by the reports of this incident, and it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that a great many of the people have been turned away from wishing well to the German and Turkish

cause by this indiscretion on the part of the Turks.

Irish Fenians may plan an attempt to invade Canada. They have done it before and they may do it again, but it is hardly likely. It is not very easy nowadays, with means of rapid communication, for any large body of men to move without interruption, and the United States authorities are keeping themselves well informed as to the movements of all societies and organizations. The police authorities of Buffalo laugh at the mention of any such action by Irishmen. With reference to participation by Poles in such a raid, it is unthinkable, especially after conversation with one or two of the apparent leaders of the community in Lackawanna.

Hope for United Poland.

"Why should we disturb Canada," asked one, "when she is doing so nobly to help Russia where most of us come from. Formerly we owed little gratitude to Russia, but the Czar has promised that after this war conditions will be different. If Russia wins we hope that the Czar will claim all of German Poland and unite it under one government, giving it the rights which he has promised to Russian Poland. If Germany wins, we can only see Russian Poland coming under the Kaiser's domination, with all his militaristic policies.

"I am not saying too much when I tell you that a great many of us here would like to be domiciled in Canada at the present time. We have frequently had discussions of the advisability of forming a Polish contingent to go over and fight with our countrymen. We think such could have been done if we had lived in Canada. Perhaps we could have gone as part of one of the Canadian contingents."