

HUNDRED ALIENS

GO TO SPIRIT LAKE

New Abitibi Camp Well Opened Up by First Sixty Prisoners

Bound for Spirit Lake Camp, in the wilds of the Abitibi region, a hundred Austrian prisoners of war from Montreal left Windsor Station at 9 o'clock last night on the Soo train. These men will settle down, with sixty others of that ilk, who preceded them two weeks ago, to clear away brush and build huts where a temperature of forty below occasionally prevails in winter, while the thermometer not infrequently registers sixty below. But the men are clothed in better outfits than any of them probably have been used to, and a soldier who returned from the camp on Tuesday night said the raw cold in Montreal, with the mercury showing but ten degrees of frost, was much more trying than the Abitibi temperature. He had left the camp last Saturday with the thermometer at 41 degrees below.

While several hundreds of the aliens interned because they had no work or money had been sent to the camp at Petawawa, and the German interns, considered more dangerous because of their better general education, had been all sent to Kingston, the new camp was opened at Spirit Lake—a station on the National Transcontinental, 160 miles east of Cochrane, because enough men had already been sent to Petawawa. It was thought desirable by the authorities that some of the men interned should be employed to clean up a section of land along the new railway line at a place where trains pass either way once a week—from Cochrane to Harricanow, the latter a village five miles farther east than Spirit Lake.

Two weeks ago the first contingent of sixty prisoners was taken to Spirit Lake with a guard of twenty-five soldiers, three of the Army Medical Corps, and two of the A.S.C., besides four officers, the whole being under Major Wm. Rodden, camp commandant. Major W. E. Date, Assistant

Provost-Marshal, accompanied the first batch of men, returning to Montreal on Tuesday night. Other officers with Major Rodden at the camp are Captain Kane, of the Victoria Rifles; Lieut. Macklin, 5th Royal Highlanders; and Major Williams, of the Army Medical Corps.

It was stated that the prisoners appeared satisfied with their lot, clearing the brush, building huts, and in the meantime sleeping in a train of box-cars. They are paid twenty-five cents a day, besides being provided with long brown coats, lined with sheep-skin, fur caps, flannel shirts, heavy woollen underwear, lumbermen's stockings, and a complete cold weather outfit. Already when Major Date's party left Spirit Lake a few days ago, a road had been cleared from the camp to the Abitibi Lake and another large space underbrushed. One hut had been put up.

In the work of clearing, twelve horses, hired permanently from the village of Harricanow, are used, and provisions are also obtained from the village. The snow is three feet deep, so the prisoners have little chance of making an escape, even if they wanted to, as the guards only are provided with snow-shoes.

The batch of a hundred men that left on the Soo train last night was in charge of a small guard under Captain Patrick Dillon.

While the quarters at the immigration building had been filled with prisoners before yesterday evening, the men sent to Spirit Lake will leave room for many others who Mr. Silas H. Carpenter, Registrar for alien enemies, says will have to be interned shortly, as some of the Austrians who had work or money in the early stages of the war, have now lost their jobs or spent all the money they had. Mr. Carpenter judged from the small number of new registrations in the last few days that nearly all the enemy allens in Montreal had already been enrolled, the total reaching nearly a thousand.