

ALL ALIENS TO BE INTERNED

Mr. H. H. Stevens, M. P., Notified That Military Authorities Have Been Authorized to Increase Capacity of Camps.

Vancouver, April 14.—Mr. H. H. Stevens, M. P., yesterday received a telegram from the Hon. Sir R. L. Borden, Premier, stating that the Government had taken action along the lines suggested by the local member with a view to relieving the local unemployed situation. This will mean that all alien enemies in British Columbia will be placed in the internment camps, and the same treatment meted out to these people—that British subjects have been undergoing for months in Germany and Austria. It will also mean that British subjects and non-enemy aliens resident in the province will have larger opportunities for securing work than they have had in the past.

The wire from Premier Borden was as follows:

"Instructions have been sent today to the local officers commanding internment operations to increase the capacity of the internment camps to such an extent as may be necessary, and registrars of alien enemies are being instructed to have interned all alien enemies. Further, the district officer commanding, the immigration officer, and the chief of police have been constituted a board to grant exerts to enemies when deemed advisable. The question of the Italians is being considered by the Immigration Department and will be reported on immediately."

To Lessen Floating Population.

The dispatch was in response to an urgent telegram sent by Mr. Stevens on Friday, in which he called attention to the large numbers of unemployed in the province and the necessity of taking measures which would lessen the floating population of laborers. It was pointed out that large numbers of men were alien enemies who, in contradistinction to the example set by the Germans, who had interned all subjects of Great Britain, France and Russia the minute war was declared, have been permitted every freedom. These persons have been heavy charges on all the larger communities, who have been compelled to strain their resources to provide work and also to give free food, and in some parts of the province where the local municipalities have not been strong enough to bear the load the province has stepped in and maintained hundreds of indigents.

From the wording of the telegram it will be seen that the local officials who have been keeping a register of all alien enemies will turn their information to the military authorities who will proceed to intern these people in concentration camps. The two camps at present in use at Nanaimo and Vernon may be increased in size, or if that is not feasible, one or more internment camps may be established according to the judgment of the military authorities.