

WAR PRISONERS HELD IN CANADA

Great Majority of Austrians Who Are Now Working in Outdoor Camps---Get Good Food.

The Austrians Are Three to One in Number in the Camps ---The Work the Prisoners Are Engaged at---The Regulations Under Which They Are De- tained Come From The Hague.

Ottawa, June 15.—Canada has on its hand, at present four thousand prisoners of war. They are located at a series of camps and stations from Halifax to Nanaimo. Where work is being done, the men are quartered in camps. Where the interned aliens are living a more easy life, they are located in stations or barracks.

The proportion of prisoners on the basis of nationality is three Austrians to one German. Consequently, roughly speaking there are three thousand Austrians, one thousand Germans and a few—a score or so—of Turks. The Austrians give no trouble whatever; the Germans need more looking after. Very few, if any, of the Germans are on outside works. They belong to the class whose demeanour generally is such as to call for their internment in barracks. At Halifax for instance, and also at Kingston, the internments are nearly all Germans.

The camps are situated at Spirit Lake, Quebec, and Kapukasing, Ont., both on the line of the Trans-continental, and at Petawawa, Valcartier and at the Arrow Lake, in the Banff Park. The stations are at Halifax, Amherst, Kingston, Brandon, Lethbridge, Vernon and Nanaimo.

The largest camp is at Spirit Lake, where 900 Austrians are engaged in clearing land for a model farm, while at Kapukasing about 700 are occupied with similar operations. A number of families of the interned aliens are accommodated. It is stated at headquarters that a good number of these people plan to take up land and colonize the district after the war.

At Petawawa and Valcartier the Austrians are employed in drainage

works or camp improvements, while at Arrow Lake, national park works are in progress. About 600 Germans are in barracks at Halifax, 300 at Amherst, and 250 at Kingston.

The prisoners of war are dealt with under the regulations prescribed by the Hague Tribunal. They are served food on the same basis as men at the front. Where they work on allowance of twenty-five cents a day is made; if doing nothing they do not get this.

The regulations are strict and for violation of any of them various degrees of punishment are prescribed. The severest of these is solitary confinement, and a diet of bread and water. In rare cases, it is said, has it been necessary to take any such rigorous steps. The discipline on the whole is excellent. And difficulty originates from Germans, who are more restive, more given to intrigue and trouble-making, though nothing very serious has been attempted.

The average Austrian plods ahead apparently not worrying much about the war or its outcome. Some of them averred that they didn't know the war was on until rounded up.

If all the suggestions for internment were entertained, the war prisoner population would be swelled tremendously. As it is, the situation is regarded as well in hand.

The representations that more ought to be interned come mainly from municipalities pressed by problems of unemployment. The remedying of this situation must come in some other way than by wholesale internments. The Government is not disposed to look to internment camps or barracks as the solution of this situation.