

SAY PRISONERS ARE ILL-TREATED HERE

German Authorities Find Fault With Canadian Internment Camp

QUEER STORY FROM BERLIN

Berlin Demands Immediate Im- provement of Condi- tions

By Canadian Press.

Berlin, Aug. 23, via London.—As the result of increasingly serious reports concerning the treatment of German civilian prisoners, interned at Amherst, Nova Scotia, according to which men housed in an unventilated and unsanitary factory building had been punished for attempted escape and less serious infractions of the rules, by confinement in a brick oven, the German authorities are now contemplating retaliatory measures against Canadians, both soldiers and civilians, imprisoned here. Approximately seven hundred Germans are now interned at Amherst.

Complaints of Berlin.

The German authorities who freely admit that the conditions under which imprisoned Germans are living in England and her colonies, are generally good, were at first loathe to believe the Amherst reports and ascribed them to the dissatisfaction of constitutional grumblers. The complaints continue to multiply, however, alleging that dust and dirt were allowed to accumulate, the lack of proper sanitary measures and generally unbearable living arrangements. The utter lack of privacy in their cramped quarters and the theft of packages intended for prisoners were also alleged.

Even the letters of complaint praise the attitude and conduct of individual Canadian officers, resting the blame for the conditions complained of upon "those higher up."

Suggests Improvements.

Officials here have secured a report from Charles Froman, American Consul at Moncton, New Brunswick, announcing an improvement recently in some conditions at Amherst, but fresh letters have convinced them that fundamental alterations, perhaps the construction of barracks similar to those in Germany, are necessary.

Demand Immediate Change.

The German officials believe that the conditions at Amherst are in sharp contrast with those under which Canadian civil and military prisoners live in Germany. United States Embassy investigators have pronounced camps where Canadians are imprisoned as good. An Associated Press correspondent recently visited Gottingen, where the greatest number of Canadian soldiers are confined, and found conditions apparently satisfactory.

It is learned from reliable sources that if the German Government is not assured immediately of a change such as is desired in conditions in the Canadian prison, the conditions under which Canadians are confined in Germany will be made more severe.

CHARGES ARE DENIED.

Ottawa, Ont., Aug. 23.—Lieut.-Col. MacPherson, assistant to General Otter, head of internment operations in Canada, gave an emphatic denial to the story from Berlin that German prisoners at the internment operations in Canada, gave an emphatic denial to the story from Berlin that German prisoners at the internment camp at Amherst, N.S., were being persecuted, and for that reason retaliation was threatened.

Col. MacPherson said that the men were well treated, received the same fare as Canadian soldiers and were well housed. He had no complaints of persecution or bad treatment. There is an American Consul at Amherst who looks after the interests of the Germans and visits the camps periodically. He has never made any complaint, and has reported favorably on conditions. The Consul will likely be asked to give an independent statement as to the treatment of the German prisoners at that camp.

687 Germans There.

There are 687 Germans at Amherst, most of them men captured on various auxiliary cruisers in the British West Indies, and South Atlantic. The prisoners are housed in a big former manufacturing building, and it is claimed have plenty of room. It is denied that it is unsanitary. The German officers strenuously objected to being kept prisoners with their men and have as a result been moved to Halifax. The only trouble at the camp took place about a month ago, when there was an attempt made by several to escape. One man at that time was killed.