

SEEK EXCUSE FOR FRIGHTFULNESS

German Authorities Allege Bad Treatment of Interned Ger- mans Here and Threat- en Retaliation.

OTTAWA, Aug. 23.—Col. MacPherson, assistant to General Otter, who is in charge of alien enemies interned in Canada, emphatically denies that the cabled statement from Berlin that German prisoners interned at Amherst, N. S. have not been well treated.

German prisoners at Amherst, Col. MacPherson says, number 687, the majority being sailors taken from German auxiliary cruisers sunk or captured during the early stages of the war. They are all housed in a large building formerly used for manufacturing purposes and are given the same rations as Canadian soldiers.

Favorable Reports.

Col. MacPherson further states that the American Consul at Amherst has inspected the camp on several occasions and reported favorably upon it. About a month ago some of the prisoners tried to break away and one was shot. The German officers captured in the Atlantic are not interned at Amherst. They raised a row because they objected to being put in quarters so near the ordinary seamen and were sent to Halifax.

Reprisals Threatened.

The Berlin cable referred to above said that "As the result of increasingly serious reports concerning the treatment of German civilian prisoners interned at Amherst, N. S., 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, authorities are contemplating retaliatory measures against Canadians, both soldiers and civilians, imprisoned in Germany."