

LAY PLANS GOOD ROAD SEWELL CAMP

Major Hawker Meets City Council and Discusses Possibility of Securing Interned Aliens to Work on Building Trunk Road

A conference of the municipalities of Elton, Cornwallis and Norfolk, through which the road from Brandon to Sewell runs, is to be called immediately to discuss the matter of interned aliens working on the proposed new road and getting it into shape ready for the coming summer and in good time for the opening of the big military camp. When this conference has been held and the views of the representatives secured the Provincial Government will be approached by joint representatives of the City Council and the municipalities. Money will be sought under the provisions of the Good Roads Act, the help of the Provincial Surveyor's Department will be sought, and then the Dominion Government will likely send from one to two hundred men to work on the road with all possible speed and whip it into shape within a few weeks. As a preliminary to all this the City Council discussed with Major Hawker, of the Royal Canadian Engineers, what the Government would be likely to do in the matter of loaning the interned aliens, at a special informal meeting held this morning.

Provide Labor and Pay

Major Hawker, at the outset, remarked that the recent petition by the Council to Ottawa had been referred to the district officer at Winnipeg, Col. Ruttan, who was very well pleased with the idea of having a good road from Sewell to Brandon. Before anything could be done, however, they must have complete estimates of what the work would cost so that recommendations could be made to the department at Ottawa. He thought they could safely recommend that the labor be given of as many men as would be required, and, as it was going to be of military benefit, the pay of twenty-five cents per day to the men would also be recommended. The department would find the men's keep, their camp, guard, and the city and municipalities, with the aid of the Provincial Government would be expected to find the necessary engineering supervision, tools, and special equipment, such as teams to be work-

ed in grading.

Large Camp is Likely

Incidentally Major Hawker mentioned that the camp this year would likely be at least three times as big as last year and they could reasonably assume that the camp would be run for several years after of the war because of the need of maintaining military efficiency. The number of men was immaterial to the department. The city could have two hundred as well as one hundred, but he must have an estimate before he could make any recommendation. He thought the road would be of great benefit to the municipalities because the farmers would be able to get into the city, also to the camp where some of them disposed of produce and meat.

Gravel Available

A general discussion of an informal nature ensued. It was stated that there was a lot of excellent gravel in the neighborhood and room for the men to have their camp. Several aldermen said they had spoken to men in the municipalities interested and they had told them they were very eager to get the road. It was also thought that the Provincial Government would assist with the project.