

# NO TRUTH IN RUMOR THAT ALIENS TRIED TO POISON SEWELL WATER

Story May Have Emanated from  
Internment of Austrians Who  
Tried to Enlist in Army

## TO UTILIZE LABOR

Hundred Men to be Sent Out to  
Work on Railway Ballasting  
Under Guard

"So far as we know there is absolutely no truth in it," said Major Coleman, of the interned Aliens' camp, this morning when told of the rumor that four Austrians had been brought here from Sewell a few days ago, having been caught in the act of trying to poison water at the big camp. "We have only 454 men at the camp now, all told," he said when it was also mentioned to him that men supposed to be in a position to know had said there were now over 900 men interned here. The fact of the matter is that two Austrians who tried to enlist were not satisfactory to the authorities in the answer they gave to the customary questions and they were sent here. Major Coleman says they have nearly one hundred men out on farms and have received scarcely a complaint from any of the farmers employing the men. It is now the intention of the authorities to relieve the labor shortage by putting 110 of the men with good records to work on ballasting railway track beds, under the supervision of competent foremen and guards. These men will go east within the course of the next few days.

Persistent rumors have been heard here during the last few days that four men had been caught at Sewell trying to poison water. Some people had it "from officers" that these men were shot. Then the story dwindled down to one man being shot, and on the closest inquiry being made it is found that one man got his finger injured at the rifle butts.

It should be borne in mind by all who hear these rumors that in Canada, as in all British possessions, at least some notice of spies being caught would be handed out for publication by the censors, similar to the procedure adopted in England when German spies have been caught. All spies, too, have a fair and impartial trial and this fact alone should convince one that the rumor quoted above is perfectly absurd.