

THE ALIEN PRISONERS AT AMHERST ARE WELL TREATED.

The Officer in Charge of the Station Says Men Made No Complaint of Ill-Treatment--U. S. Consul Visited Men and Found Everything Satisfactory.

SPECIAL TO THE MORNING CHRONICLE.

AMHERST, Aug. 23—In reference to today's despatches from Berlin concerning the treatment of German prisoners interned in the Amherst Detention Camp, your correspondent after careful inquiry from those in a position to know, can give the report of ill-treatment and unsanitary conditions an emphatic denial. Many believe that the treatment accorded the men here is even better than that received by our own boys at some of the training stations throughout Canada. It is true that when the work was first done the Inspector under General Otter, who is in full charge of interned aliens, insisted that certain changes in interior construction be made. This was done long before the first detachment of prisoners arrived, and those who visited the building freely stated that they were much more comfortable than the barracks occupied by the 6th C. M. R., or the 22nd Regiment while here. Interviewed by your correspondent, Major Oulton, Officer Commanding, kindly gave the following statement:

Amherst, August 23.

From the Officer Commanding the Internment Station, Amherst:

Dear Sir:—In reply to inquiry of this afternoon re treatment of prisoners of war at this station, I have the honor to say, I have never received a complaint from one of the prisoners regarding their treatment. On the contrary, I have been told by scores of them that the treatment given them is all that could be asked for or expected. In fact, much better than they formerly received at Jamaica. Their food is the regular army rations, except in place of one pound of fresh beef daily, they get one-half pound five days of the week, and the other two they get one pound. We are starting on the Government farm work this week, when they will be given the full ration. I have had several visits from the American Consul, Mr. C. Forman, of Moncton, N. B., and he always expressed himself as well pleased with the conditions at this station.

In explanation of the inquiry about ovens, I may say that the oven is an old unused brick and iron furnace used formerly for the tempering of casts into malleable iron. It is eight feet by twenty feet, clean and cool and is nev-

er used only as a lock-up for men disobeying the orders of the camp and then for not more than twenty-four hours at one time except in one case—a man was in for two days for assault on a fellow prisoner.

I have endeavored to treat prisoners committed to my charge humanely and I only hope that our men who are interned in Germany get as good treatment as we give their men here.

I invite investigation at any time by the United States authorities or any other person the Imperial German Government may appoint.

G. R. OULTON,

Major, O. C. Internment Station.

Your correspondent also interviewed Dr. A. E. McIntosh, Medical Officer in charge of prisoners of war at Amherst and who because of his daily attendance at the camps is in a position to give an unbiased statement. Dr. McIntosh says:

"That in every respect the sanitary conditions of the camp are satisfactory; that the general health of the prisoners is excellent, in fact there is less sickness among the 694 prisoners than among the guards in charge; that he has never had a complaint of ill-treatment from any of the men; that the cells which were formerly used as ovens for the malleable works are roomy, light, airy, clean and comfortable, and that prisoners confined in them are examined by the Medical Officer before, and while incarcerated.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23—State Department officials expressed surprise today at reports from Berlin of unsatisfactory conditions in the German prison camp at Amherst, N. S. Latest reports to the department concerning conditions at the camp mentioned the occurrence of some minor trouble, arising from the prisoners' complaint against Canadian cooking, but that had been settled, it was stated, by the substitution of two of the prisoners as cooks. If official complaint were received, it was stated, the department would instruct the consul at Moncton to investigate and report. The United States, as custodian of German interests in Canada, is responsible for the adjustment of differences relating to the prisoners.