

# ALIENS WARNED BY GEN. HUGHES

## Encouragement of Sedition Will Not be Tolerated

### REPORT ABOUT BERLIN

Sir Sam Explains How Tense Feelings  
Were Excited and Found Vent —  
Tells Soldiers Also They Must Act  
in Manner Befitting Them.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Ottawa, Feb. 16.—“Alien enemies have been treated by Canada in the most tolerant and lenient manner, but utterances and conduct that even indirectly encourage sedition, treason or disloyalty will not be tolerated.”

General Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia, was applauded when he made this announcement in Parliament this afternoon at the conclusion of his report regarding recent disturbances at Berlin, Ont.

Hon. Geo. P. Graham asked if the Government had been advised of the report that the American Club in Toronto had been blown up and lives lost.

Premier Borden replied that the Government had received no direct or official information yet, but he understood from press despatches that there had been an explosion, one man being killed and two injured.

#### Two Men Roused Antagonism.

Sir Sam Hughes read the House the text of the findings in connection with the investigation of the disturbances at Berlin.

“For some time,” the report states, “feelings of loyal and law-abiding citizens of both British and German extraction in Berlin, Waterloo and adjoining localities have been more or less exasperated by the language and action of a Lutheran clergyman—an American citizen named Tappert—and by a German-born Canadian subject named Asmussen, who, whether with good or bad intent, have been semi-apologists for German atrocities and Kaiserism. It was asserted that one of these men recently stated that “the conduct of the British in the war has been about as bad as the conduct of the Germans.” It had not been specifically charged that these utterances have been made with disloyal intent, but merely as seeking not to justify German brutality so much as to condone it.

#### General Tension of Mind.

“These utterances, coupled with the general tension of mind throughout the country over the war, gradually wrought up a number of people to a high pitch of feeling.

“On Sunday last a young man who had been behind the German line for some months as a reporter for an American journal, and who had personally witnessed these horrible atrocities, spoke in Waterloo and Berlin, and in vigorous terms denounced the spirit of recent utterances of the two men named above.

#### Feeling Found Vent.

“The feeling, already highly strung on the part of many, found vent on Tuesday evening when fifteen or twenty young soldiers heard that German flags were displayed in a hall in Berlin. They quietly assembled near the place about 9 o'clock in the evening, and in the course of a few minutes had torn the flags to pieces while a bust of the former Kaiser Wilhelm was carried along the street. There were five policemen within easy call on the street, but the affair seems to have been over so quickly that they did not get time to interfere.

“Col. Lohead, on receiving a telephone message at the barracks, immediately repaired to the locality when order was promptly restored. An inquiry is being held. The civil authorities are also acting in the premises. The authorities have been fully informed that soldiers in uniform lose none of their rights or responsibilities as citizens, and therefore are entitled to all the privilege of the law, but are subject to its penalties.”

General Hughes added that he had

made inquiry in regard to the reported trouble at Campbellton. He found the reports exaggerated. On only one day were there as many as four men impounded, though there were 250 men in barracks. The Minister also took exception to the reports that men of the 77th had engaged in looting on the night of the fire which destroyed the Parliament Buildings. He paid tribute to the work of these soldiers, as well as the engineers. They worked all night and the following day, and saved much of the furniture.

#### Warning to Soldiers.

Sir Sam Hughes has requested the Adjutant-General to issue the following order to each officer, commanding a district, who, in turn, will be directed to transmit it to every officer under his command, whether of the militia or overseas:

“Neither wanton rowdyism nor ruffianly misconduct is discipline, nor does either become a soldier. Such actions find no place in the Canadian service.

“The donning of a soldier's uniform does not exempt any man from his bounden duties and responsibility as a reputable citizen. On the contrary, being in uniform should be, and in properly constituted corps is, guarantee of manly behavior.

“History records that the ruffian rarely proves himself the bravest in the presence of the enemy. It is the self-controlled man who proves himself a true soldier.

“There must be no yielding to frenzy on either hand. This war requires cool heads, firm minds and controlled actions, backed up with the best armament.”