

ALIEN CAMP IS A MODEL PRISON

Working and Living Conditions for Interned Germans in Nova Scotia Causes No Complaint.

(World's Special Service.)

AMHERST, N. S., Sept. 25.—Marching five abreast and six deep with two in the rear carrying a great clothes basket of lunch, taking the middle of the street, with armed guards on either side, go a squad of German prisoners to do a none too strenuous day's work on the streets of Amherst. Clad in the most un-uniform of uniforms, with white linen or 'cow's breakfast' hats, sweaters or shirt sleeves, or blue jumpers, once-white linen trousers or overalls, they make a striking picture.

There are about 750 prisoners at the internment camp there, and other squads are sent to the government experimental farm to cut timber, to beautify the hospital grounds or to work in Dickey Park. Notwithstanding that the prisoners are well fed and looked after and have comfortable quarters, they occasionally make a dash for liberty. A week or so ago one scaled the barb wire entanglements that surround the camp and made for the open. Failing to respond to the "Halt" of the guards, one of them fired and a shot through the leg brought him back to the hospitality of King George. A little later a car full were taken four miles along the I. C. R. to the government farm for work, carefully bolted in. One had made a saw of a dinner knife and sawed a hole in the car door through which he reached and pulled back the bolts. Four made their escape, but were shortly again in custody, though one of them lost his life in his efforts to escape the guards.

Iron Foundry Found

Passing through Amherst two years ago, you would see beside the railway the long brick buildings of the Malleable Iron Foundry not then in use. The government soon saw that a small expenditure of money would make of them an admirable location for an internment camp, and plumbers, carpenters and painters soon rendered the great building clean, convenient and sanitary.

Outside the building is a large yard surrounded with high wire entanglements, beyond which is a picket fence along which at intervals and at the corners are high guard houses with armed guards to curb the wanderlust of the Germans. On a Monday morning this enclosure contains no end of garments hung out to dry, but later in the week is more attractive. Here they have their tennis courts, their sports and athletic exercises, open-air concerts or fancy dress carnivals. Deprived of the company of the ladies, they do their best to improvise. Along one side is a row of small summer booths, hung with hessian and decorated with potted plants, where they enjoy an afternoon siesta.

Inside the building are comfortable bunks, shower baths, well equipped kitchens, special quarters for officers, an excellent heating and ventilating system, as well as their own hospital. Under the etiquette of war, they receive 25 cents a day, whether they work or not. They have their own cooks and receive the same kind of food as our soldiers. The men employ their time walking, in sports, working at their trades, carving objects from wood, making souvenirs or writing letters to be censored by a professor who hails from Cork.

Have a Y. M. C. A.

The International Y. M. C. A. has sent from its New York headquarters a man who has erected within their grounds a spacious building to add to their comfort and facilities for recreation, as well as provide classes in language and religious services in the tongue of the Fatherland. The camp is in charge of Col. Morris, an excellent officer who has served with distinction in the British army, and who has over one hundred guards to assist him in keeping order. Many of these keep enlisting for overseas duty so that there is usually a call for more guards. Among the prisoners were formerly the officers in the naval battle off the Falkland Islands, but these wished more exclusive treatment and have been removed to Halifax. The officers do not like being kept with civil prisoners and their sentiments in this regard are largely considered.

Notwithstanding their occasional break for liberty, they admit that they are well treated and have no special complaints to make.