

ARE WE TOO EASY?

The news that Canadian prisoners are being put under specially hard treatment in Germany once more brings up the question of the treatment of Austrian and German prisoners in Canada. It is evident that the charge upon which Germans have changed their treatment of Canadian prisoners—namely allegations concerning treatment of German prisoners at Amherst, N.S.—is unfounded. The state department at Washington, which is charged with the care of German interests in Canada, practically denies it. In this, as in other instances, the Germans have simply followed their usual principle of making a bold charge against another nation, and on the charge, without proof, instituting reprisals.

Contrast this German attitude towards Canadians with our Canadian attitude towards Germans. It somehow and sometimes would seem to indignant Canadians that the official machinery of Canada exists more for the protection of alien enemies than for their control. It is harder to convict an alien enemy than a cattle thief, and even when convicted their punishment as allowed by law appears to be ridiculously small.

In our internment camps we hear of the strictness with which the diet of the prisoners is maintained on an equality with the diet of those who are guarding them. That is the case right here in Brandon. Liberty of language such as would not be dreamed of in Germany is permitted to German sympathizers in this country, while the absurdity and even enormity of a pro-German press printed in the German language, is continued with the consent of the authorities.