

**AUSTRALIANS IN MANITOBA MAKE CANNON**

# ALIENS TURN INGOTS INTO 2-INCH GUNS

Government Inspector Reports  
Finding Bank Manufacturing  
Smoothbore Weapons

## ARMY POLICE INVESTIGATE

Men Declare They Are Shaping  
Steel for Church "Candle  
Holders"

Are enemy munitions being made in Manitoba?

At Garson quarries, near Tyn-dall, Man., the discovery was made last week that Austrians have been spending their spare time in the machine shop of the quarry making smooth-bore cannon about two inches in calibre, and 15 inches long.

The discovery was made by Peter McKissick, government inspector, who immediately informed the military authorities and the provincial government.

### Military on Trail

The military authorities at once sent out an officer of the intelligence department to investigate. He is believed to have completed his investigation, but no word of his report is available for publication.

In order to prevent any possible disturbance, Hon. A. B. Hudson has sent out a special constable whose duty it will be to keep an eye on the movements of the Austrians in the vicinity.

### Gun on Exhibition

One of the partially completed guns is now at the parliament buildings. It has been made from a steel ingot, such as are used in munitions factories for the manufacture of large high-explosive shells. Before being turned the ingot is  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter and about 15 inches long. The gun bears all the marks of a skilled workman, and one who has a knowledge of the art of gun making. The

bore is a trifle more than two inches. At the base end a properly grooved and countersunk "touch hole" is drilled, while at the muzzle end, the conventional raised band, which prevents the barrel from splitting, has been lathed in position.

Examined as to the purpose of his work, the Austrian who made the gun declared that he was "making it for church purposes."

### **Calls It "Candle Holder"**

He said the local church required half a dozen holders for the huge candles which decorate the altar, and he had been commissioned to manufacture them. He was making these "holders" in an original design, he explained, and denied stoutly that it was ever intended to use the things for any sinister purpose.

It was later learned that this man was not alone responsible for the manufacture of the guns. He was only one of several concerned.

So far no arrests have been made, but the provincial officer has been instructed to at once report any resumption of the operations, or of any untoward move being made by the suspected Austrians.

### **Would Be Effective**

Asked his opinion of the weapon, a local artillery expert declared that while it was of old-fashioned pattern, such a gun could be effectively used. In calibre it is about the same size as the mountain artillery now in use in the British army and very effective work is done by the troops armed with this weapon.

In the gun at the parliament buildings there is no "rifling" such as is to be found in modern artillery of this character. Such an omission would not, in the opinion of the expert, make much difference if it were required to use the gun at close range and with very light ammunition. He was quite sure that no person would make such an intricate arrangement for such a purpose as confessed by the Austrian maker.