

THE FORT PRISONERS

CONSIST OF 125 GERMANS AND A FEW TURKS.

The latter will soon be removed elsewhere — The War Prisoners Are Well Contented.

The prisoners at war confined at Fort Henry are given the whole of the lower court yard in which to exercise and they are not interfered with as long as they stay in that yard. The yard is surrounded on three sides by their own quarters and on the fourth side by a wall with a gate in the centre. On this wall is always one guard, and on each end of the wall is always a guard. In the moat around the outside of the fort in three places, are sentry boxes and the three guards at all times on duty there, see that no person attempts to come close to the fort. In the moat has been strung barbed wire and on this wire are numerous tin cans so that anyone attempting to climb down the inside wall with a view of escaping by climbing up the other side when they crossed the bottom of the moat, would make enough noise to "wake the dead."

In the courtyard are the policemen and for this purpose busky members of the guard walk around the prisoners to maintain order and discipline.

It was found after the Turks began to be collected in the fort that there seemed to be a continuous controversy going on between the three nationalities, which could only be stopped by the interference of one or two of the burly policemen. It was learned that the cause of this trouble were the arguments that took place between the three nationalities as to which was doing the most in fighting the allies and each nationality was always blaming the other for starting the war, which led to their confinement. — As this same effect had been noticed all through Canada, in the concentration camps, orders were issued to gradually separate the three nationalities. A new camp was made at Petawawa and another about sixty miles from Hearst, on the G.T.P., within 200 miles of Hudson Bay. In the former camp, huts were used and these were surrounded by live wires carrying a heavy voltage of electricity to prevent escape. At Hearst, old railroad construction camps were used and as the men are sixty miles in the bush from Hearst, and the train only runs on Thursday's, escape was highly improbable. The men were put in charge of a guard from a Montreal regiment and at one time fifty-six prisoners were taken from Kingston there. This was the second batch that arrived, but since then there has been collected about 150 prisoners in this out of the way place. Only Austrians are in camp near Hearst and only Turks confined at Petawawa.

In Fort Henry there are about 125 Germans, and a few Turks, the latter will be taken to Petawawa in the near future. The Turks spend their time sitting "tailor fashion" on the floor reading and talking quietly to themselves. The Germans play cards and play music on mouth-organs, that they have, beside their talking and reading. In one part of their quarters is a work shop and in this the prisoners may whittle to pass the time. In this work shop many fine examples of woodwork have been turned out by the prisoners. Four Germans made as many different types of airships. One man has been working since he came, over two months ago, on a model of the fort itself and has it nearly completed. He has each room and the contents distinctly marked.

The men are fed well, the same food in the same quantities as is supplied to soldiers. They are contented, and although the confinement was at first very trying, they seem to have got used to it and do not object.

It is surprising the amount of money that the foreigners own. When each man is brought in, he is searched and everything is taken from him. He is given credit for the amount of money he has and from this he may buy tobacco or other luxuries for himself at the canteen.