

Alien Enemies Have Lost Their Fear of Being Put in Detention Camps.

There are many busy Germans and Austrians in Canada to-day who are no longer afraid that war camps are going to be plentiful in Canada this winter and what there is is hard work—railway construction, snow shovelling and all that. In the big Canadian cities there are long bread lines, and the charities organizations are overtaxed.

Through all this the alien enemy is getting three square meals a day, warm clothes and living quarters and it doesn't cost him a cent.

American Consul Bradley of Montreal, who, as the general representative there, handles the mail from the prisoners at the internment camps, says that he has not only seen no complaints, but that many of the letters are written to friends in Montreal urging them to enlist in the army of prisoners and join them in one of the several camps.

This applies particularly to Austrians. The comparatively few Germans who are included are inclined to be more sullen of disposition and at times resentful of the confinement, though even from these there has been no word of complaint about the treatment.

The Germans and Austrians, soon after the alien enemies' regulations were put in force, were all kept at Kingston, but after a while trouble developed which culminated in a fight. Then the internment department decided to separate the prisoners, sending the Austrians to Petawawa, where they were engaged in brush cutting and road making until the snow came.

Later the Government established a camp in the Abitibi district known as Spirit Lake camp, exclusively for Austrians, and at the present time there are about 300 Austrians at work there clearing the ground, erecting huts and stores and laying out what will be a miniature town.

At the outset of hostilities the alien enemies feared that internment meant real imprisonment, and to avoid this they declared to the registrar that they had work and were able to support themselves and their families during the winter, and they were accordingly placed on parole. But after a few weeks their resources came to an end, they lost their work and could not get employment. A petition was drawn up by the leaders among the Austrians in Montreal in which expression was given to the desire of the Austrians to go to the Spirit Lake internment camp and work under the supervision of the guards. This petition was circulated among the Austrians and within a week, 1,300 Austrian workmen voluntarily signed the petition.

Two things have contributed to this desire among the Austrians to get away—the fact that the Government supplies them with sheepskin coats, thick winter underwear, lumbermen's socks, overshoes and haversacks for their belongings, feeds them regularly and pays them 25 cents a day for their labor in addition to housing them.

The guards have no trouble with them and the registrar of alien enemies for Montreal is receiving requests every day from batches of Austrians to be sent away, and they are being complied with as quickly as possible.