

# 200 PRISONERS OF WAR INTERNED HERE

Immigration Building Overflows and Many Taken to Kingston Last Night

## PLAN CAMP AT PETEWAWA

Gov't Hopes to Give 1,000 Enemies Work in Concentration Camp—Menace to Community, Not to State

The capacity of the Immigration Building on St. Antoine street being overtaxed yesterday by the number of alien enemies whom Registrar Silas H. Carpenter and the military authorities had found necessary to intern, extra accommodation had to be arranged in the premises above the newly opened registration office on the other side of the street, and the total number of those interned in Montreal at one time reached a maximum yesterday when more than two hundred Austrians and Germans were placed under surveillance, about 125 being in the Immigration Building and about 100 over the registration office.

It was found necessary to transfer a number of the men last night to Kingston, where they will be kept till arrangements have been made to place the aliens in concentration camps at Petawawa, where the Government has decided to provide work for the men during the winter months. It is thought likely that a thousand men can be accommodated there, though it is intended to start with only about half this number, Mr. Carpenter stated yesterday. The registrar added that the arrangements in this matter were not definite yet, but that it was hoped to have the first lot of men transferred to the camp within a week or two.

Algonquin Park has also been spoken of as the site for another possible concentration camp.

It is intended to put the men in camp to work under military guards on improvements to the Government's camping and drill grounds at Petawawa, but whether the men are to receive pay in addition to their food and shelter, or how much they should receive, are matters which will come up for discussion later by the authorities.

Owing to the fact that so many men had to be interned above the registration office yesterday, an armed sentry was placed on duty outside the bureau, while there were also three or four policemen on the spot. Busybodies were quickly sent about their business, but no trouble of any kind arose during the day, the registration work proceeding rapidly. Nearly three thousand men have now been dealt with by the registrar, but as the number of foreigners in the city has been rapidly increasing within the last week, many Austrians having come into town from outlying sections and from considerable distances, some from as far as Anticosti, Mr. Carpenter expects that more than fifteen thousand will have to be registered in this district.

### MENACE TO COMMUNITY.

Speaking yesterday of some aspects of his work, the registrar said that the reason so many men had been interned was that they were beginning to feel the pinch of want, and would consequently become a menace to the community. Mr. Carpenter thought there were but few Austrians in the city who realized what the war was about, and still fewer had any feelings of patriotism, as all they cared

about was getting enough to eat, and if they had not got enough to eat and could not earn any money they would most likely try to satisfy their wants in a criminal way.

The men seemed so used to being downtrodden in their own country that they were extremely suspicious of any personal questions asked them. Above all, they seemed to resent being asked whether they had any means and if they were unemployed. They did not understand the word "means" but as soon as "money" was mentioned most of them would shake their heads and swear they had none. Consequently, a few of these self-described, penniless men had been interned, though they really had plenty of money.

It turned out in one case that a man who was interned for having no money actually possessed \$500. He said he had nothing, but his brother came the next day to protest to Mr. Carpenter against his having been interned and it transpired that the man had no less than \$500 saved and put away somewhere. Most of the men are afraid to admit they have money because they think it will be taken away from them, Mr. Carpenter said.

The registrar emphasized the point that nearly all these Austrians were absolutely harmless to the state, as distinguished from the community. Many would not even know there was a war going on, he believed, but for the fact that they were deprived of work and had to register. Yet, once they were in want of food they might become a grave menace to the community.