

# AUSTRIAN MAKES BID FOR LIBERTY

## One of Fifty Aliens Rounded Up Takes Jump From High Window

### CAPTOR FOLLOWS HIM

## Quick and Sensational Movie Drama Enacted When Gov- ernment Agents Close Soup Kitchen

If a motion-picture camera had been placed behind a dingy St. Antoine street building a few minutes after three o'clock yesterday afternoon, when fifty men of East European birth were rounded up by a squad of Dominion Government men employed in keeping track of suspicious, enemy aliens, half a dozen melodramatic incidents fit for the place of honor in a sensational picture-play might have been photographed while the operator exposed but a few feet of film.

Perilous jumps from a window to an uncertain and sloping foothold ten feet below and but five feet square, an escape made good by dropping and clambering down the vertical twice as far again to the street level, and the prompt and successful pursuit by a man whose considerable weight made the descent doubly dangerous—these episodes in themselves would have made a good film for a thrilling drama. In another five minutes the camera might have been brought round to the front entrance of the building and recorded the sequel to a dramatic street incident, with the excited crowd surrounding captives and captors.

The whole might have been entitled less sensationally, "The Closing of an Austrian Soup Kitchen," or "How the Aliens Were Brought to Book."

### WERE LATENT MENACE

Silas H. Carpenter, registrar of enemy aliens, and his staff had been rather nonplussed by the prevarication of unemployed and moneyless Austrians, who to avoid internment said they were working or in funds. Many of these men, it was found, spent their time in the neighborhood of the soup kitchen established at 100 St. Antoine street. They would get their three meals a day for nothing, and their appetites satisfied, would adjourn to the chairless lounge on the third floor of the building and lie on the dusty floor or lean against the walls, smoking or discussing how further needs might be obtained. It was thought that these men were a latent menace to the citizens. As many as a hundred of them would gather at a time in this place.

The jargon of guttural tongues was suddenly interrupted yesterday afternoon when the raid which had been recently planned materialized, and eight Government men suddenly appeared at the top of the stairway, barring the exit.

The men were recognized by the foreigners, as their work has been to trace defaulters in the matter of registration. Four windows open on to the street from this room, which is some thirty feet up. Four others look out on a yard in which the snow had been untouched and was apparently seldom visited. The yard is entered by a narrow alley from St. Cecile street. It is practically enclosed on four sides, and at one angle the sloping wooden roof of a little porch juts out a few feet. A tall man standing on this porch might reach within a yard of the window-sill above. Few men would have cared to try the jump down, unless driven by flames, and the Government men had not thought it worth while to guard the back of the building. No escape seemed feasible.

### BREAK FOR LIBERTY.

One of the Austrians, however, thought otherwise, and so great was his objection to the idea of joining the pioneer camp at Spirit Lake, where the needy Austrian war prisoners are fed and paid a little money by the Government, that he made the jump for freedom after a quick dash to the window, which he opened. Where one man could go another could follow, thought S. Thompson, one of the raiders. Quickly he made across the room and, though a much heavier man than the fugitive, took the jump and was soon heels to head with the Austrian as the two clambered downward. The foreigner reached the ground first, but took a wrong turn and had to retrace his steps, giving his pursuer the advantage.

The game was up.

The other men upstairs were rounded up without a bid for liberty. A dozen were found to be Finnish; as many Russian. These were let go, not being eligible for the Government jobs at Spirit Lake Camp. Twenty of the rest, being fitted for the work up north, were marched with their escort, in charge of F. G. McLaughlin, to the registration bureau a hundred yards west along the same street. There they went through a catechism put by Mr. Hugh McColl, who is acting registrar in the absence of Mr. Carpenter. Two were let go, one being old and the other married, with his wife and family in Montreal.

The eighteen were again marched a little farther along St. Antoine street to the new quarters at the Immigration Building. From this place of internment they will be taken next week to Spirit Lake Camp.

No more soup will be served at 100 St. Antoine street.