

AUSTRIAN COLONY AT SPIRIT LAKE

Expected That Detention Camp Will Result in Township Settlement

A VILLAGE GROWING UP

Party of 200 Prisoners Leave for There Tomorrow—Ex- perimental Farm Is Projected

There is every likelihood that an Austrian settlement in Northern Quebec, around Spirit Lake, will be the result of the enemy alien camp now established there. Already the aliens established in camp are taking kindly to the country, and like the prospect of being able to secure some land and settle down where they will be far from war alarms and compulsory drill, while at the same time able to own and work their own farms. To further this work, it is likely that a Government experimental farm will be established in the district, in order to find out what the agricultural resources of the country are, and aid future settlers in their work. A good deal of the work of preparing the ground for this experimental farm will be done by the alien prisoners themselves, so that they will be engaged, while held prisoners, preparing the way for their future career as Canadian pioneers when the war is over.

The Austrian colony at Spirit Lake is growing fast. Already there are 365 men there, in charge of Lt.-Col. W. Rodden, and tomorrow another party of 200 men will be taken up by Capt. Gerald A. Dillon, who is transport and supply officer on General Otter's staff, in charge of the movement of aliens. The contingent will consist entirely of Austrians, the Germans all being sent to the detention camp near Kingston.

With this party there will be 565 Austrian allens in the detention camp at Spirit Lake, and it is expected that within a few weeks the colony will have grown to a thousand men. They are in charge of Lt.-Col. W. Rodden, with 100 men from the Composite Battalion here.

Capt. Dillon remarked last night that the guards did not have a very hard time, as the Austrians seemed very well satisfied with their lot, and a large number of them expressed the hope that they would be able to settle there and take up land.

The alien prisoners are kept at work building huts for the men yet to come, and clearing up the country side. They are evidently glad to be kept occupied, and none of them have given any trouble. Already a considerable stretch of land has been cleared, while quite a respectable village of huts is growing up under their work.

"The Austrians at Spirit Lake seem very well contented," said Capt. Dillon. "They have good quarters and food, and are well looked after, while the discipline is probably easy after that of the army service in Austria. It looks as though there would be a little Austrian colony up north there before long."

Mr. Silas Carpenter has returned west, having completed his work of alien registration in Montreal, but the departmental work is being continued by his staff. Most of the work lately has been rounding up Austrian boarding houses and getting men out of work who might become troublesome later on. This work has been chiefly conducted at night, when the Austrians were in bed, and in this way the men have been collected, and will be sent on to the detention camp, where they will be out of mischief, have plenty of food, and probably be given the opportunity of becoming good Canadian citizens later on, as pioneer farmers.