

AUSTRIAN INTERNS BEING RELEASED

Spirit Lake Closed, Men Permitted to Work at Steel Plants

HELP MUNITION OUTPUT

Recruiting for Canadian Defence Force Continues Light —Gen. Wilson to Inspect Mount St. Louis Cadets

Lt.-Col. W. Rodden has returned to Montreal, after spending the past two years as commandant of the alien enemy camps at Spirit Lake and Kapuskasing. Lt.-Col. Rodden has temporarily completed his work with the interned enemies, and the camp at Kapuskasing, which he commanded for some time, is now in command of Lt.-Col. W. E. Date, who was for some time provost marshal here.

The camp for interned Austrians at Spirit Lake has been closed, since it was found unnecessary to keep the Austrians in confinement, and their work was badly needed elsewhere. It was stated that during the time the camp was in operation, over four thousand Austrians passed through Lt.-Col. Rodden's command. Most of these were released under guarantees of good behavior.

It was found with the Austrians that it was not necessary to keep them in custody, since they were not only harmless, but were anxious to work. Their services were eagerly looked for by a number of steel companies, where many of them have since been employed. They have not been exactly employed on munition supply work, but on work so closely allied to it that their enterprise made it the more possible for other men to supply munitions with which to defeat the Germans and Austrians. So far as is known none of the Austrian prisoners made the least objection to this, their main interest being in the weekly payroll, which was satisfactory.

The Kapuskasing camp was organized for the Prussian prisoners, and with these such Austrians as were considered better kept confined were sent. Apart from this the main work of the internment camps is about ended, and Lt.-Col. Rodden will not return to the north.

RECRUITING IS SLACK.

Reports sent to Major-General Wilson yesterday indicated that recruiting in No. 4 Military District was still light, while very little progress has been made with the Canadian Defence Force here. Up to date the latter force has secured 24 officers, 3 for overseas, 4 staff sergeants, and 118 other ranks, of whom 38 are for overseas. During the past week the five Montreal regiments recruiting for this force secured twenty men.

Recruiting is equally poor for all forces, both overseas and home service, despite the statement made by a visiting general officer of the Canadian forces a few days ago, that unless reinforcements were sent in much greater numbers the Canadians would hardly have a division left at the front by the fall.

The forces authorized from this district call for 204 officers and 4,062 other ranks. Of these, 91 officers and 754 other ranks have been secured, leaving a balance of 113 officers and 3,308 other ranks still required. Little progress was reported, save with the artillery units, which are forging ahead. The 258th French-Canadians, under Lt.-Col. Blondin, reported 7 officers and 125 men, leaving 25 officers and 8888 other ranks needed to complete establishment.

On Saturday next, the Mount St. Louis Cadets will hold their annual inspection parade and drill at the Champ de Mars, when they will be inspected by Major-General Wilson. The Cadets will march down so as to fall in at the Champ de Mars at 3 o'clock, under Brother John, after which they will hold battalion and company drill, with a march past.