

SUSPECT GERMANS IN BEAUFORT FIRE

Historic Church Burned—Report Aliens Were Patrolling the Region.

Quebec, Feb. 21.—Several peculiar incidents concerning the parish of Beauport, which lost a historic church this morning through a fire about which there are sensational rumors.

The editor of *Le Soleil*, the French daily, says that some day ago he received an anonymous letter from Beauport, saying that Pastor Deziel, of that parish, had been threatened by anonymous letters, presumably coming from sympathizers of Germans interned at the Beauport armory.

For the last five months a number of letters were received from the Beauport district stating that two Germans were "patrolling" the region.

A telephone message came from St. Anne's where the world-famed shrine is located, that the two Germans had taken abode in an abandoned shack. "We investigated the thing then," said the editor, "but found little, and kept it out of print.

"No later than a fortnight ago I got another unsigned letter, stating that the two suspects were reported living in a lumbering hut on the road leading from Beauport to the lumbering regions of Laval.

"We had two men assigned to the case," says the newspaperman, "but no definite information could be obtained. We worked on the case, but could get no aid from the inhabitants."

Another matter to be investigated is the complete failure of the water supply, which was recently remodelled.

A curious occurrence at the fire was the bad beating up of two Quebec firemen, attacked by a group of rowdies while stretching a line of hose. The loss will be \$350,000.