

AMHERST CAMP GERMANS HAVE NO COMPLAINT

Berlin's Threat of Reprisals on Canadians Because of Condi- tions There Lacks Stability

SURPRISE TO WASHINGTON

Major Oulton, in Command of Interned Alien Enemies, As- serts Scores Have Express- ed Satisfaction With

Their Treatment

Amherst, N.S., August 23.—Major G. R. Oulton, in command of the detention camp here, said tonight that he had never received a complaint from one of the 700 German civilian prisoners confined there, but that, on the contrary, scores had expressed to him their satisfaction with the conditions. Major Oulton also said that he had had several visits from the American consul, C. Forman, of Moncton, N.B., who, according to the commandant, had always expressed himself as pleased with the conditions found.

In connection with the dispatch from Berlin today, regarding alleged ill-treatment and unsanitary conditions at the camp, Major Oulton said:

"I have never received a complaint from one of the prisoners regarding their treatment. On the contrary, I have been told by scores of them that the treatment given them is all that could be asked for or expected; in fact, much better than they formerly received at Jamaica. Their food is the regular army rations, except that in place of one pound of fresh beef daily, they get one half-pound five days of the week and the other two days they get one pound. We are starting on the Government farm work this week, when they will be given full rations. I have had several visits from the American consul, Mr. C. Forman, of Moncton, and he always expressed himself as well pleased with the conditions at this station.

"In explanation of the criticism of use of the oven, I would say that it is an old unused brick and iron furnace used formerly for the tempering of casts into malleable iron. It measures eight feet by twenty feet, is clean and cool, and is never used except as a lock-up for men disobeying the order of the camp, and then for not more than twenty-four hours at one time, except in one case in which a man was in for two days for assaulting a fellow prisoner."

Dr. A. E. McIntosh, medical officer in charge of the prisoners of war at Amherst, stated:

"In every respect the sanitary conditions of the camp are satisfactory. The general health of the prisoners is excellent, and, in fact, there is less sickness among the prisoners than among the guards in charge. I have never had a complaint of ill-treatment from any of the men."

ARE WELL TREATED.

(Special to The Gazette.)

Ottawa, August 23.—That the treatment of German prisoners at the Amherst internment camp is anything but bad is shown in information received from official sources here in addition to the facts stated by Colonel MacPherson this morning. So far from being ill-treated as represented in the despatch from Germany, the men are receiving all privileges consistent with proper precautions for their safe-keeping. Only recently a number of them, on learning that there was an experimental farm station at Nappan, expressed a wish to be sent to work there, and this is being done.

SURPRISE TO WASHINGTON.

Washington, August 23.—State Department officials expressed surprise today at reports from Berlin, of unsatisfactory conditions in the German prison camp at Amherst, N.S. Latest reports to the department concerning conditions at the camp mentioned the occurrence of some minor trouble arising from the prisoners' complaint against Canadian cooking, but that had been settled. It was stated by the substitution of two of the prisoners as cooks. If official complaint were received, it was stated, the department would instruct the consul at Moncton to investigate and report. The United States, as custodian of German interests in Canada, is responsible for the adjustment of differences relating to the prisoners.

WHAT BERLIN SENT OUT

The cabled despatch from Berlin which elicited the above information follows:

Berlin, August 23, via London.—As the result of increasingly serious reports concerning the treatment of German civilian prisoners interned at Amherst, Nova Scotia, according to which men housed in an unventilated and unsanitary factory building had been punished for attempted escape and less serious infractions of the rules by confinement in a brick oven, the German authorities are now contemplating retaliatory measures against Canadians, both soldiers and civilians, imprisoned here. Approximately 700 Germans are now interned at Amherst.

The German authorities, who freely admit that the conditions under which imprisoned Germans are living in England and her colonies are generally good, were at first loath to believe the Amherst reports and ascribed them

to the dissatisfaction of constitutional grumblers. The complaints continue to multiply, however, alleging that dust and dirt were allowed to accumulate, with lack of proper sanitary measures and generally unbearable living arrangements. The utter lack of privacy in their cramped quarters and the theft of packages intended for prisoners were also alleged.

Even the letters of complaint praise the attitude and conduct of individual Canadian officers, resting the blame for the conditions complained of upon "those higher up." Officials here have secured a report from Charles F. Orman, American consul at Moncton, N.B., announcing an improvement recently in some conditions at Amherst, but fresh letters have convinced them that fundamental alterations—perhaps the construction of barracks similar to those in Germany—are necessary.

The German officials believe that the conditions at Amherst are in sharp contrast with those under which Canadian civil and military prisoners live in Germany. United States Embassy investigators have pronounced camps where Canadians are imprisoned as good. An Associated Press correspondent recently visited Goettingen, where the greatest number of Canadian soldiers are confined, and found conditions apparently satisfactory.

It is learned from reliable sources that if the German Government is not assured immediately of a change such as is desired in conditions in the Canadian prison the conditions under which Canadians are confined in Germany will be made more severe.