

GENERAL HUGHES SUSPENDS HURDMAN

Minister of Militia Takes Action on Evidence — Canada's Prisoners of War.

Ottawa, April 2.—The minister of militia, Gen. Sam Hughes, has taken action on the evidence which has been brought out in the public accounts committee with regard to the purchase of binoculars. Today he suspended Lieut.-Col. Hurdman, inspector of technical equipment, pending further inquiry made as regarding his inspection of inferior binoculars, and the charge made by Mr. Bilsky, about "\$2 for incidentals" going to Colonel Hurdman for each of the glasses sold to the department by Bilsky and Birkett.

A return tabled in the commons today in regard to Canada's prisoners of war shows that up to Feb. 25 there had been 35,630 citizens of enemy countries paroled in Canada, while the total number of prisoners of war was 2,294, interned in ten detention camps. The cost of the camps has totalled \$112,590, while relief granted to the families of interned prisoners has been \$120,396. The value of the work thus far done by the war prisoners is placed at \$15,000. It consists of clearing and draining land, making roads, cutting wood and preparing land for crops in the northern Ontario and Quebec camps. The total number of Austro-Hungarians paroled is 27,840; Germans, 7,410; and Turks, 370. The total number of prisoners at the Halifax detention camp is 156; Kingston, 196; at Petawawa, 564; at Spirit Lake, Que., 362; at Kapustensing, Ont., 400; at Lethbridge, 95; at Brandon, 220; at Vernon, 63; at Nanaimo, 123.