

CANADA MAY ACT IN LONSDALE CASE

If He Is Shot German Prisoners at Kingston May Suffer Same Fate

(Special to The Gazette.)

Ottawa, May 2.—The attempt made by three German prisoners in Fort Henry barracks, Kingston, to injure the guards and escape from the camp for interned prisoners may have international developments. The decision of the Supreme Military Court in Germany in imposing a sentence of death upon Private Wm. Lonsdale of Leeds, England, for attacking a German non-commissioned officer at the military prison camp at Doeberitz, has roused the military authorities here. It is claimed that if the sentence is carried out upon Private Lonsdale, that a court-martial will be held in Canada, and a similar sentence meted out to the German prisoners. This can be done under military law, which is the only law in vogue where prisoners of war are concerned.

Among the German prisoners is a well-known German officer holding the rank of Count in the German Empire, and a holder of large properties in the West. It is claimed that he was the ring-leader in the attack upon the guards. In Private William Lonsdale's case, the evidence goes to show that he only struck the non-commissioned officer under extreme provocation, while in the case of the prisoners at Fort Henry barracks, a deliberate attempt was made without the slightest provocation on the part of the military authorities to do away with the guards and escape from the prison.

It is considered here by the military authorities that it is about time that the Germans were taught that Germany is not the only country in which prisoners of war are confined. If Private William Lonsdale received the death penalty for defending himself under provocation from German tyranny, it is claimed here by the military authorities that surely nothing less than the death penalty could be measured out to men who, without the slightest provocation at all, made an attempt upon their guards.