

15 ALIEN ENEMIES AT BRANDON MAKE DASH FOR FREEDOM

One, Shot by Sentry, in Critical
Condition, Others Slightly

Injured

ONE AUSTRIAN ESCAPES

Escapade Well-Planned for
Weeks, Checker Players
Hiding Man Who Sawed
Boards Under Table

Brandon, Man., June 6.—Andrew Crapko, an eighteen-year-old Austrian, is in the General Hospital hovering between life and death, and a compatriot, Mike Butryn, aged 22, is also there with an injury to the back as the result of an attempt by fifteen alien enemies to escape from the internment camp at the Winter Fair Arena, between 9 and 10 o'clock last night. Another Austrian got away, but the authorities declare his recapture is practically certain. The others are under arrest, several of them being at the city police station. Two or three of them sustained slight injuries from bayonets, but none is in the hospital.

The break for liberty was evidently well planned. While some of the men had for weeks past been playing checkers with a long cloth over a table, others had looked on to hide a man under the table, who was working away with a table knife which had been filed into a saw. By Saturday all was ready for action. At half-past nine, when the guard was being changed and the men taken to their sleeping quarters, the fifteen quickly pulled up the boards and slid through into a boiler-room and stable beneath. The sentry gave the alarm, but five of them rushed past him. One was brought down by a bullet and two others were quickly overtaken and prods from bayonets made them scurry back. A fourth showed no inclination to return and the guard hit him a violent blow with the clenched fist in preference to stabbing or shooting him. He also received an injury to his back and will likely be in the hospital a few days. The man who was shot is in a precarious condition. The bullet entered his left side and passed through behind the lung, coming out on the opposite side.

Four shots were fired in all. The fifth man to leave the building was brought down by a slight bullet wound after getting out on Tenth Street and about fifty yards from the extreme south end of the building. Crapko was shot as he attempted to rush the guard on duty outside. One of the re-captured Austrians was caught near the C.P.R. depot at half-past eleven. The men were all Austrians.

One of the ringleaders says that the confinement is driving them crazy. He is Simon Konrat, an ex-soldier of the Austrian army and 24 years of age. Konrat says he had not been taken out for two weeks prior to yesterday afternoon and another two months of the monotonous life at the Arena would drive him crazy. He and many of his compatriots, he declares, are willing to make another dash for freedom when opportunity offers itself, even by taking the risk of death from a bullet. He says they do not owe their guards any grudge and when he saw the attempt to escape was useless, he calmly told the guards that five of his men were hiding in a boiler. These five were covered from head to foot with soot.

All the re-captured men will appear before Colonel Clark tomorrow and an inquiry into the shooting of Crapko will also be held.