

# SIX ALLEGED SPIES LAND IN POLICE NET

## The Provincial Authorities Round Up Austrians Who Are Said to Have Extensive Connections in Ontario—Two of Prisoners Are Army Officers

Six Austrians, two of them military officers and three members of a committee suspected of being in communication with German spies in the United States, reached Toronto last evening in custody of Provincial Inspectors John Miller and A. Boyd. They were met at Parkdale station by Superintendent J. E. Rogers and a military guard, by whom they were escorted to Stanley Barracks for internment.

The arrests were made at Acton, between Georgetown and Guelph, by the Provincial officers as a result of investigations which have been going on for some time in conjunction with the military and postal authorities at Ottawa. They are believed to be preliminary to a more general round-up, upon which Superintendent Rogers and his men have been working for some time.

### Composed "Central Committee."

The names of the interned men are Paul Strritz, John Fromashuk, Nicholas Sauck Prokopuk, John Simkolo, John Wasaluk and Alexander Swetuk. Fromashuk and Prokopuk are officers in the Austrian army and the latter, with Simkolo and Swetuk, are believed by the authorities to compose the "central committee," which is alleged to have been operating more or less generally throughout Ontario.

These men at the time of their arrest were engaged in operations in connection with the leather factory and tanneries at Acton. They have been, however, itinerants since the

(Continued on Page 6, Col. 3.)

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(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3.)

outbreak of the war, and have, according to the information in the hands of the authorities, a network of connections throughout both older and Northern Ontario. Superintendent Rogers declined to be interviewed, but intimated that it was not improbable that many other arrests would follow within a week or two. It is understood, however, that the authorities are confident these men are among the ring-leaders.

## How They Helped Enemy.

Their operations, so far as can be learned, were the collection of various sums of money from German and Austrian sympathizers, the assistance of a number of German reservists to escape to the United States, and, most significant of all, the transmission of certain papers, presumably reports to secret agents of the Kaiser's forces in the United States.

None of the men would discuss their position with the officers. They all took arrest most stolidly and maintained the utmost reticence. It is probable, however, that their arrest may lead to important disclosures and they may be placed on trial as spies.