

AUSTRIANS BUILT A RAFT ON THE WATER FRONT TO ESCAPE

During the last week or so the Austrians of the city have shown an inclination to refuse to report to the authorities, and consequently in the last few days about fifty have been interned by the militia.

There are at present 1,385 aliens in the city, who are required to report regularly, and of this number the great majority are Austrians. A good many of these, encouraged by the recent Teutonic successes, have come to think that the Germans and Austrians are due to win the war very shortly, and it is reported that a few of them held a caucus last Saturday night, and since that time have been spreading the word among their fellows that it is not necessary to report to the authorities and encouraging them to refuse. This, combined with other causes, is the reason for the action of the military authorities.

Quite a few of the Austrians have been taking advantage of the freedom allowed them to escape from the country, and this probably has something to do with the stiffening of the attitude of the militia. They had built a large raft down in the east end on which those desiring to escape could be ferried across the river to the Michigan side, and on one occasion the patrol stationed in the east end rounded up thirty Austrians in one party.

Several small boats have been stolen from along the shore, and found the river, and it is surmised that aliens who wished to get out of the the next day on the American side of country took this means of doing so.