

DISCHARGE 157

FERNIE INTERNES

Set Free Those Who Take Oath and Agree to Report when Required

Fernie, B.C., July 18.—(Special to the Herald.)—The sifting process inaugurated when Col. MacKay took over from the provincial police the 330 odd aliens who had been rounded up by them early in June, has, to date, resulted in the discharging of 157 men, mostly Gallicians, Hungarians, Russians, Bukowenians and Bohemians.

They are all lumbermen and common laborers, and willingly took the prescribed oath, and signed a pledge to report at all times when required to do so by the police. They are all young men, many being below 21 years, one boy of 17 being among them.

This work has been systematically done by Col. MacKay, assisted by Lieut. Martin and others, under instructions from Ottawa. Each man has been examined separately and passed upon by the colonel.

There are only eight Germans in the camp, and some of the Austrians frankly state that if they could get out of the country, they would join their regiments and assist in the fighting for their respective countries.

In the drag net proceedings of the police in rounding up the aliens, one American citizen, eight Bohemians and an Italian citizen were caught, but all of these have been set at liberty.

Colonel MacKay has performed a most tedious and distasteful task in making these examinations, and has acted with strict impartiality in every case. One man, an Austrian, while

declaring himself as a friend to his adopted country, does not want his liberty just now, owing to the difficulty of securing a job and is being held with the others.