

GERMANS THREATEN TO ILL-TREAT CANUCKS

Allege That Their Own Sailors
at Amherst are Far-
ing Ill.

CONTENTION ABSURD

Germans Admit That Britain
Usually Treats Her Pri-
soners Well.

Canadian Press Despatch.

Berlin, Aug. 23.—As the result of increasingly serious reports concerning the treatment of German civilian prisoners, interned at Amherst, Nova Scotia, according to which men housed in an unventilated and unsanitary factory building had been punished for attempted escape and less serious infractions of the rules by confinement in a brick oven, the German authorities are now contemplating retaliatory measures against Canadians, both soldiers and civilians, imprisoned here. Approximately seven hundred Germans are now interned at Amherst.

The German authorities, who freely admit that the conditions under which imprisoned Germans are living in England and her colonies are generally good, were at first loathe to believe the Amherst reports and ascribed them to the dissatisfaction of constitutional grumblers. The complaints continue to multiply, however, alleging that dust and dirt were allowed to accumulate, the lack of proper sanitary measures and generally unbearable living arrangements. The utter lack of privacy in their cramped quarters and the theft of packages intended for prisoners were also alleged.

Blame the "Higher Ups."

Even the letters of complaint praise the attitude and conduct of individual Canadian officers, resting the blame for the conditions complained of upon "those higher up."

Officials here have secured a report from Charles Forman, American consul at Moncton, New Bruns-

wick, announcing an improvement recently in some conditions at Amherst, but fresh letters have convinced them that fundamental alterations, perhaps the construction of barracks similar to those in Germany, are necessary.

The German officials believe that the conditions at Amherst are in sharp contrast with those under which Canadian civil and military prisoners live in Germany. United States embassy investigators have pronounced camps where Canadians are imprisoned as good. An Associated Press correspondent recently visited Gottingen, where the greatest number of Canadian soldiers are confined, and found conditions apparently satisfactory.

It is learned from reliable sources that if the German Government is not assured immediately of a change such as is desired in conditions in the Canadian prison the conditions under which Canadians are confined in Germany will be made more severe.

The men interned at Amherst are German sailors. Far from being badly treated, the officers were reported some time ago as being so well "dined" by a French-Canadian regiment that the latter had to be moved, as it was banquetting the Germans nightly. This report was quite unofficial.

Are Splendidly Treated.

Special to The Star.

Ottawa, Aug. 23.—Major-Colonel MacPherson, assistant to General Otter, who is in charge of alien enemies interned in Canada, especially denied the cable from Berlin. He says they number 687, the majority being sailors taken from German auxiliary cruisers sunk or captured during the early stages of the war. They are well housed in a large building, formerly used for manufacturing purposes, and are given the same rations as Canadian soldiers.

Col. MacPherson further states that the American Consul at Amherst has inspected the camp on several occasions and reported favorably upon it.

The German officers captured in the Atlantic are not interned at Amherst. They raised a row because they objected to being put in quarters so near the ordinary seamen and were sent to Halifax.