

INTERNED ALIENS PLAN ESCAPE

Nick Popiszcguk of Sarnia Advised Them to Break Prison and Come to Him

DROP LETTERS ON MARCH

A series of attempts to escape from the alien enemy internment camp in Brandon has been brought to light by the capture of some letters addressed to four of the prisoners and by other letters written by the prisoners. The arrest of an Austrian in Sarnia, Ontario, has resulted and the arrest of another in the west is expected.

Four interned Austrians were recently discovered to have been the objects of an attempt at breaking the prison. Nick Popiszcguk, who lives in Sarnia, wrote to them but his letters were intercepted by the censor at the Brandon camp.

In these letters Popiszcguk told how he was only half a mile from the boundary. If the prisoners could get out he told them to come to him and he would look after them. Before that he would arrange with a friend in Brandon that they get \$90 each.

When these letters were found there was an investigation and the men to whom the correspondence was addressed were questioned. At first they denied all knowledge of the Sarnia man but later admitted that they knew him.

The Sarnia police were then communicated with and Popiszcguk was arrested and charged before the police court with attempting to assist alien enemies. He pleaded guilty and is now awaiting sentence.

Meanwhile some other interned aliens have been planning escape from Brandon camp, the men concerned in the first case being apparently ignorant of what was being done in an effort to assist them. The others, however, have been trying to arrange their own escapes.

Their system was to write letters to an Austrian in the west, who it appears is a friend of more than one of them. These letters asked for help in escaping and steps are now being taken to deal with the men to whom they were written.

None of the prisoners are allowed the use of postage stamps. In order to get these letters mailed they were in the habit of dropping them on the street while out on a route march, hoping that in some cases people finding them would post them.

It was in one or two of the other cases that they were found out; for instead of posting the letters some citizens returned them to the internment camp. Now the men are under surveillance and an effort is being made to find the accomplice.