

of work and in that state were a menace to the community. There were a number of course who were interned by reason of hostility shown.

As the years progressed the conditions of unemployment that obtained at the opening of the war were very much mitigated and indeed the pendulum swung to the other **extreme until** there became a need in Canada for more labour and for a larger source of labour supply than the country under these conditions afforded. That being the case, a very considerable pressure was brought to bear to provide for the release of aliens who were interned on account of their being out of work and who had shown during internment no evidence whatever of hostility to the country and no reason to lead us to believe that they would not behave themselves as good citizens if they were released from internment or restraint. A careful examination was carried on as to all those who were the subjects of our internment operations and the greatest care was exercised that none of those interned were allowed to take work except where work was already provided, where labour could not otherwise be obtained and where the men to be released had shown evidence that there would be no cause to regret their being given freedom from internment and restraint. On the 19th December last I asked for a report from Sir William Otter, who had charge of internment work, as to the number in the various camps in Canada, their nationalities, the properties held by them, in so far as we could tell, and also as to certain other particulars covered by the request. The report made by Sir William Otter at that time showed that there were under internment altogether 2,222 men.

Mr. McKENZIE: Will the minister tell the date of the report?

Mr. MEIGHEN: The 19th December. It must be remembered in this connection that the activities of the department in relation to alien enemies were not confined really to those interned. The department took a register, in so far as it could be taken throughout the Dominion, which register increased in completeness as time went on until we believed we had practically a record of all the alien enemies in the country. A close watch was kept, and is kept, of their occupations, and activities, and they are all pretty well followed. But, as to internment alone, the report shows a total of 2,222 distributed as follows:

Camp.	No.
Munson . . . . .	63
Vernon . . . . .	388
Kapuskasing . . . . .	1007
Amherst . . . . .	764
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	2,222

Of these 1,700 were Germans, thus emphasizing the fact that the great majority of those interned merely because they were a menace from the fact that they were unemployed, were of the Austrian labour class. There were 1,700 Germans unreleased on that date, 489 Austrians, 11 Turks, 7 Bulgarians, and 15 of miscellaneous origin.

Of the 1,700 Germans, however, 800 were sent here from the West Indies, and were held by us subject to the final disposition of the British Government.

Sir SAM HUGHES: They would be classed as prisoners of war I presume?

Mr. MEIGHEN: I do not think there is any different designation applicable to them than would be applicable to the other 900 of them. They were interned and were in that sense prisoners of war, and in that sense only. Of these 900 there was reason to believe that about 80 per cent of them could be classed as hostile or otherwise dangerous or undesirable. That is to say, in so far as the closest observation of the internment officers could possibly bring them to a conclusion, and that observation of course was assisted by reports, voluntary and otherwise, obtained with regard to these men from various sources in the Dominion.

As to Austrians, there was certain of them, but very few, as to whom there was reason to believe that they were of the dangerous or undesirable class, and this remark would apply to a larger proportion of the very small number who belonged to other nationalities. So summing the situation up, the reports of the officers of the Department seem to lead to this conclusion: that the great body, virtually all, of the Germans interned at that time could be classed as hostile, dangerous, or for one reason or other undesirable (54 of them were insane), and as to the Austrians a much smaller proportion could be so classed.

The question, however, in immediate issue is as to what should be done, and what the policy of the Government has been and is with regard to those men. At the time that report was received I submitted a recommendation to Council, which recommendation was accepted, and I think I cannot do better, in order to give a specific and defi-