BRUTALITY TO CAPTIVE CRIPPLE

SIX MONTHS OF TORTURE AT HANDS OF HUNS.

Wounded British Soldier Relates the Cruelty of Neglect Practised by War-Crazed Enemy.

Mr. H. Banks, a member of the staff of the London Times, who belonged to the Twenty-eighth London Regiment, was wounded in the retreat from the Cambrai sector in the last days of last March. He was picked up by the advancing Germans and sent back to Cambrai and thence to Germany, where he remained in hospital until September 12, when he was repatriated. The following is Mr. Banks' own story of these six months:

"When the Germans' big offensive opened on the morning of March 21, 1918, I was on the Cambrai sector, and had the previous night left the front line for four days' rest. My battalion (the Twenty-eighth London) was immediately rushed up to trenches in front of Trescault to make one of many others to stiffen the resistance. This we did by fighting rearguard actions, and by the night of the 23rd-24th we had fallen back to the village of Ypres, where we had a rest of about two hours.

"Orders having been received to evacuate the village at 1 a.m. (about) we moved off, our battalion being the last in column. At the end of the village there was a railhead, and alongside an ammunition dump which had been fired by our troops. It was on approaching this burning dump that I was hit—presumably by something from it, but possibly by a stray bullet. I fell by the roadside with a thigh wound and the bone broken in two places. Our men could do nothing for me, as they were out of touch by that time with all dressing stations and ambulances. They therefore had to leave me. I was apparently in a village absolutely deserted; on one side of me the retreating British, and on the other the advancing Germans. From this time it seemed that one continuous stream of troops, transports and guns passed me by. Night came (Sunday), and I remained unattended in spite of my many requests. Fortunately one kind-disposed German gave me a sleeping bag, which undoubtedly saved me from the frost. During the day I had been given a drink of wine and half a loaf of bread—black, and my first taste of many more to follow.

A 'Hospital' at Cambrai.

"The following morning I was told I should be attended to later on. The day passed on, and I began to think that I should have to spend another night in the open. But the promise was kept. At 3 p.m. (Monday) I was picked up by a motor lorry and conveyed to Cambrai. And so I left Ypres after a stay of thirty-eight hours by the side of that death-giving ammunition dump.

"Arriving at Cambrai, I was put into a clearing station with hundreds more, both English and Germans. Here was brought to my notice the absolute indifference of the enemy to the wounded. We were laid side by side in wooden boxes raised off the floor—a straw bed and two blankets our only comfort. We were not undressed or washed or made comfortable in any way. The food was indifferent and insufficient for men in our condition.

"My stay in this hospital lasted from Monday evening till the following Thursday morning. During this period my injuries were not attended to or even looked at. On one occasion an attempt—nothing more—was made to attend to the badly wounded, but it was only those who could walk or crawl to the dressing room who were fortunate enough to get a dressing. The sufferings of the wounded were terrible to witness, and many died in great pain who might have been saved by a little attention.

"To add to the horrors, the British air force bombed the town on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, and in our helplessness this seemed more terrible than anything else. On the Thursday morning about 150 of us left the clearing station and we thought that at last we were going to see better times—visions of a Red Cross train and an eventual arrival at some hospital in Germany where our wounds would be cleaned, dressed and attended to generally.

To Germany in Cattle Trucks.

"Arriving at a siding in Cambrai station we were dumped alongside the railway line to await the conveyance which was to take us to Germany. About 3 p.m. on the same afternoon (Thursday, March 28) our train was shunted alongside, and it was then that we realized that our hardships were to continue. The train was made up of goods or cattle trucks and into these we were loaded, about twenty per truck, as if we were the goods which the trucks were originally built to carry. The floor of the trucks was covered with wood shavings and our covering consisted of two blankets.

"And so commenced a journey which was one long, horrible torture! A journey which took us through Mons and Brussels; in fact, all through Belgium, in the vain endeavor to find a hospital where we could obtain that rest and attention which we so badly needed, and then into Germany. It lasted from 4 p.m. Thursday, March 28, till 7 a.m. the following Monday morning. We were locked in and in total darkness for twenty-three hours out of every twenty-four, and it seemed that we were only stopped to remove the dead, and many died on that terrible journey. In my truck not one man could help himself, and for nearly four days we were left in this condition without any attention whatever; no sanitary arrangements were made, and in this misery we had to live for four days in a closed truck! In our wounded and maimed condition that journey seemed as if we were being dragged over uneven ground all the time and on one occasion we ran into some obstacle which brought the train to a standstill. That was hell for us all!

Attention to the Wounded.

"On the Monday morning we arrived at our destination—Langensalza, Saxony—and here we were put into hospital; it was here that I received the first "attention" to my injuries. My leg was placed in a splint, but it was not set or any attempt made to set it. So from the time I was wounded eight days had elapsed before I received this splint. On the following Wednesday morning I was again put into a train (third class this time) and sent to Ohrdruf Lazaret, which is under the control of Langensalza and in the same State, and a journey of about thirty miles. From Ohrdruf station we were carted to the hospital in a pantechnicon. The attention here was no better than before—one dressing in six days, and with substitutes of all kinds. Linen bandages I never saw, paper in various strengths being used for all purposes. It was quite an unusual thing to see a German doctor, and all the work in the wards was performed by English and French dressers. It was only in cases of amputation that the Germans exerted themselves.

"During my whole stay at Ohrdruf I have no complaint to make of ill treatment of the prisoners by the Germans—that is, where a wounded prisoner is far better off than an unwounded one. It is not what they did of which complaint can be made; the grievance is rather of what they did not do. As I have already said, had it not been for the kind services rendered by the British, French and Italian orderlies, our life would have been a very sorry one indeed. On August 13 I was marked for England on account of the shortage in my right leg (due to inattention by the Germans, and not having had the leg set), and on September 12 I left Ohrdruf for Aachen, en route for England.

THE USES OF SPHAGNUM MOSS

A Canadian Product of Great Value in Red Cross Work.

These plants (for there are many species of sphagnum) grow best in a climate that is moist and only moderately warm in summer. They are one of the chief forms of vegetation to be found growing in the swampy regions known as "Muskegs." Sphagnum bogs occur principally in Newfoundland, the Maritime Provinces, Northeastern Quebec, Labrador, and the western parts of British Columbia.

The sphagnum plant consists of a stem and branches which are clothed with small, numerous, overlapping leaves. They differ from most other mosses in being entirely devoid of rootlets. Another peculiarity of sphagnum is that the leaf never has a central vein or midrib. The outer part of the stem as well as a considerable part of the leaf is composed of a large number of special "absorbent cells" which are able to take up and hold water like a sponge. The amount of water absorbed varies according to the species but ranges from ten to twenty times the weight of the dry sphagnum. Owing to the ability of these cells to absorb the water required by the plant for its development the presence of rootlets is unnecessary. Sphagnum usually grows in a situation where the soil underneath is permanently damp.

Sphagnum or bog moss has been used for a considerable period as a packing material for plants. Owing to its power of retaining moisture, it helps to keep rooted plants in a fresh condition until they arrive at their destination. It is also extremely useful, when dried, as bedding material for horses.

But it is owing to its use since the beginning of the war in the form of absorbent pads for dressing wounds that sphagnum has recently gained an importance hitherto unknown. Cotton is so largely in demand for the manufacture of explosives that some substitute had to be found and in any case cotton wool has an absorptive power of only four to five times its own weight. Of the species of sphagnum found growing on this continent four are used for the purpose. When collecting the moss great care should be taken to have it free from any admixture of leaves, twigs or roots of other plants which may be growing in the immediate vicinity. Each handfull should be squeezed gently to remove excessive moisture, but care should be taken not to break the main stem. The moss should be spread in thin layers to dry; before the drying process is complete it should be gone over carefully and sorted, after which the dried moss may be packed into bags or light boxes for despatch to the depot where it is required. The final making up into pads of the sizes required should be left to be done by the experts of the War Department.

At the present time Scotland is turning out thse pads at the rate of four millions per month, while Canada during the year 1918 was asked to supply twenty millions of such pads.

Real Giving.

In these days, when millions of people are making supreme sacrifices in the name of a noble cause, generous giving seems to have become a universal habit—something that we consider as no more than to be expected. It is only when the giving is surrounded by unusual circumstances that it attracts attention. One such case, which involved a very small amount of money, will touch the feelings of everyone.

During the campaign of the American Women's Hospitals Organization to raise money for war service, one of the workers in Los Angeles called at the home of an elderly colored woman, whom he found to be suffering with a severe cold. The negress listened with great interest, however, to a description of the work that American women physicians are doing in France, and then she said:

"Well, honey, I has sixty cents. I was goin' to pay ten cents for car fare to go in town so dat I could buy me fifty cents' worth of medicine, but I'll jes' give you the ten cents for the boys and walk downtown."

Then after a moment she added, "Oh, dat seems so little! I has some onions I can fix up for my cold, and I'll give you the fifty cents, too."

The Grand Fleet and the escort services consume seven million tons of coal a year.

The Weekly Fashions

Service and simplicity are obviously the features of this school frock of serge, relieved by the soft white collar. McCall Pattern No. 8644, Girl's Dress. In 6 sizes, 4 to 14 years. Price, 20 cents.

This charming afternoon dress has the waist in basque effect, closing at the centre-back. McCall Pattern No. 8659, Ladies' Semi-Fitted Dress. In 6 sizes, 34 to 44 bust. Price, 25 cents. Transfer Design No. 936. Price, 20 cents.

These patterns may be obtained from your local McCall dealer, or from the McCall Co., 70 Bond Street, Toronto, Dept. W.

SEA WOOL

Obtained From Deposits Along the South Coast of Australia.

Material for cloth-making is now being obtained from the sea bottom along the south coast of Australia. It is fibre derived from a plant that grows in shallow water.

One would naturally infer that the plant was a seaweed of some kind. But it isn't. It is a flowering plant, a perennial, that produces seed every year.

When the plants die the soft tissue is "retted out" of them and the leaf fibres sink to the bottom, where they are covered by shelly detritus, the mixture forming a bed in which the seeds of a fresh crop sprout.

This has been going on for many centuries and, as a result, there exist vas deposits of fibre that in some localities are more than seven feet thick

After stripping off the top or growing layer, the underlying material is dredged up, sifted and washed for recovery of the fibre. The average return of air-dried fibre is about six pounds per cubic yard. Workable deposits cover 240 square miles.

The fibre is color brown to buff and white. Some of it is delicate and silky, some is more like horsehair. Tweeds have been woven out of it; but it seems to be better suited (mixed with wool or alone) for carpets and upholstery, for backing oilcloths and linoleums and for mattresses.

Minard's Liniment Cures Colds, &c.

Ontario Mineral Output.

The report of the Department of Mines for the production of minerals during the first nine months of this year shows that the value of ore produced is far exceeding that of last year, despite adverse conditions due to the war, except in the case of molybdenite, lead and copper ore.

Gold produced the first nine months of 1918 amounted to $6,875,766, compared with $6,754,535 in the same period for 1917. Silver production has kept well up to the mark, and though the quantity was slightly less, the value was some half a million dollars more.

Of the iron ore, of 154,243 tons shipped, some 84,846 tons were shipped to Ontario points, and the rest outside the province.

Oven cloths are excellent made of double ticking.

A SLEEPER IN FRANCE.

(In Memoriam)

In ever-glorious France
Near the unresting sea,
They laid my boy to rest,
Far, far from me.

Kind were the stranger-hands
That bore my soldier-son
To his last bivouac,
To rest well won.

They placed the lowly cross,
Blest sign to all who weep,
And then, with other boys,
Left him asleep.

Wild birds sweet requiems sing
Wild poppies' radiance strew
Above those boys who died
For me and you.

They fought their inward fight,
They conquered mortal fear,
Then flung away sweet youth,
To them so dear.

O, boy! my boy, my boy,
The heart ache's ever new!
But O! I am as proud,
So proud of you!

Monsieur:
For 15 days in the month of January I was suffering with pain of rheumatism in the foot. I tried all kinds of remedies but nothing did me any good. One person told me about MINARD'S LINIMENT; as soon as I tried it the Saturday night, the next morning I was feeling very good; I tell you this remedy is very good; I could give you a good certificate any time that you would like to have one. If any time I come to hear about any person sick of rheumatism, I could tell them about this remedy.
Yours truly,
ERNEST LEVEILLE.
216 Rue Ontario East, Montreal.
Feb. 14, 1908.

The Hunger Stone of the Elbe.

A few weeks ago the newspapers reported that there was great depression in Saxony and Bohemia because the famous "hunger stone" of the Elbe, near the town of Tetschen, had come into view. This rock is usually covered by the river; it appears only when in time of drought the water has fallen far below its usual level, and it is a tradition in that part of Germany that its appearance means that a time of famine and suffering is at hand. Carved on the stone is the sentence, "Wenn du mich siehst, dann weine" (When you see me, you shall weep); and there are, as the picture shows, a number of marks to show the point to which the river fell in various years of drought. The earliest and one of the lowest records is that of 1616. Other years are 1746, 1790, 1800, 1842, 1868 and 1900.

Minard's Liniment Cures Distemper.

Thought Too Highly of Both.

On a road in Belgium a German officer met a boy leading a jackass and addressed him in a heavy jovial fashion as follows:

"That's a fine jackass you have, my son. What do you call it? Albert, I bet."

"Oh, no, officer," the boy replied quickly. "I think too highly of my King."

The German scowled and returned: "I hope you don't dare to call him William."

"Oh, no, officer; I think too highly of my jackass."

MONEY ORDERS.
Send a Dominion Express Money Order. Five Dollars costs three cents.

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"Oh, no, officer; I think too highly of my jackass."

Minard's Liniment Cures Diphtheria.

ABSORBINE
TRADE MARK REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.
Reduces Strained, Puffy Ankles, Lymphangitis, Poll Evil, Fistula, Boils, Swellings; Stops Lameness and allays pain. Heals Sores, Cuts, Bruises, Boot Chafes. It is a SAFE ANTISEPTIC AND GERMICIDE
Does not blister or remove the hair and horse can be worked. Pleasant to use. $2.50 a bottle, delivered. Describe your case for special instructions and Book 5 R free.
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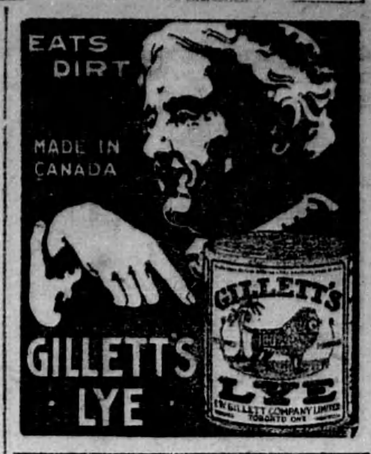

The Trust.

"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off."—Heb. xi. 13.

And as they trusted: we the task inherit,
The unfinished task for which their lives were spent;
But leaving us a portion of their spirit
They gave their witness and they died content.
Full well they knew they could not build without us
That better country, faint and far descried,
God's own true England; but they did not doubt us—
And in that faith they died.

Minard's Liniment Cures Garget in Cows

The Germans have their own philosophy—they have their supermen, their super-State, their super-battles; and they have now their super-collapse.

FOR SALE

WELL EQUIPPED NEWSPAPER and job printing plant in Eastern Ontario. Insurance carried $1,500. Will go for $1,200 on quick sale. Box 69, Wilson Publishing Co., Ltd. Toronto.

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR SALE in New Ontario. Owner going to France. Will sell $2,000. Worth double that amount. Apply J. H., c/o Wilson Publishing Co., Limited, Toronto.

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GET OUR PRICE LIST SHOWING cost of windows glazed complete, any size. Halliday Company, Box B. 61, Hamilton

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CANCER, TUMORS, LUMPS, ETC., internal and external, cured without pain by our home treatment. Write us before too late. Dr. Bellman Medical Co., Limited, Collingwood, Ont.

DARTING, PIERCING SCIATIC PAINS

Give way before the penetrating effects of Sloan's Liniment

So do those rheumatic twinges and the loin-aches of lumbago, the nerve-inflammation of neuritis, the wry neck, the joint wrench, the ligament sprain, the muscle strain, and the throbbing bruise.

The ease of applying, the quickness of relief, the positive results, the cleanliness, and the economy of Sloan's Liniment make it universally preferred. Made in Canada.

Sloan's Liniment Kills Pain

30c., 60c., $1.20.

Kept Awake at Night Itching So Intense Healed by Cuticura

"A nasty patch appeared on the right side of my face caused by shaving with a dull razor. I drew blood with my fingers, the itching was so intense. The patch was red and irritated causing me to keep awake at night.

"Seeing Cuticura Soap and Ointment advertised I sent for a free sample. After using I noticed quite a change so bought a box of Cuticura Ointment and two cakes of Cuticura Soap, and I did not finish the whole box of Cuticura Ointment when I was healed permanently." (Signed) Ewen MacDonald, Marion Bridge, N. S., September 30, 1917.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment are not only most valuable for the treatment of pimples, dandruff and irritated scalps, but their great mission is to prevent such conditions. Cuticura Soap used exclusively for the toilet, and Cuticura Ointment, as needed, keep the skin and scalp clean, clear and healthy.

For Free Sample Each by Mail address post-card: "Cuticura, Dept. A, Boston, U. S. A." Sold everywhere.

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Belgium Starving

Under Allied Flags

Immediate Help Needed to Relieve Starvation and Suffering—Cannot Hold Germany Responsible NOW!

There is pressing need for our help in Belgium today, and there will be for many months to come.

As our troops occupy the evacuated territory, untold misery stares them in the face. Emaciated children, hollow-cheeked women, roofless homes, clothing so worn it offers no protection from winter's terrors—miseries that cannot wait but MUST be relieved at once to avert DEATH!

Need you be reminded how Belgium was the first to jump into the breach and so make our Victorious Peace possible?

Don't let it be said WE let Belgium starve. Let us cable over your offering to the mothers and children of Brave Little Belgium AT ONCE!

Make cheques payable and send contributions to

Belgian Relief Fund

(Registered under the War Charities Act) 127

to your Local Committee, or to

Ontario Branch—Belgian Relief Fund—95 King St. W., Toronto