

INTERNED AT HALIFAX

ALIEN ENEMIES THERE HAVE A GOOD TIME.

They Are Sure, However, That Citizens of Allied Countries Interned in Germany Have a Much More Beautiful Life Than They Have, But Proofs of Statement Are Not Forthcoming.

THE Halifax Camp for alien enemies is in the "Citadel." It is dignified and comfortable but somewhat gloomy. High stone walls surround the fortress, and over them one looks down the steep hill to the crouching city and blue, blue waters, says a writer in The Toronto Sunday World. The view is very beautiful, though one German officer objected to it. He had been imprisoned at the beginning of the war at St. Lucia, and he liked the scenery better there. However, he allowed that the food was better in Halifax and that he liked the officials better. I longed to comfort him by quoting the ancient adage: "Heaven for climate, but hell for company!" but manfully refrained.

Major Adams, the commandant of the camp, took me through the building and introduced me to a number of the prisoners. The first group, of whom I was introduced looked rather uncomfortable and suspicious. The men at Amherst had regarded my visit and me as joyously as though I had been a traveling circus with real bears and elephants; and when I had proceeded to invite them to give me their views on immortality, sauerkraut, submarines, and the siege of the Dardanelles, their joy had suffered no diminishment. With these officers, however, it was different. The atmosphere was lurid, not chilly.

The Germans and I exchanged a few polite banalities; then the commandant conducted me to another little group. Here again it was no better. I had a thousand questions on the tip of my tongue, but as I looked from the faces of the prisoners to the face of the commandant, I felt that it would be waste of time to put these questions. These officers evidently felt that they were being butchered to make a Canadian holiday, and resented the butchering. I, being their butcher, naturally resented their resentment, and felt indignant with them for refusing to proceed as lambs to the slaughter. I determined to get some information out of them "quick sticks," as an elderly relative of mine expressively remarks.

"How do you think the war is going?" I briskly inquired of the nearest officer. "I think it is going well," he answered, proudly. "Very good!" "Do you?" I replied. "I don't agree with you."

"When do you think it will end?" he asked. Two or three of the others drew a trifle nearer and waited with interest for my answer. "I think," I said at length, profoundly, "that it will end in about a year."

To my surprise the Germans laughed. "You really think so?" asked one, looking more friendly. "Yes," said I, rather surprised. "What do you think?" "A month," he answered cheerfully. "Not more than a month." "What?" I exclaimed in amazement. "You really think that Germany will make terms in a month?" "Will dictate terms," he amended, smiling pleasantly at me. "She will have finished all in a month."

I got my breath. I laughed. I opened my mouth to speak—

The commandant looked at me anxiously. "There are some officers over there whom I think you would like to meet," he said firmly. I knew it would happen. Always, always, both in Halifax and Amherst, just as I was getting into a really interesting conversation, I was solemnly trotted away to "fresh fields and pastures new." Now there is a great deal of the build-up in my composition. As I walked meekly away with the commandant I silently registered a vow. I kept the vow. A little later on I shall tell what the vow was, and how I kept it; and if the commandant ever sees this I know that he will forgive me.

The Halifax prisoners seemed to be very comfortably housed. They had pianos, games of cards, and various other contrivances for killing time. Yet they did not seem nearly so contented as the men at Amherst. One can understand this, of course. Most of the Amherst prisoners are accustomed to a life of toil, and the ease, good food, warm bedding, and freedom for pleasure represented to them as very tolerable holiday. But to these officers imprisonment was a bore.

"Have you everything you want here?" I asked one. "Yes, thank you," he replied, politely, but not enthusiastically. "Except that the rooms are pretty dark—and, as you see, eight officers are housed in one room. Now, in Germany—"

"Yes!" I cried. "In Germany?" "Only three or four officers are put together in one room," he averred. "And that—although we have nothing to complain of—but in Germany the prisoners get a much better time."

Visions of the "better time" afforded to prisoners in the fatherland floated red before my eyes. I remembered Major Vandaleur and the treatment meted out to him. I thought of the men whose jailors had

Fools create opportunities that wise men take advantage of. A fish in the hand is worth two in the snail's story. Next to a kindly act in the appreciation thereof.

accosted them as "English swine." I thought of hunger and cold and I looked at the officer. He jumped. "They do have a better time," he averred earnestly. "I see you do not believe me—but they do. In one place—I think he said it was the "Wurtz" mountains, but I am not quite sure—the prisoners are taken for long walks every day in the beautiful hills. Sometimes they are taken to a restaurant in the town for their mid-day meal. Sometimes—"

"Do you realize," I interrupted him suddenly, "that this is the most interesting and most extraordinary thing that I have heard for many a long day? Where did you learn these things?" "In letters from home," he answered. "Many of us have heard."

"Won't you?" I asked, "let me have a copy of these letters? If you can find them—if you can give me these extracts relating to the treatment of prisoners—I shall see that they are published in Canada, and I shall look up the exact reports which have been made by neutrals of these camps."

"I can do better," he stated positively. "Somewhere I am sure I have a picture of some of the German camps—a reproduced photograph. If I can find it you shall have it."

I thanked him. Up to date I have received neither the extracts from letters nor the reproduced photo.

FOR NERVE-SHATTERED MEN.

Ontario Provides a Hospital for Soldiers Suffering From Shock.

Ontario has again come to the front in a most tangible way in connection with the war. This time it is not with a gift of money, but in the equally practical and necessary way of caring for those who are suffering through the stress of battle.

Recognizing that the war has produced special conditions among the disabled soldiers, the Canadian Hospitals Commission has arranged with the Ontario Government, through the Department of the Provincial Secretary, to establish a military hospital for the treatment of mental and shock cases.

For this purpose the present hospital for mental diseases at Cobourg is to be converted into a military hospital, with a staff and equipment provided by the present organization of the Department. This means that soldiers from Ontario who are brought back suffering from shock will be received into an institution specially maintained to give them proper treatment. So far as is known, Ontario is the only Province where such an innovation has been attempted, and it is regarded by those who are familiar with the wasteage produced by the present as one of the most needed branches of the medical service.

The Cobourg hospital will be made immediately available by the transfer of some 180 female patients to the new institution at Whitby. Special equipment such as continuous baths, vapor baths, electric and other baths and other apparatus will be installed at Cobourg, while detached buildings will be erected from time to time to provide for an increased accommodation up to 500 patients.

The staff will be selected from the most competent in the various institutions of the Province, and should the demand warrant it, part of the new hospital at Whitby can also be used.

In making use of the facilities of the Province for this work the Canadian Hospitals Commission is not divesting itself of any responsibility. The arrangement with the Ontario Government provides for a fixed allowance per day for each patient. In this way a large capital expenditure is avoided on the one hand for the Dominion, and there will be no delay in commencing treatment for those men who are now on their way to Canada or will be immediately sent here.

Only Four Blinded Canadians. A statement issued by the Military Hospitals' Commission recently calls attention to the fact that an entirely erroneous idea prevails regarding the number of the members of the Canadian expeditionary force who have lost their eyesight as a result of their war service.

Various agencies have been started for the collection of money in order to provide homes and special training for blinded Canadian soldiers, and unauthorized persons are making collections for this purpose.

"It should be distinctly understood," said Secretary Scammell, "that these collections are quite unnecessary."

The Military Hospitals' Commission is entirely competent to deal with all blinded soldiers who may come under its care.

Up to the present four blinded soldiers have returned to Canada, four only; not four hundred or four thousand, as some people imagine. Of these, one was trained at St. Dunstons, England, and is now earning his livelihood as an insurance agent in his home town; his typewritten letters are a model for many sighted typists. Another lives on a farm with his friends, who are well to do. A third is suffering from shock blindness, and may regain his sight.

This man returned from Liverpool on the Hesperia, and when thrown into the water after the ship was torpedoed he regained his sight temporarily, but has since had a relapse.

Ontario's Edible Fungi. Forty-five varieties of edible fungi from Toronto and vicinity were exhibited at the first meeting of the Mycological Society in the Botanical Building of the University of Toronto a few days ago.

Longboat's Run. Tom Longboat, the famous Indian runner, ran sixty miles to Toronto in two days to join the Canadian Sportsmen's Battalion, in which his old trainer for the Marathon, Tom Flanagan, is a captain.

EQUIPPING THE TROOPS.

Process at Niagara Camp is a Complicated One.

When people watch a grand review of troops or stop to see a troop of soldiers go by on the street the idea of the equipment of the large body of men scarcely ever enters their minds. Yet every article of clothing or equipment of every soldier, and everything he uses or handles, must be served out to him and a record kept of it all. It may be interesting to note that in every soldier's dress and equipment there are 59 separate parts or articles.

The equipping and recording of everything handed out to the 12,700 soldiers in Niagara Camp is a work requiring the highest efficiency and care; yet it has all been done by four men and it is no wonder that the Canadian Ordnance Department is referred to as a marvel of efficiency and completeness.

Major A. A. Lyndon is at the head of the Ordnance Department at Niagara, and he has had only three men under him. The Major's work somewhat resembles the management of a mammoth department store—a store, by the way, which is singularly short-handed.

A reporter who was shown through the Ordnance buildings recently, was impressed with the neatness and orderliness of everything. Every article is right there where the staff can lay its hands upon it at a moment's notice, whether the call is for a huge marquee or a shoulder-button for some lone private.

The Ordnance Department handles everything except what they eat. An Army Service Corps looks after that important matter. Records are kept of everything issued out from a field kitchen to a shoulder-strap. A few days ago Lieut. Wilson and eighteen men, forming the non-permanent Ordnance Corps, arrived to get a little schooling into the work of the Ordnance Department before proceeding to Camp Borden. Major Lyndon, who is now in charge of the Ordnance Department at Camp Borden, left for the new camp the end of this week, and Captain Cartwright, who has been in charge of London Camp Ordnance, left to take his place.

Canadians Only Third. Despatches from British headquarters in France tell of a friendly contest in tree felling, wood chopping, and sawing among the finest woodsmen in the British Empire, Canadian, Australian, and New Zealanders.

The contest arose from a friendly argument among the soldiers concerning the prowess of the woodsmen of their section of the world.

A date was set for the contest, and when the teams assembled beeches and chestnuts of about two feet in diameter were selected. Each team of three men was to fell three trees. The Canadian team, to the ragtime music of an Anzac band, was started off first, and the brawny soldiers swung their axes with leisurely but powerful strokes that bit deeply into the living wood. The picked Canadian team had been away to duty and was unable to take part, but its substitute brought the three trees crashing to the ground in 45 minutes and 22 seconds.

The Australians then tackled their task, and swinging their axes more quickly than the Canadians, managed to complete it in 31 minutes and 8 seconds. A cheer rose from the interested spectators, and the contest was over. Then the Maoris of New Zealand, brown sons of the forest, were started on their task, and a murmur rose from the watchers as they saw the swift, tireless swing of the axes wielded by the muscular brown men. The efforts did not slacken, indeed they seemed to quicken, as the axes bit into the hard wood and the chips flew. The Maoris felled the three trees in 22 minutes and 40 seconds, thus easily winning first prize.

In the wood-swinging contest, however, the Canadians came to the fore.

Ontario Boy Scouts Enlist for Service. A fair estimate of the number of Boy Scouts now serving the Empire from Ontario is 1,200, drawn from all parts of the Province. One case worthy of special note is that of the Boy Scout troop of Hespeler, Ontario, comprising 24, all of whom are now with the colors.

One of the Toronto troops shows an enlistment of 31 and another of 30. The Province of Quebec has a record of over 350 names, and estimates that the total for that Province may be about 400. Two of the Montreal troops shows a total enlistment of over twenty for overseas service. Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Hesketh of the Lord Strathcona Horse, who was acting Provincial Commissioner of the Boy Scouts Association for Manitoba when the war broke out, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order. Captain E. R. Street, a former Guelph Scoutmaster, has also been the recipient of a like distinction for his work in Flanders.

Small Boy in Hamilton. There is a small boy in Hamilton who is much given to the use of big words. Sometimes he knows what they mean, but oftener—not.

So when he was heard calling his small sister an Ethiopian his mother stopped her work and listened.

"You're all ready to have your appendix cut out," he was telling sister, "you're an Ethiopian now."

To his mother's question as to just what he meant he replied, with glances of scorn for her ignorance. "Why? mother? an Ethiopian is some one who has taken ether."

Monster Sturgeon. A sturgeon seven feet long and weighing 240 pounds, said to be the largest fish pulled out of Lake Erie, was landed near Port Alma recently by Baldwin brothers, fishermen of that place.

Nearly every unmarried woman you meet is in quest of a conquest. Nothing is more unsatisfactory than love that has to be purchased. The child is wiser in his innocence than a philosopher in his wisdom.

One word always leads to another—no matter whether you are reading the bible or a novel. Health may be wealth, but you can't make a doctor believe it.

CANADA'S POULTRY TRADE.

It Is the Best Organized of Our Live Stock Industries.

Poultry raising is, says an Ottawa bulletin, one of the best organized and most progressive of any of our live stock industries. Co-operation among farmers in marketing is improving the product and realizing for them a higher price than they have hitherto been able to obtain. The reorganization of methods by the trade is providing against loss in handling, is assuring to the consumer a better article and establishing our export business upon a firm basis.

It is estimated that Canada and Cuba, during the last twenty years, received from the United States about three-fourths of all the eggs exported by that country during that period. This situation, however, has now changed. As against an importation in 1913 of 13,248,111 dozen, we imported in 1915 not more than 3,783,952 dozen. On the other hand, while in 1913 we exported only 147,149 dozen, in 1915 we exported 7,493,322 dozen. This constitutes a net increase in production, in two years, of at least 17,100,000 dozen. Practically all of these exports went to the United Kingdom.

Notwithstanding the surplus in Canada which these figures indicate, prices during March, April, and May have remained at an extraordinarily high level. For the first quarter of the year 1916 the price to producers, selling co-operatively, has been at least four cents in advance of the price received, for the same period, in 1915. For the month of March, it was at least five cents in advance, and for the month of April at least three cents in advance of last year's price for these respective months. The demand for eggs for local consumption, for storage purposes and for immediate export, has rarely been so keen as at the present moment. This situation is clearly reflected in the prices just quoted. Heavy domestic consumption, in the face of the high price for meats, partly explains this condition. Confidence in the export demand, on the part of the producer trade, confirms it from another direction. Notwithstanding increased production, the egg and poultry business in Canada is in a very strong position at the present time.

Breeding Cattle. A recent issue of the Agricultural Gazette contains an interesting article on the cattle herd which the Dominion Department of Agriculture has recently purchased for experimental purposes. The cattlos, which is practically unknown to us, has been produced by crossing the buffalo with domestic cattle, the object being to produce a strain of beef-producing animals particularly suited to the more northern and rugged regions of Canada.

The herd which has been purchased is that of the late Mossom Boyd of Bobovaynton, Ont. Mr. Boyd started this cross in 1894 and continued the work until the time of his death, some two years ago. At the outset he used cows of various breeds but after some years experimenting he limited his crosses to those of the Herefords and Aberdeen-Angus of the herd, therefore, which the Government has purchased possesses the thick form of these beef breeds and a modification of the hump and depth of rib peculiar to the buffalo.

The herd as purchased consists of twenty head, made up of sixteen females and four males. They range in age from one to nine years and possess from twenty-five to seventy-five per cent. buffalo blood. They weigh from five hundred to two thousand pounds, and are all regular breeders, so far as they have been tried, and possess every indication of vigor.

"It has long been recognized," says the Gazette, "that the buffalo possesses qualities which would be of value if transmitted to beef-producing animals, more particularly for ranging purposes for cold-ridden districts. From the experiments of Mr. Boyd and others it appears that the excellent rustling qualities of the buffalo are retained in the cattlos. During blizzard conditions the cattlos like the buffalo faces the storm rather than drifts before it as is the tendency of domestic cattle."

A Market at His Door. Farms and Dairy mentions the case of an Ontario farmer, living near a city, who has a buffalo-board at his gate on which he daily puts his prices for eggs, butter, fruit, vegetables, etc. In giving his reasons for doing this the farmer said: "There are hundreds of people in our cities who now own automobiles. They take a pleasure trip out into the country two or three times a week in summer and I find that they are glad to buy fresh produce, especially when they can get it a trifle cheaper than from the grocer in town. I find, too, that I can afford to sell for a little less than the city grocer and still get more than I could realize on my produce any other way."

Strawberry Bulletin. Reliable advance information will be given in these columns during the fruit season. These bulletins are the official statements of the Niagara Growers and may be depended upon. Strawberries should be ordered early. The crop is good and the quality excellent, but the demand will be heavy. As cherries and plums are going to be scarce and dear, housewives should preserve or can as many strawberries as possible. Do not wait. The Williams, the best for canning is now ready. Tell your dealer today what you will require and INSIST UPON BERRIES WITH THE LABEL OF THE NIAGARA FRUIT GROWERS. This label (with the map) is your protection. It is your only guaranty that the fruit is grown in Canada's Best Fruit Country, the Niagara Peninsula. Tell your dealer that your fruit must have the map, and that you will take none without it. LOOK FOR THE MAP. NIAGARA PENINSULA FULL VALUE 50c GROWERS NO. 264

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