

"My Three Years in a German Prison"

By Hon. Henri S. Beland, M.D., M.P.

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CHAPTER VIII

The Germans Are Here.

On the morning of October 10, at about nine o'clock, a messenger called at our house and, on behalf of a group of citizens, invited me to the City Hall. I was at a loss to know why my presence was wanted there, and decided to go at once. The City Hall was no more than one kilometre distant, and on my way I had to cross the wending procession of refugees slowly wending their toilsome way in the direction of Holland.

At the City Hall I was met by a number of representative citizens of Capellen. They asked me to join them in receiving the German officers who were then due to arrive at any moment. I could realize how hatred was accumulating in the German heart against Great Britain, for was Britain not the prime cause of their present check—the actual obstacle of the military promenade which the Germans had for forty years dreamed of making from the German frontier to Paris? The initial plan of the German high command had been frustrated, and for this disastrous failure they would hold that the English were naturally and justly responsible. I, therefore, suggested to my fellow-citizens that in my quality as a British subject I was more likely to be a hindrance than a help to them. They insisted, however—and with some plausibility perhaps—that the German officers would not know to which nationality I belonged, and that it was of immediate importance to make as good a showing as possible in numbers—there were not more than five of us all told, the others having crossed the frontier into Holland. Under the circumstances, I accepted their proposal and agreed to stay with them and meet the incoming Germans.

At ten o'clock an individual burst into the room in which we were assembled and made the simple announcement: "Gentlemen, a German officer is here." Before the hall of Antwerp I had a close inspection of a number of German prisoners of war as they marched in file and under Belgian escort along the streets of the city, but I had never yet seen either near, or at a distance, a real Prussian officer, and I confess that my curiosity was greatly aroused by the announcement of the imminent arrival. Ere we had time to advance to meet him, there he stood in the doorway, dressed in the uniform of a captain of German artillery and wearing the pointed helmet. He gave us the military salute, turned to Mr. Spaet and, speaking in German, said that in civilian life he was a lawyer and practised his profession at Dortmund. He looked at each and every one of us several times as though searching our souls to discover what were our innermost feelings and sentiments. He was manifestly surprised by the fact that Mr. Spaet, a Belgian, could speak such a perfect German and inquired of him how he had acquired his knowledge of his own language. Mr. Spaet replied frankly and honestly, and then asked: "What must we do?"

"Nothing," replied the German officer. "However, you will not have to deal with me; I am only a scout. It is with Major X—who will be here shortly, that you will have to make arrangements." With these words, he took his leave, and a few minutes afterwards an automobile, containing the real negotiator, a Prussian major, who was accompanied by a very elegant officer, stopped in front of the town

hall. This major (I called the Prussian officer my imagination had pictured. Resplendent in uniform and glittering helmet, with blonde moustache trained a la Kaiser, he stood erect as a letter I, and stiff as an iron rod.

At the time there was, as in preceding days, a large crowd in the public square fronting the Town Hall. It was the direct route from Antwerp to Holland, and there were now accumulated here refugees from the four corners of the fortified position. Seemingly annoyed by such a gathering, the Prussian major demanded an explanation, which Mr. Spaet gave without hesitation.

"Whither are these people going?" he inquired. "To Holland," Mr. Spaet told him. "Why?"

"Because they seek refuge from German fire," answered Mr. Spaet. "The major since Antwerp has fallen, there is no further danger," stated the major. "Tell these people to return to their homes. They will not be molested."

Naturally we feared many requisitions would be made upon us. The major informed us that only horses would be taken. "We must have horses," he added.

But it was explained the only horses in Capellen belonged to the farmers, and these animals were absolutely needed if the crops were to be garnered.

"Well," said the major finally, after further explanations, "only one infantry company will be sent to Capellen, and you must see that the officers are well treated. As to the soldiers, well, you may billet them anywhere you like—in the school-house, for example."

The German officer demanded to know in which condition were the forts around Capellen. We told him our present impression was that they had all been destroyed by the garrisons immediately before their evacuation. He took two of our party with him in his automobile and made a tour of the forts of Capellen, Erbrand, and Stabroek. He brought us back to the Town Hall and then departed. I never saw him again.

In the afternoon of Saturday, October 10, a company of infantrymen arrived in front of the Town Hall. At the word of command, two soldiers left the ranks and entered the building. A few minutes afterwards the crowd witnessed the humiliating and supremely painful ceremony of the lowering of the Belgian flag, which had flown from that flag-staff for nearly one hundred years, and in its place was hoisted the German standard. Capellen then was definitely subjected to enemy occupation. As Capellen is situated at the extreme north of the fortified position of Antwerp, consequently the German flag floated as the breeze blew from the frontier of France to the frontier of Holland.

And mourning entered every home.

(To be Continued.)

The death occurred at Brockville on Tuesday of a popular resident of Elizabethtown in the person of Howard Weatherhead, son of Mr. and Mrs. Myles Weatherhead, aged twenty-two years. The deceased, who was ill only a few days, was born and always resided in Elizabethtown.

W. B. Cross in court secured judgment for \$232.50 and costs against Eliza Poole for the recovery of commission upon the sale of a farm in the township of South Crosby.

PRIORITY REQUESTS ARE FROWNED UPON

Militia Department Points to Troubles Which Will Arise If Plans Changed.

Ottawa, Jan. 9.—The militia department desires it to be known that an excessive number of requests for priority of return of soldiers from overseas is being received both at militia headquarters, Ottawa, and at the overseas ministry, London, England. These requests cannot be accepted, for the main consideration being given to them unless they are based upon compassionate grounds and are forwarded and recommended through the various military districts in the usual way.

It is pointed out that demobilization must be carried out in a systematic way. If the door is opened to return those for whom application is made by friends in Canada in priority to others, the inevitable result will be widespread dissatisfaction and complaint of favoritism on the part of the latter. The department, with perhaps prior claims and longer service. It is not unnatural that requests should be made for the return of men to resume their civil avocations and it is recognized that it is in the public interest that men for whom civil employment is waiting should not be held overseas longer than is absolutely necessary. On the other hand, men are being returned in accordance with a settled policy at the rate of many thousands per month, namely, 20,000 per month during December and January, and 30,000 per month thereafter.

The regulations governing demobilization were settled only after prolonged and careful consideration, and it is neither practicable nor desirable, viewing the situation as a whole, to deviate from the principle laid down, in favor of those who request for immediate return on account of private or business interests.

SALVATION ARMY APPEAL

TO PEOPLE OF CANADA TO GIVE \$1,000,000.

Soldiers Returning from Overseas Will Need Helping Hand of This Efficient Social Service Organization.

Though the Salvation Army has been, since the commencement of the war, one of the most active agencies dealing with the comforts and welfare of the men who have been fighting the nation's battles, it has not made a general appeal to the Canadian public. The war work of the Army has been supported largely by occasional "big days" and from self-denial funds; but the problems of reconstruction are so great, and the Army's programme to help the men get back to civil life is so extensive, that it is compelled to appeal to the generosity of the Canadian people for financial assistance.

The Salvation Army supplies for every kind of social need; it is doing a wonderful work in providing homes for fallen women, in rescuing the drunkard, and in caring for the fatherless and neglected children, and it now proposes to very extensively increase the scope of its operations in Canada to make it easy for the returned soldier to begin the new life.

An elaborate programme for the reconstruction campaign is contemplated by the Salvation Army. While



Article No. 1 Cut out for Reference.

THIS Announcement is made by the Dominion Government—made now because it feels that every Canadian wants to know, and is entitled to know, just what plans it has made to meet the problems that face the country. Only now has it been possible to finish the many plans and policies necessitated.

From day to day the Government will use this space to explain what it is doing to bring back our soldiers, to ensure the comfort of their dependents, to keep the whole nation busy and prosperous.

The problem is to take back our soldiers and war-workers into our social and business life under proper working and living conditions. It has four phases:—

1. To bring the soldiers home.
2. To fit those who have suffered overseas for useful employment.
3. To have ready for every soldier and war worker an opportunity for employment.
4. To assure for them proper living and working conditions.

The plans of the Government are such as will help solve these problems. What those plans are will be reported to you in this series of announcements.

(Signed) J. A. CALDER, Chairman.



The Repatriation Committee

OTTAWA

Collections For Business Houses

The satisfactory service which The Merchants Bank renders to Business Houses, in the matter of collecting Notes, Drafts and other financial paper, is due to the number and strategic location of its branches throughout Canada, and the efficient system in force.

Special attention is given to collections; returns are promptly made and credited; losses are often prevented by the care and thoroughness with which we do this part of our work.

THE MERCHANTS BANK

Head Office: Montreal, OF CANADA Established 1864. KINGSTON BRANCH, H. A. TOFIELD, Manager.

CUBA MOURNS COLONEL

Will Erect Memorial To Ex-President Roosevelt. Havana, Jan. 9.—Congress unanimously adopted a resolution, declaring Wednesday a day of national mourning in honor of the death of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt. It was also decided to have inscribed on a bronze tablet a copy of the former President's letter to President T. Estrada Palma, written on the occasion of the "institution" of the republic of Cuba. The tablet will be placed in the new capitol building.

A monument to cost \$175,000 is to be erected to Colonel Roosevelt. Sculptors in all parts of the world will be asked to send designs for the memorial, an award being given to the person whose design is accepted.

INVESTIGATE CHARGES

Secretary Baker Orders Probe in Work of Y.M.C.A. Washington, Jan. 9.—Secretary of War Baker has ordered an investigation of the various charges, complaints and insinuations that have been made respecting the work of the Y.M.C.A. in France in connection with its efforts to serve the soldiers and marines in the A.E.F.

These complaints have been made and reiterated by returning soldiers and others, and John R. Mott, general secretary of the War Work Council of the Y.M.C.A. has asked the War Department to make a full and thorough investigation of all complaints.

A man doesn't believe in luck if he is having the right kind.

WAR PUZZLES

KITCHENER AT THE DARDANELLES. DARDANELLES CAMPAIGN WAS ABANDONED. By the Allies, three years ago today, January 9, 1916. Find a Turk. YESTERDAY'S ANSWER. Upside down in water.



Biographical Sketch of Mr. H. H. Melanson to the Time of His Appointment as Passenger Traffic Manager—All Lines Canadian National Railways.

Mr. H. H. Melanson, who was appointed Passenger Traffic Manager of the Canadian Government Railways June 1st, 1917, was born at Scoudou, N.B. March 8th, 1872. Graduated from University of St. Joseph's College, New Brunswick, June, 1899; entered the service of the Intercolonial Railway as Clerk in the Mechanical Department, November, 1899.

He was transferred to the General Passenger Department August, 1899, Appointed Chief Clerk December, 1899; General Baggage Agent, March, 1901, to April, 1902; then Chief Clerk, Passenger Department, from May, 1902, to October, 1909.

The Mathematics of Health includes the addition of a few spoonfuls of Grape-Nuts to the menu daily.

The sum total is an abundance of the vital phosphates and the goodness of our most rugged grains.

Grape-Nuts is a delicious, economical and healthful food.

Requires no Sugar. No Waste.

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TO-DAY

In medicines, as in every other necessity, the public is satisfied with nothing but the best! This explains the ever-increasing demand for Zam-Buk. Not only is this great balm the best household remedy to-day, but it is also the most economical.

Zam-Buk's superiority is due to the fact that it is all medicine, containing none of the coarse animal fats or harsh mineral drugs found in ordinary ointments. Again, the medicinal properties are so highly concentrated that they contain the maximum amount of healing, soothing and antiseptic power, so that a little of this balm goes a long way.

Another reason why Zam-Buk is most economical. It will keep indefinitely and retain to the last its strength and purity. Best for skin diseases and injuries, haemorrhoids, sprains and piles. All dealers, 50c. box.

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