

My Three Years in a German Prison

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

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CHAPTER XIII. A Desolate Major.

One can readily realize that a journey to Antwerp under the escort of a German soldier had rather humiliated me.

A few days afterwards I received a reply from this officer, who explained that my arrest was owing to a denunciation; that he had supplied the German military police with all necessary information; that everything was now properly arranged, and that I need have no inquietude as to the future.

I succeeded in talking with me to the prison later this letter written by Major Von Wilm, and I also was able to smuggle it out of Germany on my release.

This immunity, however, was to be of short duration. On June 2, when I believed I had been freed from all annoyances, two soldiers presented themselves at the house and

what was Prussian in the man asserted itself and he said: "No, sir, I cannot permit you to return to Capellen. You may write to madame, tell her what has happened, and I will forward the letter by messenger." This was done.

The major made every effort to convince me that my detention would be of short duration; that all that was required was evidently to establish my quality as a practising physician; that as soon as documentary proof of this could be placed in the hands of the German authorities I should be liberated and restored to my family.

One can easily come to believe to what one fervently desires. I deluded myself with the hope that my sojourn in this hotel was only temporary.

A young officer was ordered to accompany me to the Grand Hotel. On the way he allowed me to stop at a stationer's store long enough to buy a few books.

Every public hall had been converted into military offices. The officer who accompanied me, having exchanged a few words with some of the soldiers, the latter glanced at me as though I were a curious animal.

"He must be an Englishman—yes,"

Why Can't I Get To Sleep?

Thousands of people all over the country ask this question, but still continue to toss night after night on a sleepless bed, and it is impossible for them to get a full night's refreshing sleep.

Some constitutional disturbance, worry or disease has so debilitated and irritated the nervous system that it cannot be quietened except by the pernicious use of opiates or narcotics. Or again, you have heart palpitation, and sensation of striking, a feeling you are going to die, or perhaps you wake up in your sleep feeling as though you were about to choke or smother, and the only way you can get relief is to sit up in bed.

To all who suffer in this way, Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills offer an inestimable boon. They bring back the much-needed night's rest by improving the tone of the nerves, strengthening the heart, enriching the blood and making the whole organization act in harmony—then you sleep as peacefully as a child.

Mrs. James Latimer, 39 Leinster St., St. John, N.B., writes:—"At night I could not sleep. I had to sit up in bed, my heart beat so fast, and when I walked up stairs I would get all out of breath. A friend recommended Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills and after using two boxes I can sleep all night and am not out of breath after walking."

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population since the beginning of the war? Altogether I made a very strong plea in the protest against the execution of the latest order.

Perturbed and embarrassed, the major mumbled some sort of an explanation. The instructions had "come from someone higher in authority than himself," he had "tried to explain my case to them" but they "would not hear him"; "all the British subjects in Germany and occupied territory were to be interned without delay." The major assumed an air of haughtiness I had not noticed hitherto.

"At two o'clock this afternoon you will have to depart," he said. "A non-commissioned officer will accompany you to Berlin and thence to Ruhleben."

Ruhleben is the internment camp for civilians of British nationality. The shadow of a very real sorrow pervaded that room. I did not know what to say. Two hours only remained in which my wife and I might be together. She persisted in her entreaties that she might bear me company to Germany, only to meet with an absolute refusal every time.

The Major had the delicacy (?) to inform her that her company, even to the station merely, was not desirable!

Punctually at two o'clock on June 6 a non-commissioned officer stood in the room to which during the past three days we had become reconciled, as to a new little home where the children, living only a few miles away, might visit us once or twice a week.

All was declared ready for my departure. It was a solemn moment, and profoundly sad. My wife and I were separated. I did not know then—and it was perhaps better—that I should never see her again in this world.

At three o'clock the train arrived at Brussels, where we had to wait for an hour to connect with the express which ran from Lille to Liège in Russia.

By four o'clock we were steaming at a good speed in the direction of Berlin, passing through the country sights of Belgium. We crossed through Louvain, which had been burned, and through a large number of towns and villages which showed the effects of bombardment and other horrors of war; thence through Liege, Aix-la-Chapelle, and Cologne, where we arrived at about nine o'clock.

(To Be Continued.)

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EASTERN ONTARIO LIBERALS COLLATE RESOLUTIONS TO GO TO THE CONVENTION.

Express Confidence in Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Leadership—Call for a Reduction in Tariff—Other Principles Defined.

The Eastern Ontario Liberals have drafted a series of resolutions which came before the convention in Ottawa meeting on Tuesday. Through its first resolution "unflinching confidence" is placed in Sir Wilfrid Laurier as the leader of the Liberal party of Canada, and congratulations are tendered to him on the fact that, "thanks to his moderation and wisdom the ranks of Liberalism are rapidly reuniting," and that "in the conflict that lies close at hand between the forces of progress and the advocates of class privilege and reaction, the Liberal party, with strength renewed, will again lead the van in asserting the rights of Canadian democracy."

In its second resolution the association pledges itself "to insist and make sure that our soldiers and sailors shall have the first claim upon the consideration of Parliament, as they already have upon the gratitude of the Canadian people; that none of those who have served in the forces shall be allowed to fall into distress either from lack of employment or from any other defect in our social organization; that those who have been incapacitated from following their occupations shall be freely assisted to train themselves for new employments, and shall be further assisted by the State in every practical way to establish themselves as producers, or in business or as wage earners; that the pensions from the Government to disabled men shall be sufficient in amount to secure a satisfactory standard of comfort, and that the pensions fund shall be generously and systematically administered."

On the question of industrial reconstruction, upon which strong emphasis is laid, the association stands for the introduction into the Government of industry the principles of representation whereby the interests of labor and of the community may be considered in industrial control. "To democratize the government of industry," says the resolution, "is the task ahead."

The committee stands for the repeal of the War-time Election Act, which "there have been persistent and widespread demands. It declares the act to be 'not only a blot upon our national honor, but that it is a standing menace to the peace and progress of the Dominion.'"

The tariff resolution, the most extensive of all the motions, stipulates the stand of Liberals on the tariff since the resolution of the national convention of 1893, outlines the reductions and the articles placed on the free list from 1896 till 1911, sets forth Liberal resolutions since that date, and reiterates tariff reform demands moved in the House and incorporated in Sir Wilfrid's manifesto of 1917. Not only should the said tariff increases of 7 1/2 per cent. and 5 per cent. be immediately repealed, but that there should also be an immediate downward revision of the tariff in accordance with the above-mentioned omnibus resolution, moved by the Liberal Opposition in the House of Commons on May 23, 1917.

Talks of "Prussian Autocracy." The convention further affirms that, in order to secure and retain responsible and representative Government "the aristocratic, autocratic and high Tory method of order in Council, designed to destroy the birthright of a free democracy," must give way before legislation passed by the representatives of the people in Parliament assembled; that in particular militarism must be, and sternly, repressed, and that

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WAR PUZZLES



RUSSO-ROUMANIAN TROOPS Turned the tables on the Germans driving them back with heavy losses at Serch, two years ago today, January 15, 1917.



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MANUFACTURERS BERLINER GRAM-O-PHONE CO., LIMITED



A front view of the headquarters of the German Commandantur for Antwerp district.

requested me to accompany them to Antwerp. I felt convinced that surely this time it was to be a simple visit to an office of some kind, but unaccompanied by inconvenience or vexation.

I left the house without hesitation, taking with me only my walking cane. One of the soldiers spoke French. He appeared to think my call at Antwerp was a mere formality, and that I might be allowed to return to Capellen the same evening.

Arriving in Antwerp, the soldiers conducted me to a hall situated near the kommandantur on des Recllets street. In this hall I saw a large number of people whose appearance was not very reassuring. These were men and women, who, judging by appearance were no more or less bad characters.

Left alone by the two soldiers I made a close observation of this doubtful-looking crowd, and the non-commissioned officer did not answer. He just shrugged his shoulders as though he did not understand my card, together with a message for the major. A few minutes later an officer appeared and requested me to follow him. It turned out to be Major Von Wilm's office into which I was now introduced.

"Mr. Beland," he said, "I am desolate. New instructions have just arrived from Berlin and I must return you."

I had no time to express surprise or utter a word of protest before he added: "But you will be a prisoner of honor. You will lodge here in Antwerp at the Grand Hotel, and you will be well treated."

"But this," I said, "does not suit me. First of all, my wife and family are not aware of what is happening to me. In any event I must go back and inform them of my predicament and obtain the clothing I shall need at this hotel."

Visibly embarrassed through being unable to grant my request even for one hour the major was unable to reply at once. He pondered, walked a few paces in front of his desk, then

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Health and Happiness Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Women of today seem to listen to every call of duty except the supreme one that tells them to guard their health...

Purchased Vessels. New York, Jan. 15.—The Cunard Steamship Company has purchased from the British Government six cargo steamships of an aggregate tonnage of 29,734. The vessels, standard cargo carriers, built by the British Government for use during the war, will soon be placed in active service by the company. The purchase price was not made public. The vessels, which were of the "war series," have been renamed. Yes, young man, the world owes you a living, but by the time you collect it you will be ready to give the undertaker a job. Don't meddle with the affairs of other people and you will have that much less to worry about.