

# THE GOOD OLD SUMMER TIME



Girl workers on a farm enjoying a dip after a hot day's work.—British and Colonial Press photograph.

## HAVING FAILED TO ANNEX WORLD, GERMANS BECOME CHAMPION SNEAK THIEVES

(By Gordon Stiles.)

London, June 17.—Although Germany failed in her gigantic scheme for annexing half the universe, there is no doubt she holds the world's record for petty larceny. Not as a nation; it is an individual proposition. Scarcity of food and other necessities has made more thieves than one would believe could exist in a country the size of Germany. Among these thieves the hotel employees shine. I had a good deal of experience among these minor rascals during the five months I recently spent in the fatherland.

Despite the extreme annoyance of it all I could not help being highly amused. In Berlin hotels, nothing that is the real thing in the line of food or tobacco or soap or sweets is safe. Leaving a pair of real leather boots in the corridor to be polished is nothing less than sheer madness. I have known of trunks being broken open for the sake of a tin of tobacco, and portmanteaux being rifled in the hope of gaining a little chocolate or tea. If you leave a cake of soap on the washstand you are only asking for trouble, for if it is not stolen outright you will see that every day a little bit has been carefully shaved off.

Some of the cleverest tricks crop up in matters culinary. Give the waiter on your floor some tea to be prepared, and what happens? The steaming concoction which he brings back contains probably one-quarter of what you gave him. The rest is "ersatz" (substitute) or the familiar blackberry leaves which have done duty in Germany as tea for three years. You send down some oatmeal. If you expect enough for your breakfast, you should hand out sufficient raw material for about eight people. Being entrusted with a bit of bacon always brings a wild gleam into a waiter's eye, and you are lucky if you get back any of it.

It was in connection with bacon that I discovered what old Diogenes could not unearth. This chap did not run true to form at all. He not only brought back all the bacon I had given him, but a small pitcher holding the grease. And the smile which spread over his face when I made him a present of the grease was the most beautiful thing I saw in Germany.

I thought I had them in the matter of eggs. A Danish friend brought me two dozen from Copenhagen, and I had several merry breakfast parties which made my position so solid with those who attended that I could borrow money from any of them for weeks afterward. I was jubilant at the thought that the kitchen folk must return my eggs intact. I did not see how they could eat a piece of an egg. What happened was this: the very last egg came to the table artistically crushed in on one side. At first it puzzled me, but I discovered the trick which I soon found to be popular in all hotels in the land.

The procedure was to make a tiny puncture in the shell, draw out half of the white and then damage the shell in such a way as to conceal the original hole. The result is that when the egg is opened the shell is found to be half full of nice hot water. It was only by threatening to crack upon the waiter's head all the eggs with damaged exteriors that we got any degree of satisfaction. And I suppose it was for rendering us such service that the Berlin waiters determined to be properly tipped. At any rate they combined, and by bloodless revolutionary methods managed to get 20 per cent tacked on the bill of every guest, the money to be divided among them. Of course, the guest was not expected to hand out any further gratul-

ties. But naturally since every employee was sure to receive his tips the service slumped, and the only way to be comfortable was to resort to super-tipping. So far as the guest was concerned, it merely came to an increase of 20 per cent in his hotel bill.

In outside restaurants, 10 per cent is added to the check, while the same is done with every drink served at the bar. A lot of people are caught before they learn the custom. The waiter will serve them and present a bill with ten per cent added. They take it for a sort of luxury tax, as in Paris, and add a tip. To this the waiters seldom, if ever, object.

So it goes. There is no phase of trade in Germany into which this sort of business has not crept to some degree. What is strange is that after a few weeks there one accepts it quite cheerfully, as if it were a matter of course, which indeed it has come to be.

### Lifers Issue July Prison Magazine

Jesse Pomeroy Writes of Long Solitude; Liberty Bell on Cover

(Boston Globe.)

Rev. William Bradley Whitney, chaplain at the State Prison, Charlestown, recently granted permission to the life inmates of the prison to edit the July number of the Mentor in his stead, and the prison magazine just issued, consisting of more than fifty pages, is one of the finest ever produced by the inmates of that institution.

The Mentor is a magazine devoted to prison welfare and the July issue is named the "Special Lifers' Number." On the cover is a cut of the Liberty Bell of Philadelphia, and the bell with the crack and letters is finished in gold. The border is also of gold.

There are twenty-eight contributions to the number, including a 700-word article on "Segregation—In Truth," by Grandpa, the pen name of Jesse H. Pomeroy, who has spent nearly forty-six years of his life in confinement. He also contributed a four stanza poem entitled "What is Life?"

Four contributions are from "W. G. P." and other lifers wrote two articles each.

In Pomeroy's article on "Segregation—In Truth," he said in part:—"I cannot say it has been my good fortune to live a solitary life, but it has been my experience almost forty-three years, from 1876, when I was fourteen years, up to 1917. I have been often asked, 'How could you live apart from men all those years by yourself without seeing or enjoying the association of others?' My answer has ever been, 'I was so young, not realizing or knowing anything of life except as I lived it, it became, as it were, a natural way of living; though in truth it is a most unnatural life.'

"The passing years flowed by without a change, and I grew up in boyhood, to be a young man; and then, as manhood arrived, and middle life and finally elderly life, solitude became my second nature, without on my part any noticeable change that I could remark.

"As a school-boy, I was not much on books; sports, the active out of door life of a growing boy, were my attractions.

"In my solitary cell, without assistance or guidance of any sort, I found that silence, the tiresomeness, the tedious, lonely and weary sameness of the slow hours—little by little—induced me to de-

vote my time to studious efforts; books, food, papers and magazines; and tentatively, in 1914, chapel, and later concert privileges. Finally, in 1917, the solitary was changed to imprisonment for life after being in the cell more than forty-two years.

"Contrasting the old with the new, there is indeed a vast difference—the human element, so absent before, is now con-

sidered. Without much of a jolt, I fit into my new life, thanks to the devotion of my mother and my wide reading. Under Divine Providence, what little mind is left me is due to my early efforts to steady myself, to study, to avoid the pitfalls—there are many—of solitude.

"It is not good for man to be alone—solitary breeds disease, weakness, insanity, suicide. Hail to the brighter days."

provisions of the highways act and not \$10,000 dollars as stated in the Canadian Press house report last night. Subsequent payments will be on a basis of the population. The error was due to confusion between the highways and technical education bills. In the case of the latter the provision is for an initial payment of \$10,000 to each of the provinces.

## INITIAL PAYMENT OF \$80,000 TO EACH PROVINCE

Ottawa, July 3.—Eighty thousand dollars is the initial amount that will be paid to each of the provinces under the

provisions of the highways act and not \$10,000 dollars as stated in the Canadian Press house report last night. Subsequent payments will be on a basis of the population. The error was due to confusion between the highways and technical education bills. In the case of the latter the provision is for an initial payment of \$10,000 to each of the provinces.

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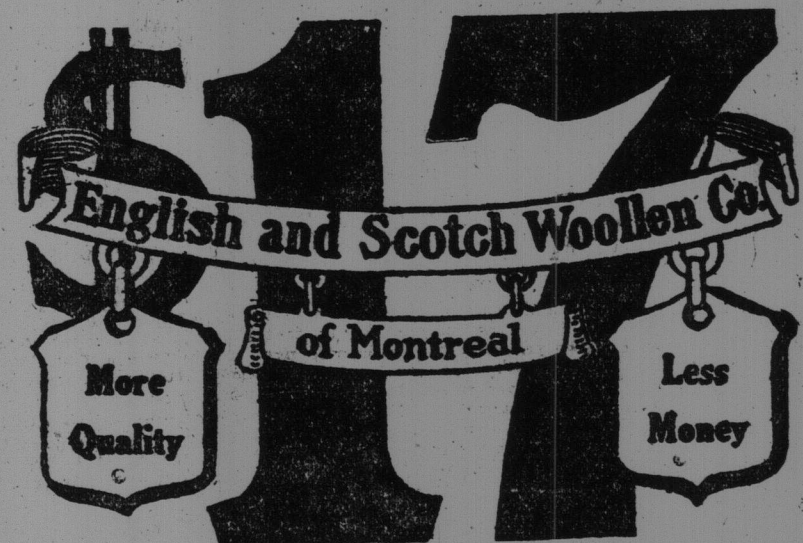


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