

# PRISONERS ARE TREATED IN CRUEL MANNER

### GERMAN RATIONS ARE BARELY ENOUGH TO KEEP MEN ALIVE

#### Miner Returned From Prison Tells Overseas Club of Hardships

Some of the humorous, as well as the tragic sidelights on prison life in Germany were told recently at a gathering of the Overseas Club, held at Foresters' Hall, when Lieut. Harvey Douglas, of the 4th C.M.R., recently returned to Canada through Switzerland, gave a talk on his experiences while in enemy camps, and when he made a strong appeal to the citizens of Toronto to support the activities of the Overseas Club in their effort to raise funds to send parcels to the Canadian prisoners still in the hands of the enemy.

Speaking of the camps in which he was confined, Lieut. Douglas stated there were very few women to be seen, but occasionally nuns visited the hospitals and brought flowers for the wounded prisoners, but the one thing which cheered up the prisoners the most was the arrival of the Red Cross parcels from Canada. "We were always glad to get those parcels," he stated, "and also the Swiss bread, for from those parcels we were able to cook enough things to keep us alive. The food supplied by the Germans was barely enough to nourish the men, and if it had not been for the parcels from the Red Cross I do not know what the men would have done. There were some interesting incidents at our camp. Once, a number of captured officers discovered that the hens were laying their eggs in the pig-pen, so we used to search around and get them before the Germans. We had a spirit stove hidden under the radiator in our ward and we used to get the spirits from an order which wasn't above making an occasional penny on the side. For a time we had fried eggs every morning for breakfast, until we were caught, and the Germans took it so badly that they locked the pig-pen."

#### German People Suffer

But the orderly told us that, bad as was the food given to us, that supplied the families of the Germans was much worse. He said their children suffered from lack of milk and eggs and that the old were given black bread, which they could hardly eat. I don't blame them for I tried some of it and it seemed to me it must have been made of sawdust, for it tasted like it. A prisoner in camp who does not get any Red Cross parcels has to live on a lump of that bread given him every morning, some acorn coffee and a bowl of soup which isn't very nourishing. In most of the camps in Germany there is a great lack of food. It is almost appalling. The poor Russians and Serbian and Rumanian prisoners, who do not get any parcels from home, because their friends cannot send them, are just managing to live. Some of them are dying for lack of food and those who live are weak and emaciated. In the morning the men are lined up for their lump of bread, and if they are late they are not allowed to slip into the end of the line. There have been hundreds and hundreds of cases where men, too late to get their place in the bread line, have tried to steal bread from the kitchens, and when they are caught the guards shoot at them. The guards may not hit the man they shoot at, but they get somebody every time, and if I were to tell you of the hundreds of prisoners who have been murdered in this manner while trying to get enough bread to eat you would hardly believe it.

#### Parcels Arrive

"People have asked me if all the stories are true that they hear in this country about the terrible treatment of prisoners, and my answer is that they are true, and a great deal worse. Others have asked me if the Red Cross parcels really arrive. My answer is that they do, at least 99 per cent. of them, sooner or later, and the ones that never arrive are the ones that go to the bottom of the sea on the ships which are sunk. Of course, you must realize that war is on and that parcels must be delayed, but they get there sooner or later. There is very little pillaging among the German attendants, and if an occasional one does steal a parcel because he is starving himself, you can hardly blame him. It is even better with the parcels which come from Switzerland because, having a shorter distance to travel, they are fresher when they arrive and they get to

their destination sooner. Some people have said that because the British Tommy doesn't send back the postcards enclosed with the bread that he doesn't get the bread, but that is not the case. The Tommy is generally so anxious to mix up a decent meal from his parcels that he forgets all about the cards, and anyway he doesn't realize that you back here are depending on those cards. Some go so far as to make that an excuse for not contributing to the Red Cross, but, thank God, there are a few of us back here who can tell you that your parcels do arrive and how badly they are needed, and how much more the allied prisoners need food than do the English and Canadians. No one can realize just what suffering those allied prisoners are going through. Even the French from the districts occupied by the Germans, who have no friends back in France, are suffering just as keenly, so any little thing you can do for them is a work of mercy. As to the suggestion that some prisoners are forced to write cards saying they get their parcels, when they do not, all I can say is that I never knew or heard of any case."

#### Wanted To Be Captured

"In time 'Lousy' got in wrong with his own authorities," the speaker continued, "and they gave him the supreme punishment, that is they sent him to the Somme front. Before going he got a hunch that he might be captured, so he came to the officers and asked for a note to give to the English who would capture him. They told him if he would surrender with all the men under him they would give the note. 'Lousy' agreed and in due time he surrendered with his men, and the note he handed over to the British officer who got him read: 'This is Lousy. He's not a bad sort. Don't kill him, just torture him to death slowly.' But we got a letter from 'Lousy' later from a prison camp in England, and he was quite happy. He was getting better food than he got back home in Germany."

#### Left Dummies in Trenches

Italian Army Headquarters, Jan. 29.—Italian patrol, exploring the region evacuated by the enemy north of Mt. Tomba, found that the Austrians had adopted a remarkable ruse to conceal their departure. They had lined the forward trenches with dummy soldiers topped with helmets which protruded slightly above the trenches, to give an appearance of occupation. In one of the battery positions they had constructed machine guns with zinc barrels, mounted on wood, while pieces of wood and gaspne were shaped with the same object.

#### Want Order Modified

Canadian labor, through its accredited representatives, is urging modification of the recent Order-in-Council affecting importation of beer. It has become known that the labor men, in the course of their recent private conferences with the Government over the labor and food situation, seized the opportunity to recommend that the Government modify its prohibition order so as to permit the legal importation from one province to another of light beers. The recommendation was included in a memorandum that the labor representatives laid before the Cabinet. The suggestion is under consideration, but it is hardly likely that it will be complied with. One million workers have registered with the U.S. Public Service Reserve. They are willing to undertake any work that may be required of them. The first Americanized Enfield rifle has been produced and presented to President Wilson. Deliveries are now to be made at the rate of 2,000 a day. Bombing mines at Wichita Falls, Texas, were closed for two days Jan. 4. A. Howell's. Mr. and Mrs. B. Vandwater have returned home after spending a few weeks visiting friends in Huntingdon.

# CHILDREN BURN WHILE MOTHER IS HELPLESS

### Midland, Jan. 24.—A double tragedy occurred at Sturgeon Bay on Tuesday afternoon when two children, aged 2 and 4 years, were burned to death before the eyes of their horror-stricken mother.

The fatality happened about 4.30 on Tuesday afternoon, when Mr. Charles Hopkins, the father, was in the bush cutting wood. The mother had gone to the barn to water the stock and on leaving it was horrified to see their house in flames. Upon reaching the burning building she could hear the screams of their two little boys, but the fire was blazing with such fierceness that all her efforts to reach them were unavailing, and they were burned to death, together with the house and all its contents. The sensation experienced by Mrs. Hopkins as the flames consumed her loved ones, can be better imagined than described.

# BRIG. GEN. SHANNON'S GIFT

### To Great War Veterans of Building And \$1,000.

Kingston—It is understood that Brig.-Gen. L. W. Shannon of London has tendered to the Kingston branch of the Great War Veterans' Association the use of the office of the old Kingston News on Princess street for one year, and has also presented the branch with one thousand dollars to be used in renovating the premises.

Already work has been commenced in the building and when completed the local branch will have one of the finest headquarters for veterans of the present campaign in Canada. Brig.-Gen. Shannon is a native of Kingston and since the outbreak of war has manifested great interest in the welfare of the Canadian soldiers.

# LEFT DUMMIES IN TRENCHES

### Austrian Ruse to Conceal the Evacuation of Territory.

Italian Army Headquarters, Jan. 29.—Italian patrol, exploring the region evacuated by the enemy north of Mt. Tomba, found that the Austrians had adopted a remarkable ruse to conceal their departure. They had lined the forward trenches with dummy soldiers topped with helmets which protruded slightly above the trenches, to give an appearance of occupation. In one of the battery positions they had constructed machine guns with zinc barrels, mounted on wood, while pieces of wood and gaspne were shaped with the same object.

# OBITUARY

### R. H. LAIDMAN, OF THE CIVIL SERVICE, DEAD

Hamilton—The death took place yesterday afternoon of Mr. Richard H. Laidman, 51 Ray Street north, in his 60th year. Mr. Laidman was born in Binbrook and had been an esteemed resident of Hamilton for the last 35 years. For many years he had been engaged in the department of the Inspector of Weights and Measures. Deceased was a member of Centenary Methodist church and also of St. John's Lodge, A. F. and A. M. His wife, four sons, Hillyard, of Brockville; Norman, overseas; Harry, of Deseronto and Irvine, at home, and two daughters, Lillian and Marie, at home, survive. The funeral will take place privately on Monday at 2 p.m. to Hamilton Cemetery.—Times

# CENTRE

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Redner and son Douglas took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Redner on Sunday. Miss M. Howell and Miss A. Hancock called at Mrs. D. T. Stafford's on Thursday. We are glad to welcome Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Tripp in our neighborhood. Mr. and Mrs. F. Hermon and Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Stafford, Rednersville, spent Monday evening with Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Stafford. Mr. and Mrs. Alf. McCrodon and son Bryon spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. A. Howell's. Mr. and Mrs. B. Vandwater have returned home after spending a few weeks visiting friends in Huntingdon.

# Every One a Farmer

## A Call to the Cities

In the labor force represented by people in cities, towns and villages is the principle hope of any large increase in the production of food in Canada, in 1918. There must be readjustment between producers and non-producers if the present dangerous situation is to be relieved. The Canadian farmer today is doing his utmost. Even the inducement of higher prices would not result in much greater production, because greater production is for him a physical impossibility under present conditions of labor scarcity. The dwellers in cities and towns must do their part. The need of food is indeed grave and now is the time when plans must be made for the coming season.

### CULTIVATION OF BACK YARDS AND VACANT LOTS

Every back yard should be used for the cultivation of fruit and vegetables. Suburban areas should be utilized for food production. Much could be done by individual householders if people only realize the desperate seriousness of the situation and the fact that every ounce of food is a necessary and important contribution in the fight against defeat. Hundreds of thousands of men and women, boys and girls, could spare a short time each day to cultivate a garden. The staffs of industrial establishments, both office and factory, could do much by organizing clubs to cultivate vacant areas near their own places of employment or vacant lots elsewhere in the municipality. Girl Guides and Boy Scouts could also make a real contribution towards relief of the situation. In this way a large part of the requirements of cities and towns, in so far as vegetables are concerned, would be supplied by back yard and vacant lot cultivation, so that market gardeners could use their land in part for grain crops. City cultivation received a very important stimulus last year. Amateur gardeners will be more efficient this year and splendid results should be obtained if the people will understand that every vegetable and every ounce of food which they can produce from city lands frees labor and developed land for the production of grain for export to the Allied armies and peoples.

### MARKET GARDENER MUST GROW GRAIN

The market gardener would do well to plan during the coming season to devote part of his land to grain. It is quite probable that there will be as much profit for him in growing oats, or even wheat, as in raising cabbages or similar vegetable crops. It is important that he appreciate the real significance to him of back yard gardening and vacant lot cultivation schemes. Our cities are gradually working toward the time when a large part of the requirements of perishable vegetables will be provided from city land. The market gardener must adjust his operations to this changing situation.

The people of the cities must do more than cultivate back yards and vacant lots. The farmer looks to them for active assistance to overcome, in so far as may be possible, the labor shortage. There are many thousands of men in cities and towns who are not eligible for military service but who could do very necessary war work on a farm. The call comes to these men to consider their individual responsibility. There are men now engaged in occupations which are not essential to the prosecution of the war, who could, and should, be on farms, helping to avert possible famine and thus upholding the Allied cause. There are thousands of school teachers, university students and high school boys who could, with advantage to themselves and their country, spend their summer holidays in actual productive work in the country. Last year many young women did important work and spent an enjoyable holiday picking fruit. The need will be much greater during the present year.

### "FIGHT OR FARM" MUST BE THIS YEAR'S MOTTO

The present situation demands thorough organization of the labor in the cities, towns and villages of the Dominion. The farmers and the farmers' wives and the boys and girls in rural municipalities will put forth their utmost effort in 1918 to produce the greatest possible amount of food, but the increase by their work is strictly limited by physical endurance. The people who are now non-producers must make up for the labor shortage. There must be thorough organization of the free labor of our cities. Tens of thousands more city people must become producers of food. Unless this be done the situation will become increasingly serious and the consequences may be disastrous. There is an individual responsibility resting upon every city resident. The Canadian people responded splendidly to the call for men to fight. Another call has come to those at home to support the fighters. This call, too, is an individual one to every man and to every woman to do his or her utmost. "Fight or Farm" should be our motto this year. If those who cannot fight refuse to farm, the alternative will be actual hunger, and perhaps starvation among the women and children of the Allied nations and much distress even in the cities of our own Dominion.—Canadian Food Bulletin.

# Picked Up Around Town

### Interesting News Items Gated by Our Reporter While on His Rounds.

A man named Thomas Dodds, in conveying some land to the county, included about 50 acres of which Reeve Frank White of Mayo was the owner, although Mr. White's title was not registered. The county council on Friday passed a resolution empowering the warden and clerk to sign a quit claim deed to this lot to Mr. White from the County. The charge of arson against H. A. Cook of Trenton was again enlarged for two weeks at Magistrate Masson's court this morning. A domestic case in which the wife accuses her husband of threatening her was enlarged today. The husband was arrested last night and today was given bail. He will not return home until the case is disposed of. Mr. E. J. Butler represented the crown in the absence of Mr. Carnew and Mr. W. D. M. Shorey is looking after the defence. Accused husband is not making his first appearance in police court as he has been up once before. Joseph Oraddock tells the police that some one stole a robe from his horse on the street yesterday during his absence. A Young man named Chas. E. Wilson, was taken in charge by a police officer last night on a charge of being a deserter from the 34th battery. In police court this morning the Trenton sixteen year old boy was remanded to jail until Monday on the Chinese hold-up charge in which he is the defendant. The

# Fur Collared Coats

We are offering some splendid values in Fine Black Beaver Overcoats, with Persion Lamb and Rat Collars, lined with heavy imitation lamb lining and interlined with rubber. One line all chamois lined.

## Prices \$20.00, \$25.00 and \$30.00

These are Old Prices and they will not last long. Buy for next winter as these Coats will be \$10.00 higher next season.

# OAK HALL

C. H. Vermilyea.

whom a nephew has won the Military Medal. Mr. Thos. Turfill attended the county council this week. He represents Dungannon township.

Belleville High School basketball team defeated Kingston at the Belleville gym last night by 47 to 16. In the juvenile game Kingston defeated Belleville team by 21 to 31.

President T. Arthur McFarlane, of Shannonsville, delivered a short address just before the close of the annual meeting of the Central Ontario Fairs Association. "There is," he said, "a tendency to draft away from the educational object of the fair to amusements. We are sometimes inclined to judge by the crowd, the midway, instead of by the educational side of the fair. Farmers, Mr. McFarlane thought, were favored by the tribunals." Young men who were sent back to work on the land, must produce but not make money. It is the boy at the front who has done his full duty.

Farmers, no doubt, are being overworked. No matter what help is sent to them, the farmers must be the grinding hand on the farms. Mr. McFarlane feared Canadians did not yet fully realize the situation.

The Central Ontario Fairs Association at Belleville endorsed a suggestion of Superintendent J. Lookie Wilson that farmers should visit colleges and high schools to train classes of coming "soldiers of the soil" who intend to work on the land next summer, how to hitch and drive horses and explain the manipulation of all kinds of harness so that the boys will have had some experience when they go upon the land in the spring. Farmers, it was pointed out, would be pleased to give demonstrations. It is possible prizes may be offered by societies for the best results. President McFarlane and Secretary Dr. Hay are a committee to bring this matter to the attention of the district representatives. Mr. Harry Ketcheson and Mr. R. J. Garbutt spoke in favor of the proposal.

A well-known Belleville business man was taken to Picton today by chief Portland on a warrant issued by Magistrate Levi Williams. The charge is false pretence and is the result of negotiations of the defendant with a Belleville firm over a boiler, which was at Picton.

The funeral took place in Toronto this afternoon at two o'clock at Prospect Cemetery, of William Hughes, a well-known Belleville resident, who died at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. J. T. Jones, 50 Ellsworth Avenue, from a cancer. Rev. J. Grant conducted the service. Mr. Hughes was

The choir of John Street Presbyterian church was entertained at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Cook, Charles Street, last evening. Mr. and Mrs. Cook provided a most enjoyable entertainment for their guests. During the evening musical numbers were rendered and at the close, refreshments were served.

The Khaki Club reopened on Wednesday evening with a large number of young soldiers as guests. The men were provided with a concert and music supplied under the direction of the Misses Dorothy and Sybil Grant. Miss Christina Turney, whose father has been wounded, recited a number to the delight of the soldier boys. Cake and coffee were served in the canteen to the soldiers. During the evening the boys and the club members were favored with a visit from Capt. A. D. Harper formerly of the 80th Battalion, an invalid officer, who originated the Khaki Club idea. He was given a very warm welcome by the boys.

William A. Styles, one month old son of Corporal Styles, a returned Great War Veteran, of 75 Pinnacle street, died on Sunday morning.

At the annual meeting of the Belleville Cemetery Company, held in the offices on Campbell street, the officers were re-elected as follows: Pres.—S. Masson, K.C. Sec.—Treas. Miss H. A. Hudson. Chairman of Grounds Committee. John McKeown. Directors, J. W. Walker, J. L. Tickell, John Snell, W. B. Robinson, W. B. Riggs, B. Mallory. Mr. Arthur Thomas, resident superintendent of the grounds, was reengaged for the following year.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Adelbert Farnham passed away yesterday at the hospital.

A large coolie dog came to a residence on Friday. The owner may have the fine animal by inquiring at the police station.

The funeral of Miss Luella Stapley took place on Monday afternoon from the home of her father, Mr. Richard Stapley, Rev. Dr. Scott officiated at the service. Friends of the family were the bearers. The remains were deposited in Belleville cemetery vault.

this implies directly is this true arch of God and the race. The organization can-man organized most egregior reforms, y instinct with etimes to stand backwards, and re in bitter disal is stronger God Himself has

Into this mys-world God has dings which are th each other, to grapple with will we are apt as incorporated all-embracing human blunders in torseben and no matter how ey cannot fruse plans of the

did not mark though it was sion of human sir. And even with all its unes not mark in of the divine will be made a to a newer and even our own which we can rvice, may be a nobler and a er persecution ckness nor sor- stupidity nor omies, neither men, nor our ce can shut which opens a mber of our d mercy.

There sin inter- ars; where in- triumph, mercy a human igno- ower restores, es its degree of - God writes ion of God d abyss of sin, depths of sig- racles to which seems a small rdian.

COUNCIL

Jan. 18, 1918

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