

near-by dilapidated cathedral was not permitted - excepting to a small party of especially privileged priests, one of whom told us all about it in a lengthy but eloquent lecture after their return to the ship.

Twenty-four hours after we tied up alongside the wharf the "Gripsholm" got in and berthed stern to stern with us. Meanwhile a big party of our able-bodied shipmates, despite the great heat, had been landing our heavy baggage, and storing it in a warehouse opposite us. Then the "Gripsholm" did the same, also landing a vast cargo of medical supplies and "comfort" packages for the "Teia Maru" to carry back to military and civilian internees in the camps we had left behind.

Then, on the morning of the 19th October Freedom came; the long-looked-forward-to "exchange" took place. We 1503 repatriates marched in file from the "Teia Maru" to the "Gripsholm", whilst a similar stream of Japanese men, women and children poured out of the "Gripsholm", and on into the quarters we had vacated. We were supremely happy. They gave no indications of joy, knowing only too well the discomforts that awaited them in Japan. A number of our passengers were carried aboard the "Gripsholm" in stretchers, too weak and ill to walk. One in particular, an old Shanghai acquaintance, was so far gone that it seemed impossible for him to live. It was my pleasure to see this gentleman, on our arrival at New Jersey, walk ashore in sprightly fashion, smoking a cigar. The empty holds of the "Teia Maru" just left by our men now became the home, until Yokohama was reached, of Japanese women. Such is Japanese chivalry! On the 21st we thankfully saw the last of the "Teia Maru", as she steamed away eastward, to the land of the Mikado's now setting sun.

On reaching the "Gripsholm's" main deck each of us was handed a large slab of Nestle's chocolate, and every one who wished received also a package of American cigarettes. An enormous and hungrily-devoured alfresco lunch followed, whilst meanwhile the ship's crew were fumigating and refurbishing the cabins. Then mail was distributed. Thousands of letters and cablegrams, a supreme event to us, many of whom had not heard from home, relatives and friends, for nearly two years. That night the "Gripsholm" cooks and stewards served us an enormous dinner, chief features of which were roast turkey, ice-cream and coffee - such coffee as Canadians and Americans enjoy. And then to bed - after one of life's most memorable days.

It is not my intention to describe our daily experiences on the "Gripsholm"; full descriptions have been printed in many newspapers and magazines. But I would like to commend the courteous, kindly Red Cross officials, who supplied us with much-needed changes of clothing and other necessities, also the Swedish staff of the ship, every one