

# WAR PRISONERS ARE WELL CARED FOR IN EUROPE'S GREAT PRISON CAMPS

Germans Held In England, Studying Under Their Own Teachers, Produce Plays, Says Report of American Embassy In London.

British, French and Russian Captives In Germany Well Fed—Work Provided For All—Officers Read and Play Games.

THE fate of the prisoners captured in the great war has been of the greatest interest to the whole world ever since the outbreak of the conflict. What do the men occupy themselves with in the prison camps? How are they treated? Are they well fed and otherwise well cared for? These and similar questions have occupied the attention of the governments of those captured, the thoughts of the relatives whose men are held in foreign lands as well as the deep interest of neutral nations.

Unlike in other wars, when only two nations were involved, this great conflict has made necessary the maintenance of prison camps all over the world. You will find war-prisoners in Australia, Japan, India, Siberia, Egypt, Turkey, Algiers, South Africa and in the territory of all the powers of Europe at war.

### Charges of Mistreatment.

There have been charges and countercharges made at various times during the progress of the conflict that captives were not being treated humanely. Such charges have been made by England, France, Russia and Italy against Germany and Austria and by the latter nations against the former. In view of the fact that each nation holds enormous numbers of prisoners it is of course possible that from time to time excesses on the part of prison

club, which cares for prisoners in their last illness and tends the graves of the dead in an adjoining churchyard.

German instructors teach English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, mathematics, political economy, book-keeping, shorthand, writing and landscape gardening. In each of the four camps the prisoners have both string and brass orchestras, and plays are given in both English and German, the inmates themselves arranging the costumes, scenery and stage settings.

Nearly 72 per cent of the prisoners at Knockaloe were found to be at work, many being employed as bootmakers, tailors, joiners, plumbers, woodworkers, gardeners and railway, quarry and postal workers. There are forty-five acres available for exercise, and a variety of games are played daily. Under the heading "Wants" the inspectors say: "There were no complaints of a serious nature."

### An Officers' Camp.

At Dunryn Aled, Abergele, a country house in a romantic valley among the Welsh mountains, eighty-one officers and servants were interned when the inspection was made. The inspectors say: "In this camp were an amusement committee, a wine committee, a canteen committee, a house committee, a cigar and cigarette committee and a postmaster general. All these committees are chosen quarterly by the interned officers, who have ab-

men, especially to the French, from home. Many prefer to live on these daily consignments, which, however, constitute a cause of stomach and intestinal illnesses. Each prisoner is allowed to send two letters and four cards a month.

"The working conditions are favorable. There is enough work in the camp itself for a large portion of the prisoners. Scattered groups in charge of landsturm men leave in the morning in order to find employment on the various works of land reclamation and do not return to the camp until evening. Able-bodied men who are not thought likely to try to escape are also employed individually by the farmers, and they enjoy great freedom. Those who are not able to work or are able to do only half a task are not quite so fortunate. They are sometimes employed at light jobs around the camps or, after sufficient training, put at office work. The hardest problem is the finding of appropriate work for the colored element. The Russians work well on the land if they receive the proper 'fodder,' while the French are very handy at factory work.

### Prevention of Disease.

"Great care is taken to prevent epidemics. Every new arrival is isolated for four, sometimes six, weeks. There he is thoroughly cleaned up and vaccinated. At least one bath must be taken every week, something which in the case of the Russians always seems to be a great and uncommon event. After this isolation the prisoners are brought into the camp. In cases of bad behavior a change of camps is an efficacious means of punishment. The hospitals of the prison camps are fitted out according to the standard, and some of them are better than some cantonal hospitals in Switzerland.

"The officers' prison camps are also fitted out strictly according to military regulations. Naturally in their case the prisoners are obliged to remain in the camps. Variety is afforded by little walks which they are allowed to take a couple of times a week, accompanied by landsturm men. It is understandable that an officer in captivity suffers more mentally than a common soldier. In the officers' camps some five or six officers are quartered in a room. They drive tedium away by means of music, reading and games. Some also have little flower gardens.

"Alcoholic beverages are delivered in only moderate quantities. Nevertheless the Russians know how, by means of several of them refraining from drinking at all for a fixed number of times in succession, to supply one another with good sized quantities of alcohol and with a little carouse."

Dr. Preiswerk concluded that the responsible authorities did not willfully neglect anything calculated to help the prisoners.

### BARBER QUILTS WITH \$300,000.

Jacob Hysler, Eighty-four, Gives Up Shop In Hotel Manhattan. After sixty years of barbering Jacob Hysler, for twenty years proprietor of the shop in the Hotel Manhattan, New York city, has retired at the age of eighty-four with a comfortable fortune. Years ago he owned the barber shop in the Windsor hotel and in his time has shaved some of the most famous men in the country.

Among his steady patrons are Mayor Mitchell, George McAneny, William and Percy Rockefeller, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt has frequently had his face massaged and hair singed, and Hysler also has trimmed the beard of Charles E. Hughes. He has had as customers General Grant, Jay Gould and other famous men now dead.

Hysler has been paying \$10,000 a year rent, and he will turn the place over to Eugene Schmalz, his nephew and manager, on a sublease calling for \$12,000 a year. Hysler's fortune is reputed to be well over \$300,000.

### CALLED OLDEST MAN.

Indian, at 122, Works Daily as a Laborer—Remembers Back to 1810.

Mazatlan, Mexico, claims as a resident a reputed oldest man in the world. Jose Juan Velasquez, an Indian, who, according to all records available, is 122 years old.

Velasquez has the agility of a man of less than half his years and works daily as a laborer. He possesses a remarkable memory and is familiar with happenings during the Hidalgo revolution for Mexican independence from Spain in 1810-21.

### HIGH COST OF DYING ADDS TO WOES OF LIVING

To the high cost of living is being added as great a trial—the high cost of dying. For the last few years the prices of undertakers, coffin makers and embalmers have kept pace with the upward trend set by the grocer and the butcher. Now comes a further item to add to the householder's woes over the soaring price of flour and coal—coffins are to increase \$5 apiece in price.

That applies only to the cheapest ones too. The higher priced articles will advance in greater proportion, for upon them is expended more dye and varnish and other chemicals hitherto imported from Germany. Undertakers say that the situation is serious and that if the prices of burying materials should continue to increase they intended to start a campaign in favor of cremation.

### SAM V. STEWART.

Present Incumbent Is Re-Elected Montana Governor.



Photo by American Press Association.

### WILSON SWEEPS MONTANA

Democrats Also Elect United States Senator and Governor.

Helena, Mont., Nov. 8.—President Wilson appears to have swept Montana. United States Senator Henry L. Myers seems assured of re-election by a majority of at least 15,000, while the election of Governor Sam V. Stewart to succeed himself, is assured by at least 6,000.

Miss Jeanette Rankin, Republican, seems to have fallen far behind the Democrats.

### BALLOTS OF WOMEN ARE EQUALLY DIVIDED

Chicago, Nov. 8.—Although a large proportion of the women voters went to the polls in every one of the twelve states and in one territory in which the franchise has been won, they do not appear to have influenced materially the election.

In Illinois—the only state in which separate ballots are kept for the sexes—the women and the men expressed the same preferences in much the same proportions.

Washington women, however, were attributed the credit for the probable Wilson success in that state. There is no certain test inasmuch as the ballots are not separated, but political observers were of the opinion the Wilson women were more numerous than the men.

In Wyoming, the oldest suffrage state, the votes are not divided according to sex, but reports indicate the women were divided along the same general lines followed by the men. Idaho, another pioneer suffrage state, made the same report.

In California, the trend of the woman vote likewise has to be estimated impressionistically. In San Francisco and the adjacent territory, however, women were reputed to have been more active for President Wilson than were their husbands and brothers.

### HUGHES WINS SOUTH DAKOTA

Peter Norbeck, Republican, Is Elected Governor.

Sioux Falls, S. D., Nov. 8.—South Dakota's five votes in the electoral college will be cast for Hughes, returns indicated. A plurality over Wilson of 15,000 votes in the state was claimed by Republican leaders. Peter Norbeck, Republican, is sure of election as governor.

### JOHNSON GOES TO SENATE

Governor of California Secures Huge Majority.

San Francisco, Nov. 8.—Governor Hiram W. Johnson was elected to the senate from California by a huge majority. The state belongs to either Hughes or Wilson on the face of available returns, with Los Angeles and San Francisco counties virtually unreported.

### Wilson Takes Oklahoma.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Nov. 8.—Meager returns indicate Wilson has carried the state by a plurality estimated by Democratic leaders at 40,000. Scattered returns indicate the re-election of all present representatives.

### Many Kansas Women Vote.

Topeka, Kan., Nov. 8.—Women in Kansas cast approximately 40 per cent of the total vote, it was estimated from reports received from over the state. The total vote was expected to reach 600,000.

### FIFTY LIVES SNUFFED OUT

Boston Street Car Goes Through Open Draw Bridge.

Boston, Nov. 8.—The lives of fifty persons were lost when a crowded passenger car of the Boston elevated street railway plunged through an open draw bridge into Fort Point channel.



GERMAN CAPTIVES PLAYING CARDS IN BRITISH PRISON CAMP—THE PRISON GUARD SEEMS VERY MUCH INTERESTED.

camp guards and administrators will take place. Thus Germany, for instance, is said to hold nearly 2,000,000 prisoners, whose care presents a serious problem. The same counts for England and France. The charges of mistreatment of prisoners have engaged the attention of neutral nations, the diplomatic representatives of which have been permitted to inspect various prison camps in order that they might see with their own eyes and make reports to the world at large.

A volume of impartial testimony to the excellence of arrangements made for the well being of prisoners of war interned in England is contained in a series of reports made to the American ambassador in London by members of the embassy staff who have during the last few months paid visits of inspection to various internment camps in the United Kingdom. The reports were issued recently as a parliamentary paper, says the London Times.

The detailed reports, made after visits to twenty-three camps, show how thoroughly the visitors investigated the conditions under which the prisoners are living, and the verdict is highly satisfactory. As was to be expected, they received various complaints from some of the interned officers and men, but in few cases did they find the complaints of a serious character. Where there appeared to them good ground for criticism the cases were taken up either with the war office or the camp commandants, and the authorities showed a general disposition to remove the causes of complaint.

In many instances the inspectors record improvements in camp conditions since their previous visits, and in a few cases they suggest further improvements. On the whole, however, their reports are remarkably free from criticism, and they pay repeated tributes to the excellence of the food, the sanitary and hospital arrangements and the facilities for work, exercise and recreation.

### Committees of Prisoners.

Most of the camps are largely run by committees chosen by the interned men themselves, and in the larger camps the organization is of an elaborate character. At Knockaloe, near Peel, where over 20,000 men are interned, the visitors found that there were relief and kitchen committees, recreative hall committees, a prisoners' aid society, gymnasium, sports, industrial, educational, library, musical and dramatic committees, all chosen by the prisoners, as well as a sick and burial

solite control over the management of the house, the only thing done by the British staff being to pay the monthly bills."

The officers give much time to the study of languages, particularly Spanish. At Frougoch, near Bala, with 900 prisoners, there are fifty-five classes for languages, electricity, engineering, drawing, gardening, and so on, and the visitors report that in a studio excellent work is done in portrait and landscape painting and sculpture.

At the Scottish internment camp at Stobs a "board of justice," elected by the prisoners, settles disputes among the inmates "by apology or otherwise." The prisoners at several of the camps go on route marches two or three times a week. In one case a camp newspaper is produced. In another 85 per cent are engaged in work. Some cut their comrades' hair, and some wash clothes; others make watches, brooms and boots, and a doctor and more than one dentist look after the health of their fellow prisoners.

Life in the German prison camps is not all hardships for the hosts of allied soldiers who have fallen into the hands of their opponents, according to Dr. Paul Preiswerk, a captain in the Swiss hospital corps, who went to Germany last winter as a member of the Swiss hospital commission and spent four weeks there inspecting prison camps, principally in Westphalia, Hesse and Lorraine. Dr. Preiswerk recently delivered an address in Basel on the German prison camps, which is quoted as follows in the German press: "The camps in their arrangement follow the well known plans of the German camps for maneuvers and general encampments. The barracks, with the exception of those built by the Russians, which are partly sunk in the ground, are all uniform.

### Germans Feed Prisoners Well.

"Regarding the prisoners' food, the cooking is done on a company and battalion scale. The chief cook is an elderly German noncommissioned officer, with some French assistants. The food is well prepared—in fact, the method of its preparation might be designated as a model for the Swiss soldiers' kitchens. Although the cost of feeding the prisoners is not high, the quantity is quite enough. The Russians have enormous appetites, but the French and English do not devour all that is placed before them. The reason for this is to be found in the large numbers of gifts that are sent to the

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