

KLEIN-MUENCHEN CAMP FOR RUSSIAN PRISONERS

Austria Spends Big Sum in Providing Comfortable Care of Captives.

COMMANDER IS GOOD SPORT

Big Establishment at Present Houses 304 Officers and About 17,000 Men. Many Attempts Made to Escape. Daily Routine of Life.

[Correspondence of Associated Press.] LINZ, AUSTRIA, January 12.—Major-General Clemens Nottes, commander of the Klein-Muenchen camp for Russian military prisoners, looked over the motley array of Russian uniforms and Austrian suits of a semi-military cut, who had lined up along the wall of the detention barracks, which in the camp named houses Russian prisoners who have violated camp rules.

"Most of these men," said the commander to the Associated Press correspondent, "have been guilty of breaking discipline. There are a few, however, who have made attempts to get away. One of them has tried it twice."

With that General Nottes told one of his officers to bring over a certain man. The prisoner, a rather handsome young fellow of about twenty-five, stepped before the commander, halted with a sharp thud of his heels, and bowed, and he held his cap at attention.

"You are a good sport," commented the grizzled general. "The Russian said 'Dau' with the faintest smile on his face. General Nottes, too, smiled. "No doubt, you found it cold out in the mountains," he said. "But the next sixty days you can think it is hot here. The climate may be a different turn of mind. Russia is a long way off from here at present, and I wish to warn you that the next time you get away from the camp, in your Russian uniform, you may not fare so well. They may see you somewhere, recognize you and do you harm. Our peasants don't like Russians any too well."

The fact that the Russian soldier was what may best be translated as officer-aspirant, before he fell into the hands of the Austrians, gave him the right to report the comment of the camp commander.

"He said something to Russian," he said, "and I said 'Dau' to him. 'Please yourself,' you say it in your right and out to someone if you say that I grant you. At the same time it is my duty to keep you here. I will see to it that you are kept here."

"At the word of General Nottes, he turned to the other captives. "Don't be foolish," he said, "I've said out there." The Russian smiled and faced about.

EXCEPTIONAL CASE OF GIBI

COMMENDED BY GENERAL Nottes. "This is a good Russian," says German well, but never used it with the officers. The last time he managed to get as far as the vicinity of Trieste. He had to go back to the barracks. In his Russian uniform at that speaking of gib, he is an exceptional case. On his way to Trieste he traveled at night, but during the day, and must have been helped by food in a manner as yet unexplained."

General Nottes has been spending many months at the Russian front in Galicia, and like so many others of his countrymen, he is thoroughly well-sport. The dining of the men impressed him very much.

The Klein-Muenchen prison camp is a huge establishment. It covers an area of about five square miles, and the barracks are capable of housing 50,000 men without crowding. So far about 8,000 Russians and several thousand Italians have been quartered there since the establishment of the camp in January, 1915. At present there are in the camp 304 Russian officers and about 17,000 men, the remaining having been called to do work on the Austrian farms.

The barracks are large wooden structures, covered on the outside with thick tar paper, painted white. Above the pine-board floor, the barracks are furnished with eight platforms for each building, provide the space upon which the straw pallets of the men are spread out at night. Sixty such are to be accommodated in the barracks. To the barracks is the dining-room, in which the prisoners gather for "social" purposes, when "fatigue" or work is over.

The barracks described here intended for the ordinary Russian, the peasant who, as a rule, is wholly illiterate and with whom the "intelligents" does not want to associate. The experience has been that the two classes do not mix well, and rather than have constant strife between the prisoners, the Austrian government decided to separate them.

DIFFERENT BARRACKS FOR INTELLIGENT CLASS

For the "intelligents" class a different sort of barracks has been built, which resembles the common barracks, but instead of having eight sleeping platforms, it has two floors upon which a sort of wooden bedstead has been placed. This arrangement wastes a great deal of space, but only first-class barracks can be housed in a building of the usual size.

"We try to satisfy, so far as we can, the wishes of the prisoners," said General Nottes. "In our own army we do not mix the different classes. We have officers and privates and no other class. But with the Russians it seems to be different. The 'intelligents' are usually people of some refinement, to whom the constant association with the common men would be most undesirable. A great hardship, one has to bear in mind that men in prison camps must associate with one another more closely than anywhere else. It is not easy to get away from them. Russia's social structure, therefore, is the enforced stay in our prison camps more like some than confinement naturally is. So we went to the additional trouble and expense of building the barracks for the 'intelligents'."

Excellent gravel-roads, streets run between the rows of buildings, and a small field railway connects all points needing that means for facilitating transport. The entire camp is lighted electrically, has a central water supply and sewer system, an elaborate system for fire protection, ornamental and vegetable gardens, and resembles generally a social settlement camp, an illusion which is quickly dispelled, however, by the presence of the guards and the ubiquitous wire fence.

An officer connected with the financial administration was of the opinion that 80 per cent of the Austrian government had distributed considerably more than 25,000,000 crowns for the Klein-Muenchen camp, and that the keeping of Russian prisoners had entailed an expenditure of approximately 1,000,000,000 crowns, and in Austria itself there are to-day thirty other prison camps.

The recurrence of diseases is said to be connected with the failure of many of the prisoners to do the best for themselves, particularly through recent arrivals of prisoners, who are in case of cholera, has cases developed about two weeks ago. One of the men died; four are on the road to recovery.

ery. Typhus and typhoid also appear occasionally, and tuberculosis is ever-present, because many of the prisoners were afflicted with the disease in a permanent state before they were drafted into the Russian army. On January 12, Camp Klein-Muenchen had thirty-four patients of this class.

HEAR WOUNDS RECEIVED

IN PREVIOUS ACTIONS

Very often Russians are brought in whose wounds, received in actions prior to the one in which they were captured, need attention. On the day on which the Associated Press correspondent visited the camp close to 100 of such cases had either been disposed of by operations or were under observation. Usually, the trouble is due to a bullet or small fragment of shell in the patient's body, which some Russian surgeon apparently thought best to leave undisturbed.

Of 10,000 men who have been in the camp, 500 have died. Most of the fatalities came to the camp sick or infected. They are buried in a pine grove. Graves are marked with a black wooden cross, bearing a number. The cross is later replaced by a headstone cast of concrete. This headstone is given the number formerly carried by the cross. In the mortuary chapel erected on the cemetery a book is kept in which, by means of this number, the name of the dead prisoner may be found.

The cemetery at this camp shows, incidentally, to what extent enmity may cease once a man has been taken prisoner. For ornamental purposes there has just been completed a small structure 200 feet away from the chapel. Between the two buildings runs an arcade supported on its open side by arches and closed in on the other side by a wall. In the wall will be placed tablets bearing the names of the Russians who have died in the camp. The bronze tablets commemorating this fate of these unfortunate are now being cast. The dedicatory inscription on each tablet will be "Here died for his fatherland and lies buried" then will come the names.

The food of the Russian prisoners consists of soup and bread in the morning, soup and a meat dish at noon, and another soup and bread at night. Three times a week a sort of pudding is added to the noon meal. Each man is allowed seven grams and one-half ounces of bread a day.

No tea or coffee are issued, but the prisoners may buy these at a price of 2 shillings, or about 1-2 American cents a cup. Tobacco is obtainable in the same way, since no money from Russia or elsewhere has yet reached any of the Russian prisoners at Klein-Muenchen, the men pay for their things with the pay given them by the Austrian government. At Heller's, if the man is employed at work requiring no skill, and from 40 shillings to a crown if he works at a trade.

January 22 the first shipment of clothing for the prisoners reached the camp from Russia—seven boxes of mostly warm underwear and socks.

PROBLEM OF PASSING TIME PROVES TO BE GREAT ONE

The prisoners work eight hours a day, rise at 6 in the morning and go to bed at 9. The evening hours are many, therefore, and since but few of the men can read, the problem of passing time more agreeably than thinking of the family at home has been a great one. The "intelligents" have a library at their disposal.

Efforts made by the Austrian officers to get the "intelligents" to read to their fellow captives, or to participate with talks on this or that, have failed. Instead, the Austrian officers have now established a German school in each group. Conversation with them established that the Russian seems to delight him so much that to hear German fairy tales. Many of the "intelligents" memorize these little stories, and one of them was asked to repeat one. He did it with all the embarrassment of the schoolboy.

Enlargement of the camp, and the constant improvement of its wide streets and many gardens, keep many of the prisoners employed. Several hundred men work in the shoe factory and repair shop. A large overcoat, made of straw rope, held in shape by ordinary wire, is made in one of the shops. The shoe is said to have proven its value in the trenches. In addition to protecting the shoe of the soldier, it keeps the snow away from the leather, and in so doing prevents many cases of frozen feet.

There is a carpenter shop. The crude furniture needed by the prisoners is made in this. A wood-turning and cutting shop produces such articles as plain wooden cigar and cigarette cases, jewelry boxes, hand-mirror backs and frames, and toys. Much of this is well done. It is sold in the market, one-third of the money realized goes to a fund with which

the prisoners buy the expensive wood needed for this sort of work, new tools and other accessories. Another third the prisoners may spend as they think fit, while the remainder goes to the Austro-Hungarian "War Providence" fund, and is then devoted to any of the various charitable purposes this organization has.

Much labor is needed to manage the camp. Several hundred Russians attend to the wounded and sick in the hospitals and convalescent barracks. Among them are druggists, and such "intelligents" as were willing to become nurses. The orderlies, too, are Russians.

Efforts on the part of the Austrian officers to find something to do for the men leads often to ludicrous situations. One of the officers said that at another prison camp such a death of labor had resulted at one time that it became necessary to move a large quantity of brick several thousand yards piece by piece, each prisoner carrying one brick at a time. It seems that the men could not be induced to take exercise. It was procured for them in this manner.

ALL OF PRISONERS MAKE SOME COMPLAINT

Many of the prisoners of war were asked how they fared in the camp. All of them complained. Some said the food was always the same. Others insisted that there was not enough of it. Notable defects could be learned of this highly debatable question. Austrian officers said that the Russians ate as well as did the Austrian soldier when in garrison.

General Nottes pointed out that a military prisoner was not the place in which members of various social strata could have their wishes met to satisfaction. He said to the Associated Press correspondent that his troops in Galicia would have thought themselves in Heaven had they at any time last year been as well fed and housed as were the Russian prisoners. The entire Russian diet, he remarked, and in carrying out such a policy its prisoners of war were getting a smaller loaf of bread than they had been accustomed to was a condition for which the Austro-Hungarian government could not be blamed.

It may be stated that while the daily bread ration of a Russian prisoner of war is 500 grammes, that of the Austrian civilian is only 310 grammes, and that of the Austro-Hungarian soldier at the front 400 grammes. Both, however, are able to get more meat than the Russian, in which the Austro-Hungarian government could not be blamed.

The appearance of the Russian prisoners of war did not indicate that they did not get enough to eat. Many attempts have been made by officers to escape. The last one was undertaken by two roommates, who dug a tunnel to escape the central room and might have gotten out of the camp had they been more careful. What puzzled the Austrian officers a great deal was how the earth of the excavation had been disposed of. It was found that a hole had been dug in the wall, and that the earth had been poured between the two shenchings.

During the day the hole was covered by a large picture which had hung there a long time. None of the officers believes that in this manner he might be able to reach any of the entente countries, but the other Russian captives are not so sure with confidence to his room, and this punishment is entered against his conduct report. Later this report will reach the Russian government, and the man can so show that he did his best to regain liberty.

MEN'S WAGES IN FRANCE HAVE UPWARD TENDENCY

(Continued from First Page.)

proportion of mobilized men in such establishments being more than 24 per cent. It follows that the entire mobilized staffs are again employed.

The wages of the small-salaried employees have come back to the normal figure in 50 per cent of the establishments. The higher salaries still suffer certain reductions.

The increase in the number of working hours has automatically increased the earnings of workers paid by the hour in all factories whose production is taken by the army. In some cases the wage scale has been increased, making a double gain. The piece-work scale also has been increased in many industries working for the government.

The reasons for these increases are found in the comparative dearth of skilled workmen and in the zeal of manufacturers to push their output to the maximum on the pressing demands of the government.

The spinners and weavers of Normandy and the north are earning from 10 to 20 per cent more than before the war. The remaining 10 per cent of the embroiderers and tulle makers unmobilized at Calais, who earned from 50 to 60 francs a week, are earning from 70 to 80 francs a week.

Local conditions entering into consideration produce remarkable variations in the wage scale of the same trades in different regions.

The construction of barracks for the English army in Normandy nearly doubled the wages of carpenters and hands to handle with maximum speed the incoming army supplies pushed their wages up 50 per cent at some places.

ABANDON SEWING MACHINE FOR THE MACHINE TOOL

Women whose earnings in distinctly feminine trades were cut are abandoning the sewing machine for the machine tool in growing numbers. What permanent effect the innovation may have upon the labor problem is a question the union leaders are studying.

Decreased number of strikes was a noticeable effect of the new conditions. Only ninety-seven cases, involving a total of 9,110 strikers, were reported during the month of the war. There were 1,673 strikes, involving 230,000 workmen, in the year 1913. This comparative tranquillity is attributed in some quarters to the contentment of the workmen, in others to the absence at the front of the younger and more aggressive labor leaders.

It is estimated that there are 850,000 women employed on piecework at their homes, and these are excluded from help upon the wages in other industries. Makers of artificial flowers earn from 1 franc (20 cents) to 1 franc 10 centimes (22 cents) a day. Women working on linen garments make from 2 to 4 cents an hour.

CARE OF THE HOLY PLACES RAPIDLY CHANGING HANDS

(Continued from First Page.)

way will bring down supplies from the north for the advance across the desert, should the attack on Egypt ever be carried out, as it has been loudly heralded. So that Beersheba today is performing the same function as in biblical days—the last outpost before entering the desert, 150 miles, with an ocean of white sand and almost no waterholes—none adequate for the watering of a great army. The only cavalry here must be such as is mounted on camels, with the dazing white sand as deadly to riders as noxious gas is to the men on the firing line.

Cardinal Bourne, in the course of a talk with the Associated Press, mentioned the solicitude felt for these sacred shrines and the gradual way their care was changing hands. He pointed out, however, that the Sultan of Turkey had in past years given guarantees for the continued Christian protection to the shrines, so that, while the nationality of this care might change, the cardinal felt that it would still be Christian. For speaks inquiries on the holy places, the cardinal's entourage referred to the commissioner for the Holy Land, a member of the Franciscan community located in the outskirts of London.

Seen at the Franciscan monastery, the commissioner, Fr. Albert, gave such information as had filtered through. As to the report of a shooting range at Calvary, he pointed out that this did not refer to the sacred spot accepted for centuries as Calvary, but to the so-called Gordon Calvary, first located by General Gordon, a few years ago. After Gordon's services in China, where he became famous as "Chinese" Gordon, he spent some time in the Holy Land, and then in the Sudan, where he was a victim of the Mahdi at Khartoum before the Kitchener relief expedition arrived.

KITCHENER SUPPORTS CLAIM OF GORDON

The last time Fr. Albert visited the Holy Land he was in company with Lord Bute, and as they passed this so-called Gordon Calvary, Lord Bute stated that Lord Kitchener had told him he supported the claim of General

Gordon as to the Gordon Calvary. This was a curious circumstance—Gordon, the victim of Khartoum, locating a new Calvary, and then Kitchener of Khartoum supporting the theory of the explorer whose fame was so closely linked with his own at Khartoum.

The reports reaching Fr. Albert indicated that the Italian and French custodians of the different holy places had been informed by the military authorities, Austrians or some of the Eastern sects replacing them. There are many of their sects—Copts, Greeks, Armenians, and even Abyssinians—though little is known of who is in charge, except that most of the Latin custodians are intended.

While the chances do not constitute a loss of Christian control, yet they show the shifting of the nationality of that control, which has been a frequent cause of international complication in the past.

Besides the main points of military operation in this locality, like Beersheba and Jerusalem, the whole range of this biblical country is affected by the military activity. But the chief interest is at Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jerusalem. At Bethlehem is the sanctuary of the Nativity, a subterranean chamber thirty-two feet long, encased in rare marbles and constantly guarded and lighted with a marble slab marking the place of the Nativity. At Jerusalem is the basilica over the Holy Sepulcher, first built by Constantine, often swept away and built again, and now a vast monument, embracing within its walls and beneath its dome the sacred tomb which has been guarded for ages.

MASSACHUSETTS MONEY

Seeks Investment in the Glorious Climate of North Carolina—Pay Rolls to Be Increased.

TAYLORSVILLE, N. C., March 4.—The Lilebourn Manufacturing Company of this place has been organized and is backed with Massachusetts money to do a big manufacturing business here and increase the pay rolls of the town accordingly. The new company has acquired the Watts Manufacturing Company, with 1,200 spindles and other machinery. This installation will be increased during the next ninety days by over 4,000 new spindles, and accompanying equipment for the manufacture of knitting yarns. The officers of the new company are: president and general manager, J. A. Miller, Jr., formerly superintendent of the River Spinning Company, Woonsocket, R. I.; vice-president, J. A. Miller, Sr., formerly an efficiency engineer at Boston; secretary, J. A. Miller, Sr., extensively interested in Fall River Mills, Middleborough, Mass.; secretary and treasurer, T. H. Miller, secretary and treasurer of the Taylorsville Cotton Mills.

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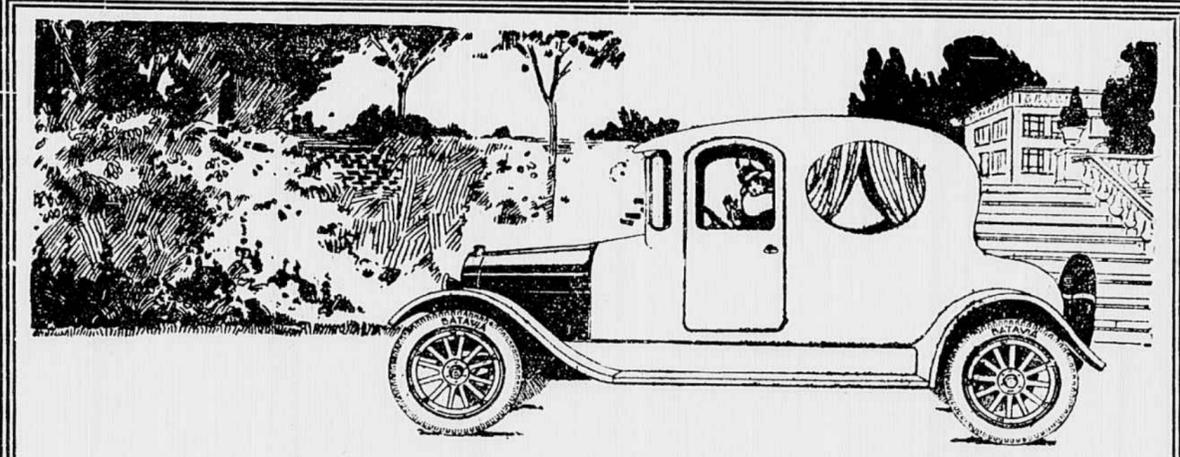
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