

London: Bishop Tells of Visit to Prison Camps

BISHOP RETURNS FROM GERMAN PRISON CAMPS

Found The Captured Allies Were In Cheerful Spirits at All Times.

BOXES FROM HOME WERE NECESSARY.

Could Not Live But For That, He Declares—Tells of His Inspection.

London, Dec. 30.—Dr. Herbert Bury, Bishop of North and Central Europe, has just returned from the German prison camps at Runleben and Blackenberghe, where he made an extended examination of the conditions there with the permission of the German authorities.

Unlike Dr. Scarlett Synges and Miss Hoochouse, his inspection was made with the cognizance of the British Foreign Office. He said:

"The food at Runleben is now perfect, because it is our own. The men could not live there, in fact, without the parcels from home. The morning before I came away 80,000 parcels of food and other things arrived for the men, and on the previous day there were 66,000 parcels.

"The soldiers are able, through their sense of discipline, to keep up their spirits to some extent, but the civilians on both sides find it hard to endure a restraint which they feel they have not deserved.

"What struck me particularly at Runleben, where I shared the prisoners' life exactly—ate their food, except that served at midday, and was received by them in their horseboxes and forts, or whatever accommodation they might be in—was the cheerful spirit of the men in adversity. They made me feel proud to be an Englishman.

"Their chief anxiety seemed to be that they are unable to convince their friends at home that there has been a change in their condition, and that with the parcels from home their life is now more tolerable. Their desire to relieve the minds of their friends was most touching.

"They are still terribly overcrowded but they have become accustomed to the environment and their fellow-ship life there, and themselves petitioned that it should not be broken up when recently it was proposed to send 700 of them to another camp.

"They have their recreations, and in fact, a football match, in which Steve Bloomer, the famous Derby County player, was in one of the teams, was arranged as a special welcome to men. I was asked to 'kick off.'

"They have converted a bare loft into a theatre and lecture hall. There they are filling their time by serious studies. I found them busy at engineering, languages and commercial science. I might almost speak of the 'University of Runleben,' so diverse are the subjects which the men are taking up. These activities are the outcome of their own exertions and their determination to overcome all the circumstances of their lot.

"One of the great recollections of my visit is that of hearing the men sing the National Anthem. I obtained permission for them, and they just let themselves go with fulthrottled enthusiasm and a great waving of flags.

PREDICTS PLENTY OF AVIATORS

As One Result of The Conquest of Rumania, Says One Air Expert.

Berlin, Dec. 30.—An aviation expert predicts that the first result of the conquest of Rumania will be an enormous increase of the German and Austro-Hungarian air forces.

"We can build thousands of aeroplanes within two or three months and have the crews to man them," the expert says, "Only our lack of fuel prevented us so far from organizing an air fleet numerically superior to the combined air forces of our enemies. During the last year we built a very large number of Fokker and other machines which are ready for use, but were kept in reserve, because we had to husband our limited supplies of petroleum and gasoline. With the oil fields of Rumania in our possession we will have unlimited fuel and will be able to establish our supremacy in the air permanently."

Thousands Are Interested. Berne, Dec. 30.—M. Huffman, Chief of the Political Department, in a report on neutrality made to the National Council, states that at the present time there are 30,000 persons interned in Switzerland.

KICKING ON THE BRINGING IN OF SUCH LABOR

Englishmen Not Taking to The Proposed Plan For Negro Toilers.

LABOR SHORTAGE IS THE CAUSE.

Talk of Utilizing The War Prisoners For The Work Badly Needed.

London, Dec. 30.—The proposed plan to import negro labor to England as a means of covering the present serious shortage of labor is meeting with considerable opposition. It is not improbable that prisoners of war will be utilized instead, as it is pointed out by those who favor the latter plan that it would be a humane as well as a saving measure.

At the present time there are in England some 25,000 naval and military prisoners and 31,000 interned civilians. The latter class is composed of Hungarians, Czechs, Poles, Germans, Croats, Armenians, Bulgarians and Turks. Among these are many men who are familiar with agricultural work, and it is thought that it would not only relieve their minds but keep them in better physical condition if they were employed.

The practical value of employing them would be evident. The serious food shortage which is daily becoming more of a problem would be helped and the production of the country could be greatly increased.

Lord Newton early last Summer made it possible by a Home Office ruling to employ war prisoners on the land. Naval or military prisoners must be sent out in groups of not less than a hundred under a military guard.

There have been numerous cases, however, where the military ruling has been abolished and small parties of prisoners have been employed under the watchful eye of the farmer for whom they work.

There is, of course, a certain risk of escape, but the prisoners are kindly treated and most of them are of the opinion that it is better to be a live captive than a dead hero, hence a certain sense of contentment.

Other countries have made use of military prisoners for a like purpose but here the deep-rooted anti-alien feeling has been responsible for a suspicious attitude on the part of the farmers, which has seriously handicapped their production.

In France the employment of military prisoners is largely responsible for that country being well supplied with food, while the two million or more captives in Germany have been utilized in numerous ways.

Sir Henry Johnson is in favor of the importation of the negro laborers from the British possessions in Africa. There are some 343,000 negroes who would be available, but Commander Wedgwood in an article in the Daily Chronicle wrathfully declares that these men should be trained as soldiers. He estimates that in addition to the African British negroes there are 23,000,000 more in the Belgian and Portuguese African territories who could be welded into a formidable army.

In France Cape negroes are already at work building military roads, and some of them have even enlisted of their own volition. These men make splendid soldiers.

"The black man is far too valuable a military asset to waste on the land," seems to be the general opinion here.

FORTUNE TELLER SPY IN DISGUISE

Queer Stories Afloat About a Japanese in The Flowery Kingdom.

Peking, Dec. 30.—Queer stories are going about this ancient capital concerning a Japanese fortune teller who hands out political advice with such effect that some time ago it was said he was a high diplomat in disguise.

The sage, whose name is Nakamura, was recently introduced to President Li by an influential Japanese resident. As the result of the interview Mr. Nakamura is informing his countrymen that the new President is a most patriotic Chinese statesman, whose one object in life is the reconstruction of China through friendship with Japan, the latter being the only way to wealth and power.

The last piece of public advice credited to Soothsayer Nakamura was given to Tang Shao-yi at the time when that statesman reached Tientsin on his way to the capital to accept the premiership, but these got a diplomatic illness, which prevented his challenging General Tuan for the premiership.

Holland: Dutch Government Now Worries Germany

THE COUNTESS MARKIEVICZ.



Dublin, Dec. 30.—It is understood on good authority that there is a determined effort being made to release the Countess Markievicz from prison. She was sentenced to practically a life term for her part in the rebellion here last year. She was one of the chief lieutenants of Sir Roger Casement and personally headed a furious attack on the constabulary.

ANSWERS THE GERMAN CHARGE

Wife of King's Private Secretary Makes a Hot Reply.

London, Dec. 30.—Mme. Carton de Wiart, wife of the private secretary to the King of the Belgians, has written the following letter to Emily Hobhouse, who recently endeavored to exercise and minimize the alleged German atrocities in Belgium:

"Mademoiselle—I have just read your letter about Louvain, and I feel that I must tell you, with the freedom of one woman speaking to another, what my woman compatriots think about it. We have never asked for pity for our unfortunate country, but we do demand justice. The horrors which the Germans have perpetrated there are so great that we can afford to dispense with any exaggeration in the description of their crimes. But we are unable, without an indignant protest, to permit anybody, under a hypocritical form which renders this attitude still more odious, to exonerate the Germans from crimes the disgrace of which is established by unimpeachable witnesses.

"It is 'out of consideration for the feeling of your Belgian friends, as you say, that you have stated that Louvain has suffered very little; that the library was destroyed in spite of great efforts (on whose part?) and that you perfidiously insinuate that 'Belgians and Germans fraternize in the restored churches,' as if it were possible for the Belgians to prevent the enemy from entering their temples otherwise than by their glances of contempt.

"We should be happy to learn that the devastation in our country has been less than we have believed hitherto. But you will not be surprised if we do not hesitate for a moment between the testimony, on the one hand, of our own eyes and of persons whom we greatly respect, and the testimony, on the other hand, of a person who, although of English nationality, was not ashamed to allow herself to be conducted across a portion of Belgium by German agents.

"What a spectacle for our friends and compatriots there who for two years have been resisting all the pressure of the enemy! One English woman such as you will not be able thank God, to diminish our grateful affection for noble England.

"Accept, mademoiselle, my greetings.

(Signed) "LOUISE CARTON DE WIART."

Nakamura then advised Tang Shao-yi to return to the safety of the international settlement of Shanghai to "rest and sleep" and wait for future opportunities to fetch the premiership from Tuan.

The same fortune teller had a memorable interview with the late President Yuan just before he launched his fatal monarchy campaign. He eulogized Yuan as the second great hero of the Yellow Race (the late Emperor of Japan being First Hero), and gave him all sorts of assurances that his monarchical movement would receive the blessing of Heaven—and incidentally Japan.

These prophecies were exactly in line with the buncombe uttered by a Chinese fortune teller, and between them the pair were largely responsible for launching the ill fated agitation to make Yuan an Emperor.

HOLLAND IS AGAIN THORN IN SIDE OF GERMANY

That Country's Attitude Causing Considerable Anxiety in The Fatherland.

MANY NEWSPAPERS ARE PRO-BRITISH.

Change Has Caused Worriement in Berlin—English Propaganda Bears Fruit.

Berlin, Dec. 30.—The attitude of Holland is again causing considerable anxiety to Germany. Although the government in The Hague still maintains correct neutrality, many of the Dutch newspapers which formerly were friendly to Germany have almost over night become pro-British and influential bankers and merchants openly advocate an alliance with England and France.

"The English propaganda in Holland is bearing fruit," the Amsterdam correspondent of the Berlin Tageblatt writes. "During the last two weeks at least ten newspapers which formerly were neutral, with pro-German leanings, have faced straight about and now advocate the cause of England and her allies with all the zeal of new converts.

"One does not have to go very far to find the reasons for the change manifesting itself especially in the commercial and banking circles. The Dutch traders and bankers are in mortal fear of England. They believe that Holland will share the fate of Greece, and that Dutch shipping and commerce can only be saved from complete destruction by the Government, and the people throwing themselves into the arms of England.

"The Amsterdam Telegraaf, which has been pro-British since the beginning of the war, demands the closing of the Dutch frontiers against Germany, the expulsion of all German residents and the leasing of the entire merchant fleet of Holland to England. The paper day after day publishes dispatches from London predicting that the United States will enter the war on the side of the Entente before Spring. This assertion is also spread by other newspapers and the growing army of British agents which has been active throughout Holland since the early days of the war.

"The majority of the Dutch people believe that there is some kind of a secret understanding between the

TAKES UP STYLES IN WOMAN'S SHOES.

London, Dec. 30.—The House of Commons has taken up the matter of styles in women's shoes. Not that the lawmakers were particularly interested in the footwear worn by British women, but because of the shortage of leather.

London women, especially those engaged in taking the place of the men at the front, are for the most part wearing high shoes that reach almost to the knee, and this fact has apparently created unrest among the members of the lower house.

Mr. Wiles, Liberal member, asked "whether the attention of the President of the Board of Trade had been called to the prevalent fashion for ladies to wear high-legged boots, the demand for which increases the price of shoes. If so, what action he proposes to take having regard for the reported scarcity of leather."

Cannot Export Tobacco. Rome, Dec. 30.—It is now prohibited to export tobacco leaf and bottles, according to an order just issued by the government.

THE QUEEN OF ITALY.



Rome, Dec. 30.—The Queen of Italy has been visiting the field hospitals of the Italian army. During the past year she has made an extensive study of the medical facilities extended to the wounded and has often taken undue risks to visit the advanced post dressing stations just back of the front trenches.

In many instances she has braved death to see for herself that her soldiers were receiving the proper medical attention.

Named Royal Commissioner.

Paris, Dec. 30.—The Belgian Government has announced the appointment of Colonel Malfeyt as Royal Commissioner for the conquered territories in the Belgian Congo.

United States and England, vacate the British agents and the pro-English papers continually point to the aggressive attitude of the Government in Washington against Germany and make much use of the recent protest notes and inquiries sent to Berlin by the American State Department.

"The fate of Rumania has impressed the Dutch but little, because they are told the triumph of the Teutonic allies in the East does not change the general war situation and will be more than counterbalanced by the confidently expected entrance of the United States into the war."

CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA ARE NOW EXTREMELY BAD

Swedish Physician Tells of What He Saw On a Visit to Russia.

INDUSTRIES ARE ALL CRIPPLED.

This Caused By So Many Men Being Sent to Front—Harvest Below The Average.

Berlin, Dec. 30.—Dr. Sigurd Severson, a Swedish physician who was permitted to visit the prison camps in eastern Russia and Siberia as a representative of the Swedish Red Cross Society and returned recently, has arrived here to make a report to the German authorities.

In an interview, he said: "Conditions throughout Russia are extremely bad. So many men have been sent to the front that all industries, even the railroads, are crippled. Although there is an enormous surplus of foodstuffs in certain sections of the vast empire, the population of the large centres is starving. Great quantities of wheat are rotting in the grain elevators of Odessa and in other ports on the Black Sea, while in Kishineff, Kieff and Charkow, only a few hundred miles away, the people can get no flour and bread. The transportation service is demoralized.

This year's Russian harvest was far below the average, but the granaries are still filled with the surplus from former years. There would be no suffering if the government were not thoroughly incapable. Much of the misery is caused by the fact that certain dishonest high officials are silent partners of the food speculators and prevent reforms from sheer avarice.

"The Russian people are sick and tired of the war. This impression I gained everywhere in my travels. In many places I found much unrest and I know of at least two cases of serious riots.

Melbourne, Aus., Dec. 30.—The Australian Wheat Board has decided to advance the farmers sixty cents a bushel on the new wheat crop which is to be pooled in the same manner as last year.

The Commonwealth Bank is to finance the movement. The harvesting of the crop is now under way.

G. Dannenbaum

20 MARKET STREET

The First Week of the New Year

We expect to Make Memorable by a

Great Sacrifice Sale

of practically our entire remaining stock of

Winter Garments

Our Wholesale Department is already receiving large daily shipments of advance styles of Spring Goods. We have therefore decided that our retail stock

Fall Coats, Dresses, Skirts, Blouses Etc.

must be sacrificed regardless of its initial Cost to make room for our new Merchandise.

It is needless to quote prices as you know from experience the wonderful Bargains we offer at these final sales.

Wholesale and Retail