

THE ROBESONIAN

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TREATMENT OF PRISONERS.

A report on treatment of British prisoners of war during their transport from France and Belgium to Germany has been issued as a White Paper in London. It deals with the first months of the war. Great Britain has from the beginning of the war been the object of the fiercest hate of the Germans because England in the German war plan was expected to pass it up as none of her funeral and let Germany overrun Belgium and France. This White Paper is quoted extensively in a dispatch from London published in the Greensboro Daily News. "In almost every case," says the dispatch, "the treatment of the British prisoners was barbarous, but the most striking fact brought out by the testimony given is that this treatment was deliberate and carried out by order. For that cruelty the German imperial government was responsible."

The report shows: Careful neglect to give medical treatment to wounded prisoners during journeys which lasted 2 to 5 days; overcrowding of officers and men—wounded and unwounded—usually in uncleaned horse and cattle trucks; deliberate deprivation of food and water; that German Red Cross nurses habitually declined to supply the British prisoners—"one officer was compelled by a German nurse to walk naked from his stretcher to the station buffet (used as a hospital)."

The behavior of civilians was worse even than that of the military. Long and frequent halts were made and always hostile crowds surged around the prisoners threatening them with knives and revolvers and insulting them with the grossest forms of abuse.

"Well-dressed women," quoting from the report, "were constantly prominent in these scenes, and often at wayside stations rows of school children would be found drawn up chanting choruses of abuse." An officer related that as they left the train at a station a well-dressed woman leaned from the window of a first-class compartment and spat in his face. In one instance the prisoners, some of them wounded, were simply put into a wagon and left for 72 hours without any attention whatever. Doubtless their humane captors were not a little surprised and disappointed to find them alive at the end of that time. A party of 350 to 400 British wounded were gathered at Mons, and:

"The moment we arrived at Mons we all were taken into the station, where two trainloads of German troops (cavalry) had just arrived. These troops were drawn up in two lines; we were made to march through the lines and were subjected to gross insults and ill-treatment. Curses were hurled at us, the men spat on us and kicked us, we were struck with sabres and bayonets, and Germans were not particular as to whether flesh wounds were inflicted or not; men with walk-

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ing sticks had these snatched from them and were beaten with them; very many men with crutches had these kicked from under their arms, and when patients fell the crutches were used to beat them with. During this episode German officers and N. C. O's were with their men and they, far from discouraging their men, encouraged them, even to the extent of cursing us in German and English in taking part in these cowardly assaults."

One of the strangest things about the report is that British prisoners were treated with studied cruelty by fiendish German Red Cross nurses. The German system turns into a devil even an angel of mercy.

WHY THE BOYS ARE BEING SENT TO FRANCE.

If there are any Robesonian readers who wonder why it is necessary to send our boys to France, and why it is necessary for us who remain at home to make sacrifices, let them read the following, from the report in the Wilmington Star of a speech in that town the other night by Captain Leslie Vickers, late of the Seaforth Highlanders:

"There are still some people in your midst who do not see clearly for sending your army to France. They argue that your part will be played if you defeat the Germans should they ever come here. There are some cheap politicians who would have you purchase your munitions in a five and ten cent store. I ask is there one of them or one of you who could pay for the damage that would be done on your soil in one half hour's occupation by the Germans? Suppose it was your little child, now so safely asleep in your home, that were to have its hand cut off—a fate that befell the little children of the ravaged country over the sea; suppose it was your little child that we saw bayoneted to a door and under it a notice to remind the inhabitants of the village that more of their children would be thus treated if the German troops were interfered with in any way in their career of blood; suppose your wife or daughter had been amongst those who lay outside a French village, victims of the peaceful occupations of the town for five days by the German troops—could you have raised enough money in your whole coun-

try to have paid for those precious lives? And yet some ask why the boys are being sent to France.

"For this war, munitions cannot be bought with a dollar, but with millions of dollars; for this war sacrifices have to be made, not on the smallest possible scale but on the greatest; for this war we need, not the individual efforts of every man and woman within the nation but the united efforts of every man and woman here. Only when we drop our differences, be they political, industrial, religious or domestic, shall we set our feet firmly on the road to success."

"This is a time of crisis and we ask you to loan your reserves to the government, that the boys who are fighting for you, the boys whom you have sent to the trenches to give everything that you might enjoy your liberty, the boys who are asked to go through a living death every day for you, the boys who tonight are lying in wet drenches that you might enjoy the comfort of home, the boys who themselves tonight are slaves that the world may be made safe for democracy—we ask you to loan your money to the government that they might be clothed and fed to carry on the war they are waging for you. No sacrifice that the civilian can make is comparable to the sacrifice that your boy makes every day over there in the trenches, and so it is, without any apology for our cause that I came to you to beg you to stand behind your government in this time of need."

WE NEED VISION.

Hon. William Mather Lewis, one of the speakers at a patriotic meeting in Wilmington Monday night, said some things, as did the other speakers on the occasion, that all of us need to think more seriously about. He is quoted by The Star in part as follows: "We need vision for the proper appreciation of the problem that confronts us. We must remember that we are, by all the rules of war, fighting a victorious nation. Germany is not torn by internal strife and all their enemies are held at bay from without. The nation is held together by an artificial morale. This is a time when we must banish every thought of self. We have got to wake up to the terrible thing that is in Europe, and if you can't wake up to what war means in Europe, for God's sake wake up to what it means here.

"People who say that it will be all right if the Germans do gain dominion over the world, because they are the most efficient people in the world are traitors and should be stood up against a brick wall. People who deride England as a slacker in this war, deride them as a nation that has stood by and let France do the fighting, are pro-German. They are liars and traitors. It is England who stands and who has stood between us and the Hunnish hordes. These lies should be traced to their source, and the source put where its source will lie no more.

"The thing that we have got to face is the fact that an inconclusive peace will mean that our children will have to do the thing over if we are negligent now. The real test of this war for us is not in France with our boys. It is here at home. The question is whether we are going to measure up to the responsibilities that are upon us, or whether we are going to do a

Regarding Spring Merchandise

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thing in our civil life that would mean death if committed by a soldier. It is death for a soldier to go to sleep on his post. It will be the death of the nation if we at home go to sleep on our post."

Delightful Meeting of St. Pauls Book Club.

St. Pauls, March 25.—The members of the book club had a most delightful meeting Thursday evening, March 21, with Misses Effie Smith and Rowena Odum, at the home of Mrs. Jas. Callahan, on main street.

After the business of the club was finished the meeting was given over to the hostesses. Four tables had been arranged for carroms and quite an interesting game was played. Miss Laura Jones and Mr. Duncan McGregor progressed the greatest number of times.

The hostesses, assisted by Mrs. Callahan, served cream and wafers.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912

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Average number of copies of each issue: F. GROVER BRITT, Business Manager. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of March, 1918.

F. L. NASH, Notary Public. My commission expires Feb. 12, 1920.

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Go to your drugstore, and get a bottle of S. S. S. today, and get rid of those unsightly and disfiguring pimples, and other skin irritations. And it will cleanse your blood thoroughly. If you wish special medical advice, you can obtain it without charge by writing to Medical Director, 29 Swift Laboratory, Atlanta, Georgia.

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BY KEN KLING

