

PRISON WORK BY Y. M. C. A.

What is Being Done in Prison Camps of Europe, Asia and Africa, Where More than 5,000,000 Men are Confined.

New York, Feb. 6.—A great cry for help comes from the more than five million men held prisoners of war in barb-wired enclosures in Europe, Asia, and Africa.

More men are probably cooped up in war prisons now than have fought in any previous war in the history of the world.

America, through the Young Men's Christian Association, is playing a great part in making life endurable for these men, whose bitter cry of anguish and despair goes up continuously.

This story tells of some of the things being done to help them forget.

Have pity on us and make it possible for us to forget the heavy hours of our imprisonment.

Sending this appeal to the Young Men's Christian Association, a group of professors, school teachers, public officials and lawyers, held prisoners of war at Kokand, Central Asia, voice the cry that goes up continuously from the more than five million men held prisoners of war by the various warring countries.

From practically every prison camp in Europe and Asia appeals have been made to the American Young Men's Christian Association for aid by these men in their hour of dire need, according to reports and official communications brought back to this country by E. G. Wilson, Associate Secretary in charge of the Young Men's Christian Association Prisoner of War Work in Northern Europe. Aid has been given as far as the various governments will allow. In fact, many of the nations have entrusted the Association with special funds to help carry on this work.

Among the prisoners of war in Germany, there are about three hundred children. About two hundred of these are interned in the prison camp at Holminda, and about fifty in the camp at Havelberg. Practically all of these have spent the last three Christmas days in prison camps. Some of them have been born there and know nothing of life outside of the barb-wire fence. No explanation of this situation accompanied the report.

"Sick and in Prison."

Of the five million men cooped up in the prison camps, about one hundred and fifty thousand are in hospitals. Perhaps three hundred and fifty thousand more are invalids who are wounded or otherwise incapacitated. These men, unable because of physical disability to engage in work, are perhaps the most pitiful and the most needy group. To meet conditions the Young Men's Christian Association has established schools and work shops of various kinds, has organized orchestras and choruses, has stimulated athletics and provided libraries. The Crown Princess of Sweden gave nearly eleven thousand English books for the use of British prisoners.

Food is the greatest need of these men. A chance for mental relaxation is the second great need. Some persons place it first. Confinement has brought about depression in their physical, mental, and spiritual nature. The loss of liberty, the loss of privacy, unnatural social conditions, and the uncertainty of the future, as well as ignorance of the conditions of loved ones at home, have caused a severe strain on the minds of many. Mental depression has set in. Hopefulness has been succeeded by discouragement. Discouragement has been succeeded by despondency. Now in many cases despondency has been followed by despair.

The War Ministry Answers Prayer.

Numerous appeals are being made to the Y. M. C. A. A poor Russian peasant saw that letters of appeal were being answered. Not knowing to whom else to appeal for aid, he wrote a letter to God in which he humbly asked God to send him a hundred marks. The letter attracted attention at the censor's office and was referred to the War Ministry. The offices there collected twenty-five marks and sent them to the Russian prisoner, thinking they had thereby done a good turn. The prisoner, however, was not well satisfied as was apparent by his reply, in which, it is true, he thanked God for the gift, but cautioned him to send future money direct rather than by way of the War Ministry, saying that the rascally officials there had kept seventy-five marks and had sent him only twenty-five.

Food, books, games, athletic equipment, and educational supplies have been sent to these men whenever allowed by the authorities.

Religious work, with Protestant Roman Catholic and Greek services has been established. Most of the men at one camp had attended no service for two years, and when the white-robed priest began the opening of the Mass, a great many cried

A young officer—twenty-three years old had written every note of Shubert's Mass from memory and trained a chorus for the occasion.

Football Stars.

Classes are in progress at many camps. At one there is a school with twenty-seven courses, twenty-five hundred students, and sixty teachers. Another has a daily attendance of three hundred in summer and one thousand in winter. Work shops and gardens have been started—not only to offer useful production but for training as well. At one point a soap factory was started. It developed so well that a tannery was put into operation. It in turn was followed by chemistry. At other points the men work at bookbinding, tailoring, wood-carving, and in laundries.

In one camp alone the tailoring department made four hundred new overcoats from old ones, the shoe department made three hundred new pairs of shoes and seventy-five new pairs of boots, and repaired thirteen hundred pairs of shoes.

Athletics are encouraged wherever possible. The men get along with the best equipment obtainable. Golf enthusiasts held an exciting tournament recently, using tennis balls for golf balls and ordinary canes as sticks. Mr. Hugh Moran, secretary in the Russian prisoner of war camps, in one of his reports, writes:

"I attended a football game between two picked teams. Among the members were three international players, two of whom competed on opposite sides in the Olympic games at Stockholm."

Hens Lay Eggs for Prisoners.

Special efforts have been made to provide nourishing foods for the men in the hospitals. Fresh eggs are sent from Denmark to sick men in the German prison camps. In one case a number of hens were sent to a prison in the interior in order that fresh eggs might be available for those needing them. In addition they provided amusement and occupation for men assigned to take care of them.

More than 65,000 books have been distributed among German prisoners, and more than 167,000 among Russian prisoners in Germany. As Russian books were scarce, Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress was translated into Russian. Special editions of the Russian prayer book and an A B C book for Russian illiterates were issued. A total of 480,000 French books and pamphlets were also distributed in Germany.

Musical instruments, ranging from mouth organs supplied in individual cases to full equipment for bands and orchestras, were supplied. Wheat flour for making bread for the celebration of Holy Communion has also been provided in many places.

Wife Finds Husband in Picture.

One of the biggest pieces of work done by the Young Men's Christian Association in this connection for the folks back home is the locating in prison camps of boys and men reported as missing. More than ten thousand have been located for the home folks.

After searching for months for her husband, who was reported missing, a young wife called on Dr. Archibald C. Harte, International Secretary for work among prisoners of war. She traveled several hundred miles to do so. During her visit some pictures which he had brought from Russia were shown her. In looking over these she suddenly discovered her husband in one of them. An exultant cry, "There he is!" burst from her lips as she excitedly ran to the window to make sure it was he. Then she fainted. After she regained consciousness, she clapped her hands, exclaiming, "And he has even got a pipe."

Max, Prince of Baden, who is head of the Young Men's Christian Association Prisoner of War Work in Germany, in his farewell message to the American workers when this country entered the war, said that the brotherly love shown in this work would be the one solid pillar around which the warring nations could gather. In part he said:

"I can assure you that the co-operation with you and your leaders belongs to the most delightful experiences that I have had in this war, at a time when all the foundations upon which up to now, the life of nations and their relations to one another rested, have begun to totter and threaten to crumble completely. The work among the prisoners in my estimation signifies one solid pillar around which all these thoughts and feelings can be collected, which breathe out the spirit of world-wide brotherly love. That brotherly love which declines to see in the wounded and captive enemy anything other than a suffering mortal."

The conversations that I have had along these lines with your leading men, among whom I would name in first place Dr. John R. Mott and Dr. A. C. Harte, I shall never forget; for they have enriched my life and have strengthened my firm convictions that longside the relentless strife which is destroying mankind, the mighty power of goodness remains unconquerable, and out of the depths of suffering is able to accomplish works of salvation with renewed power."

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SENATE MORE LIBERAL.

Increases House Figures \$350,000—Differences Will be Adjusted by Conference.

Columbia, Feb. 7.—The general appropriation bill was given its final reading in the senate tonight and conferences are now in order. This makes adjournment some time Saturday practically a certainty.

The Edgelyield-Aiken county line dispute again came up in the senate tonight with the result that the bill was continued. The house also tonight struck out the enacting words of the bill providing for a ratification of the resurvey of that county line.

The appropriation bill was then taken up by the senate. The finance committee recommended \$3,000 for canal commission for fees, surveys, etc., and that recommendation was adopted. The equalization fund for needy schools was raised from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The senate added \$35,000 for vocational training. This is to secure the federal aid. An item of \$3,000 was added for the State House grounds.

The University of South Carolina was allowed \$95,000 for maintenance, \$5,500 for heating plant and \$1,500 for extension work. The Winthrop items aggregate \$211,000, which Senator Beamgard insisted showed the lowest per capita in the appropriations for State colleges.

The senate added to the house appropriation bill these large items: Home for Feeble-minded, \$60,000; law enforcement fund, \$50,000; sanitary barn for Winthrop, \$15,000; University of South Carolina, \$12,000; additional for needy schools, \$50,000; vocational training fund, \$35,000; support for militia and overcoats, \$15,000; expenses for canal commission, \$3,000; upkeep State House grounds, \$3,000; Industrial School for Wayward Girls, \$40,000; teachers' bureau, \$2,000; Council of Defense, \$50,000; tax commission, \$18,000. Total, \$350,000. None of these items are in the bill as it came from the house.

The items as to the Council of Defense and the tax commission were inserted with the distinct understanding that senators were not pledged to support these items pending action on the bills affecting these particular matters. Many of these items, such as the Home for Feeble-minded and home for girls, have been agreed upon by acts, and are not in the house bill.

There were other minor changes in the bill, ranging from \$100 to \$500. Provision was made to increase the salaries of the assistant bank examiners 20 per cent out of the fees collected from banks. The senate increased the salary of the Supreme Court reporter. More money was provided for coal and \$200 was voted for the game warden investigation. The salary of the clerk of the joint committee on printing was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,800, and the allowance for public printing was cut from \$24,000 to \$22,000. The clerk is to be employed for full time. The Council of Defense item was left open to insert such an amount as may be agreed upon in the act after its passage. The tax commission was also left open. Both the tax commission and the Council of Defense were left to the committee on free conference. Senator Nicholson thought this dangerous as the Council of Defense and tax commission items were added pending the action on the pending bills. The Appropriation Act was then given its final reading.

MONDAY CLOSING ABOLISHED.

Federal Fuel Administrator Garfield Issues Orders as to South Carolina.

Anderson, Feb. 8.—The State fuel administrator has received orders from Dr. Garfield that Monday closing for South Carolina is hereby abolished.

HEALTH CONDITIONS BETTER.

Encouraging Reports Come from All Army Camps.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The health conditions in all camps and cantonments in the United States showed continued improvement last week, with decreasing deaths and hospital admission rates. Measles and pneumonia show a decrease. There was a marked decrease also in new meningitis cases.

AUSTRIAN PREMIER RESIGNS.

Von Seydler Quits on Account of Composition of Polish Deputies.

Amsterdam, Feb. 8.—Austrian Premier Von Seydler has tendered his resignation to the emperor, according to a dispatch from Vienna. The resignation is understood to be due to opposition of the Polish deputies against special debates and the provisional budget.

ENFORCEMENT OF FOOD ORDER.

Meeting Held to Consider Ways and Means to Secure More General Obedience to Order.

In response to an invitation to the heads of all the women's associations and societies in Sumter a meeting was held yesterday in the Girls' High School to consider ways to bring about a better enforcement of the program issued by the Food Administration for economies in the use of food. Miss Armida Moses was called to the chair and Miss Sallie Rembert was chosen as secretary. It was decided to hold at an early date a mass meeting of all the women of the city and county to further consider this matter, and if possible to have State Food Administrator William Elliot present.

The minutes of the meeting show further:

Executives of all the Women's Clubs having been invited to this meeting, the gathering was a rather representative one. At the request of the president, Mr. Herbert Moses, of the Administration Board, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to formulate plans for interesting the mass of women of the county in the conservation of food, so that all women may intelligently observe the "wheatless" and "meatless" days in accordance with the order of the government. Suggestions as to how this should be accomplished were called for. In the informal discussion that followed it was evident that some thoughtful women were already busy with this patriotic problem. The consensus of opinion, however, was that not all of the women of the city and county were as awake to the need for strict economy as they might be. Loyal co-operation with grocers was urged, the suggestion being made that the housewives order more systematically and that they include in their order more wheat and meat substitutes. Miss Keele, County Demonstrator, and Miss Obenchain, Head, of the Domestic Science Department of the High School, suggested some practical menus in which these substitutes may be used, and extended an invitation to the women to attend the next meeting of the demonstration club at which the subject of meat substitutes will be taken up and demonstrated. Rye, barley, rice and potato flours, plain buckwheat flour (not self-rising), and rye bread in small quantities may now be had at the local grocery stores. Victory Bread, the real wartime bread, is expected soon.

It was decided by the unanimous vote that a mass meeting of the women of Sumter and of the rural districts of the county be held at an early date. The president appointed Mrs. Eugene Moses, Mrs. H. M. Stuckey, and Miss Sallie Rembert, as a committee to act with Mr. Moses in arranging the program for this meeting. This committee hopes to be fortunate enough to secure Mr. Elliot, State Food Administrator, and Mr. G. A. Lemmon, county administrator, for the program.

Representatives of the following clubs were present and promised to interest the members of their respective clubs in the mass meeting and each to bring at least five members of their organization with them to the meeting when called:

Civic League, Red Cross, Patriotic League, Business Women's Club, Home Demonstration Club, D. A. R., Progress Club, U. D. C., Charity League, Literary Club, Domestic Science Department of City School, County Demonstration Club, Philharmonic Club, Winthrop Daughters, Ladies' Aid Society, Grace Baptist Church; Woman's Missionary Society, Grace Baptist Church; Ladies' Aid Society, Christian Church; Junior and Senior Guilds, Episcopal Church; Ladies' Altar Society, Catholic Church; Ladies' Aid Society, Presbyterian Church; Ladies' Aid Society, Lutheran Church, and the Sinai Sisterhood.

Further announcements of the mass meeting will be given in the meantime. Fall in line and observe regularly and consistently the meatless and wheatless days.

The following schedule of substitutes was read at meeting, approved as being excellent, and ordered published:

Mondays and Wednesdays, Wheatless—Breakfast, corn cakes, or corn muffins or grist bread (no breakfast food made of wheat). Dinner: corn bread. No pies, cakes, dumplings, macaroni, nor anything made from wheat products. Desserts may be had of custards, jellies, blancmange. Supper: Rye bread, rice wafers, spoon bread. Potatoes may be added to breakfast and supper menus and will take the place of bread.

Tuesday—Meatless and Porkless. Breakfast and supper: Cheese, herring, fish roe, tuna fish, mackerel, sardines, poultry. Dinner: Poultry or fresh fish. No soups unless cream ones, none that are made from stock. No vegetables boiled with bacon or meat of any kind. Use cotton seed products for frying.

Saturdays — Porkless: Breakfast,

dinner and supper: No ham, sausage, bacon, or pork of any kind either on table or used in preparing dishes for the table. Eggs are always a meat substitute.

Sunday, Monday, Wednesday Thursday, Friday, Saturday—One meal without meat. Find substitutes mentioned for meatless days. Do not use meat or pork products to cook with when serving these meals.

Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday: One meal without wheat. Meal, grist and potato flour only substitutes in town at present and a little rye bread. Variety of ways to use these. Have no biscuits for dinner, if you need bread use corn bread. If dinner is your wheatless meal do not "thicken" with flour nor serve desserts made from it. Varieties of rice cakes can be made from both corn meal and potato flour. Crackers must not be used with wheatless meals.

Every day in the week save sugar. Use fruits as much as possible. Nuts and raisins need no sugar to serve. Pressed and dried figs and prunes supply the system with sugar. Have no candy made in your home.

TURKEY IS OBEIENT.

Prompt "Me Too" to Announcements of Germany.

Amsterdam, Feb. 8.—Turkey is in complete accordance with the attitude of Germany and Austria, as expressed in the recent speeches of Chancellor von Hertling of Germany and Foreign Minister Czernin of Austria. Turkish Foreign Minister Nessim Bey told the chamber of deputies yesterday. He also declared that the "Dardanelles will remain open in future to international traffic as in past and on the same conditions."

Stockholm, Feb. 7.—The Finnish railway authorities at Torneo have received a report that the Allies' missions have been expelled from Petrograd and that they have already departed. There is no confirmation of this. Great disorders in the streets of Petrograd are reported, with much shooting and looting of supplies.

Columbia, Feb. 8.—The South Carolina senate at midnight killed the house bill prohibiting the shipment of any whiskey or other alcoholic drinks into the State for any purposes.

WE HAVE INCOME TAX BLANKS

For incomes of not more than \$3,000.00.

We will be glad to distribute these to those that want them, as long as they last.

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