

PETAWAWA A LIVELY SPOT

**Biggest Detention Camp in Canada.
Major de la Ronde in Charge.
Very Little Trouble With
Prisoners**

Within ten miles of Pembroke is one of the biggest novelties that Canada has ever had inside its borders. It is Petawawa camp. Not the camp of the summer months where soldiers gather for training, but a war camp where are gathered over 600 real prisoners of war.

To the Canadian visiting the spot it is on continued kaleidoscope of novelties changing in quick succession.

To walk from the station in the direction of the camp along the unlit road for almost two miles is without excitement until suddenly from out of the darkness, with sharpness that sends a shiver right down one's back comes the command:

"Halt! Who goes there?"
"F-F-Friend," one manages to stutter out.

"Advance friend and give the countersign."

And one walks at the glittering point of a bayonet held firmly and with decision by a great coated guard.

It feels like real warfare.

"Letters from the General? Follow me," commands the guard.

And as the guard leads the way to the guardhouse for examination of credentials you look at that wicked Ross rifle and wonder if it is really loaded. It is.

It is in the guardhouse that one gets his first glimpse of military life. The long line of guards sleeping between watches with their rifles piled down the centre of the room, ready to jump to their feet should emergency demand, is surely impressive.

It is surely a welcome relief when at six o'clock reveille announces that life for the day is about to start. Behind an escort the visitor is led to the officer's quarters, where the officer commanding the guard, Captain Edwards, of the 42nd Lanark regiment, holds out a welcome hand. The routine of the day is just starting, and an invitation from the officer of the day to make the rounds of the camp with him, comes just at the right time.

This is the largest prisoners' camp in Canada, the officer will proudly tell you, as he leads the way across the flat drill ground. The men are divided into five camps. The largest majority of the men here are Austrians and Turks, all army reservists of their respective countries, some of them are officers. They have been brought from practically every town and city in Canada, although the Majority hail from Montreal, Ottawa and Toronto.

"They are a hard bunch to take care of. We are so careful that they receive humane treatment and are not bullied by the guards that the men are beginning to get wise and take advantage of our kindness. They may to almost anything they like but escape," said the captain. "They are all getting fat at the treatment they receive here, their food allowance is even more than that of our own soldiers, and it is cooked equally well."

The prisoners have been supplied with warm clothing, sheepskin coats, rubber boots and warm mitts and caps. Each man is given four woolen blankets, a pillow and mattress, and the camps are warm and well ventilated. They work if they want to, and if they work they are paid the same as our soldiers.

"The layout of the camp could not be improved upon," continued the officer, "although it takes the largest guard ever mounted in the British Empire to watch the men, they are so scattered. Each evening at six o'clock the guard of 52 men goes on duty. Everything for the health of the men is watched, and the high-sloping, sandy ground overlooking the Ottawa is one of the healthiest spots in Canada. There has not been a single case of serious illness since the camp was formed."

At the moment we arrived at the first camp, a sentry was pacing up and down in front of the building, a long affair with a door at each end. Another sentry stood inside each door, all had fixed bayonets. The prisoners were receiving their clothes, which had been locked up for the night, when the officer of the day arrived. Some of the men welcomed him with a smile and a salute, others scowled the darkest and muttered something in a foreign language which the officer could not understand. Down either side of the room is a line of bunks, double width and in three tiers.

When we arrived at the second camp the men were carrying their blankets out to be aired, laying on the snow until they returned from breakfast.

In the distance can be heard the call for breakfast. The prisoners are quickly lined up inside the camp, and a few minutes later the escort of six armed men arrive and march them off to one of the dining rooms, where special paid prisoners hand them out their food as they sit at the long tables. It was porridge and bacon, with six ounces of bread that the men sat down to, with a big mug of tea, and they certainly bore out the officer's contention that they were getting fat on their diet.

Immediately after breakfast the various parties and the men that had chosen to work cutting wood set out for their duties under escort. In little gangs of from six to ten, followed by their guard, they trudged across the snow and into the woods. The rest of the men returned to their camps, and after making their beds, started to play cards, read the religious books that passed the censors, or worked at some handiwork such as making picture frames, which they sell as souvenirs of the camp, or wooden toys. Everything except dangerous knives and weapons has been left with them and in each

camp is a canteen at which they may buy little delicacies and tobacco.

Only one thought can possibly pass through the mind of a visitor as he sees the prisoners. It is the hope that our boys who are taken prisoners will receive the same treatment at the hands of the Germans. It is the guard of soldiers who are to be more pitied than the prisoners.

The 160 men and six officers under the supervision of the camp commandant Major de la Ronde, are on active service, under military law and discipline. They must work hard, be ever on the alert for plans of escape which are being unearthed all the time. If they fall asleep on sentry duty not only are they subject to a death sentence, but they also run a chance of having one of the prisoners run his own bayonet through him when making a dash for liberty.

"It's awfully aggravating to have to stand here and listen to these prisoners swearing at me and making fun of me in their own language," said one of the guards, who can understand Austrian. "Some of them think this ain't real war and we 'amateur militia' can't shoot, and they make fun of us. But just you wait. They say they are going to make a break for liberty in the spring when there is a chance of getting away. Then you will see that the guard can shoot, and shoot straight, and believe me I would give five dollars to be the man on sentry duty when they make their boasted break."

FOURTH COMMUNITY LYCEUM ATTRACTION, MARCH 17.

Norman S. Mandsky, lyric tenor, and W. Eason Brown entertainer will be the artists in the Fourth Community Lyceum concert at the Grand Opera House on March 17. A strong programme of class and culture will be featured and lovers of music should not miss this opportunity of hearing Mr. Mandsky's beautiful tenor voice. He is a highly trained vocalist with a splendid reputation. His repertoire will include some of the recently popular songs, "I hear You Calling Me," "Mother Machree," "Mary of Argyle," etc.

Mr. W. E. Brown, the entertainer, is in a class by himself. His power of expression is really wonderful and his selections will please the most critical. The plan of the Opera House opens on Saturday morning next at 8 a.m. at Grigg's Bookstore.

The lines to be placed on sale Friday a.m. March 19th consists of—Prints, Corsets, Sweaters, Dress Goods, Blouses, Men's and Boys' Suits, Spring and Fall Overcoats, Work Shirts, Fancy Top Shirts, reductions on all.—Delaheys Ltd.

HELP WANTED

Two hustlers. Lady or Gentleman. Apply to C. H. Smythe, McKay Street. 37-chg

WANTED

Girl for General Housework. Apply to Box 581, Pembroke, Ont. 38-39-pd

FOR SALE \$4,753 TOWN PEM- BROKE DEBENTURES

Tenders addressed to W. R. Beatty, Chairman Finance Committee, will be received up to Monday 29th of March, 1915, for the purchase of \$4,753 debentures bearing 5 per cent interest, payable in ten annual instalments of \$615.53 each from 2nd Jan. 1915.

Dated at Pembroke, February 10th 1915.

A. J. FORTIER,
Town Clerk.

37-38chg.

NOMINATION OF COUNCILLOR

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Municipal Electors of the Town of Pembroke will be held at the Town Hall on Thursday evening March 18th 1915, at 7.30, for the election of a member of Town Council for West Ward to fill vacancy caused by resignation of James P. Sarsfield, Esq., and that in case a poll is required the same will be held at the Corner of Miller and Christie streets in accordance with provisions of Municipal Act on Thursday, 25th March 1915.

Dated at Pembroke, March 10th, 1915.

A. J. FORTIER,
Town Clerk.

37-chg

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of John Jardine, late of the Village of Cobden in the County of Renfrew Sheriff, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claims or demands against the late John Jardine who died on or about the Fifth day of January 1915, at the Village of Cobden in the Province of Ontario, are required to send by post, prepaid, or to deliver to the undersigned Solicitors herein for Joseph R. Warren, administrator of the Estate of the said John Jardine, their names and addresses and full particulars in writing of their claims and statements of their accounts and the nature of the securities, if any, held by them.

AND TAKE NOTICE that after the Fifteenth day of April, 1915, the said Joseph R. Warren will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have notice, and that the said Joseph R. Warren will not be liable for the said assets or any part thereof to any person of whose claim he shall not then have received notice.

DATED at Pembroke, Ontario, this 10th day of March, 1915.

WHITE & JOHNSTON,
Pembroke Ontario.

Solicitors for the said Joseph R. Warren. 37-38-39-40chg