

# BRITAIN'S PRISONERS

## GERMAN SOLDIERS ARE GIVEN EXCELLENT TREATMENT.

White Paper Issued by British Government, Containing Correspondence With U. S. Ambassador, Tells How Kaiser's Soldiers and Sailors Are Paid, Cared For, Housed and Clothed.

With what unquestionable fairness German prisoners of war are treated in Great Britain is made quite clear by an important White Paper which has just been issued by the Government. It gives correspondence between Sir Edward Grey and Dr. Page, the United States Ambassador, which arose out of inquiries made by the German Foreign Office of the United States Ambassador in Berlin as to how German prisoners were "paid, cared for, housed and clothed."

Sir Edward Grey points out that officers, both military and naval, are given half pay of the corresponding ranks of infantry in the British army. In certain cases the amount of pay in the British army varies with the length of service in the rank, and in such cases the lowest rate of pay is issued. Officers are messes free, and are allowed to purchase such liquors as they may wish, but they are expected to clothe themselves, and this is the only expense they are called upon to meet. Medical attendance is provided, and all medicines are issued free. "If H.M. Government can learn," adds Sir Edward, "that British officers in German hands receive the full pay of corresponding ranks in the German army they are prepared to do the same as regards German officers interned in this country; but those officers will then be required to pay for their food."

The accommodation provided for officers is entirely apart from soldiers, and is either in country houses or officers' quarters in barracks. Their quarters, says the Foreign Secretary, are comfortably furnished, but without luxury. Servants are found for officers from among the prisoners of war. In certain cases officials are interned in officers camps; they live under the same conditions as officers, but receive no pay. Soldiers receive free rations, clothing, and medical attendance; also working pay at English rates when employed. They are housed partly in barracks and other buildings, which are well heated and lighted. Canteens are provided, where tobacco, fruit and other minor luxuries can be purchased. Prices, which are fixed by the commandants, are on the same scale as that charged to British soldiers.

Interned civilians can secure better accommodation, and food than that provided, at their own expense. Those who do not are divided into social classes at the various places of internment. The rations issued are free, and are the same as to the prisoners of war. They consist of: Bread, 1 pound 8 ounces, or biscuits, 1 pound. Meat, fresh or frozen, 8 ounces, or pressed, 4 ounces. Tea, 1-2 ounce, or coffee, 1 ounce. Salt, 1-2 ounce. Sugar, 2 ounces. Condensed milk, 1-20 tin (1lb.). Fresh vegetables, 8 ounces. Pepper, 1-72 ounces. Two ounces cheese as an alternative for 1 ounce butter or margarine. Two ounces of peas, beans, lentils, or rice. Canteens are provided for tobacco and other "small luxuries." In each place of internment prisoners' committees organize amusements, intellectual or athletic. Philanthropic bodies help. In certain cases prisoners, soldiers, and civilians have made roads, built huts for themselves, and levelled and cleared ground. Civilians are only so employed if they volunteer, and are then paid at a similar rate to our own soldiers on such work.

All prisoners do their own cooking and generally look after their camps. Books are supplied, as is clothing to those in need of it. Several cases have occurred where aliens have gambled away garments given to them. Any money above a small sum is banked with the camp commandant. Gifts are permitted subject to inspection. Two letters are allowed to be sent each week after being censored.

Members of the general public are now able to visit Donington Park, where German officers are interned, this privilege being extended by the military authorities for a few hours on Sundays. Visitors who have already been found the officers playing football and hockey in front of the hall. The players were in full football attire, and they entered into their games with intense earnestness. They have asked that a match be arranged between themselves and a side chosen from the British guard. The roll-call of the prisoners is read twice daily, every man being required to attend on the grounds in front of the hall and answer to his name. Nearly the whole of the prisoners speak English fluently, and the daily supply of London and local papers is awaited very eagerly. They include officers from the Blucher and also one of the airmen who was rescued in the North Sea. The authorities carried the wire fence through one of the beautiful woods adjoining the hall so that the prisoners may enjoy the shade of the trees in the heat of the summer. Every yard of the wire fencing is illuminated from sunset to sunrise by electricity.