

IDLE GERMAN PRISONERS.

**Government to Give Them Work—
Willing to Serve.**

London, April 25.—In reply to a question in the House of Lords, Lord Newton alluded to the ludicrous spectacle of thousands of healthy, able-bodied prisoners of war doing very little work at all, while we were imploring women throughout the country to make up for the scarcity of labor.

Some months ago he visited a military internment camp, and saw drainage work being done by civilians imported from a considerable distance, who were being paid at the highest trade union rates.

He inquired of the prisoners whether there were none among them capable of doing this work, and the reply was that there was nothing they would like better, and would be enchanted to do the work at one penny an hour.

In Germany prisoners of war were employed in 28 different occupations, varying from labor in mines to acting as beaters for shooting parties. He was chairman of a committee recently appointed to deal with the matter, and arrangements had been made to employ a number of prisoners in felling trees in Scotland for badly needed pit-props. Every effort would be made to utilize this particular form of labor.