

ISLE OF MAN CAMPS PREPARE FOR PEACE

Two Years of Imprisonment Has Sobering Effect on Interned Germans

SOME LEARN NEW TRADES

No Complaint Over Their Lot or of Treatment by British

Douglas, Isle of Man, Jan. 10.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—They are busily engaged in preparing for peace in the prison camps on the Isle of Man.

Here are nearly 25,000 German and Austrian civilian prisoners. Many of them have been residents of the British Isles for ten or fifteen years and expect to go back to their civilian employment as soon as peace comes. Others have been in England for much shorter periods, and plan to seek fresh fields.

Two years of imprisonment has a sobering effect on the most frivolous, and the frame of mind of the interment camp prisoner is almost uniformly serious. Some are learning new trades, others mastering new languages, others studying the course of the war in map and law book with a view to being on the spot for post-war developments of business and commerce.

Most of this preparation for peace is being done by the prisoners themselves. Their teachers are all from their own number, and much of the equipment for the schools and workshops has been purchased through the British authorities with money supplied by well-to-do prisoners.

At the Knockaloe camp there are about 22,000 prisoners. Four thousand of them are studying languages, engineering, navigation, geography, and kindred subjects, or learning trades. Others are at work as gardeners, farmers, road makers or chefs.

All this work is under leaders chosen by the men themselves, with the approval of their British guardians.

Among the rank and file of the prisoners, there is no serious complaint about their lot or their treatment at the hands of the British authorities.