The Most Cruel Nation on Earth
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Prison Reform in Prussia
ERIK KAMPMAANN

Silent Bill
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Vol. VI MARCH, 1930 No. 6

U.S. PENITENTIARY
MCEIL ISLAND - WASHINGTON
The people of the United States of America are obsessed of the idea of punishment. Her penalties are the most cruel and outrageous of any civilized country on earth.

She has bade farewell to mercy, kindness and charity and thinks only of vengeance.

Sometime the pendulum will swing back.

No other question in America compares in importance with this wave of vengeance and hatred that is sweeping

1. Excerpts from a recent letter to the Editor.
across America and leaving victims in every prison and their sorrowing friends in many homes.

I doubt if anything good can be said or thought about Crime, outside of prisons.

Who else knows anything about its cause, and the injustice of punishment?

The trouble is, they don't want to know. They enjoy hating someone; and hating what they call a criminal makes them feel righteous.

AMERICAN RED CROSS ENTERS PRISON WORK

Most interesting to all those engaged in prison work is the fact that the San Francisco Chapter of the American Red Cross is actively engaged in follow-up and after-care work in connection with prisoners discharged from the U. S. Army Disciplinary Barracks at Alcatraz.

In a letter to the Editor, Russell Kiltin, Bay District Representative of the American Red Cross, outlines this new department as follows:

"Each dishonorably discharged prisoner from the U. S. Army confined in the Disciplinary Barracks at Alcatraz, receives upon release a suit of clothes, ten dollars and an order for transportation to his point of enlistment. With the permission and co-operation of Colonel Maury G. Crallè, Commandant, I arrange to interview every man before his departure from the institution. It is my pur-
pose in the interview to learn the prisoner's plans, if he
cares to discuss them with me, and something of his per-
sonality. If he is returning to a strange town, where he
enlisted, without work or friends I advise him, providing
he cares to accept Red Cross assistance, to visit our chap­
ter at his destination. I tell him that if he does not secure
work through his visit that our representative will very
likely maintain him until he does secure work or refer
him to some responsible agency or person that will. Re­
member this is not charity, as the man is expected to re­
imburse the chapter when he is financially able to do so.
It is impossible for me to promise that our chapter will
find the man a job or maintain him, as each chapter has a
slightly different method of allotting their funds, and un­
less they take kindly to our suggestions of helping the
prisoners, our work at Alcatraz, in this direction, is use­
less. However, all chapters contacted thus far have shown
their willingness to help any man referred to them by our
office. A few days before the man is to be released, we
forward to our chapter in the town where the man in­
tends to reside, a brief summary of our contact with him.
A covering letter explains our purpose and hopes con­
cerning the work, and we stress its importance. We have
asked each chapter to send us a report on the man's at­
tempt to rehabilitate himself. We believe these reports
will be of great benefit to us in formulating a plan for af­
ter-care.