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WELCOME OF OUR WOUNDED IN SWITZERLAND.

BRITISH MINISTER'S WARM PRAISE

In his report to Sir Edward Grey on the cordial reception of the British prisoners from Germany on their arrival in Switzerland—described by our Special Correspondent in *The Times* of May 13 and June 13—Mr. Evelyn Grant Duff, British Minister at Berne, says:—

It is difficult to write calmly about it, for the simple reason that I have never before in my life seen such a welcome accorded to anyone, although for the last 28 years I have been present at every kind of function in half the capitals in Europe.

Colonel Picot, who came with the first train, reports that within sight of the German sentries the cheering began. At Kreuzlingen, Zurich, Olten, Bern, Fribourg, Lausanne, Montreux, and Château d'Oex thousands upon thousands of people crowded the platforms pelting the soldiers with flowers and pressing into their hands every conceivable present. At Zurich the scenes are described as not less enthusiastic than in French Switzerland. The day before the train reached Château d'Oex the Prefect issued a notice that every one was to wear his best clothes. Every house was hung with flowers, and Swiss and British flags and garlands were stretched across the streets.

It is impossible to avoid the impression that this extraordinary reception of our men was a national demonstration in favour of England. If William Tell had reincarnated and made a triumphal progress through the country I do not see what more could have been done.

Our men were simply astounded, and naturally so, after being many of them treated with every obloquy for two years, or nearly so. Many of them were crying like children; a few fainted from emotion. As one private said to me, "God bless you, Sir; it's like dropping right into 'eaven from 'ell."

Mr. Goodhart, of the British Legation at Berne, was told by one soldier that when 100 men who had expected to be sent to Switzerland were rejected at Constance and sent back to the prison camps they went back singing. Many men volunteered the information that without the bread and other stores sent from Berne by the Bureau de Secours aux Prisonniers de Guerre they would not have been alive now. They were particularly interested to meet the ladies engaged in this work. Even when the general treatment was good the food was almost uneatable.