

New York city on the first of June--raining.

Dear Amon Jr.:--Was talking with your father on the telephone yesterday and he said you were permitted to receive mail, and this made me happy and anxious to write you. Of course, I know nothing of how prisoners are permitted to behave or what is expected of your time, but there are many things which have given the German people great prominence throughout history. Many years ago I worked for the Owl Drug company of San Francisco; its manager was a great traveller & as he travelled his mind was always on his business, and he was alert for new merchandise and novelties, and I recall his telling me he found Germany the most interesting state in Europe for his visit and profit.

If I am not mistaken the Germans were the first to brew beer, and the last to make it very good, so maybe while you sojourn in that country you may pick up some good, practical knowledge about the making of good beer, and bring home after the war this knowledge. Most of our small town breweries make a slop which passes for beer because the advertising says it is, but there is a demand for better beer. Beer is mostly water and glass and transportation, so as time passes and progress advances each community will have its better breweries, ~~and when you take over the reins of the paper's advertising department you will have more than the papers' side of the beer problem if you get a knowledge of the fundamentals of good beer making.~~

Coming back to an oil state you will be well fortified to meet the agitations with real sound arguments if you have an opportunity to study the German process of making gasoline from coal; rubber from weeds, and many inventions which the lack of certain resources in that country make necessary for the ingenious inventors' researches. Every country in the world has some advantages, something different in the way of moral, customs, and ways of operating. No matter where one travels, there are many new interests, and if your limitations permit, what a chance you have to return to us a most interesting man of definite knowledge, based on seeing, and knowing, free from the bias of hearsay. All gatherings of your friends and acquaintances talk of you and every one hopes you are well, and mentally happy by being busy, and longs for your safe return. So be cheerful, patient and studious. Love & luck, Ed Swasey