

EMBASSY IN BERLIN UNFETTERED BY SPIES

Ambassador Gerard Is Kept Busy Weeding Out German Secret Agents.

CLEVER WOMEN EMPLOYED

American-Born Wives of German Officials Among Most Active of Those Used to Pry Into United States' Plans.

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NEW YORK, April 21.—(Special).—James W. Gerard, the American ambassador in Berlin, used to be kept busy weeding out spies in the embassy. Because of a scarcity of American clerks and stenographers he had to employ many Germans, even in the most confidential positions, but whenever the ambassador discovered a real spy, out he went.

But one of the men the ambassador suspected was the chief messenger and announcer, a young German named "Fritz." This fellow was liable to military duty, but he was never called. One day while talking to Secretary of State Zimmerman, Mr. Gerard asked why "Fritz" was always overlooked when the army called in new men. All other German males were called, although many of them were excused because the ambassador asked for their release, but "Fritz" stayed. Zimmerman said that of course he did not know the reasons, because he did not know the reasons, because he was not connected with the general staff.

After Mr. Gerard returned to the embassy from the State Department, the Secretary of State remarked that it probably would not hurt the United States to have "Fritz" report, because he reported the truth. No general staff would soon learn that the United States was in earnest in opposing German submarine warfare and would go to war if the Von Tirpitz policies were accepted. "Fritz," however, proved an active worker for the government and he watched especially the American correspondents who came to the embassy, reporting faithfully to the Foreign Office what he heard them say.

American Wives Aid. But the German secret service in Berlin was extremely busy watching Americans. And among the most active workers were American-born wives of German army officers or officials. The army and foreign office all had their women agents and one of the most capable ones was a Frau von Schroeder, wife of Rittmeister von Schroeder, a general in the army intelligence bureau of the general staff.

Frau von Schroeder worked mainly through the army and navy, and she was a meeting place for a group of anti-Wilson Americans who were spying on the ambassador because in the embassy she heard everything they heard about him.

At one time she was quite intimate with Zimmerman, but after a while she turned on the Foreign Office and the Navy Department. When she deserted the Foreign Office, she became so angry that he told Ambassador Gerard one day that if Frau von Schroeder ever came to his office again he would jump out of the window.

At the beginning of the war Frau von Schroeder was cultivated by several of the most prominent American correspondents because in the embassy she gave her about the information they gave her about the American Embassy and the United States she showed favor for them. At one time she was so powerful in government circles that notes to the United States in reply to President Wilson's submarine notes were drafted in her library.

Spy System in Hotel. But Frau von Schroeder's activities were only one phase of the Berlin secret service. The Hotel Adlon was known as the gathering place for Americans. Most Americans who came to Berlin stopped there, so the intelligence departments of the government had not only every employe who understood English, but army officers and women agents stationed there to listen to all conversations. Americans used to say that within half an hour after they made any important remark about Germany in the United States it was known at the ofFenice or general office at the numerous incidents which occurred here one is typical of how overzealous some of the spies were, especially some who did not understand English perfectly.

One day S. E. Conger, of Grand Rapids, Mich., chief of the Associated Press, and Philip M. Powers, of Boston, also of that organization, and I walked from a meeting of the Press Bureau to the lobby to talk about the censorship. Both of us were having difficulty in getting our dispatches past the Foreign Office censorship and we discussed means of protesting against the stupidity of the officials. No other subject was discussed, although at the time Berlin was aroused over the possibility of a break with the United States.

A few hours afterward I saw Joseph C. Grew, of Boston, first secretary of the embassy. Ambassador Gerard was at the time in New York. Mr. Grew said Count Montgelina, chief of the American division of the Foreign Office, had asked him whether the United States was about to break diplomatic relations, because "Mr. Conger and Mr. Ackerman had said that afternoon that they were packing their trunks to be ready for the break."

Street Only Safe Place. Some one of the numerous agents at the Adlon had reported his version of our conversation. After this incident whenever Conger and I met to talk about anything we selected the middle of the street.

In Berlin I lived on the top floor of an apartment-house in Wilmersdorf, a quiet suburb of Berlin. When I moved in the apartment underneath was occupied by a German family, which moved out very suddenly after the Sussex was torpedoed. A few days later I read on the same plate of the apartment the card of the new occupant. His name was German, but the card was his former business card which he used in Petrograd.

One evening I returned from the office and was dining on the balcony, such as are built on all Berlin apartments. After I was there a few minutes talking to my wife, a 10-year-old boy, son of the couple living underneath our apartment, ran into his father's study and shouted: "Oh, daddy, that man's home upstairs."

In a few seconds the whole family was sitting on the balcony underneath. I found out afterward that they knew English as well as I did.

One day Ambassador Gerard received

BEAUTY, ONCE SOCIETY LEADER OF DENVER, WHO DIED IN POORHOUSE.



MRS. JOHN W. SPRINGER.

through the mail a letter addressed in a plain envelope containing a spy's report on the Ambassador himself, addressed to the Ministry of War. The report covered several typewritten pages and narrated about everything the Ambassador had done and said during the previous week. It was so accurate that the Ambassador thought he might have dictated it himself. What Mr. Gerard did with the letter finally I do not know, but he said at the time that he believed the report was sent to him intentionally, although there were evidences that it might have been placed in the wrong envelope by the writer.

Work of Code Experts Good. The code experts in the Foreign Office and military bureaus were considered by the United States as three codes so that anyone knowing two of them or even the third could not decipher the telegram. That was, however, the intention of the State Department, because in the United States weekly by courier, President Wilson, Colonel House and Secretary Lansing were thus in confidential communication despite the vigilance of the German government.

When the Berlin code experts succeeded in deciphering dispatches these were compared with other information from the United States and in this way the government spy system had a complete check on all important reports.

Because this had happened several times, the Ambassador feared the government could read all his telegrams. He adopted the policy of sending all important confidential communications through the United States Government's private mail pouches, which were sent to the United States weekly by courier. President Wilson, Colonel House and Secretary Lansing were thus in confidential communication despite the vigilance of the German government.

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BEAUTY DIES PAUPER

Mrs. John W. Springer, Once Society Leader, Succumbs.

ONE FRIEND STAYS TRUE

Woman, Who Is Cause of Two Murders and Life Imprisonment for Another, Attempted to Play for Film Concerns.

DENVER, April 20.—Mrs. John W. Springer, divorced wife of the Denver banker and capitalist, once a society leader and called the "most beautiful woman in Colorado," died last night in a pauper's hospital on Blackwell Island, New York City, alone save for one friend, who had remained true to her, according to advices received here. She was 40 years of age.

Mrs. Springer had been married two years when, in 1911, Sylvester von Puhl and George E. Copeland were killed by Harold F. Henwood in a local hotel in a discussion of Mrs. Springer. Following this Mr. Springer sued for divorce and Mrs. Springer got \$3000 and went to New York.

Little was heard of Mrs. Springer until recently. Then she began posing occasionally for motion picture concerns in the East. Her funds exhausted, when she became ill a short time ago she was forced to go to the hospital.

MADRID, via Paris, April 20.—The Duke of Alba, Minister of the Interior in the retiring cabinet, whose differences of opinion with Premier Romanones were one of the principal causes of the resignation of Count Romanones, refused at first to accept the portfolio of Finance in the new Ministry of Premier Prieto. Subsequently, however, he changed his mind, having learned that his declination, if persisted in, would cause several other Liberal statesmen to refuse to serve.

The Duke said that in agreement with Premier Prieto, they would continue the international policy set forth in the King's message unless a change should be necessary, in which case the intervention of Parliament naturally would be required.

LONDON, April 20.—The general officer commanding the British forces in Egypt reports in an official statement to the War Office that on April 17 the British advanced north of the Wadi Ghuz' in Southern Palestine and captured Turkish advanced positions along a front of 5 1/2 miles.

The attack, the British statement says, was assisted by the fire of warships and the position gained was consolidated.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Preparations to expand the Young Men's Christian Association organization with the Army on a scale in proportion with the size of a war-time army were taken up at the War Department today by John A. Mott, secretary of the association's international committee.

The association expects to have at least one representative for every 1000 troops and to carry out its organization of brigade tents and "on picture" facilities on the basis of an army of 1,000,000 men.

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3000 GERMANS IN AMERICA WATCHED

Government Ready to Arrest Every Suspect in 24 Hours if It Is Necessary.

KAISER'S HOPES FIZZLE

Department of Justice Discovers That Expectation That Reservations Would Spring to Arms Is Entirely Unfounded.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—Approximately 3000 German residents of the United States are under close surveillance, Department of Justice officials announced today, because of their activities in behalf of the German government before America's entry into the war or because of their pro-German sympathies.

The department's field force of investigators, now grown to formidable proportions, is ready to close a watch upon the small "A" of suspects that it would be possible, it is authoritatively stated, to arrest virtually every man under suspicion within 24 hours. A few suspects are living in every state of the Union.

Most of the suspects had been under surveillance prior to the entrance of this country into the war, but hundreds of names have been added to the list.

Sheriffs Also Enlisted. In addition to the 500,000 civilian employes on the Government's payroll in all departments actively engaged in reporting information to the bureau, all sheriffs and their deputies throughout the country, Attorney-General Gregory said tonight, are reporting information which will aid in detecting and apprehending persons working in this country against the interest of the United States.

Patriotic organizations and many other civilian societies also have offered their aid. Letters from auxiliary sources to the bureau are being received at the rate of approximately 1000 a day.

To dispel apparent confusion in the public mind, it was stated at the Department of Justice that the President had delegated to that department the full enforcement of the terms of his proclamation regarding alien enemies.

Information Is Welcomed. Patriotic citizens desiring to place at the Government's disposal information which they believe may aid in enforcing the activities of German agents should communicate with the Department of Justice. Such communications will be treated as confidential and will be welcomed.

Thus far, it was said, the strict surveillance maintained over persons known to be of pro-German sympathy has revealed a tendency to keep quiet. Little was heard of the department had anticipated. The reputed belief of German officials that a great army of reservists here was ready to spring to arms in case of conflict between the United States and their native land has been found to rest upon no foundation whatever.

ACID BURNS STUDENT Glenn Morgan, Pacific University, Is Hurt in Explosion.

PACIFIC UNIVERSITY, Forest Grove, Or., April 20.—(Special).—Glenn Morgan yesterday, while working with chemicals in the laboratory, was seriously burned in both eyes and the right side of his face with concentrated sulphuric acid. It resulted from the mixing of sulphuric acid with another reagent which caused a violently labeled bottle. This immediately exploded, throwing the concentrated solution into his face.

Morgan is president of the senior class, member of the college music quartet, assistant instructor in the chemistry department and ex-president of the Alpha Zeta Literary Society.

ARMY Y. M. C. A. TO EXPAND War Department Hears Plan to Meet Needs of Force of 1,000,000.

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BRITISH GAIN IN PALESTINE Turkish Positions Are Captured on 6 1-2 Mile Front.

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"THE STORE THAT UNDERSOLLS BECAUSE IT SELLS FOR CASH"

Store Opens at 8:30 A. M. Saturdays at 9 A. M.



Store Closes at 5:30 P. M. Saturdays at 6 P. M.

A Special Showing and Sale of Women's and Misses' Stylish Spring Suits. Fetching Modes for Slender or Stout Women—Exceptional Values at \$23.85. Models that have been carefully selected by us and represent most every new style and fabric for slender or stout women. Severely tailored models and sport models, emphasizing the straight, tonneau or full flare silhouette, etc.—made of fine wool serges, poplins, gabardine and black and white check materials—a wonderfully attractive showing at an equally attractive price. Pay our Suit Section an early visit.

New Spring Models R. & G. Corsets \$1 to \$2.50. These celebrated Corsets are guaranteed to wear to your satisfaction. They are perfect in workmanship, fit and finish. Come see the new Spring models. Especially attractive are numbers 418, 392 and 388.

An Attractively Underpriced Showing of Women's Neckwear At 49c. Just in by express, a splendid assortment of the new season's styles, including dainty Imported Organdie Collars and Sets—Georgette Crepe Collars and Sets—with embroidery and lace trimming. Also the new Sport Collars and Sets. All priced for this sale at 49c. Women's and Misses' Patent Pumps. Mary Jane and Two-Strap Styles, in All Sizes. Trustworthy Qualities. Sizes 5 to 8 at \$1.50, Sizes 8 1/2 to 11 at \$1.75, Sizes 11 1/2 to 2 at \$1.98, Sizes 2 1/2 to 6 at \$2.48.

TAX BILL FIGHT ON Opposition Develops to McAdoo's First Suggestions. PARTISAN WORDS ABSENT Ways and Means Committee Will First Dispose of Smaller Items Before Coming to Income and Excess Profits Taxes.

SHIP OUTPUT INCREASES Estimated Construction Exceeded by Britain in March. LONDON, April 20.—The shipping controller announced that the output of mercantile steamers of 100 tons and upwards, which in the six months ended in December was below the estimate, exceeded the estimate in March, being at the rate of 1,000,000 tons a year. No ship of great tonnage are being constructed. The yards are turning out standardized types of 5000, 3000 and 2000 tons gross.

Premier's Return From Italy. PARIS, April 20.—Premier Alexandre Ribot and the British Premier, Lloyd George, returned today from Savoy, where they conferred with the Italian Premier, Paolo Boselli, and the Italian Foreign Minister, Baron Sonnino, concerning co-operation between the entente allies. General's Son Named Censor. SAN FRANCISCO, April 20.—Lieutenant Franklin C. Sibert, son and aide of Brigadier-General William L. Sibert, commander of the Pacific Coast Artillery of the Western Department of Army District, was today appointed the Army with headquarters here. Dutch inventors have perfected a combined mechanical and chemical process for recovering all the unconsumed fuel from furnace ashes.

SEVEN DEADLY SINS and what they did to ONE LITTLE GIRL. A McClure series of seven thrilling five-act photoplays, showing beautiful Eve Leslie tempted by Seven Deadly Sins; a new play each week. Each film complete in itself, but connected by the sweetest love story ever filmed. Beautiful Shirley Mason appears throughout the series. 4 Days, Starting Next Sunday: ANN MURDOCK in "ENVY" PEOPLES ALDER AT WEST PARK

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