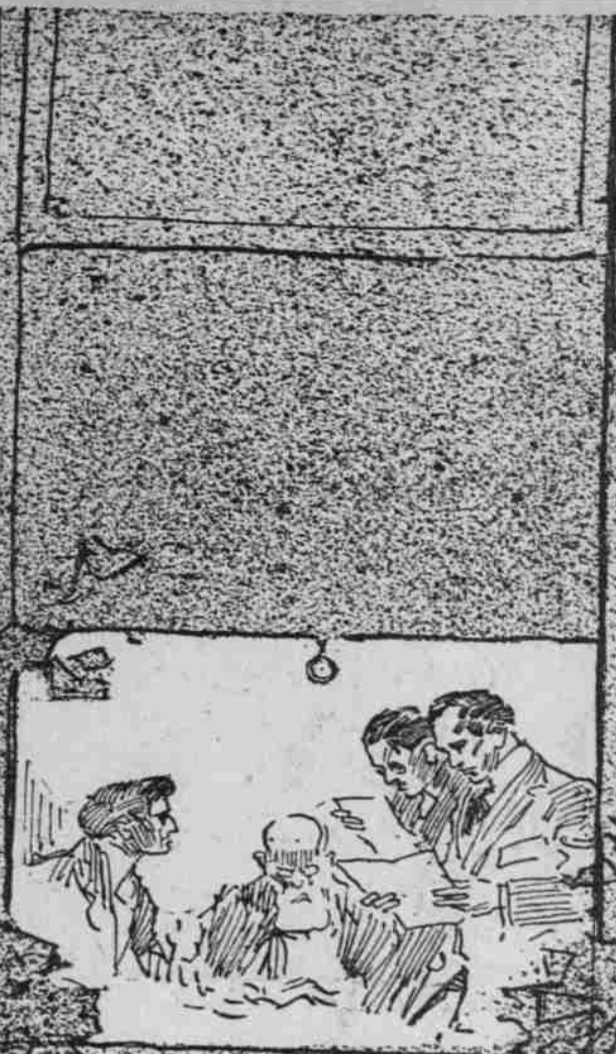


Tailing the Spy

Big Task of the United States Secret Service Facing a Network of German Informers That Covers The Whole of America



BY RENE BACHE.

WASHINGTON is a nest of German spies. Of this fact there cannot be the slightest doubt. It is fully accepted by United States Government authorities.

Uncle Sam. It is alleged, is paying regular salaries to many of them who are reported to be working in the various executive departments—some of them in the Navy and War Departments.

Only the other day a United States Senator received an anonymous letter conveying information which Secretary Daniels declared could only have come from a spy who had access to private and confidential documents on file in his own office.

Since the war began, three years ago, there has been a considerable bit of pro-German sentiment in the War and Navy departments. Nor is this at all surprising, inasmuch as many Germans are employed in both. A principal clerk in one of the most important bureaus, who was born in Germany, is said to be so rabid a pro-German that since the outbreak of the war he has refused to read any newspapers printed in the language of the United States.

Uncle Sam's Disadvantage.

In all matters that relate to military secrecy Uncle Sam is at a great disadvantage in this war. He is an honest man, whose status is like that of an intelligent but unsuspecting gentleman who deals with an unscrupulous scoundrel. He does not have half a chance. At length it dawned upon him that he is dealing with a professional crook. But even then he does not know how to act, because he cannot oppose crookedness with crookedness.

For illustration, observe the present course of action toward the diplomatic representatives of the powers with which the United States is at war. The envoys of Germany and Austria-Hungary were dismissed, but until recently they were permitted to keep their quarters in temporary charge of the German and Austrian embassies in Washington. Can it be for a moment doubted that these embassies have continued to be spy centers, acquiring in every possible way secret information of important usefulness to the enemy? What silly fools our foes must think we are!

A National Difference.

We have never thought it worth while to maintain a system of political espionage in foreign countries. Indeed, from our point of view, what reasonable object was there to be gained? But it is a fact perfectly well known that the German spy system, even in time of peace, has covered the United States as with a network.

No sooner had the war begun (although as yet we were at peace with Germany) than the German and Austrian Embassies at Washington organized plots against us, which, in many of their developments, suggested rather

the operations of yegmen than anything less crudely criminal. When such operations had progressed beyond the bearable point we dismissed the Ambassadors of those countries, permitting, nevertheless, their subordinates to remain and keep the business going.

Naturally, the chief center of the spy system (hitherto directed from the German and Austrian Embassies) has been, and is today, the capital of the nation. Recent developments indicate that it is no longer a mere guess, but now a certainty, that many of the employees of the executive departments of the government are, and have been for a long time, in the pay of enemies.

You see, Germany looks ahead. She has had for many years a covetous eye upon South America, the acquisition of which was to begin with Brazil.

German maps, at least semi-official, have been published, in which all of South America was marked off as (to be) German. The problem was one of easy solution, from Germany's point of view, for the Monroe Doctrine is regarded as being no stronger than the United States Navy, and the latter could be safely ignored as soon as Germany was strong enough to beat us on the sea. She is there today.

America's Luck.

This particular project was second in importance only to the conquest of Europe. It might have been alternative thereto, as a choice of conquests, according as convenience served. Most luckily for us, the trouble started on the other side of the Atlantic.

In view of what has been said, however, it will be understood why Germany long ago extended her spy system to this side of the ocean. She knew her business. A lot of money had to be spent, but she got the worth of it. By this means she was able to organize an information service that is today in perfect shape for the furnishing of exactly the kind of news she needs.

The spy service of Germany is of enormous magnitude, its ramifications, even in time of peace, extending into all the countries of the world. It is the most wonderful system ever devised for the gathering of intelligence. The work it requires is usually easy and the pay is always liberal—even munificent, when the information given is really worth while. Money is a temptation to the average person who toils for a livelihood. Therefore, would it not be rather surprising if every person in Uncle Sam's employ were beyond the reach of corruption by Teuton gold? Believe it not. Is it to be imagined that the German and Austrian embassies (which made a business of engineering criminal plots against us long before we thought of entering the war) would neglect to employ spies, and many of them, in the departments at Washington and elsewhere?

Germany's spy system is so thoroughly and efficiently organized that the chances are that a verbatim transcript of no single important docu-



The "Spy Gate" of the Austria-Hungary Embassy.



Off for the Front—Under the Observation of How Many Well Distributed German Spies?

ment in the files of the War Department or Navy Department has failed to find its way to the Wilhelmstrasse, in Berlin. In all likelihood this sort of thing is going on right now, for all the official precautions against it.

How the System Works.

It is easy enough. The chief of a certain military bureau, let us say, is a hard-working and patriotic officer, honorable and incorruptible. But he must trust somebody. Under him are

and also such women. Among the trusted employees of the Government departments at Washington are many women. The Wilhelmstrasse finds women spies much more useful than men for many purposes, one of which is to cajole men to do dishonorable things.

Suppose that you were a trusted civilian employe in the drafting division of the naval bureau of construction. Your pay is \$5.04 a day. The cost of living has gone up; you have sickness and other misfortunes and your creditors are pressing you for settlement of bills you are unable to meet. In these uncomfortable circumstances a whisper is somehow conveyed to you that a person unidentified, but having the money, is willing to pay you \$1000 cash for a rough sketch of the plans of one of our contemplated battle cruisers.

Of course, you reject the suggestion with scorn. But it may be that the young man at the next drawing table (at work on the same plans) is more accessible to such temptation. He sells the sketch, pockets the money and nobody suspects him. From that time on, of course, he is in the pay of the enemy.

How is this sort of thing to be prevented? The answer is that it cannot be. The best that can be done is to minimize the mischief. Experience has proved that there is no Government secret that can be kept with certainty. Always there is a possible leak somewhere—the chance of such leak being in direct proportion to the money obtained through the divulging of it.

The spy of this sort is an ever-present possibility in any of our military or naval organizations, administrative or in the field. Now the Government secret service has taken up the business of nailing the spy in real earnest. But, unfortunately, its education in catching counterfeiters (the business ordinarily assigned to it) can hardly be said to equip it very well for this most difficult of employments.

WOMEN REGISTERED, TOO

Places of Men Called Away to War Are Being Taken Rapidly.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 26.—Following immediately upon the women's service registration, the instruction department of the women's committee of the Council of National Defense placed six registered young women in lines for positions that have been vacated by men who have volunteered for war service.

None of the young women sent to replace the volunteer soldiers had been previously employed and all were prompted to seek employment as the result of male members of their own families having been called to the service.

The women had all registered for clerical work and have been placed in six of the large mercantile houses of the business district. A seventh registered woman, who asked for instruction to become a business woman, was placed with a local business college, where she will receive, without cost to herself, a course of instruction in bookkeeping and stenography.

The registration of St. Louis women at the out-of-town Summer resorts promises to be much larger than was anticipated and will swell noticeably the total of St. Louis registrations. Many of the St. Louis women who presided at the registration booths at the Northern and Eastern resorts have telegraphed to the women's committee for extra blanks and Hoover pledge agreements to accommodate St. Louis women desiring to register in the two enrollments.

FALL FROM BED MAY KILL

Woman Tumbles 15 Inches to Floor and Breaks Her Neck.

HARTFORD, Conn., Aug. 25.—Mrs. Lulu Thompson, 50, of Hebron, is slowly dying at St. Joseph's Hospital, the result of a broken neck sustained when she fell from her bed at 3 o'clock Tuesday morning. It was not thought at the time that Mrs. Thompson's condition was dangerous. Gradually she lost the use of her arms and legs and died forenoon Dr. Cyrus E. Pendleton, of



William J. Flynn, United States Secret Service Chief.

Hebron, was called in and he was of the opinion that Mrs. Thompson had a broken neck and her body was paralyzed from the neck down. He ordered the woman taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, which was done, the ambulance conveying the woman to the hospital late Tuesday evening.

The case is a peculiar one, according to the physicians, as the woman did not fall over 15 inches. The cause of Mrs. Thompson's fall is attributed to the extreme hot weather, which caused her to move much in her sleep.

LAD RECOGNIZES MARINE

Power of Observation Identifies Soldier Without Hatband.

NEW YORK, Aug. 10.—A group of youngsters were playing on Riverside drive. A military man, dressed in khaki and accompanied by a young lady, approached the group. The boys stopped their playing, and, with nudges and gesticulation, were evidently trying to identify the man in khaki.

As the young lady and her escort drew nearer, one youngster, with an air of superior knowledge, informed his companions: "He's a United States Marine."

Overhearing the remark, the young lady questioned the small boy: "How do you know he is a marine?"

"Why, lady," exclaimed the youngster, "he wears an ornament on his hat showing an eagle, globe and anchor, but doesn't wear any hat cord."

The colored hat cords, yellow, blue and red, help many civilians to recognize at once a cavalryman, an infantryman or an artilleryman. However, the United States marine dressed in khaki is still an enigma to many persons who lack the powers of observation displayed by the small boy on Riverside drive.

ARREST HELD SPITWORK

German Near Soldiers' Barracks in Hands of Federal Agents.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 26.—Max Berger, who is being held in Alton by Federal authorities, attributed his arrest to "spitwork." Berger was cook at the Mineral Springs Hotel. It was possible for him there to be near munition man-

ufacturers and inspectors of munitions from foreign governments.

He went to Alton six months ago and two months ago resigned as cook in a cafe and went to work in the hotel. He said a man who opposed his going to work at the hotel had reported to Federal authorities that he, an alien enemy, was within one-half mile of the barracks of soldiers.

KENTUCKY LOSES FORTUNE

Florida Will Costs State \$3,000,000 Inheritance Tax.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Aug. 25.—The State of Kentucky, whose public officials had been anticipating the collection of \$3,000,000 in inheritance tax from the estate of the late Mrs. Robert Worth Bingham, formerly Mrs. Henry M. Flagler, of New York, learned recently that Mrs. Bingham's will, disposing of an estate valued at approximately \$75,000,000, had been probated at West Palm Beach, Fla.

It was expected it would be probated in Kentucky, where it was estimated the state's share would have liquidated the entire state debt.

OYSTERS RISE IN PRICE

Increase in Cost of Labor and Equipment Is Alleged Cause.

NEW YORK, Aug. 25.—Oysters are going up. They will advance 25 to 25 per cent as sold in bulk. It was said at the convention of the Oyster Growers' Association of North America, in the Park Avenue Hotel. More than 75 growers, representing three-fourths of the Nation's oyster output, attended.

W. H. Killian, of Baltimore, the president, blamed the price rise to the 100 per cent extra cost of boats, ropes and other equipment and increased cost of labor.

Here It Is Again.

The Lamb.

It appears that once a Westerner, visiting New York, was held up by a footpad with the demand: "Give me your money, or I'll blow out your brains!"

"Blow away," said the man from the West. "You can live in New York without brains, but not without money."