

# Women Spies in All Capitals of the Nations

In no part of the world has the woman spy been brought to the point so near perfection as in Europe, and it may be unhesitatingly said that in Russia, which fairly swarms with eyes and ears of the czar, the dashing, beautiful woman of high breeding and title, perhaps, has become the most necessary arm of that underground system which appears to read thoughts as well as detect designs.

At the present time the secret service of both Russia and Japan is naturally more active, and it must not be forgotten that Japan, too, has made use of women to ferret out the intentions of the Russian government regarding

the present war. They are not, as a rule, however, Japanese women, who are singularly unfitted for the delicate task. To meet the Russian spy on his or her own ground the Japanese have, it is said, secured the services of some of the cleverest women in Europe, many of them Frenchwomen, and often their visible means of support is by acting. Shortly before the war burst suddenly in the far east, an English manager was conducting a Japanese troupe through Europe, and the tour led to Russia. While the troupe of actors was in Budapest a young Japanese pleaded so hard to join the company that he finally persuaded the

manager to take him. He was tried upon the stage, but was found singularly incompetent. However, something was found for him to do, and he did not want much salary, so he was allowed to remain with the company while it went through the czar's empire.

Practically nothing was known of the young man, but he was educated, a pleasant companion, and appeared to have plenty of money. After the tour ended the manager discovered he was the son of the Japanese admiral whose name frequently appears in the newspapers in connection with the wonderful naval feats he has accomplished during the war. In the same company were several very clever Japanese women, who kept their eyes and ears open during the tour, and there is little doubt that their reports to their government had something to do with the rapidity with which the Japanese struck the first blow.

It was discovered that so long ago as two years back, a possibility of an attack upon Japan was considered seriously by the Russian government. Japan had been preparing for a much longer period, and consequently was able to strike first and strike hard.

The Japanese police and military system has, of course, its secret service; but it is not nearly so ubiquitous as is the so-called Third Section of the Russian police. Yet during the last few years little of importance has transpired in Europe affecting the situation in the far east of which the Japanese foreign office has been ignorant. Her agents, the best of them, those so-called French actresses, found a way of being present wherever there was anything to be learned. Often these women encountered the women spies of the Russian government, who are undoubtedly among the cleverest detectives in their line in the world.

Governments at war, or on the brink of hostilities, require the services of two distinct classes of spies. There must be many men connected with this dangerous service; but for the most part the work demands courage and skill rather than the delicate diplomacy which is required, too, but is generally, certainly so far as Russia is concerned, assigned to women of culture, education, beauty and rare judgment. With the troops of the enemy are sent the men spies, and with the commanding officers, with the diplomats, with the brains which stay in St. Petersburg and move armies 5000 miles away as if they were pawns on a chessboard, the ingratiating clever women spies are to be found.

While the Japanese have not been regarded as having an especially efficient secret service, the events of the war have shown that the persons who are watching day and night for them have been of the greatest value. It is known that just about the time the war broke out there were in Port Arthur several French dancers, who had captured every Russian official heart.

They were not only attractive dancers, but beautiful women, who dressed well and had most engaging manners. The Russian officers were charmed with them. They soon became better acquainted and proved to be very agreeable companions. They took a great interest in things military, but always made amazing blunders in attempting to repeat what had been told them. The womanly ignorance of such matters charmed the young officers all the more, and at the same time put them off their guard. But, as a matter of fact, they were very clever women, and their information was forwarded speedily to the Japanese legation at Pekin, which, in turn, forwarded valuable reports to Tokio. By the time their true character was known the French actresses, who were spies for the Japanese had left Port Arthur far behind.

One of the most valuable assistants the Japanese had at Port Arthur was a little servant who was not in the pay

of the government, and who was not in any sense attached to their secret service. In fact, she was one of those poor, little, unknown patriots, who feel when their country is at war that they should give their own little insignificant aid.

A short time after the first bombardment, the trains leaving Port Arthur were filled with refugees. The Japanese, of course, thought it politic to make a change of base, and the Russians were of the same opinion. Many left immediately, but the little Japanese servant remained. One evening there was a council, and the servant, who was looked upon as an ignorant little child, waited on the officers as usual. Plans and documents were spread upon the table, the officers smoked, drank and discussed the situation. The council lasted late, and then broke up. Finally there were only a few remaining in the room, and these, overtaken by lack of rest, fell asleep.

The little waitress came into the room again, saw the few officers remaining were asleep, quickly picked up a bundle of the papers she saw lying on the table and thrust them into the folds of her kimono. She had not the slightest idea of their importance, or what they were; but the officers had been in such earnest discussion that she gained the impression that they would be useful to her government.

The first train out of Port Arthur that morning had among its passengers the little servant, who had disguised herself as a coolie.

Before the train started the papers had been missed, and a file of soldiers were drawn up alongside of the waiting cars, while an inspector made a hasty search among the passengers. He did not, however, detect the coolie, who never winced during the search. The girl had been a favorite with the officers, and had been suspected only when it was learned she had left. The search proving unavailing, the train moved off toward Pekin.

Arriving at Pekin the strange-looking little figure presented herself before the door of the Japanese legation. A functionary tried politely to send her off, but she persisted. She must see the minister.

But his excellency is not here. Could not the honorable gentleman call again?

The matter was very important. How important his excellency might know.

Finally the little spy was admitted. She told the whole story. Matters of great importance, indeed, were learned, and the "coolie," replacing the strange mannish attire by the graceful kimono, received a sum of money and was sent to Japan. There her achievement was loudly heralded, and in her native town she soon became the center of curiosity and admiration.

Fouche's police during the first empire were believed to be the perfection of the spy system; but the Russian third section in modern times has been proved a better, for it is a popular impression, not so very far removed from fact, that one cannot whisper in Russia without the police hearing it. Theoretically the third section has been abolished, but, as a matter of fact, it is in a state of healthy activity.

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Notice is hereby given that the County Court of Clatsop County, Oregon, will receive sealed bids, until 2 o'clock p. m. on the 30th day of June, 1904, and opened immediately thereafter, for the construction of the superstructure of the Clatsop County Court House, to be erected on Block 28, between 7 and 8 Commercial and Duane streets, in the City of Astoria, Oregon, prepared by Edgar M. Lazarus, architect, No. 655 Worcester block, Portland, Oregon.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified check in the sum of 5 per cent of the amount of the bid, that the bidder will enter into a contract if his bid is accepted, and the right to reject any and all bids is hereby reserved.

Dated at Astoria, Oregon, June 8, 1904.  
By order of the County Court.  
J. C. CLINTON, County Clerk.

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but its once autocratic power has been taken from it. No longer is it the government, but rather one of the spokes in the government wheel. At one time only the czar himself rose superior to this terrible force, which could banish "suspects" for life to the Siberian prisons. As a secret service, however, it is as efficient as it ever was, although it is not infallible, as has been supposed by persons gifted with a vigorous imagination. The arms of the third section at all times are clasped around the globe, although its cleverest representatives are those bright women who abound in Europe, who exist on the excitement to be derived by battling their wits against those of others equally clever.

Continued on page 7.

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