

# The Herald

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Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 1, 1911.

With this issue the HERALD has passed another mile-stone in its march of progress and starts out on its fourth year of usefulness stronger than ever and with brightening prospects ahead. The management has tried, in the past, to give the public a clean, newsy paper and the aim has not been lowered and neither will it be in the future.

The editorial editor has been kept busy with City Recorder's work and has been unable to inflict his readers with the usual amount of that matter, so we will give you a short story instead, promising, however, that escape will not always continue.

## THE MILITARY SPY

He Is an Important Factor In the Modern Game of War.

### WATCHES FOREIGN NATIONS.

Learns Their Secret Plans and Reports Them to His Own Country—If Caught He Is Repudiated by His Government and Suffers In Silence.

Once in awhile an army or navy officer is arrested for spying or attempting to obtain military secrets from a foreign government. Practically every government, including the United States, has a law which makes this a crime. Usually there is more or less secrecy about the officer's arrest and trial. His government repudiates his activity, and if he is sentenced to a term of imprisonment he receives no support or aid from his government. Although they will not officially admit it, practically every government has a secret service of army and navy officers whose only duty is to travel in foreign countries to gather information which might be useful in time of war. Because of the shortage of officers the United States has only engaged in this practice in time of actual hostilities.

Military espionage is, of course, a delicate subject, and it would be a gross violation of international propriety for any government to admit that it had secret agents spying on its neighbors. However, it is a well known fact that this system exists.

In 1907 an American ambassador at a foreign capital reported to the state department that an army officer of the country to which he was accredited had been detailed to visit the American countries secretly to ascertain the strength of their forces. His mission was thwarted, however, by the information furnished by the ambassador.

The military authorities of every first class power are constantly preparing for war. Naturally they are anxious to know what their neighbors are accomplishing in military science. Here develops the function of the modern military spy. Fiction writers clothe the spy with a veil of mystery and a supernatural cleverness which enables him to get out of all dangerous pitfalls into which he falls. But the real flesh and blood spy is a different person. In these days of modern and scientific warfare the spy has become a technical expert who must be thoroughly versed in every branch of his art. He must be tactful and above all close mouthed.

The procedure in sending out a spy is something like this: If the German government wishes information which it cannot get in the regular channels of information some officer is sent for. He is summoned to the war office to receive his instructions. In the case of confidential work abroad he receives oral orders, so that he will not have any documentary evidence on his person to disclose his identity in case he gets into trouble. Having received his instructions he starts out, sometimes so secretly that even his family do not know where he is going. Usually he

speaks the language of the country to which he is bound. His real identity for the time being is forgotten, and he travels under an assumed name. If necessary he uses a disguise to cover his movements. If he is a good spy he returns with the desired information, and no questions in regard to the methods he employed are asked. If he is captured while engaged in his work he is punished for attempting to obtain the military secrets of a foreign government, and his own country lets him severely alone.

The cipher code books by means of which diplomatic correspondence is carried on are often sought after by these secret agents. Several years ago the code book of the American legation at Bucharest "disappeared." Its loss was reported to Secretary of State Elihu Root by telegraph. Mr. Root sent for the chief clerk of the department.

"Mr. Smith," said the secretary, "the code book at Bucharest has been lost. I believe it is about time for us to have a new code for our diplomatic correspondence."

Some months later the missing book was offered for sale to the Japanese ambassador at St. Petersburg, who purchased it for a small sum and as an act of comity turned it over to the American ambassador there.

A young man several years ago appeared at the American embassy in Berlin and offered to sell to the ambassador a copy of the state department's code book which he said he had in his possession. He left several specimen pages to prove that his book was genuine. A comparison with the embassy's code book proved that he had the real code, but where he had obtained it was a mystery. The ambassador knew that a new code was in course of preparation and would shortly be distributed by the department. The offer was politely declined on the ground that the embassy had a code book of its own and did not need another.—New York Sun.

### Shetland's Only Tree.

Up a little lane of Lerwick's one street there is a garden. At least it is an inclosed space. In the middle of this space there is a tree. It is not a very tall tree; you could, in fact, toss a biscuit over its branches, but still it is a tree—the only tree in Shetland. And Shetland is proud of it. Children who are brought for the first time to see the wonders of one streeted Lerwick are shown this tree. This is not fiction. It is the only tree in Shetland. As there are no trees in Shetland, there no birds, except, of course, the seagulls, which you can number by the thousand.

### How He Figured It.

"Did you like your dinner?" asked the waiter.  
"Like it?" echoed the guest.  
"Why, it made me feel like a boy again."  
"Thank you, sir," smiled the waiter. "We aim to please in every detail, sir, and if you"—  
"Yes, like a boy," continued the enthusiastic guest, as if he had not noticed the interruption. "Spring lamb we had. I ate it. And if that was spring lamb I am still a boy. You have cut many years from my life."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

### Broken Specters.

Broken is situated on the highest summit of the Harz mountains, 3,240 feet above the sea. The mountain is frequently veiled in mist and is celebrated for the phenomenon known as the "specter of Broken," which is nothing more than the shadow of men, houses or other objects thrown upon the eastern horizon by the light of sunset.

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