

MR. HEIDMANN WAS NATURAL- IZED SINCE WAR BROKE OUT

The Minister of Marine Says His Private Secretary Although Born in Germany is a Loyal Canadian.

DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO IMPORTANT PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

Government Promises Liberal Members That More Rigid Measures Will be Taken Against the Teutonic Espionage System.

Ottawa, Feb. 10.—Tenton intrigues in Canada concerned parliament today. Members sought assurances from the government that additional and more rigorous steps would be taken to insure the dominion against the stealthy and ominous operations of the Prussian espionage system.

Two direct cases of the conduct of men subsequently proved to be German spies on the Atlantic coast were instanced by E. M. Macdonald and Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux.

"Canada is at war," declared Mr. Macdonald, "and it is the duty of the government to leave nothing undone to protect the lives and the property of its citizens."

Grave apprehension existed in the eastern seaboard provinces, said the member for Pictou, that there were a considerable number of German-born aliens who were in touch with the enemy through more than one source. Recent correspondence published in the United States indicated that there were spies in Canada. He had no doubt that some had enlisted with the Canadian troops. Letters from the boys at the front were to the effect that the enemy was signally well informed as to what was going on among the Canadian troops. He thought stronger restrictions should be placed upon the statute books.

Premier Borden explained that restrictions had been made. An order was passed last November which prevented the use of firearms, explosives, etc. Another order provided for registration. Other orders had also been issued along the line of justice and good sense.

TWILL OF SPIES AT WORK.

Mr. Macdonald sought wider powers for dealing with suspects in districts where war munitions were being manufactured. He told of one German who had been farming in Nova Scotia but disappeared when the war broke out. An investigation

was asked owing to public suspicion being aroused, but the reply of the authorities was that he was a man who would do no harm. Later he was arrested for some offense and interned. He escaped. Since then it had been discovered beyond peradventure that he was a spy. Such conditions Mr. Macdonald described as a menace to the country.

Hon. Mr. Lemieux stated that last summer, when the submarines built at Montreal were being tested down the St. Lawrence, there were two spies in the district, apparently surveying a small river. The matter was reported to the dominion police but on the arrival of the brass buttons the men disappeared.

In the City of Montreal a prominent German named Mundheim, on behalf of a German syndicate, had, just prior to the outbreak of the war, bought up the extreme portion of the Island of Orleans, a position which guards the City of Quebec and all that part of the St. Lawrence. It was later found that Mundheim was a German spy and was interned.

"Surely what has already happened in Canada and the United States should open the eyes of those upon whom responsibility rests," exclaimed Mr. Lemieux.

Premier Borden explained that registrars had been appointed in every part of the country where aliens of enemy nationality in any number existed and these registrars were in constant touch with the police and similar authorities.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, in paying a tribute to the force of the Northwest Mounted Police, urged that they should keep a cordon along the border for some years and also maintain a patrol in the far north.

WANTS ENCOURAGEMENT.

The whole of the night sitting was devoted to making progress on the routine estimates of the marine de-

partment. One interesting discussion developed. The situation with which Canada is confronted by reason of lack of shipping facilities at the present time, prompted Hon. Dr. Pugsley to again urge upon the government the advisability of taking some speedy and serious step to encourage the development of the ship-building industry in the dominion.

Dr. Pugsley was supported in this view by E. M. Macdonald, F. Pardee, J. H. Sinclair, William Carroll and other Liberal members.

The opposition applauded the speeches of Dr. Edwards of Frontenac, who advocated action toward the public ownership and operation of steamship lines and Mr. Nickle of Kingston, who pressed strongly for some definite action to meet the situation.

Hon. Mr. Hazen was the only minister in the House and he did not vouchsafe any comment upon the consecutive suggestions submitted.

DEFENDS HIS SECRETARY.

Ottawa, Feb. 10.—Hon. J. D. Hazen arose on a question of privilege in the house today to refer to an article reprinted from The Toronto Star in The Ottawa Journal, under the caption, Germans Have Access to Confidential Papers. The article referred to the case of Gustav Heidmann, the private secretary of the minister of marine and fisheries, as a conspicuous one, stating that Mr. Heidmann who, no doubt, had relatives fighting at the front, had access to all correspondence relating to Canadian coast defence, etc., and pointed out that Admiral Von Tirpitz would scarcely be so trusting. Mr. Hazen stated that Mr. Heidmann was born in Germany, but when a few weeks old was brought to Canada by his parents, who came to this country because they were dissatisfied with German militaristic conditions. His father had applied for naturalization and settled in Toronto, where he was a respected citizen. Gustav Heidmann had been educated in Toronto, later appointed private secretary to H. H. Strath, general manager of the Trades Bank, in 1904, entered the civil service as assistant secretary to the National Transcontinental Railway Commission and in 1911 had become the minister of marine's own private secretary because of his ability and recommendations. One of Mr. Heidmann's brothers was a trooper with the 4th C.M.R. in the trenches in Flanders, where he had done such good work that he had been offered promotion.

NATURALIZED SINCE WAR.

Mr. Hazen stated that his secretary had always considered he was a British subject, but to make matters sure he had obtained full naturalization at the outbreak of the war.

The minister went on to state that just after the war broke out, and several times since, Mr. Heidmann had offered to resign, but Mr. Hazen had declined to accept his resignation because in so doing he would have been doing great injustice to an honest and upright official, who was also as loyal as any man in Canada.

Mr. Hazen stated that Mr. Heidmann, as a matter of fact, had no access whatever to any confidential

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papers liable to be of value to the enemy. The minister concluded that he felt it his duty, as Mr. Heidmann's chief, to say these words on his behalf, and also to clear the public mind.

Hon. Wm. Pugsley inquired of General Sir Sam Hughes as to the authenticity of an interview in the press on Monday with the minister to the effect that there was little ground for anti-German spy scares in Canada, since some thirty-eight German-Canadians had already died in the Canadian service and the chief intelligence officer with the Canadian troops at the front, Captain Hahn, was a German-Canadian, who had already won the D.S.O. for his good work. Mr. Pugsley thought it would be much better if cases like this were brought up in parliament and also advised the minister of marine not to be too censorious in regard to newspapers and people that had criticized his private secretary.

General Hughes replied that it was true that thirty-eight German-Canadians had already fallen in action for Canada. In South Africa, once the Boers had recognized that Krugerism was opposed to liberty, they had fought loyally in the British cause, and the minister of militia thought it would be the same with the Kaiserism, once the German people recognized the same fact. General Hughes also repeated a statement he had made in his interview, to the effect that twice in three weeks fires had been caused in the parliamentary reading room by cigarette stubs and matches thrown carelessly around.

General Hughes then made a statement in reply to some observations in the house the other day by J. J. Hughes of Prince Edward Island, in regard to the quality of the horses bought by the militia department in the different provinces.

(Continued on page seven.)

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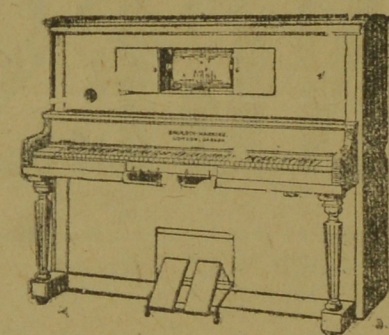
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