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GERMAN SPIES ARE RIGOROUSLY TRAINED

There are German spies in England, hundreds of them probably, and even more in France and Russia; but there are also British, French and Russian spies in Germany and Austria, who from time to time are able to send valuable information to their respective capitals. Germany is well aware of the presence in her midst of these enemy agents, and her own spies are sleepless in their efforts to run them down. How well they have succeeded is not known, but some idea of the severe training undergone by German spies and the vast ramifications of the Berlin espionage system are explained by one who was himself "broke to the business" and who contributes anonymously to the New York Tribune an article upon the subject. Germany has four classes of spies: the Emperor's private staff of about 60 men and nine women; the War Office staff, numbering 6,000; the Government secret service, 500 officials, 3,000 men and 180 women; and the secret police, whose name is legion and which corresponds to our ordinary detective forces.

Some High-grade Spies
It is from the fourth class that the first three are recruited, the finest operatives advancing until a few of them work their way up to the Kaiser's entourage. For the highest branches unusual ability and a considerable number of accomplishments are necessary. For instance, a spy trusted with the most delicate operations is usually a linguist, a man of culture, and able to mingle and associate with persons of rank and education. Even these artists are almost always developed from lower grades, and acquire their accomplishments in the course of their career. In the lowest schools they receive most of their training, and when they have passed through them they are supposed to have been taught everything that a spy can be taught. After that they rely upon their own special abilities.

Some Curious Calisthenics
The first tests are very much like those employed by the railroads. The aspiring detective is examined for his hearing, sight, and mental activity. Having satisfied his examiners, he enters a class where every morning he is put through a remarkable course of calisthenics. One of the most curious of these is the side twist of the head, which is practised until the candidate can remain with his chin resting upon the point of his shoulder for an indefinite period. This accomplishment enables the spy to stand with his ear pressed against a wall or door for hours at a time without fatigue. Spies are taught to remain motionless for

hours, to walk over a creaking floor or climb rickety stairs without making a noise, to unlock doors and otherwise to acquire the arts that make them envied by burglars. In important cases, as for example in following persons suspected of being in the employ of enemy countries, the spies always hunt in couples.

Confetti and Chalk
Some of the methods by which these spies communicate with each other are ingenious, and are necessary in a city like Berlin, where telephones are few, but would be of little service in American cities, for instance, where telephones are almost as numerous as bathrooms. The German spy who is engaged in "shadowing" a suspect is always equipped with a quantity of confetti, and with chalk of an unusual color. At each turn his quarry makes the spy leaves a slight chalk-mark to indicate the direction. Should the man ahead board a car the spy drops a quantity of the confetti at the point where he embarks, and also where he leaves. These clinging scraps of paper will stick between the cobble-stones, or even upon the asphalt for hours, defying the brooms of the street-cleaners. The object of this trail is to indicate to the other spy who will follow to take his turn, where he must go. The first sleuth does not need to leave the suspect out of his sight even for a moment.

The Secret Signal
These high-grade spies are usually armed with only an ammonia pistol, which has the double advantage of being soundless and by no means lethal, although it will temporarily blind and render helpless the victim into whose eyes the fluid is squirted. They are also equipped with a little periscope, by means of which they can observe the operations of persons behind them, and can thus actually "follow" a suspect while being in front of them. The full-fledged spy carries a "signal" which will open every door in Germany to him. This is a framed silver shield about the size of the palm of the hand, mounted on black velvet, and embossed with the Prussian eagle on one side and the Kaiser's initials on the other. It bears a number, and every official in Germany must respect it. German spies are not highly paid, we are informed, although for special services they receive special rewards. It is not the money that attracts them; it is the excitement, the sense of playing an important part in the country's affairs, and the nameless fascination that detective work seems to exercise upon a great number of people, even those who never take it up.

Willies Last Prayer

(From the Scottish Review.)
O Lord who in the Heavens does dwell,

I fear that things are nae gaun well,
Hooe this can I canna tell;
Bath "cultured" courses
And "rightful" methods fail to quell
The Allied forces.

Lord, I set out to slay a bear,
And hunt a lion to its lair,
And thrash the neck o' Chanticleer;
The Cock was gaither
An' a' I've got's a Belgian Hare
I canna tame.

O Lord, I hope Ye understand
It was at Thy express command
My people took their sword in hand,
Their foes to chasten.
If Thou wouldn't help the German
Band,
O do Thou hasten.

Ye shairly canna realize
My army's dwinin' doon in size;
An' sausages are on the rise;
Its maist distressin'
Some miracle, O Lord, devise,
And reap my blessing.

O Lord, my faith is sairly tried,
I look to Thee to turn the tide,
I thocht Thou ever woldst abide
A Friend to Willie;
But noo w'f goes on ilka side
I'm never driven silly.

"The Duty" O Lord, hast Thou forgotten?
Thy blessing I was shair I'd gotten,
Yet here w'f grief an' rage I'm sittin'
Ahint the trenches,
While Joffre's ribblin' like a rotten
At my defences.

Lord, I beseech Thee, hear my prayer
Bless me on land, an' sea, an' air,
Preserve me frae the Russian Bear;
Clip Thou its claws
Or set it dancin' at a fair,
Wi' muzzled jaws.

I've ca'd doon kirks, O Lord, but
those
Were filled w' French an'ither foes,
Wha' live on haggises an' brose
An' worship Burns,
An' wear extraordinary clo'es,
That gie folks turns.

O Lord, destroy the Scottish chieftans,
That dress like lasses, fecht like fells,
They're slippier as conger-eels,
I canna match them;
O lay Thou snit upon their heels,
That I may catch them.

O Lord, what made my spies a' think
That Britain was at ruin's brink,
Wi' Ireland seething like a sink
Wi' civil strife,
And Scotland's glory droomed in
drink,
Devoid of life.

Sink Thou, O Lord, the British fleet,
For puir auld Tiptoe's fairly beat;
Stop this infernal rain and sleet
That fills the trenches,
And grant me something to defeat,
E'en weans an' wenchies.

O Lord, excuse this hurried prayer,
My armies need me everywhere,
And I maun travel here and there,
Erge east to west,
And so hae nae mair time to spare—
Excuse the rest.

Hard to Satisfy.
I wonder why the seasons are always pictured as women? mused Mrs. Knowl, who was doing an art exhibit in company with her husband.
"I suppose," replied he, who keenly felt the matrimonial yoke, "it's because men are never satisfied with them no matter what kind they get."

Up a blacklist of firms who worked for the Allies and refused them coal. But recently she has gone further still and has tried to intimidate the Swiss to break through the agreements of the S. S. S. and to supply her with all the goods, cotton, rubber, oils, raw materials, and rare metals, of which she is in need. She has even threatened to stop the supply of coal unless she gets the supplies sent to the S. S. S.

A German Threat.
Such is briefly the position. Germany hopes to enforce her claim by the power of withholding coal. This is certainly a serious threat, for it would be very difficult to supply Switzerland from the Allied countries. Ten thousands tons a day means 1,000 wagons; coming and going from French collieries would mean 5,000 wagons, and France is short of rolling stock. British coal is out of the question so far as prices are concerned owing to the shortage of freight. German coal at Bale costs 37 francs a ton; British coal at Milan is 225 francs. On the other hand may be set the fact that Germany is pledged not to withhold the coal—and that by withholding it she would injure most the manufacturing, German-speaking part of Switzerland, and lose all sympathy of Switzerland. She might even bring Switzerland in against her.

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Swiss Neutrality Has Become a Grave Problem

All neutral countries have learned what it is to be neutral, says a correspondent of the New York Sun, but Switzerland's is a notably hard case. No State has felt the unforeseen difficulties which have confronted every neutral country more than Switzerland. An island in a stormy sea, entirely ringed around with belligerents and itself divided into German-speaking and French-speaking peoples, existing largely upon manufactures for which the raw materials and fuel must come from the Allies or from the Central Empires; dependent even for much of its food upon what imports; a neutral bulwark covering a frontier of France, Italy, Germany and Austria; a possible way through to an unscrupulous "Through Breaker" Switzerland has been beset with many anxieties.

Swiss Needs Both Belligerents

The more terrible of these have indeed waned, Switzerland has no longer to fear the fate of Belgium. Nor is she likely to be forced to abandon neutrality. Yet many problems of war remain acute to her, and not the least of these is her commercial situation. Swiss commerce and manufacture depend upon both belligerent parties. Before the war the bulk of her trade was with Germany, but this trade must not be estimated in tonnage alone, for the value of her trade with the Allies was about equal to that of her German trade. From Germany she imported metals, chemical manures, seeds, salts of potash, dyes, rennet for cheese-making, wood, sugar; from or through the Allied countries she got cocoa beans, cotton, rubber, silk and raw materials of all sorts. But the essential point is that from Germany came all the coal used in Switzerland, and from the Allied countries came the grain and cereals which were required to supply the deficiency of home-grown food.

"Black and White Bread."
So important are these two supplies called the "Black Bread" and the "White Bread" of Switzerland. When

war began Switzerland had the strongest interest in keeping on good terms with both sides. Her aim was that things should go on as they had done—and, like all neutral countries, she expected to share in the industrial activity and profits caused by war demands and prices. It soon became clear, however, that things would not go on as they had done. Germany, being short of supplies of raw material such as cotton and rubber, and of fats, set her agents to work in Swiss territory to buy all they could, whether wholesale or retail. Foodstuffs, too, were bought up greedily, and in a short space Switzerland found its industries and its people threatened with want, the former for lack of raw material, the latter from scarcity of food. The natural step was to legislate against these German forestallers and speculators, but they were difficult to trace and the legislation hard to enforce.

Tightening the Blockade.

The next step came with the determination of the Allies not to let raw materials which they could control go to Germany. Beginning with ordinary contraband, such as munitions and rubber, the list has grown to include cotton, fats, ores, metals, chemicals, foodstuffs, and so on. If these went to Switzerland unchecked Germany would assuredly buy them and so denude Switzerland. Switzerland would want more and Germany strip her again. Thus to check this goods were only allowed to go to Switzerland, under the pledge of the Societe de Surveillance, made up of manufacturers, that they were for home-use Swiss consumption, and that neither in raw nor manufactured state would they be re-exported, to the Central Empires. Germany, too, had set up a system similar to the S. S. S. before that body came into existence, but she had endeavored to keep this secret from the Allies. She, too, had stipulated that her raw material should not be used to help her enemy, and she had gone further and drawn

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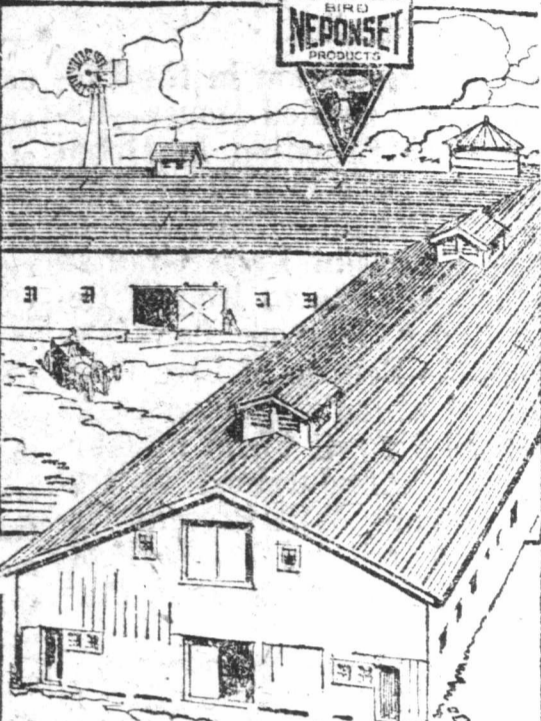
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