

Wherever his evidence could be tested by the evidence of independent persons—and I called about 10 witnesses for this purpose—he was proved to have committed perjury. In most cases he then admitted the perjury.

To induce him to give evidence at the trial, the German Government—though they had proof of his life-long criminal record, and of his perjury in this very case—made him one of their agents at a substantial salary. This perjurer and ex-criminal was bribed therefore to the extent of what is probably considerably over £1,000.

Class of witness employed by German Government in espionage cases.

The following is the record of this man, the only witness the German Government could bring against me:—

He had been three times in prison, and was a fugitive from Belgian justice. He had been convicted of falsification of accounts, of theft, of fraudulent bankruptcy, of robbery with violence, of forgery and of living on the immoral earnings of women. Besides that, I showed that he had been guilty, a short time before, of blackmailing Germans at Hamburg to the extent of £1,000.

This was the man on whose evidence the whole prosecution hung, but so little did the prosecution trust him that they begged me not to mention in his presence even the name of one of their officers. In any other country the exposure of such a career of crime would have brought all proceedings against me to a hurried finish, but the leading Counsel merely remarked that the records of all such witnesses were bad—eloquent testimony of the kind of evidence on which prisoners are convicted for political purposes.

German attempt to suppress Verrue's criminal record.

The Judge told me that when a witness is examined it was always customary to ask if he has been convicted. When Verrue was examined, the Judge never asked him this question; he said: he "forgot" to do so. It is only too evident that he knew something of this man's criminal record, and for fear of letting me know anything of it purposely refrained from asking him.

Refusal to prosecute a proved perjurer.

If a witness in Germany is convicted of perjury, he cannot give evidence on oath. There being only one witness against me, if he had been convicted, the case against me must have been dropped. I gave the clearest proof that this witness had committed perjury in the Preliminary Proceedings, and I called on the German Government to prosecute him for it. They absolutely refused.