

## Men Secured by the M. S. A.

**A** REPORT on the operations of the Military Service Act up to the end of March, prepared by the Military Service Council and presented to Parliament, contains this outstanding statement: "There can be no doubt that the men available in Class 1, except in the Province of Quebec, are at the point of exhaustion, and that if the stream of reinforcements for the troops overseas is to be maintained there is no alternative but to call out the other classes."

The report covers at considerable length the story of the organization and operation of the machinery of the act since the Council was appointed on September 3rd last. The net result up to March 30th had been that 31,295 men had been actually placed on duty, or 7.86 per cent. of the total registrations in Class 1. This 31,295 includes 11,059 men in Category A, who reported for service before the men of their class were actually called out, and of these 2,347 afterwards claimed exemptions. The net total of the men actually drafted, therefore, is apparently under 20,000 up to the end of March. And, notwithstanding this comparatively small number, the Military Service Council now declares that the only alternative to stopping the stream of reinforcements is to call out men of the other classes. It may be noted, however, that since this report was written other action has been taken by the Government.

Figures given as to the exemptions granted of significance, in view of the Government's decision to abolish all exemptions for Class A men between the ages of 20 and 23, inclusive. Of 372,769 cases disposed of by the exemption tribunals, 30,203 were granted temporary exemption, of whom 14,991 were given exemption later; 98,048 were exempted on the ground of farming and dairying; 1,936 on the ground of being mariners or fishermen; 4,171 as being railway employees; 1,632 as being civil servants, and 3,136 as being manufacturers. The total number exempted on the ground of employment was 137,419. The total number placed in medical Categories A, B, C, D, and E was 118,763, of whom 22,943 are B men. On the ground of religious belief there were 636 exemptions, and 3,493 were exempted under the provisions of the War-time Elections Act.

The report notes that in every Province, except Quebec, the appeals lodged from the decisions of the appeal tribunals by applicants for exemption considerably exceeded the number entered by the military representatives. The small number of appeals by the military authorities, outside of Quebec, is asserted to be an indication that the tribunals did not err on the side of leniency, a view which is emphatically confirmed by the fact that in every district the appeal tribunals allowed a majority, and in some cases a very large majority, of appeals by claimants for exemption, while everywhere but in Saskatchewan and British Columbia the majority of the appeals by the military representatives were rejected.

Dealing with the unsatisfactory results in the Province of Quebec, the report says that some of the judges did their utmost to assist in the disposition of appeals, and to give a fair and reasonable effect to the provisions of the act in regard to exemptions, "but in some other cases the smooth operation of the act has been much impaired by decisions for which there does not seem to be any adequate ground."

Statistics given as to appeals before the Central Appeal Tribunals up to March 30th show that up to that date the total number of appeals lodged was 7,735, of which 3,526 still awaited decision. Appeals by applicants for exemption dealt with by Mr. Justice Duff totalled 4,495. Of these 3,109 were dismissed, 105 were allowed exemption, and 881 allowed conditional exemption. Of 117 appeals by military representatives, Mr. Justice Duff has allowed 113 and disallowed only 1.

Comparative figures by districts as to the percentage of men who have been actually placed on duty compared with the total registration of Class 1, are illuminative. For London district the number of men secured up to March 30 was 2,583, or 8.59 per cent. of the registration; for Toronto district 7,351, or 11.91 per cent.; for Kingston district, 3,442, or 8.22 per cent.; for Montreal district, 2,698, or 3.92 per cent.; for Quebec district, 660, or 1.64 per cent.; for Halifax district, 1,732, or 5.90 per cent.; for St. John district, 1,507, or 8.94 per cent.; for Winnipeg district, 4,175, or 16.88 per cent.; for Vancouver district, 2,902, or 11.70 per cent.; for Regina district, 2,611, or 5.99 per cent.; for Calgary district, 1,634, or 5.73 per cent.

Is Illegal.

Illegal. All persons in the country are now showing cause why they should not be liable to the new law applies to 16 and 40. imposed

## WEIRD TEUTONIC PLOT

GERMAN-AMERICANS DID PLAN TO INVADE CANADA.

They Drilled Men Near Detroit During Early Months of War and Had Accumulated Large Supplies—Their Idea Was to Embroil Britain and United States, Declares American Secret Service Man.

**I**HAD also to prevent the hatching of conspiracies on the Canadian border, says C. P. Wilkins, an American secret service man who, under the pen name of C. P. Pilemas, is writing a series of articles for the New York Tribune on the German intrigues in the United States.

Frequent warnings came from trustworthy sources that the Germans were planning an attack on Canada, their idea being that German-armed battalions striking across the Detroit river and Welland Canal would embroil the United States with Britain. Another part of the plan was to bring United States Germans flocking to the assistance of the invaders and supply them with arms stored on the United States side. These massed Germans were then expected to strike at both John Bull and Uncle Sam.

It was not a mere dream! During the years 1914 and 1915 the Germans were very active from Detroit to Port Huron before my organization was established—smuggling at a terrible rate and getting ready. I sent agents to investigate—several times! I got a report from one set of agents, then sent another set over the ground and matched up reports. There was ample verification of the reported German smuggling and military preparations.

Although the Germans had planned and prepared big things to happen along the Detroit river, some of these plans were abortive, and others were frustrated by the activity of my agents. Undoubtedly they had meant business, and bloody business!

The topography was excellent for their purposes. The countryside for several miles back from the river was largely occupied by Germans—thrifty, prosperous farmers, who were outspoken in their allegiance to the Fatherland. They were amusingly suspicious of strangers, before whom they kept very mum; but among themselves they talked freely, with practically no attempt at concealment. Many sturdy Germans were brought into the district during the two years following the outbreak of war, and almost every farm had taken on some hands of the sort.

Owing to the large German population there were, of course, a number of societies, fraternal and social. The principal fraternal society was the "Arbeiter," formed a few months after the war started. It had over three thousand members, and they lived all the way from St. Clair to Algonac.

There was an abandoned building in Oakland, a little town adjoining St. Clair, and practically just across the creek from Marine City—an old salt shed that belonged to a man named Albert Kalschmidt, indicted in connection with a plot to blow up the Welland Canal. He was president of the Marine City Salt Co. and lived in Detroit. United States Government officers arrested him last April and took him before the commission at Port Huron on the charge of preparing a military invasion of Canada and for having dynamite stored in his house in Detroit. That is not all that is alleged against him, however. I mention his arrest here, although it occurred subsequent to the circumstances I am relating. He was a prominent man in the neighborhood, very pro-German, as his getting into trouble proved, and he spent a lot of money putting this shed into a good state of repair. His idea was to use it as a barracks, drill room and store place from which to send an expedition to Canada and to help invasion from Canada when the time was ripe, it was charged.

This shed was thirty feet wide by eighty feet long, very conspicuous by reason of the many repairs of new wood; it made a veritable beacon or guiding light for the boats travelling up and down the river.

It was in this shed that the Arbeiter were drilled. They were also drilled outdoors. They had neither arms nor uniforms—in sight—but they had a drillmaster. He had been sent to them by von Papen very shortly after the war started. He was the real German article, calculated to appeal to them sentimentally and martially. He was received by Kalschmidt with every mark of appreciation, given a position as book-keeper in the salt works and introduced to the pro-German leaders from Detroit to Port Huron.

In height about five feet eleven, weighing about 190 pounds, he bore himself very erect and had a most military air. In fact, he was a typical German officer, with the usual martial blond moustache and hair, and of hughty speech and bearing. His English was not fluent, but it was enough to serve a young fellow of thirty in such a pro-German community. His wife spoke no English at all.

The drilling of the Germans occasioned no surprise in the neighborhood. Following the outbreak of the war most of the businesses moved elsewhere, practically all except the salt business, in which the Germans were employed, so that there was

scarcely an unfriendly eye to watch them. The Irish, of whom there were many in the vicinity, with branches of the Clan-na-Gaels and other orders, one of which had about one hundred and fifty members, had not the least thought of interfering with them. In fact, the nationalities are shown in good accord by the local Church of the Holy Cross, a fine property, with school, rectory and convent for the twenty-two nuns who such in the school. Here the pastor, the Rev. C. J. Turner, is a German, but he has an Irish assistant.

It is evident that Germans selected the vicinity of the Detroit river as strategic long before the war. In the first place, it offers such easy access to Canada, and in the second, it is an environment of pleasure places, hotels and health resorts where meetings are natural and not calculated to attract attention. Towns on the American side have small counterparts across the stream, with invariably a ferry connecting the two, and with countless river liveries and boats plying the river. During 1914 and 1915 the river characters made a great deal of money out of the smuggling of the Germans.

In addition to the unattached smugglers, the Germans maintained a smuggling organization of their own, with Marine City for chief headquarters and Algonac, a summer resort near Detroit and a great Sunday meeting place for Germans, next in importance. From Detroit to Port Huron they maintained connections on both sides of the stream for contraband goods and contraband individuals. They got arms across practically unhindered by boats and auto trucks. Almost at the outbreak of the war they got an island on the St. Clair river, with a fleet of motor boats and accessories that had formerly been used for hunting and boating parties, under a two years' contract.

But the smuggling on a large scale came to an end with the closing of navigation in 1915. Since then there has been little of it carried on. While the game was easy it was both fast and furious, thoroughly organized and directed from Detroit. Port Huron was most active for a time with a small fleet of boats and crews directed by a German.

Speaking in a local sense, the exposure of the conspiracies in connection with the Irish rebellion interfered with the German plans and delayed them on both sides of the river. Then they developed something like nerves over the fear that my men were on their trail. Von Haling, the count, confided to "some one" that he was sure the invasion of Canada would be ordered not later than July 1, 1916. He was also sure the Kaiser would attack the capital, and that he, von Haling, would shortly be recalled to Baltimore.

Surprisingly few of the big German plans came to a climax without miscarriage. They had a way of starting off to a brass band and ending up with a cracked fiddle, thanks, I believe, to our course of nerve trying, persistent circulation in their secret places and our disclosures that often brought them to ridicule!

### A Veteran Printer.

Mr. H. Constable, who is perhaps the oldest working printer in Canada, celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday the other day in Woodstock. Mr. Constable still runs his printing business on Dundas street, Woodstock, being hale and hearty. He was born in London, England, in 1834, and came to Canada very early in life. It is said that he chopped cordwood at 25 cents a cord in order to earn money enough to supply himself with books to secure his education.

Mr. Constable found himself in Cleveland in 1863 working as a journeyman printer on the Cleveland Leader, alongside of Artemus Ward and Mark Twain. After some months he returned to St. Thomas, but being sent for returned to Cleveland early in 1864, the last year of the Civil War in the United States. Artemus Ward had then commenced his humorous writings in the columns of the Plaindealer of Cleveland, and on Mr. Constable's return to Cleveland he was requested by Ward to fill his place on that paper while he went on a lecture tour to California. Mr. Constable modestly claimed his inability to fill his place, but after much pressure accepted the situation.

On returning again to Canada Mr. Constable established the Ingersoll News in 1864. This paper had been run previously as the Ingersoll Plaindealer. In a fire which burned nearly all the business section of Ingersoll in 1873 Mr. Constable's printing plant was consumed, and he, too, was supposed to have perished in the flames, his obituary having been published in the London Prototype which afterwards became the London Free Press.

Mr. Constable left Ingersoll in 1875 for Ridgeway, where he established the Ridgeway Plaindealer, running it for a number of years. This newspaper he sold and went to Niagara Falls, where he established the Record. In Alexandria he established the first newspaper published there in the interests of the Reform party. Mr. Constable went to Brantford and established a job printing office there, which he conducted for ten years. He then went to Ayr, where he established the Ayr News and conducted that for some time. On leaving Ayr he went to Woodstock, where he has lived ever since.

### Paper Spoon.

Among sanitary appliances for public eating places is a spoon pressed from paper that can be thrown away after using.

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