

of Germany, and the possession of a list of these gave the Intelligence Department a decided advantage on the outbreak of war, for some twenty or so dangerous persons were very quickly placed under lock and key.

The secret agents of the Kaiser sent here as desperadoes to commit outrage were a horde which, at the time, could not be effectively grappled with. For that reason guards were set upon railways, waterworks, power-stations, and such like. The very fact that these guards are now withdrawn is, surely, silent evidence of the effective measures taken to combat Germany's evil machinations. Germany established a canker-worm in England's heart, but happily this has been, in a very great measure, crushed out.

Though so much excellent work has been done it is unfortunate that public opinion has been inflamed by the apathy of other departments of the State. For example, successive Home Secretaries have bungled very badly over the enemy alien question, and it was not before the people began to riot against the policy of apathy which was inviting disaster, and Lady Glanusk held her great woman's demonstration at the Mansion House, that the Cabinet could be brought to realize the great peril, so apparent on every side. The screaming farce of the ex-German Consul Ahlers caused universal anger. This German official, who had been solemnly condemned to death for traitorous acts, was not only reprieved, but allowed to hide his identity under an English name, and entertain his brother Huns in a snug abode in a London suburb. At the moment we had Germans in every walk of life, and in all our public services. Indeed, in the first eighteen months of war, with the thousand and one examples of Mr. McKenna's paternal leniency towards the enemy alien, of which the reader is too well acquainted by the comments of his daily papers, it seemed to the people as though the British

Government actually protected the Hun.

I happen to know full well that this feeling was, unfortunately, also growing among our Allies. As one who since 1906 had had something to do with secret service among Great Britain's enemies, I can assure those who read these lines that although our Intelligence Services, directed as they are by a nameless but most astute official, to whom the highest credit will be given when peace is proclaimed, have done their level best to combat the German in our midst, until some months ago they, however, unfortunately, did not receive such a hearty measure of support from the Home Department as might have been expected. Further, certain unfortunate Ministerial statements had been made in the House and in the press before the war, which were, in the light of subsequent events, proved to be not in accordance with fact. Hence the man-in-the-street believed himself misled—as he undoubtedly was.

In the first year of war he was as much misled by political juggling as he was by the Kaiser who, in that famous interview published on October 28, 1908, declared to us in those winning words: "My dearest wish is to live on the best terms with England. Have I ever been false to my word. Falsehood and prevarication are alien to my nature." Yet, at the same moment, England was swarming with his spies craftily endeavouring to plot our downfall! Indeed, the All-Highest One, when he went to the Guildhall to make a speech of friendliness, took his chief spy, Steinhauer, with him! Three months after the bursting of the war-cloud the Home Office sent a long and delightfully misinforming statement to the press in which we were gravely assured that "espionage has been made by statute a military offence triable by court-martial". As a matter of fact the laws relating to espionage had been settled by the Hague Convention years before!