

Long imprisonment without open trial.

One of the leading features in German judicial procedure is that a prisoner can be kept in prison for many months without any opportunity of his case being heard in open Court. The power which this law places in the hands of the Government leads to abuses which must be experienced before they can be fully realised.

In my case I was kept in a cell for six months before I was even brought to trial, notwithstanding the fact that I made repeated applications for early trial. There was no reason for delaying the hearing of my case for that time except the desire of the Government to hold it shortly before the introduction of their Navy Bill.

Had the preliminary proceedings in my case been held in open Court, the whole case must have come to an end in a very few days. Further than that, if there had been any prospect of public proceedings, it is extremely unlikely that I should ever have been arrested.

Refusal to allow a prisoner to communicate charges made against him.

For more than three months after my arrest my German lawyers, doubtless on the directions of their Government, refused to give my family particulars of the charges which were being made against me.

I too was absolutely forbidden by the authorities to mention any particulars of the case in my letters to my family. By these means the Government hoped to prevent the communication of facts to the Press which could be quoted in contradiction of the lies which they were circulating for their political ends.

Obtaining evidence by bribery.

I will quote the case of Verrue, the only witness against me, as showing the very large bribes which the German Government pay to obtain evidence.

This penniless ex-criminal was told by the German Intelligence Department that, if he could somehow bring about the arrest of an Englishman, he would receive a substantial reward.

To secure this reward and obtain actual board and lodging—for he was in debt even for these—he brought about my arrest. For this he was paid £50, soon to be followed by the further payment of several hundred of marks. I have since ascertained that while in Germany he received from an unknown source a further sum of £10 a week in Bank of England notes.