

Copies of this were mailed to Berlin to members of the Reichstag by the Vancouver editors, and the matter was brought up for discussion by that body. Alvo was game. He sued the local paper and secured judgment in a criminal action against the editors. But the fat was in the fire as far as his German clients were concerned.

**I**N the early part of 1914 the financier's creditors both in Europe and Canada were pressing him. He was tied up in such a mass of deals, counter deals and trades of property with Arnold and the Dominion Trust Company that an army of auditors has never as yet succeeded in untangling them. He owed over \$10,000 to one of Vancouver's chartered banks on some Victoria Island timber deals, which he had anticipated selling to the British Columbia Government for a park reserve. The Vancouver manager and a dozen of the staff were dismissed through their connection with this loan. The breaking out of war was the final straw, though it is doubtless that Alvensleben was notified in advance, as he was out of Canada on August 4th, 1914. Leaving Berlin two days before war broke out he went to New York. In an interview then given to a New

York paper he stated he could best serve his country and his clients by returning to the Pacific Coast. Perhaps the words were humorous irony on his part, as his arrest on August 9th, suspected of being implicated in a plot to steal the naval plans of the Puget Sound Navy Yard, of Bremerton, would lead one to suspect.

Since the outbreak of the war and until his arrest, on August 9th, Alvensleben has remained in Seattle and other American Pacific Coast cities, though wild rumours were afloat several times that he had visited Vancouver in disguise. After one of these reports appearing in the local papers, Alvensleben wrote a friend in Vancouver, saying: "You can tell the good people of Vancouver I have something better to do than visit their city in the disguise of a hindoo or any other of their numerous Allies.

Alvensleben's brother, Bodo, who was in charge of the Victoria Branch of the Alvensleben Canadian Finance and General Investment Company, left hurriedly a few days before the outbreak of war to join his unit. The wildest rumours were circulated as to the spying operations of the brothers. It was said that Bodo had been taken off a ship by a British man-of-war, and when searched had in his possession

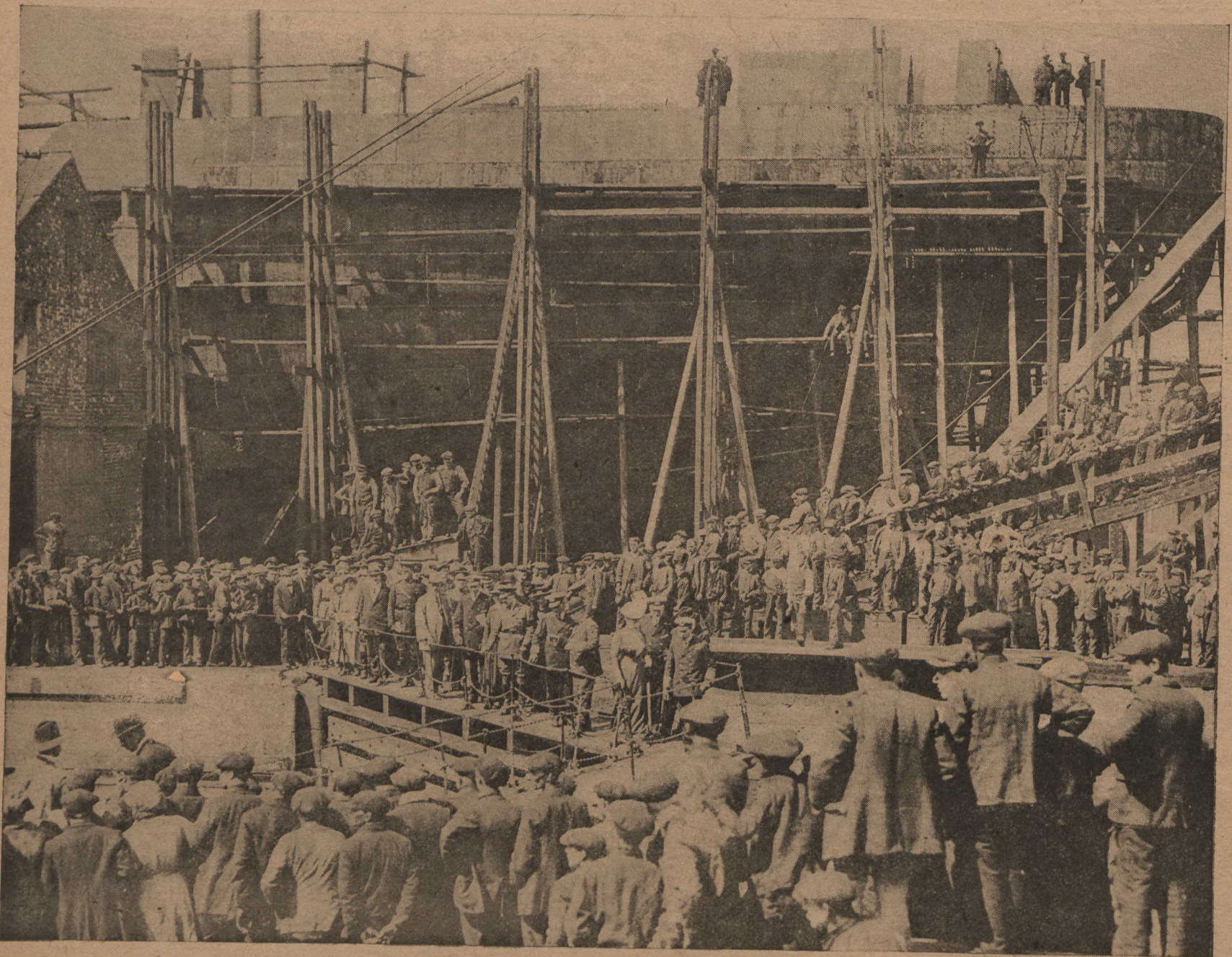
the plans of the Canadian navy yard at Esquimalt, and for this he was shot. Alvo denied the report, but whatever happened to his escaping brother, British censorship has never let out. Joachim von Alvensleben, an elder brother, well known from his various visits to Vancouver, was killed early in the war.

And now the third and most brilliant of the family has ended his most unique career by being arrested by United States Federal officers. From Portland he was taken to Seattle to be interned till the end of the war, and perhaps be even more severely dealt with should it be proven, as alleged, that he was a party to plots to obtain the naval plans of Bremerton, as well as forwarding German propaganda.

**I**N the years of his glory in British Columbia, Alvo von Alvensleben handled upwards of twenty million dollars, some of it the property of the most terrible crowned head of Europe and his ministers. His daring, gambler-financier, once salmon fisherman and poultry peddler, overturning of great corporations and wrecker of banks, has doubtless come to the end of his career; but of a man who has done so much, it is hard to say.

## THE WORKINGMAN AND THE KING

*In Celebration of Labor Day, September 3, 1917*



**L**ABOUR as much as Valour wins this war for the Allies. The way British labour buried its domestic troubles when they were as high as the smokestacks and took off its coat to win the war is one of the most inspiring events in democracy. The same patriotic sense should avail both Labour and Capital to work together for the country's good after the war is over.