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War Secrets May Never be Known.

Who Betrayed Kitchener? -- Who Was the British Agent, Princess--?

By John Light in The Star Weekly.

Practically every phase of the late war has been written and re-written over and over again, but in spite of the apparently limitless reams of war literature, very little important war news, beyond the official war communiqués, was allowed to pass the censor, who, seated at his desk at the United Service Institution in Whitehall, appeared to spend his time inventing methods of keeping the British people from knowing too much about the inner workings of that mighty machine that was gradually bringing the enemy to his knees. A mysterious veil of secrecy hung over the portals of Whitehall and even to this day there are within the pigeon holes of New Scotland Yard Intelligence Branch secret papers, which, if brought to the light of day, would open the eyes of many people who have read everything they could lay their hands on in connection with the war.

There must be many people who, in discussing the late war, ask if ever these secrets will be revealed. For instance, will the finding of the Hampshire enquiry ever be published and the mystery of the death of Kitchener be solved. In connection with the tragic death of that "organizer of victory" blame has been attached by many to the British Government, but those who are cognizant of the facts can never divulge them, for they have already paid the penalty for their treachery and they lived many miles from England. Again, will the identity of that remarkable woman, Princess P— who throughout the war lived in Berlin and did valuable work for the cause of the allies, ever be known? Instances such as these could be multiplied many times, but although the war is gradually passing into history it is doubtful if the public will ever know "the whole truth and nothing but the truth."

During the period of hostilities it was necessary to maintain this rule of secrecy in order that no information might trickle through the different channels of communication to the lines of the enemy. As most people are aware, during the war England was honey-combed with secret service agents, spies—many of them employed in Government offices under the very eyes of important officials who held the secrets of the State. The walls of the Tower of London are splashed with the blood of German agents and a few British traitors, though the names of only a few who paid the penalty for their daring have been given to the public.

Combating German Propaganda.

The following story is told of the death of the most brilliant and successful agent of Germany, who was shot in that gloomy castle on the banks of the Thames. As he was being led out to face the firing squad he passed Lord Athlumney, Provost-Marshal for the London district, whose duty it was to attend each execution, remarking as he did so: "I suppose you would not shake hands with a German spy?" "No," replied the P.M., as he extended his hand, "I will not shake hands with a German spy, but I will shake hands with a brave man." Hundreds of his kind suffered the same fate during the first two years of the war.

While it was necessary for the British authorities to keep silence when the publication of certain information would be of assistance to the enemy, it became evident that while the Germans were making every effort to defeat the allies on the battlefield, they were also spending enormous sums of money on propaganda in an attempt to defeat the allies in a moral sense and at the same time to impress upon the neutral countries, and specially the United States, that the aims of the Germanic alliance were the most unselfish and honorable and that Germany was fighting solely a war of defence. Then it became necessary for the British Government to break down the walls of mystery and silence. And Mr. Lloyd George instituted the Ministry of Information and placed at its head a Canadian, Lord Beaverbrook.

The allies ever since the commencement of the war possessed the entire control of the cables of the world. Not a line of German propaganda could ever cross the ocean by means of the cable, but the Huns had a powerful wireless system which could reach the Scandinavian countries, Russia, Holland, and other countries. Often German "news" was transmitted through their wireless stations to such vessels that might have eluded the British Navy, but there were only a few cases of this kind, as the German ships did not live long to be of any real value.

Publishing the Truth.

The work that the Propaganda Department of the British Government in liaison with similar departments in the allied countries, performed during the last two years of the war has never been properly known or understood by the people of the British Empire. The bullets and the guns destroyed the bodies of the enemy, but propaganda destroyed their spirits.

In order that every phase of the British endeavor might be brought to the Ministry played a varied part and was divided into numerous branches. Also the best brains were employed. Among those who gave their services were: Arnold Bennett, E. Phillips, Oppenheim, Major Belth (Ian Hay), Sir Anthony Hewlins (Anthony Hope), Hugh Walpole, Sir Hall Cain, E. Temple Thurston, Sir H. Newbolt, Lord Northcliffe, Ben Tillet, Rudyard Kipling, Louis Raemakers, and many others whose names are known throughout the world. A special section was devoted to making known in every country the remarkable progress and expansion made in British industries, especially those captured from the Germans, such as dyes, synthetic drugs, etc.

It is impossible in so short a space to describe the multitudinous duties and varied scope of the British Propaganda Department. It played a remarkable part in opening the eyes of neutral nations, it showed the peoples of the enemy countries that their cause must end in ultimate failure. It spread the prestige of the British arms through the world. It drew nearer together the allied countries and did much to bring the United States on the side of the allies. It nailed on the head the liars in the Wilhelmstrasse. It so worried the German high command that any German soldier found with a British propaganda leaflet in his possession was shot at sight, it depressed the spirits of the German people and raised the spirits of the British nation. In short, it did much to bring about victory to the allied arms.

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The bottle with a message thrown into the sea by Mr. Hawker off Cape Race, and just come to shore off Stavanger, has accomplished a voyage of 1,900 miles in six months, but is far from breaking the record in long-distance drifting, which still belongs to a bottle thrown into the sea off the Dorset (G.B.) coast in August, 1913, and picked up off New Zealand 11 months later. Another bottle, 1913, was washed up on the beach near Port Phillip, Australia, after thrown adrift in the Atlantic in April, travelling over 7,000 miles in five months. Capt. Simpson, who experimented with floating bottles for many years, found that about 10 per cent. of those he set adrift came to shore, some of them only after voyaging 10,000 miles or more.

A Foundling Becomes a King's Favorite.

To become the favorite of a King of England at first sight and during the singing of just one song, was the golden fortune of pretty Moll Davis. One day she was an unknown actress; the next morning she was the idol of London, and the King was out buying dazzling jewels for her, and making inquiries through his emissaries into the personality and abode of the singer who had captured his heart. It is recorded that Moll was found on the doorstep of the village smithy of Charlton on March 10, 1850, and was adopted by the smith. How she found her way to London is not exactly known. It is thought, however, that a stranger passing through the village and hearing Molly's sweet voice, lured her to London, and obtained an engagement for her on the stage. One thing is certain, Moll was a beautiful girl from Wiltshire when she burst upon London, and in a very few years found herself enjoying the intimate friendship of her King, with the entire town at her feet. The turn of Fortune's wheel came when she danced a jig and introduced a new song in a play adapted from Beaumont and Fletcher. This song made Moll Davis a favorite and Nell Gwynne jealous. The King was in the house, and was enthralled. Before the merry monarch left the theatre he had sent for Moll and given her substantial and unmistakable tokens of his favor, and later she went to Whitehall, and enjoyed the inmost confidence of his Majesty. Soon Moll came into contact with the King's old favorite, the Countess of Castlemaine, and the latter did all she could to bring disfavor on the beautiful actress. But Moll flaunted her hand in the lady's face, displaying the £700 ring which the King had given to her. Soon afterwards there

was a brilliant Court entertainment arranged, at which Moll was to sing and dance. The Countess thought her turn had come. As Moll began to sing before the Royal and courtly audience there was a profound rustling of silks. The Countess, with great ostentation, had arisen, and with much-to-do walked out of the room. The King merely laughed, and to show that the act of the Countess had not made any impression upon him a fashionable house in Haymarket was "decorated, furnished, and completed by the order of the King" for Moll, so that she would not be at so great a distance from the Court.

M. P.'s With Claws.

The recent debate in Parliament with regard to placing a small statue of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in the Lobby of the House of Commons at the expense of the nation reminds one that in many parts of the country there are queer stone effigies of well-known statesmen.

On the roof of Chester Cathedral, for instance, one of the ornamental water gutters consists of an effigy of Mr. Gladstone in the act of delivering one of his wonderful speeches.

On St. Giles' Church, Camberwell, there appears a gargoye of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain which certainly does not flatter him, and is very unlike the figure which will be erected in the House of Commons. Mr. Chamberlain, who was a native of Camberwell, is represented as a human-headed griffin, with claws on his feet. What makes the figure look all the more extraordinary is that it has the famous glass monocle of the well-known statesman in its eye!

On this church there are a number of gargoyes besides that of Mr. Chamberlain. There is one of Lord Salisbury, also represented as a griffin, on one side of him, and on the other is Mr. Balfour.



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