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HIGH TREASON.

Prosecutions for this offence have been few for many years, but if speeches that have been made recently in England, Ireland and Canada had been made there a century or two ago, or made in Germany at the present time, there would not have been wigs on the green but heads in baskets. Sir Roger Casement's case, however, is the only one which has developed into a trial and conviction.

The offence was openly committed, the evidence was complete and the verdict was the only possible one under the circumstances. A semi-political explanation was put forward by Sergeant Sullivan and by the prisoner with much eloquence and ability, but the damning fact could not be got over that the prisoner was living in Germany as a free man assisted by citizens of that country, and apparently by those in authority, nor was the fact of his having a German secret code on his person explained or explainable on any theory of innocence.

The defence was raised that adhering to the King's enemies without the realm was not an offence within the statute of 25 Edw. III., which enacts that "If a man do levy war against our lord the King in his realm or be adherent to the King's enemies in his realm giving to them aid and comfort in the realm or elsewhere," he shall be guilty of treason.

The ruling of the Court was to the effect that the words "or elsewhere" apply equally to "adhering" and "aiding and comforting," the statute though of ancient date was declaratory of the common law, and, as the *Law Times* says: "It is abundantly clear that a man adhering to the King's enemies without the realm commits the crime of treason at common law. This view has been