

VON BERNSTORFF SLICKEST AND MOST POLISHED OF CRIMINALS

Wm. J. Flynn, of U. S. Secret Service, Bares Some Workings of German Spy System in the United States — Some of Minor Attaches Spied as Waiters at Dinners on Unsuspecting U. S. Cabinet Ministers — Lieut. Faye Another Clever One.

William J. Flynn, who has retired from the leadership of the United States Secret Service in California, and talked recently to the Los Angeles Times, about some things which it is now safe to talk about. His name is pregnant with romance of international intrigue, halcyon, thrilling adventures with desperate counterfeiter and the matching of wits with the keenest brains of the underworld.

Flynn has resigned from the service; he has had no official connection with the U. S. Government since the first of this year, though he is about to re-establish one, but his services to the United States were never bigger or of more value than to-day. If, as a stranger, you ask what brings him to the Pacific Coast, he will tell you that he was simply paying a visit to his son, Ensign W. W. Flynn, of the United States navy, now stationed at San Francisco. But if you are in his confidence he might tell you of some of the things that he has accomplished since his "retirement," particularly since his departure from New York a few weeks ago.

Foe of German Spies
Probably no one in the entire country is better versed in the workings and ramifications of the German espionage system than he and to him is given the credit for gathering together the convincing evidence which resulted in the virtual expulsion of Dr. Dernburg and Count von Bernstorff.

He it was who ferreted out and disclosed the activities of Lieutenant Robert Faye, convicted German reservist, who, while posing as an Englishman, gained the confidence of the society leaders and financial heads of New York City, and was discovered while about to fasten the most diabolical internal machine which has ever come under the observation of the explosive squad of the New York Police Department to the rudder of a trans-atlantic liner.

The operations of Wolf von Irel, German agent who fought the agents of the Department of Justice when they placed him under arrest in his Wall Street office, claiming that it was inviolate as being a part of the German Embassy, was another of the famous cases in which Mr. Flynn played a leading part.

After the French Government had furnished the United States with proof of Bolo Pasha's activities, while in the United States, Mr. Flynn followed up the threads and linked together the seeming unrelationship of various mysterious occurrences which enabled the U. S. Government to send to France concrete evidence of France's capital traitor and which later caused him to face a firing squad of French soldiers.

Anything like a complete account of the experiences with German agents which has been crammed into the career of Mr. Flynn himself would fill a book. He is himself a storehouse of information on the subject. He received an offer from a publishing house in New York City of \$18,000 to write a story of German intrigue in the United States, but turned it down.

Typical Detective
Mr. Flynn personifies the fictional detective. Heavy of jaw, but not obese; of massive frame, with a large, round head set on a pair of Frank Goych shoulders, Mr. Flynn looks you in the eye and immediately you begin to take a mental inventory of your past life. Yet when he laughs, his face lights up and you readily see the humor of Irish parentage in his eyes.

Twenty-one years in the United States Secret Service, observing the seamstress side of life as perhaps no one else has ever done, has not caused him to become soured or a disbeliever in the good of the average man. Neither has it caused him to lose his interest in the ordinary everyday pleasures of life.

Of his experience in the tracing of German propaganda in the United States he is willing to give details of anything that had already been divulged by the Government, but that he could not mention anything that was now being done to offset and round up people suspected of pro-German sentiments.

Fake German Bazaars
"To begin with, I want to mention something which few people know about—the many bazaars which were organized for entering the war, in the name of the 'German Red Cross,' he said.

"We know absolutely that not a single penny of this money, which amounted to several million dollars, was ever sent to Germany to relieve the sufferings of wounded German soldiers. Every cent was turned over to Count von Bernstorff, and instead of remitting it to Germany, he used it to further German propaganda against the Allies in this country. While he was enjoying the hospitality and benefits of the United States he was doing all he could to incriminate us by means which ranged from subtle conversations by his male and female henchmen to blowing up munitions plants by his dynamite."

"Everybody connected with the bazaars is now under surveillance of the Intelligence Bureau of this Government. When I left Washington I had a list of 15,000 names of people which were classified into three divisions in the order of their dangerousness. Every one of these will have to convince this Government that they are not innocently or actively still engaged in the furthering of the German espionage system."

As to Bernstorff
"Bernstorff was the slickest individual we ever had to deal with. His titled name and polished manner, fluent, suave appearance, deceived hundreds of people in Washington, but no one has ever come under my observation who is a worse criminal, absolutely devoid of ordinary humane ideas."

"He had an unlimited drawing account from his government, and the extent and ramifications of the spy system he built up will probably never be known. He had at his beck and call many titled men and women in Washington, who innocently assisted him, and it is a known fact that several minor attaches of his embassy served as waiters at several dinners given by our Cabinet officers. What they learned at these dinners did us untold harm. This occupation of waiting on the public is one of the most fruitful lines which the German spy system has at its disposal. "Any occupation which brings strangers under the observation of public servants such as waiters and hotel help, is full of the guests of Wilhelmstrasse. There are 16,000 waiters in this country who belong to an organization with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and which is a part and parcel of the Kaiser's spy system. Try it out yourself. When you are being waited on in some first-class hotel by a man who you think is a German, start an argument about the war. Mention a few flippant facts about the moving troops or something and see if this man will separate himself from your table. He won't, you can bet your life on that."

Next to von Bernstorff, Mr. Flynn said the most dangerous individual he had to deal with was Lieutenant Robert Faye, who was convicted of attempts to blow up trans-atlantic shipping, but escaped from the Federal prison at Atlanta by a clever ruse.

How Faye Worked
"Faye came to this country on a forged passport from England. He posed as a wounded officer, and was received in the best circles in New York City. Through Bernstorff he was given introductions to people who held Allied munitions contracts and were members of firms who were shipping goods to Europe. There is no doubt but what he secured considerable information without arousing suspicion. He later went to Hoboken and rented a garage, which he used as a ruse to hide his real intentions. Faye was an expert on explosives, and had contrived an idea whereby an infernal machine could be fastened to the rudder of a ship. The turning of the rudder while the ship was at sea would wind up the mechanism until it set off a percussion cap. This machine contained what is commonly called TNE (trinitrotoluol), the most powerful explosive known. It was through his purchase of this explosive that he was found out. He had a friend to whom he confided his scheme. This friend knew a man in New York with a German name who handled this explosive, and Faye was introduced to him. To show that all men with German names are not agents of the Kaiser, this man immediately renounced the purchase to us. We followed up the lead and found Faye in his New Jersey garage, with several of these infernal machines ready to be fixed to some ships then lying in New York Harbor."

Ninety pounds of this stuff set off 100 feet from a battleship would blow it to smithereens. What would it have done to a thin-shelled ocean liner?
"Faye was convicted and sent to Atlanta prison. He escaped through a clever ruse. He was known to be an expert electrician. He forged the name of a warder to a pass, and, carrying a few tools, he simply walked out. We traced him to Mexico and know that he is now in that country. Mexico is the haven

of hundreds of people badly wanted by this Government."

Mr. Flynn showed how the German Government had attempted to use the U. S. Government as a cat's paw before it declared war on the Central Powers. He classified their workings into six groups.

They first started by circulating seemingly harmless literature setting forth the honesty of the German cause," he said. "Failing in this, they attempted to purchase legislation. In regard to this plan I want to say that the recent exposure of an attempt to bribe Congress with German money is mostly hot air. They would have tried it if they thought they could have got away with it, but it was too big a job."

MODIFY FISHING LAWS.
By Courier Leased Wire.
Washington, D.C., May 2.—To increase the output of fish caught in American waters, the food administration today announced regulations abrogating or modifying restrictive salt water fishing laws. The regulations apply to the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the Gulf of Mexico and Hawaii and Porto Rico and they provide that all salt water fish which can be marketed otherwise than at an actual loss to the fishermen must be available for human consumption.

While licensed fishermen will be required to comply with all State laws which do not conflict with the federal regulations, most of the broad local restrictions will be lifted, the food administration announced.

PURSE SEINES AND PRACTICALLY every other form of producing gear may be used without restriction throughout the year and without regard to closed seasons. The ban is also lifted on night fishing and torch fishing.

PAPER WORKERS STRIKE.
By Courier Leased Wire.
Waterbury, N.Y., May 2.—About 2,000 employees of plants in this city of the International Paper Company, the De Grasse Paper Company and the St. Regis Paper Company walked out yesterday to enforce demands for higher wages. Representatives of the companies declare they disregarded an agreement reached at Washington Tuesday between the executives of the Sixth Paper Manufacturers Association and the Federal Trade Commission that they should remain at work under the old scale of wages until July 1.

BLAZE ABOARD STEAMER.
By Courier Leased Wire.
An Atlantic Post, May 2.—Two men lost their lives and another is in a serious condition at a hospital as the result of a fire aboard the Bay steamer New Shoreham at the pier here today. Nine others on board escaped or were rescued.

SHAH BUYS BONDS.
By Courier Leased Wire.
Washington, May 2.—The Shah of Persia has applied for \$100,000 of Liberty bonds. The request reached the State Department to-day from Minister Caldwell at Teheran.



More New Footwear

For the past month we have been picturing in this space some of the leading shoe styles.

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FARMERS PROTEST.
By Courier Leased Wire.
Stratford, Ont., May 2.—Upwards of five hundred farmers from all parts of Perth county stormed a county council meeting this morning presenting a petition asking the council to protest against taking farmers' sons under the new order-in-council. A number of citizens were in the crowd and lively exchanges took place between them and the farmers. Some farmers urged exemption until after the harvest and others total exemption. The council will take some action along the line asked but the form of resolution will be decided on at the afternoon session.

PROPAGANDA PICTURES.
By Courier Leased Wire.
Ottawa, May 2.—A selection of the pictures prepared by Sir George E. Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, for publicity propaganda in the British Empire and the United States, were screened at the Regent Theatre yesterday before the cabinet ministers, members of the Senate and House of Commons.

LUMBER MILL BURNED.
By Courier Leased Wire.
North Tonawanda, N.Y., May 2.—W. G. Palmer and Company's lumber mill, employed exclusively for more than a year in making ammunition boxes, burned to-day. There were indications of incendiaryism, the police said. The loss is estimated at \$75,000.

CANNOT PROHIBIT EXPORTS.
By Courier Leased Wire.
London, May 2.—The interim report of the committee on trade after the war, of which Baron Balfour of Burleigh is chairman, says: "Any general prohibition of ex-

ports to present enemy countries after the war would be impracticable and inexpedient."

TAXES BOOM BONDS.
By Courier Leased Wire.
Montreal, May 2.—The chief effect of the budget announcements regarding new taxation as noted in the street was some increased inquiry for victory bonds. As the meaning of the heavily increased scale of taxation on large incomes sinks in it is expected that something approaching a boom will develop in the victories and the unconverted bonds of the earlier war loans, because of their entire exemption from all federal taxation.

TWO AIRMEN KILLED.
By Courier Leased Wire.
Port Worth, Texas, May 2.—Falling 150 feet in a straight nose drive this morning, Lieut. James S. Ennis, Jr., of New York City and Cadet Paul Herriott of Oakland, Cal., were killed. The accident happened at Hicks, just an hour before General Greble and staff of Camp Bowie arrived to witness some "stunt" flying.

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