

# ANOTHER GREEK ISLAND OCCUPIED BY FRENCH

## ALLEGED PLOT AGAINST CANADA BY GERMANS IN THE UNITED STATES

New York Herald gives sensational story of conspiracy, chief object of which was blowing up of Welland Canal.

(New York Herald)

Feb. 7. Canadian Secret Service agents at work in New York unearthing a German plot to invade Canada, reported these findings to their government yesterday.

That two hundred thousand Mauser rifles had been secretly purchased by German agents and were being shipped to points along the Canadian border.

That scores of German officers recently have arrived in the United States in the guise of Belgian refugees and from neutral ports of Europe, with the object of heading an armed force for the invasion of Canada.

That the principal object of this secret movement is the destruction of the Welland Canal and crippling the shipment of \$600,000,000 of Canadian wheat to the Allies.

That one-third of the output of American munition plants has been purchased by German agents masquerading as agents for the allied governments, and that these war supplies, the greater part composed of rifles, are stored secretly.

That the destruction of the Canadian Parliament building at Ottawa last week and the attempted destruction of a munition plant in the same city on February 5 were the work of German sympathizers.

Existence of a German plot to invade Canada to destroy the Welland Canal in order to prevent the shipment of wheat to the Allies has been uncovered by detectives of the Canadian Secret Service.

Other facts revealed by a secret investigation which has been carried on for weeks in this city and in Connecticut include the amazing development that approximately two hundred thousand rifles have been purchased by German agents here and that these weapons are being sent by stealth to the northern border for use when the time comes to strike the blow against Canada.

It also has developed that during the last six months scores of Belgian German army officers have come to this country in the guise of Belgian refugees and Scandinavians, and that they organized secretly large companies of Germans with the avowed purpose of making a raid upon the Welland Canal. It is said by Secret Service agents of Canada that many thousands of men have been enrolled.

German Get Allies' Munitions. Another important development is the statement of a man conversant with the situation that nearly one-third of the munition content of the United States has been purchased by the Allies with American manufacturers actually have been let to Germans under assumed names, and that the munitions have been stored away in places not yet discovered by Canadian Secret Service agents. The munitions, consisting of shells, shrapnel and immense stores of rifles, it is said, have been paid for with money deposited in various banks in this city by well known agents of the German government.

That the raid of this army of Germans was designed to be carried out within the next two months was the statement made by one Canadian authority last night. According to the director of a leading munition plant, whose name cannot be disclosed at this time, not a single rifle contracted for by the Allies in 1915 was shipped to Europe prior to last November. What became of these rifles the Canadian authorities are bending their best efforts to learn, but thus far, it was admitted last night, every effort to get reliable information has met with failure.

Letters conveying this information sent to General Sir Sam Hughes, the Canadian War Secretary, and to Colonel Percy Sherwood, Chief of the Canadian Secret Service in Ottawa, within the last three or four days prompted these officials to take extraordinary measures to meet the emergency. Extra guards fully armed have been sent to the Welland Canal and every foot of the canal is patrolled day and night. Meanwhile Secret Service agents and deputies are guarding the border line and every newcomer is watched.

Canal Long an Objective. That German agents in this country long have had designs upon the Welland Canal was manifested on December 15 last, when Paul Koenig, chief secret service representative of the Hamburg-American Steamship line, and Richard E. Leyendecker, of New York, were arrested on an accusation of spying and attempting to blow up the canal.

The arrests were made upon affidavits by William M. Otley, Chief of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice in this city, following a searching investigation.

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Officials Unearth Plot. Hugh Sutherland, a prominent citizen of Winnipeg, Canada, and for ten years a member of the Canadian Parliament, who is in New York on business connected with large railroad enterprises when seen at the Vanderbilt Hotel by a Herald reporter, admitted last night that he had been informed by high officials of the Canadian government that a plot of armed Germans to invade Canada in the near future unquestionably existed in the United States.

"The principal purpose of this propaganda," said Mr. Sutherland, "is to destroy the Welland Canal and thereby hamper the shipment of wheat to England there can be little doubt. It is well known that the railroad lines are clogged with freight destined for shipment abroad and that the Canadian railroads are placing an embargo on further shipments unless the congestion is cleared. There is approximately \$600,000,000 worth of wheat awaiting shipment, and if this is to be moved expeditiously the Welland Canal is absolutely essential."

"The destruction of the canal would be a great strategic move and it is believed that many Germans in this country, sympathizers of Emperor William, regardless of nationality, are now anxious that this waterway be destroyed. That there is a combined movement to this end is evidenced by the facts developed subsequent to the arrest of Paul Koenig and Richard E. Leyendecker in this city."

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Rifles Stored Secretly. The agents here of a manufacturing concern which is supplying large quantities of munitions to the Allies say more than thirty per cent. of the output of the concern has been delivered in this city for months, but no part of it had as yet been shipped to England or France. The boxes of munitions were called for at the freight stations and carted away to secret storage houses.

"There is no doubt that large quantities of arms and ammunition have been purchased here by the German government through its secret agents," said this informant, "and that they will be ready for use when needed. These contracts were presumably made with authorized agents of the Allies, and evidence shows that fictitious names were employed in order to divert suspicion. Checks drawn upon large German banks throughout the country pointed to the conclusion that certain men who were supposed to be acting for the Allies were in fact acting in the interests of the German government. As none of these munitions have been shipped to Germany it would be interesting to know where these war supplies are now located."

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Manhattan hotels, where prominent Canadians make their headquarters when in the city, disclosed that few, if any, were in ignorance of the facts recently disclosed. A detective who is co-operating with the Canadian Secret Service agents said that evidence had been found to show that approximately two hundred thousand Mauser rifles had been secretly purchased by German agents here and that most of these weapons had been sent under misleading bills of lading to points in the upper part of the State and at other places along the Canadian border.

According to the same authority the facts have been made known to the United States Secret Service and to the British, French and Canadian authorities resident in this city, to the end that all are combining their efforts not only to prevent the consummation of the objects of the conspiracy but to bring about the arrest of the leaders. In German circles the statements as made were declared to be without foundation, and it was generally denied that the burning of the Parliament building and the fire in the munition plant in Ottawa last week were the work of Germans.

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## LOOKING AFTER HER SOLDIERS

Question of providing for returned heroes discussed in the House of Commons

(Continued from page 1)

(Canadian Press)

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Mr. W. S. Middlebrooke of North Grey moved a resolution declaring that the future appointments to the civil service preference should be given to properly qualified candidates who had served in the Canadian expeditionary forces during the present war. "We have arrived here and the evacuation of Albania will have been completed."

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