

TRAPPING SPIES BY MEANS OF TRIVIAL DETAILS

Some of the Means Used to Track Enemy Aliens During the War—Libraries, Banks and Schools All Played Parts.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)
In the good old days and in a pioneer state of civilization a murderer or thief after committing his crime would disappear in the woods and easily lose himself. He was self-sustaining. His weapons and skill would provide him with food on his long tramps, and if he could keep out of sight for a few days his chance of going scot free was excellent. But as civilization has developed it is by no means possible for a man to live quite to himself, and while modern improvements and devices have to some extent assisted criminals, they have even more greatly assisted those whose business it is to frustrate or pursue them. This generation will not soon forget that one of the most thrilling uses to which the newly-invented Marconi system was put was to cause the arrest of Dr. Crippen, who had fled from England. Fred C. Kelly, who has been writing for the New York Tribune a series of articles upon the machinations of German spies in the United States, cites some interesting cases showing how the trivial incidents of daily life in the Twentieth Century betrayed criminals and plotting enemies.

Caught by Libraries.
The public libraries of large cities proved an admirable net early in the war. If it was observed that a reader asked for books dealing with the subject of radio telegraphy or explosives, a note was made of the fact, and if this curiosity remained unslacked and was allied to a foreign accent, the matter was communicated to the police. The reader would wait upon the student and he would be asked to explain his interest in such matters. Failing to do so he would be interned. Several German-Americans were put in internment camps because of their intense desire to read everything ever written to prove the righteousness of the German cause. Several others, who had taken to cover when the officers were on their tracks and could not resist the temptation of whiling away the long hours in the public libraries where they could read their favorite authors, were caught by scouts, who were aware of their reading habits. Others were caught by tracing their children from one school to another. In the days of Jesse James, neither public libraries nor public schools betrayed the man for whom the authorities were looking.

Chauffeurs and Waiters.
While the automobile has been made use of by criminals on thousands of occasions, and has enabled them to commit the boldest of murders and robberies and escape more than once, it has resulted in their downfall. One night soon after the United States had entered the war, a good American citizen was walking the floor struggling with asthma. He noticed an automobile from which two men alighted and moved off mysteriously. Three hours later the car was still there, and as the spot was near a munitions plant, he thought well to advise the police. He was able to give them his impression of the color of the car, which corresponded with that used by a large taxicab company. The police investigated, found a car which had remained for three hours waiting for passengers, and from the chauffeur learned the hotel where he had picked up his fares. By a waiter they were later identified, and eventually placed under arrest. No chauffeur or waiter ever bothered Dick Turpin. Perhaps he was too good a tipper.

The Money Power.
The modern system of cheques and drafts has also led to the downfall of enemies of the state. Money is a vital item, and the German agent could not move far without it. But ordinarily he would not carry a great sum on his person. Perhaps he had to vanish so quickly that he did not have time adequately to equip himself. In his case he would have to land in a strange city and get a friend to cash cheques for him. The banks throughout the war co-operated heartily with the police, and any disturbance of a suspected man's bank account would at once put the police on his trail. Other German agents were detected from the fact that they were able to spend more money than their salaries warranted; and others because they were making bank deposits and investments out of proportion to their known earnings. Another flypaper for the Kaiser's agents proved to be the hotel registers of the country. There is not only a particular German way of forming letters, as Sherlock Holmes pointed out in "A Study in Scarlet," but there are constant idiosyncracies of penmanship by the use of concealed names. Robin Hood, say we, was never troubled by hotel registers.

Tipping and the Weather.
There is a case where a German spy was caught because of his failure to tip the baggage man who had to grapple with a particularly heavy trunk. There is another case, cited in the interest of frugality, of a German agent being caught because his tip was too meagre. Another was able to dispose of a trunkful of incriminating documents in a storage warehouse, where it was safely hidden, but he did not like to throw away the receipt in view of the imminent arrival of the German fleet in New York harbor. This settled him. Several were interned because of their failure to remember what sort of weather it was on a certain night. When questioned about their movements they answered well, but made the mistake of reporting long motor rides over roads that were made impassable because of storms. One obnoxious German agent was picked up after he had been in hiding for some time because he could not resist the lure of a certain movie star. Captain Kidd came to no bad end because of the movies. We'll say he didn't.

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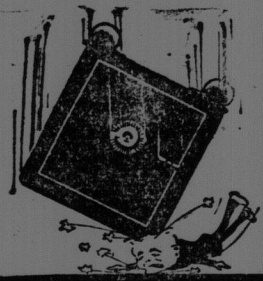
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Manslaughter in Second Degree
Cutting corns with a razor is dangerous and useless. The only remedy is Putnam's Corn Extractor, which removes corns and warts in one day. Because painless and safe, use only "Putnam's," 25c. per bottle at all dealers.

LOCAL NEWS

Judgment was given in two cases in the police court yesterday afternoon. Steve Prekovicich was fined \$50 for having liquor in his possession in the Asia Hotel and the case against a North End Chinaman was ended by his paying a fine of \$20 for attacking a woman.

A business meeting of the ladies' auxiliary of the Church of England was held in the institute yesterday afternoon with Mrs. Golding presiding. Arrangements were made for the luncheon which the auxiliary will give to the delegates to the annual meeting of National Council of Women.

the summer months, and a full explanation of the aims of the I.O.D.E. war memorial was read.

Rev. M. Legate, of Knox church, gave his popular illustrated lecture on Fiji and the Fijians, in St. Matthew's school room last night. There was a large audience and much appreciation of the interesting lecture and the fine pictures was evidenced. Mr. Legate was cordially thanked for his splendid address.

A business meeting of the executive of the ladies' auxiliary of the Natural History Society was held in the society rooms yesterday afternoon with the president, Mrs. John A. McAvity, in the chair. Business of importance to the society was discussed and final arrangements were made for holding the annual convention.

A get-together dinner of the heads of departments, wholesale force and travelers, of Waterbury & Rising, Ltd., was held last evening in the Union Club. E. L. Rising, president of the company, presided, and following the disposal of the good things, several interesting speeches were made and discussion took

place on subjects of interest to the shoe trade.

A large gathering greatly enjoyed the entertainment given in the Ludlow street Baptist church last night when, under the direction of William McIntosh, his Sunday school class of the Portland Methodist church, presented the "Evening With the Indians of New Brunswick." The programme consisted of descriptive readings by Mr. McIntosh and some very fine tableaux in which the members of the class appeared in Indian costumes.

OCEAN PASSENGERS ROBBED OF JEWELRY
New York, May 12.—The loss of jewelry, estimated to be worth \$40,000, while the Red Star steamer Finland was coming here from Antwerp was reported when the ship docked, one of the chief sufferers, it was said, being Robert Peel, a grandson of Sir Robert Peel, once prime minister of England. On Friday night a \$8,000 diamond brooch belonging to Mrs. Peel disappeared, as did various other valuables belonging to other passengers. The mystery was not unraveled, despite a careful search.

Edmonton, Alta., May 12.—The Athabasca by-election to the Alberta legisla-

ture will take place on June 3, with nominations on May 19.

RECRUITS WANTED

3rd N. B. HEAVY BRIGADE, C. G. A.

Mounted clothing is being issued, Riding Breeches, Bandoliers and Cavalry Cloaks.

DRILL NIGHTS

15th. Heavy Battery Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. in the Armouries.
6th. Siege Battery Mondays and Thursdays in the Armouries.
4th. Siege Battery Mondays and Wednesdays in West End Drill Hall, Winslow Street, West End.
E. M. SLADER,
Captain and Adjutant,
3rd N. B. Heavy Brigade, C.G.A.