

Germany Has the Most Perfect System In the World.

In view of reported cases of German espionage in Canada, and of the excitement produced in various centres throughout the Dominion by the movements of supposed spies, it is interesting to know something of the scale upon which the German system of espionage is known to be organized in the theatre of war of Europe, which is of course the very heart centre of the system.

At the start it is well to recall the fact that the excellence of the German intelligence system, which contributed so powerfully towards the German success in the Franco-German war of 1870, was the result of an elaborate spy system, carefully organized within the borders of France during peace times.

After the conclusion of the 1866 campaign against Austria, Stieber, Minister of Police in Prussia, who was to Bismarck and Von Moltke, what Fouché was to Napoleon, was sent on a secret mission to France. His aim and object was the organization within the boundaries of France, of a spy system preparatory to the pending war. Stieber, in all, between 1866 and 1869, made four journeys through the length and breadth of France, by the end of which time, aided by very able assistants, he accomplished far-reaching results.

A peculiar feature of the system instituted by Stieber at that time, and still maintained, were the "fixed posts." The ordinary idea of a spy is one who is sent to travel in a foreign country in some disguise, and who returns to his own country with information thus acquired. But this traveling spy suffers very great disadvantages. Like every traveler in a foreign country, without any reason for being there, he is the object of suspicion. He has no time to get thoroughly into touch with useful channels of information.

The spy on the "fixed post" is on an entirely different footing. He attracts no attention, since he lives as an inhabitant of the place he is in, and, moreover, plies some trade, which gives him a very good reason for being there.

In 1890 Stieber, still at that date Minister of Police in Germany, was sent through France and subsequently established a branch of the German Secret Police to deal with "political actions." This term, it was explained, included the destruction of the strategical railways in France on the outbreak of war, so that the French mobilization might be retarded. But this part of the scheme miscarried, thanks to the vigilance of the French intelligence agents.

How perfect a spy system has been introduced by the Germans into Canada is ~~not~~ stated, but it is known that there have been German spies in Canada within the past five years, and that some of them have been identified and tracked by the military and police authorities.

Owing to the military censorship imposed upon the cable and wireless telegraph services, it is difficult for the German agents in Canada to get their reports across the Atlantic Ocean promptly; but in the absence of a censorship over the land wires and mails, communication of a sort is open through to neutral countries.