

HOLDING SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER AT PORTAGE

Portage la Prairie, Man., Dec. 11.—The police authorities here are holding on a charge of vagrancy a German by the name of John Shafer, alias John Bargot, awaiting instructions from the military authorities at Winnipeg as to what disposition shall be made of him. The man was picked up by the police on November 27 as a suspicious character and held on a vagrancy charge. When arrested he gave his name as John Bargot, stating that he was an Austrian bound from Brandon to Winnipeg looking for work. Chief McIntyre was suspicious, and finally got the man to admit that his real name is John Shafer and that he is a German reservist. He also admitted that he was trying to reach Chicago. When asked how he expected to get across the line, he stated that it would be an easy matter by going to Rainy River. From this the police were satisfied that he knew the lay of the land, and from his admissions felt warranted in holding him and notifying the authorities.

Although the man has been held here two weeks, no word has yet been

received as to what shall be done with him. The Portage police have kept their eyes open, and while they have been suspicious of several persons, the case referred to is the only one in which they have made any arrest. They expect to hear from Winnipeg at any time as to what to do with the man Shafer.