

PAUL MAZUR TRIED ON HIGH TREASON CHARGE

Accused Austrian Was Former
Member of the Cobourg
Heavy Battery.

CONSPIRACY ALSO

Crown Prosecutor Impresses the
Jury With Seriousness of
Crime in War-Time.

Paul Mazur, an Austrian, lately member of the Cobourg Heavy Battery and of the 46th Port Hope Regiment, was placed on his trial in the Criminal Assizes, before Chief Justice Sir William Mulock, on charges of high treason and conspiracy to commit high treason. This is the first high treason trial that has taken place in Toronto for seventy-five years.

"There is a mistaken idea with some people that this sort of thing in modern times can be dealt with very lightly, and that the matter is more or less a trifling offence," said Mr. E. E. A. DuVernet to the jury. "That is a very serious mistake, gentlemen. We are here to administer the law as the law stands, and if the law is broken we must say so. There can be no two opinions about this war with us: we are either for our country or against it. There is no middle course possible. And when the law says there shall be no trading or aiding or assisting the enemy, it is our duty to see that the law is obeyed. Every German or Austrian that we allow out of this country goes to swell the ranks of the enemy. That's why it is a serious offence to send them out or allow them out."

One man, the Crown Prosecutor said, could do incalculable harm. With a bonus of \$12.50 for each English officer killed by a sharpshooter, with one man behind a heavy gun capable of discharging a missile that could wipe out a whole company, any alien allowed out of the country constituted an added menace to the country.

Statement Was Taken.

Detective George Guthrie, who on November 17 went to Stanley Barracks with Officer Maurer and Interpreter Goodman and interviewed the four men, was called as the Crown's first witness. After getting the stories of the three others, he cautioned the accused. Mazur told him that he had been born in Saskatchewan of Austrian parents, and added the details of which the Crown had spoken.

Questioned by Mr. Murphy the witness said that a statement which he produced had been drawn up in Mazur's presence and had been signed by Mazur at the time. Mazur, he said, replied to all questions voluntarily.

"I told them," the police statement ran, "to say that they were Russians."

In reply to questions by Mr. DuVernet, the detective stated that one of the aliens had told him that he had paid Mazur to get him across the border, while another had said that he had paid Mazur merely on the understanding that the money was to be returned after the crossing was made.

Court then adjourned, and, contrary to the usual custom, the room was kept locked during the noon recess.