

ARREST TWO GERMANS
WHO MENACED CANADA

Baron Von Polenz Wanted, Ottawa Believes, to Establish Naval Base and Mount Guns, Dominating Quebec, Though Under Pretext of Hamburg-American Port; S. H. Mundheim Built Cement Bases for Guns

From a Staff Reporter.

OTTAWA, May 29.—The arrest and internment this week at Fort Henry, Kingston, of two prominent and wealthy German residents of Canada has called attention at Ottawa to some exceedingly suspicious circumstances with which these men are connected.

In view of the extraordinary methods of Germany, and her marvelous preparations for a world warfare, the authorities have good reason at least to be suspicious. The men arrested are Baron Von Polenz, a former captain in a Saxon cavalry regiment, and Mr. S. H. Mundheim, the German manager of the Cement Products Company of Canada, which has a large plant on the Isle of Orleans, only a few miles below the citadel of Quebec.

Baron Von Polenz came to Canada only some three years ago. He was apparently a man of great wealth and influence and became heavily interested, among other projects, in New Ontario mining propositions. He was at Timmins, New Ontario, when arrested last Saturday. The Baron made his headquarters in Montreal, where he had a suite and offices. He was also widely acquainted in Quebec, having a member of the famous Garrison Club.

ASSOCIATES NEVER NAMED.

In 1913 the Baron, with associates, whose identity has never been revealed, took over the charter of a company known as "Le Compagnie Du Chemin De Fer Quebec Et Isle D'Orleans." This provincial company had a charter for the construction of a railway around the Island of Orleans, and a bridge connecting with the mainland. The Baron represented that he had formed connections with "European financiers," and endeavored to get permission from the Dominion Government to establish extensive docks and harbor works. He claimed he could interest the Hamburg-American Line. He also said that he had entered into an agreement with Lenz & Co., of Berlin, the official railway contractors to the German Government, to bear part of the preliminary expenses. He was prepared to spend two million and a half dollars. He also wanted to establish a big hotel on the extreme western point of the Island, a high elevation commanding the city of Quebec; preliminary surveys by engineers were even made.

NOOSE AROUND NECK OF CANADA.

If the Baron's plans had gone through he would have been able to establish a regular naval base without suspicion under the very nose of the citadel of Quebec, and guns could have been located which would have swept Quebec City, blocked the St. Lawrence, and given the Germans command of Canada's entrance to the sea. There is no way of knowing whether these were his plans or not, but in view of subsequent events, and the marvelous similar plans the Germans are known to have worked out, it is not a surprise that Ottawa is wondering what was the Baron's game, when he worked so hard to have his project approved by the Dominion authorities.

As the war has turned out, a German base at the Isle of Orleans would have been useless, but if Britain had ever lost command of the sea, the Germans, with such a base at a strategical point in the St. Lawrence, would have had a noose around the neck of Canada.

The Ottawa authorities at the time did not dream of German plots, but the project was turned down, as the Dominion Government did not look with favor on the establishment of a rival port and harbor to Quebec, after having spent millions on harbor development at the Ancient Capital.

MUNDHEIM A GERMAN OFFICER.

Whether there was any connection between Mundheim and Baron Von Polenz, is not known, but there have been persistent rumors at Quebec city that Mundheim, as manager of the Cement Products Company, with several hundred Germans in his employ, HAD BUILT A NUMBER OF SUSPICIOUS CEMENT BASES ON THE ISLAND, UPON WHICH BIG GUNS COULD HAVE BEEN MOUNTED. In view of the fact that this was done by the Germans in both Belgium and Northern France, at convenient points to command fortresses, on the ground of locating factories, it is not to be wondered at that there has been suspicion.

Mundheim was born in Germany and has been in Canada about fifteen years. He has never taken out naturalization papers. His home has been in Quebec city, where he has moved in high social circles. When arrested in Montreal a few days ago he had on his person a passport showing that he had been a captain in the Kaiser's army. He was arrested shortly after the war broke out, but owing to the standing of some of the directors of the company, and the fact that there was nothing against him, he was released, although having to report regularly.

Whether the authorities have any new grounds for arresting these two men is not known, but it has been evidently decided they were safer under detention, and they will remain at Fort Henry for the remainder of the war.