

I. T. Tribitch-Lincoln is Well Known in Canada.

The mass of fiction that has appeared during the last ten months with the "German spy" as its motif has nothing to compare with the revelations of Ignatius Timotheus Tribitch-Lincoln, once Jewish missionary in Montreal, later British M.P., later still a German spy in England, and now a fugitive in the United States. Tribitch—that is the name by which he was known in Montreal—has been writing his "confessions" for the New York World, and they reflect a small credit on the author.

No less a plot than to lure the British fleet into the North Sea under circumstances that would make it an easy mark for the Germans, was Tribitch's scheme. It failed utterly, as the Admiralty was forearmed, and fully aware of the man's perfidy. However, it makes interesting reading.

Many people in Montreal still remember Tribitch, and it is known that he visited the Canadian city recently, since his activities in England forced him to flee to the United States. He came to Montreal in 1901 and completed a course at a college there. In 1902 he was appointed a Jewish missionary in Montreal, but within a few weeks of his appointment he broke away and joined another church, being ordained deacon on Christmas, 1902. In 1903 he returned to England.

After the outbreak of war Tribitch found life in England "intolerable." He was insulted in his club. So he decided to revenge himself on the country of his adoption. As he writes:

"The plan I mapped out to achieve this will seem to many rather startling. It was certainly original. It was nothing less than a decision to find out important naval and military secrets and to betray them to the Central Powers, and having achieved that, to quit England forever, if still alive."

In pursuance of this laudable scheme, Tribitch offered his services in turn to the Home Secretary, Sir Edward Grey, and to Mr. Churchill. They had nothing to give the spy. So he tried to get into the Counter Espionage Department at the War Office.

"Now, my plan was nothing less than to lure part of the British fleet into a certain quarter of the North Sea on a certain day, and to have the German fleet within easy steaming distance. In order to procure this, I proposed just the reverse to Captain _____ and laid before him a carefully prepared scheme, the ostensible purpose of which was to destroy part of the German navy."

Tribitch was told that the plan was not feasible as it was not the policy of the Admiralty to reveal to him the whereabouts of the British fleet. So he left England for Rotterdam to visit the headquarters of the German espionage for England, at the German Consulate in the Dutch city. With the object of having something in his possession that would give him the entree with the British War Office, he played the double traitor with the German consul in Rotterdam, and secured "the absolute and unquestionable power and means to hunt down most, if not all, the German spies in England—had I wished to do so."

On January 2, Tribitch returned triumphantly to London. He hurried to Whitehall to offer his information unconditionally to the Acting Chief of the Secret Service, whom he represents as "beside himself with excitement" on receiving codes, a list of spies, some addresses to which telegrams and letters were being sent by spies, disclosures of how they were being financed and through what channels, and "a document which would show what the Germans do and do not know of the British Army." The Secret Service officer promised to tell Lord Kitchener of what Tribitch had done, and also to give the spy further employment. Either then, or perhaps earlier, the War Office suspected Tribitch and soon he found himself dispensed with, with his elaborate scheme still incomplete.