

RESPA TELLS OF PLOT TO USE DYNAMITE AT WINDSOR

In Confession He Outlines Relations With Kaltschmidt

PROMISED MONEY TO WRECK THE PLANTS

He Declares Kaltschmidt Refused to Keep His Promise

Sandwich, Ont., March 7.—Chief Justice Sir Glenholme Falconbridge yesterday heard the Crown's case against Charles Respa, a Detroit German, charged with dynamiting the Peabody Sales Corporation plant at Walkerville, where military equipment was being manufactured for Canada and the British Government. Every entrance to the court room was guarded by special police and secret service men.

Guards Protect Court.

It was the first time in twenty-five years on the bench that the Chief Justice has found it necessary to have guards to protect the court. Only those vouched for by Sheriff Daignon were permitted entrance to the building. The prisoner's dock was guarded by three constables who allowed no person within arm's length of him.

The judge accepted a full confession by Respa just prior to adjournment of court and the Crown case was finished last night. The defence will be proceeded with at 9.30 to-day when some startling developments are anticipated. Mr. R. L. Brackin of Chatham, defence counsel, would not say whether he had decided to permit Respa to go on the witness stand. It is expected that the case will be given to the jury to-night.

Lefler's Evidence.

Much of the evidence taken in the trial of Wm. Lefler, a British subject born in Norwich, Essex County, who was convicted at the October Assizes and sent to Kingston for fourteen years as an accomplice of Respa, was put in, after which Mr. J. M. Pike, of Chatham, the Crown prosecutor, assisted by Crown Attorney J. H. Rodd, submitted a statement of a complete confession made by Respa to Provincial Constable J. P. Smith in the presence of Chief of Police Griffith, of Walkerville, and the late Provincial Constable Abraham Nash.

Respa's counsel contended that the confession should not be accepted, upon the ground that it had been obtained from the prisoner on the pretence that if he assisted the authorities in apprehending Kaltschmidt, of Detroit, the alleged ringleader in the dynamiting plots, it would be to his advantage if he (Respa) came up for trial.

Objection Over-ruled.

In refusing to discard the evidence, his Lordship said: "The absolute denial of Constable Smith that he did not offer any inducement to the prisoner is sufficient to warrant my decision."

According to the evidence of Lefler, who was under cross-examination, he said he was paid \$25 for the part he played as a "dupe" for Respa, and added that the Invincible Machine Company at Ford City and the Canadian Bridge Works at Walkerville were also slated for destruction. He admitted that while he knew Kaltschmidt and Respa had been responsible for the explosion at the Peabody works, he had made no effort to notify the manufacturers whose structures were the next to be blown up. He declared that prior to the explosion he had no guilty knowledge of the crime, and had nothing to fear for anything that had been done.

"How long after the explosion had you to wait for your money?" asked Mr. Brackin.

"Don't answer, you are not on trial," cried Mrs. Charles Schmidt, a sister and a witness for the defence of Respa.

"You must respect the Court," interjected his Lordship.

Respa Pawned His Rings.

About this time Respa became restless, and telegraphed Kaltschmidt that he wanted to return to Detroit, but received no answer. He sent a second telegram and signed the name of Charles Roberts, thinking the fictitious signature would scare him. He received a reply that he (Kaltschmidt) had to work for a living, and it was up to Respa to do the same. After pawning his rings

Statement Made By Kaltschmidt

In an interview with a reporter of The Daily News, in Detroit, in October, 1915, Albert Kaltschmidt denied absolutely that there was any foundation for the charges laid against him in the true bill found by the grand jury in the Essex County sitting of the Supreme Court of Ontario. The suggestion amused him. It was so petty. If he went into the war it would not be on so small a scale. He would say nothing about the case. The time for that had not yet come. It would come. Then he would have a lot to say. That would be at the end of the war, and that was not far off. Then he would demand \$200,000 damages for the effect of the charges on his financial credit.

Mr. Kaltschmidt was sorry for Canada. "I like Canada," he said, "I am very sorry for her. She should never have gone into this war. She has missed the greatest opportunity in her history. Where is she now?"

Mr. Kaltschmidt drew a very dismal picture of where she is now, and an even more dismal picture of where she would be after the war.

and watch in order to get his railway fare to Detroit, Respa adds: "I came back to Detroit, called Kaltschmidt up by phone and told him I wanted to see him.

"Kaltschmidt told me to meet him at the corner of Brush and Canfield streets at 8 a.m., August 27, 1915. I met Kaltschmidt's sister, Ida, instead of him. I told her my opinion of her brother, and was ready to call up the Windsor police and give the whole thing away. Ida said: "For God's sake do not do it. My brother will meet you on August 28, at 9 a.m., at Brush and Canfield streets." Kaltschmidt met me at 9 a.m., August 28, 1915, at Brush and Canfield streets. We walked towards his office which is in the Kresge building. On the way Kaltschmidt told me I looked as if I wanted to press money out of him. He (Kaltschmidt) told me to come to his office at 5 p.m. that evening to sign a paper agreeing not to bother him any more, and he offered me \$25 and I refused to take it. He asked me how much I wanted, and I told him I wanted the \$200 he had promised me to do the dynamiting, and he refused to give it to me, saying he could not pay it. I left his office and have not seen him since August 28, 1915."

Had Dynamite at Home.

Answering questions asked by Constable Smith with respect to how Kaltschmidt succeeded in smuggling the dynamite into Ford City, Respa, in his confession, is quoted as saying: "Kaltschmidt had the dynamite in his residence at 34 East Hancock avenue. Some time before Kaltschmidt stopped coming to Ford City he brought 30 sticks over in his automobile each trip, and I packed the dynamite for him at his garage, which is in the rear of his residence, and saw him put it under the seat of his automobile. I recognized these packages which I had packed and wrapped as above, and as being the same packages as I received from William Lefler at the Tate Electric Company factory in Ford City on June 13, 1915.

"Kaltschmidt carried the dynamite across the river under the cushion of his automobile, a electric machine, and he was driving at the time.

Takes "Blowing-up" Job.

"I first met Kaltschmidt while working at the National Pin Company, where he was superintendent, and later at the Eisenman Magneto Company on Woodward avenue when looking for work, and Kaltschmidt asked me if I wanted to do some work for him. I said I had no work, and he told me he wanted to do a little blowing up across the river. I accepted this offer, and it was after this conversation that I wrapped up the dynamite as above stated. I wrapped up about 100 sticks for Kaltschmidt to take to Ford City. I did not know Kaltschmidt bought the dynamite."

Lefler told the Crown Prosecutor that when Respa obtained the two satchels filled with dynamite at the Tate Electric plant he was accompanied by Mrs. Charles Schmidt, sister-in-law, who remained in the general office while Respa put the dynamite in the two suitcases and adjusted the clocks and fuses. Lefler said he met Respa and Kaltschmidt in Detroit the day after the explosion, and that Kaltschmidt, who was disgusted because the Windsor Armouries had not been blown up, remarked: "Don't fear, we will get the whole d—d place."

Lefler, who was subjected to a severe cross-examination by Mr.

Brackin, admitted that some parts of his story at this trial differed from that given at the preliminary investigation.