

GERMAN SPIES AS AMERICAN CITIZENS

Difficult Problem Faces Embassy and Relief Committee in London.

London, Sept. 8.—Suspicion rests on twenty or more refugees from Germany, who have represented themselves to the American relief committee as American citizens. Scotland Yard detectives are looking into their passports and other credentials, which are believed to have been forged or stolen.

There is an excessive number of German-speaking refugees among those claiming American citizenship. This fact has caused much comment for the last two days, and the American relief committee believes the English officials are justified in having a suspicion that they are spies and availed themselves of the opportunity to enter England.

Walter Hines Page, the American ambassador, has instructed the passport officials to exercise the greatest care in issuing passports to alleged Americans, and American embassies and consulates on the continent have been advised of alleged frauds and cautioned to beware of imposters taking advantage of the rush caused by the war to secure American credentials.

Many refugees pretending to be American citizens have been found merely to have lived in the United States, or to have made application there for first citizenship papers without completing their citizenship, while others have statements from American consuls which they believed to be passports. The liberal immigration laws and the war rush have enabled such persons to enter England, but the steamship lines will be unable to carry indigent persons of this class to the United States and the relief committee has authority to extend relief only to actual American citizens.