

NO GERMAN INVASION FROM UNITED STATES

Civil and Military Officials at Buffalo Say It's Nonsense

JAIL FOR ALL PLOTTERS

**What Officers Say Would Happen Any
Would-be Raiders—Public Sentiment
Strong in States—Canadians
at Border Are Not Anxious.**

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)

Buffalo, N. Y., Nov. 2.—If Canada is to experience attempted Teuton invasion, as Count Von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador to Washington, suggests as proper and practicable even under the Monroe doctrine, it will not be by way of the United States. Officialdom, civil and military, dismisses as nonsensical the sensational press stories, which had birth in this city, to the effect that forces of German-Americans were drilling, arming and surreptitiously preparing for raids on Canada's Niagara district boundary line.

Sympathy With Allies.

Investigation of conditions by The Globe, in both Niagara Falls, New York, and here in Buffalo—the centres alternately designated as the scenes of incipient "organization"—serve to emphasize the absurdity of such reports. It is significant that, outside of the distinctly German population, the sympathies of the citizens of the United States in both places are unmistakably with the allies, and particularly with Belgium and Britain. The invasion of neutral Belgium, and Britain's adherence to the "scrap of paper" bearing her signature, are the two outstanding topics of conversation when the origin of and the responsibility for the war are discussed by the neutral man on the street. He is thoroughly in accord with the neutrality of his country, but he is sympathetic—in many cases strongly sympathetic—with the little country which was ruthlessly invaded and the big power that stood by its pledge.

In Buffalo there are approximately 30,000 Canadians. Every man of them, according to Superintendent Michael Regan of the Buffalo Police Force, is an enthusiast and virtually a British agent in the promulgation of British sentiment and in energetic support of British arms in the warfare. These Canadians are scattered through every department of the city's endeavor, are accounted among the best citizens, and have a potent influence in determining public sentiment.

Militant Irish Loyalty.

Then there are the Irish, and among them United States officialdom finds the most unique and significant situation. Buffalo's large German population is almost wholly offset by her extensive settlement of Irish-Americans. Heretofore, say those in authority, the American Irishman has been anything but pro-British. In fact, his militant tendency has been strongly anti-British on every possible, or impossible, occasion. It is, accordingly, a matter of some amazement to the local authorities to find the sons and grandsons of Erin intensely, ardently, even militantly supporting the cause of Britain in the present conflict. "Even the most bombastic of your English Imperialists," said a military officer to The Globe, "has to take second place to Pat in loyalty to the British cause these days." This wholesale turnover, ascribed almost entirely to the position assumed by Mr. John Redmond, and the passing of home rule by the British Government, under Mr. Asquith, has had a marked effect on public sentiment in many of the large American cities.

Little Chance of Raids.

Apart altogether from stern official determination to preserve strict neutrality and readiness, The Globe was told, to vigorously deal with any scattered uprising by bare-brained enthusiasts who might dream of Canadian "invasion," the strong preponderance of public sentiment would make any organized preparations abortive.

It is fair, too, to say that the German population themselves scout the stories. They profess, as is natural, their sympathy with German arms, and frankly—and even enthusiastically—hope for Teuton victory. At the same time, they profess themselves to be law-abiding citizens of a neutral country, and are not prepared to jeopardize their position as such by any absurd and suicidal action against a friendly neighbor.

Law's Stern Resolve.

"We have laws in this country, and we are seeking to enforce them," said Superintendent Regan to The Globe, in an interview at the Police Commission offices. "If there was anything going on here in the line of preparations for a raid I would know it. My men are in touch with the situation and it would be nipped in the bud so suddenly that the plotters would not know what struck them. No body of men can drill without my knowledge and consent, and anyone carrying or secreting arms of any kind would be promptly placed under arrest. The whole story," he added, "has been

concocted by sensational newspaper penny-a-liners."

In Touch With Canadian Police.

Superintendent Regan stated that he had received a communication from Chief of Police Grasett of Toronto, in relation to the published stories, and was also in touch with the Ontario and Dominion Police. "If such a thing ever came to my notice, even in its most remote or trivial stage, I would at once notify those Canadian officers," added the big Irish Superintendent of Police. "But there is no danger," he added, laughing.

The American military officers at Buffalo, who are in touch with the United States Federal Government, and are also watching any development of the local situation, are bound by the rules of reticence governing the militia. They assured The Globe, however, that Superintendent Regan knew what he was talking about, and that the stories of a plotted raid were "pure buncombe." They declared that the international law would be most strictly and severely enforced in event of any depredations being attempted.

Between Devil and Deep Sea.

"Any body of men would be maniacs to even attempt such a thing," declared another of the officers. "If they stayed on your side of the border your militia and police would get them; if they returned here we would get them. Once they set out they would be between the devil and the deep sea. It would need all the beer Milwaukee brews to stampede our German citizens into tactics like that."

As a matter of fact, it is doubtful if the average Canadian realizes the overwhelming sentiment in favor of the allies which exists on this side of the border, in officialdom, be it said, as well as without. Except in the most densely-populated German districts this feeling is very manifest among business men and artisans, in clubs, hotels and all meeting places. An officer had a short, strenuous experience near the New York Central depot in Buffalo Sunday evening. Some thoughtless German had said too good a word of the Kaiser, and before he had an opportunity to modify his comment a nearby Irish drayman, previously notorious for his "Penian tendencies," had felled him to the ground. The Teuton patriot welcomed the interference of the officer.

Quiet on Canadian Frontier.

All along the Canadian frontier, at Welland, Niagara Falls, Bridgeburg, Fort Erie and other places visited by The Globe, the motto of "Business as Usual" is in force. No anxiety or alarm is manifest. District Chief of Police Mains of the Ontario Provincial Police, who is in charge of the border for the civil authorities, reported everything satisfactory and quiet, and scouted the possibility of "invasion," or even raids. Chief of Police Laing of Welland was equally emphatic, as was also Crown Attorney Cowper of Welland county, upon whom has devolved the conduct of such cases of alleged spying and other international offences as have arisen. Mr. E. E. Fraser, ex-M.P.P., has received from Ottawa a copy of the order-in-Council recently passed for the handling of German and Austrian reservists still in this country and the appointment along the border of registrars to whom they must periodically report. He has also been notified that Colonel Sherwood, head of the Dominion Police, is prepared to co-operate with the local and military authorities in safeguarding the district.

"As a matter of fact," said Mr. Fraser to The Globe, "there is not the slightest danger, so far as I can see, of anything like a raid, and the people throughout the district are not in the least anxious. The only possible points of attack might be Bridgeburg and Fort Erie, and all we would have to fear would be a few drunken or hair-brained German supporters running over in a couple of motor boats some night and setting fire to buildings or the like. But the penalty would be so severe that I doubt whether any sane men would contemplate it."

Canadian Soldiers on Duty.

Regiments of Canadian militia are camped at Niagara Falls and Welland. The canal is being systematically guarded and patrolled, and there is little danger of attack upon this fine waterway. Sentries guard every foot of its course twenty-four hours a day, and are within ready call of forces should emergency warrant their summons. The Canadian military men dismiss all idea of danger.

The railways and other large transportation services in the district are also adequately guarded. Major W. W. Pope, Secretary of the Provincial Hydro-electric Commission, was in Welland on Saturday receiving reports from his Superintendents throughout the district. He assured The Globe that nothing of an untoward nature had been reported, and that all the stations were adequately protected, although no danger to them was feared.

And the residents of the whole district, the ordinary every-day folk, just smile at the very idea of threatened invasion, and proceed with their business. Canadians are not so easily scared, after all.