Chief Justice Mulock reduced the high treason charge against Emil Nerlich, a prominent wholesale merchant in Toronto, and his wife, Hudwig Nerlich, to conspiracy to commit an indictable offense, thus removing the death penalty, if found guilty. The Crown counsel outlined the case to the jury, in which he spoke of Mrs. Nerlich as an enthusiastic German sympathizer, and who wrote letters to Germany, one of which was reprinted in a Berlin paper. In the replies received by her inquiries were made as to the number of soldiers Canada had to send to the front.