

SUSPECTED PLOT IN WEST TO AID ENEMY

**Austrian Convicted at Vonda of
Collecting Funds and is
Heavily Fined.**

**Position of Canadian Ruthenian,
Winnipeg Paper, to Be In-
vestigated by Police.**

(Free Press Special.)

Saskatoon, Sask., May 7.—Is there a widespread movement going on in western Canada for the support of the enemies of the empire through money assistance, and, if so, to just what extent is the Canadian Ruthenian, a prominent foreign publication of Winnipeg, assisting this movement?

These are two questions which the Mounted Police are investigating at the present time as a result of the conviction at Vonda yesterday of John Zandynek on the charge of assisting the enemies of the empire by the collection of funds. He was heavily fined by Justice of the Peace Graham, of Vonda, before whom he was brought by several service officers of the Mounted Police. The offence was the collection of details from the Ruthenian and Austrian people of the Vonda district which was to be sent back to Austria to

assist in prosecuting the war against Great Britain and her allies.

The conviction was made under sub-section 1 of section 5 of the proclamation of the governor-general of Canada, made shortly after the war first broke out, in which trading with the enemy or assisting the enemy by the forwarding or collection of money for the purpose of assisting in the prosecuting of war against the armies of the empire was forbidden under heavy penalties.

How this conviction was obtained cannot be given out for publication at the present time, but this action is not the last of the case by any means, and it is stated on good authority that a number of other cases of a similar nature all over the west will be heard & within the very near future.

Statements were made by a number of Ruthenian, Gallician and Austrian people in the district surrounding Vonda, in which they stated that this collection was being made by different agents of the Austrian government, and was to be forwarded back to Austria through the Canadian Ruthenian, a large foreign publication in Winnipeg, which was to act as an agent in transmitting the money to the proper authorities in Austria. Quite a number of witnesses were heard in connection with this case, each of whom testified that they had contributed various amounts to the cause, running all the way from 20 cents to two dollars.