

WOMAN SPY SUSPECT

DASHED FOR LIBERTY

Jumped Thirty Feet From a Window at Court St. Station.

BUT IS RECAPTURED

Is a Strange Character, But Shows Every Sign of Sanity.

Nineteen-year-old Louise Markesfeldt, held by the police on a charge of vagrancy and suspected by the military authorities of being a German spy, made a clever and determined dash for liberty yesterday when she outwitted the matron at the Court street station, gained an unguarded window, and dropping a distance of thirty feet to the cement flags, made a bold break for freedom. Prompt action on the part of the matron in notifying the police below prevented her escaping completely. The girl being captured before she had gone ten yards from the station. "It is a marvelous thing that she escaped with the few bruises which she did sustain," said Col. Grasett this morning, "but she seems to be none the worse for her venture.

Received Good Treatment.

"We have given her good treatment since she has been in custody," said Col. Grasett, and she has not been asked to herd with the common prisoners at the jail. When she was taken down to the Court street station she was confined in a barred room adjoining that of the matron. Her meals were sent in from outside, and she was afforded several little privileges not usually allowed prisoners waiting for trial. On some pretext she managed to induce the matron to allow her to leave the room and to pass into another room. Passing from the room in which she was confined she gained the unbarred window in the matron's room, and throwing up the sash she jumped, alighting on the cement pavement thirty feet below. She was captured within a few moments.

Police Call Her a Spy.

The sheer nerve of the girl in attempting such a sensational escape directly under the nose of the police has convinced the authorities more than anything else that she is just what she claims to be—one of the cleverest of Germany's spies. Every precaution has been taken by the police to prevent recurrence of her audacious action and it will be with a feeling of relief when her guardians hand her over to the military authorities this afternoon. Since she was taken in custody at the Union Station last week she has proven a complete puzzle to the police.

"A very strange mixture of candor and reticence," was the way, Col. Grasett characterized the young woman this morning. "She tells such astonishing things with such an air of frankness that is wholly absent when we attempt to obtain a definite statement from her. It is a most peculiar case. Apparently she is educated and intelligent, yet when we attempt to pin her down to something she becomes as silent as the proverbial clam."

Col. Grasett, perhaps more qualified to express an opinion as to the girl's mental condition than any of his subordinates, is perfectly convinced that the girl is sane. In this he is at variance with Crown Attorney Corley, who is credited with stating that he believes the girl is feeble-minded.

Appears Sane.

"There is no question in my mind as to her sanity," said Col. Grasett. "She is of a bright, intelligent appearance, refined, and of obviously good breeding. She talks readily enough of some things and frankly admits that she forms part of Germany's system of espionage."

That the young woman has traveled extensively is evident from her conversation with police officers at Court street station. Ireland is one country in which she has made an extended visit. The seaside resorts, the Lakes of Killarney, and other places of interest are thoroughly familiar to her, and she talks convincingly of other places in Spain, Italy, France, England, and the Mediterranean, where she claims to have spent considerable time. The suggestion was advanced this morning that she may have traveled as a maid with some rich family. A term of residence in each country would account for her knowledge of eight languages which she is credited with possessing.

Objects to Her Food.

While her wardrobe is not very extensive the different articles of clothing which she possesses are all of excellent material and well tailored. The meals which she is being served at present are sent in from outside and, according to the police, are tasty enough for the most fastidious. But they do not suit the young lady.

"Take this tea away—it is not fit to drink," was her complaint the other day. "People here do not know how to brew tea. Now in the Old Country—" and she would launch into a lengthy explanation on the proper methods of brewing tea and how it is done in the various countries through which she has traveled.

To look at her childish face with the innocent-looking blue eyes and to listen to her talk of foreign countries, it is hard to reconcile the two statements—that of her age and the other of her travels. If she has been in the countries she mentions for the length of time she claims she must have started on her tour of the world when she was about nine years of age. Captain Wanless at the Registrar's office stated to-day that if she is interned it will be the first woman interned from this office. He stated that she would probably be sent to the Mercer if it was decided that she was not a fit subject to be at large.