

FIND ALIEN ENEMIES CAN SEND MONEY HOME

All That Is Required Is Ingenuity on Part of the Senders.

LOOPHOLES IN SYSTEM

Postmaster Says Matter Is Up to Government—Discovery Is Difficult.

Careful inquiry at financial institutions, at steamship offices, express order companies, and the postal money order department, brings out the fact that there is nothing more than a little ingenuity required by the German, or other alien enemy, who wishes to send a regular supply of Canadian-earned money home for the use of the German Government. In other words, so far as can be learned, there is nothing to prevent Canadian money being used to buy shrapnel to kill Canadian boys at the front. While there is no assurance that this is being done, the loophole is there, waiting for the enemy to take advantage of it.

Banks, express order companies, the Postal Department, and the steamship companies all declare with considerable emphasis that any German, Austrian, or Turk applying to them for orders or drafts, to send money to their home country, would be turned down peremptorily. To do anything else would be to lay themselves open to a modified charge of treason, but at the same time the admission is made from representatives of all four that there is nothing to prevent the alien enemy resident in Canada buying the order or draft on some neutral country, have it cashed there, and then have the money forwarded to the German Government, or to whatever other place in the enemy country they wished it used.

System Provides No Check.

Take an example. A German in this city, not interned, who is still earning a regular wage, might wish to send a monthly contribution to the German Government. Any attempt to buy an order or draft direct to any point in Germany would place that man under suspicion immediately. Naturally, the enemy knows that, so goes about his work more cleverly. If he wished, he could send his money to friends, German sympathizers, in the United States. There would then be absolutely no difficulty in having that money forwarded direct to the German centre from the United States. This shipping of Canadian-earned money to the States for transshipment to Germany, may be done through any of the financial systems used in Canada for sending money through the mails.

Mr. Wm. E. Rogers, postmaster, states that any number of money orders might be purchased in Canada by Germans through the Postal Department, to be cashed by Germans in the United States. There is absolutely no check to determine whether or not that particular money is to get farther, or whether it is intended ultimately for the purchase of German supplies. The only check is when the attempt is made to send the funds direct to the enemy country.

Could Be Worked Another Way.

The sending of funds could be worked in another way. For instance, there might be a German agent collecting such funds in any neutral city in Denmark, Holland, Sweden, or one of a hundred other European centres. Money could be sent directly from Canada by postal order, by express order, or by draft, to that neutral point, in any amount, provided the sender used sufficient judgment not to make the amounts too great or to have the name of the recipient too German. Once this Canadian money has been received in the neutral country, the formality of transferring it to its enemy destination is simple, the only trouble being the payment of a little extra exchange.

"That is a matter which is controlled entirely by the Dominion Government," Mr. Rogers stated. "We are simply following their instructions."

Must Prevent Slightest Suspicion.

Steamship companies make a practice of selling drafts to foreign countries, and they state as well that the scheme could be worked by an alien without any difficulty, though they do not believe it is being done to any extent. One company states that they have been sending a monthly check for a Toronto woman to a city in Denmark, but they are confident

that the money is merely intended for the keep of the sender's mother.

When the matter was brought to the attention of Mr. John Aird, general manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, he stated the plan could be worked successfully by the enemy, though he emphasized the fact that the slightest suspicion would lead to investigation of the character of any person sending money to foreign countries.

"If the man sent his money to any neutral country and had the draft cashed there," was Mr. Aird's opinion, "there would not be any way of checking him up, but as soon as the person who received the draft in the neutral country sent it on to Germany to be cashed the Canadian bank would then detect the scheme."