

# ENEMY OF KING AIDED BY FARMER, CHARGE MADE BY MOUNTED POLICE

Frederick Wagner of Stony Plain Under Investigation  
By Minister of Justice

## ACCUSED DECLARES MONEY SENT WAS FOR RED CROSS NEEDS

### Given Liberty On Bond For Five Thousand Dollars Pending Ruling

Frederick Wagner, a farmer living in the Stony Plain district, who is now on a \$5000 bond, must stand trial probably before a district or supreme court justice on a charge of aiding an enemy. This is the information which Supt. Wroughton, of the Mounted Police, has received from the minister of justice.

Wagner was arrested a few days ago on complaint of the post office department, which claimed that the farmer, who is a German, had mailed a letter containing \$100 to an address in New York, which was destined for a point in Germany. Becoming suspicious of the letter, postal officials opened the receptacle and found an order for \$100 and ample evidence that the recipient of the letter in the United States was to forward the money to the German Red Cross headquarters in Berlin.

#### Released on Bond

Following the arrest of the farmer, the Mounted Police decided to release him on \$5000 bond, \$5000 being the maximum fine for violation of the order-in-council passed September 2 last which provides that any person who "pays any sum of money to or for the benefit of an enemy" is liable to punishment. But before such an offender can be prosecuted according to the order-in-council specific permission must be obtained from the minister of justice.

#### Makes Admissions

According to the Mounted Police, Wagner offered a rather ingenious excuse at the time of his arrest to explain away his contravention of the Canadian laws. He admitted sending the \$100, but said he was a Roman Catholic and Roman Catholics want to help all the wounded alike, German, Russian, British, French, etc. When he sent the money to New York for transmission to Germany, he said, it was in the belief that he was helping every nation engaged in the war, not Germany in particular. But this excuse and the ostensibly guileless manner of the man failed to allay the suspicions of the police, who applied to the minister of justice for permission to prosecute Wagner. After an investigation of the circumstances the Ottawa authorities evidently believe there is good reason why Wagner's case should be investigated before one of the highest courts in the province. Hence the order to the Mounted Police to go ahead with the Wagner case.

#### Money From Canada

This is the first action of this kind to go before a western Canadian court, and it is hoped by the police that some precedent of a far reaching nature will be established to put a stop to the transmission of funds to Germany via United States points. It is known that considerable of this is being done throughout the west. It is said that more than 1000 farmers in the state of Wisconsin are acting as mediums for the transmission of money to Germany sent them by Germans in Canada.