

FRANZ BOPP MAY HAVE HATCHED PLOT THAT ENDED IN BIG FIRE AT CAPITAL

Bopp Was Former Consul-General at Montreal, and it is Said Once Attended an Opening of Parliament.

HE WAS WELL EQUIPPED WITH VITAL INFORMATION

He Was Acquainted With Many Leading Officials of Trade and Commerce Department and Visited Rideau Hall.

That Franz Bopp, former consul-general for Germany at Montreal, who has been indicted at San Francisco on the charge of entering into conspiracy against Canada, hatched the plot which destroyed the Parliament Building, is the opinion of some of those who believe that the fire was incendiary.

Hon. Charles Marcell, although he did not express this opinion in the House last night, said that Bopp had attended an opening of parliament at Ottawa, and if he were actually implicated in any plots against Canada, he was certainly well acquainted with conditions in this country.

A Frequent Visitor.

Bopp was well equipped with information regarding the parliament building and the conditions at Ottawa generally. He was a frequent visitor to the city during his residence at Montreal, he had attended parliament, and he had been a visitor at Government House.

Knew Officials Here.

He was acquainted with many of the leading officials of the government, particularly of the Trade and Commerce department, and it is interesting to remember that he was the medium of communication between the governments of Canada and Germany when the surtax on German goods entering this country was removed a few years ago.

The Mysterious Bopp.

Editor of The Journal.—Franz Bopp, the statesman who, as consul-general at Montreal, was Germany's diplomat in negotiating with Canada for removal of the surtax, becomes in time of war a plotter, conspirator and dynamitard in a neutral country when his country is at war.

From San Francisco he plotted against Canadian railroads, and possibly he knows with more certainty the origin of the Parliament Building fire than does any bona fide British subject in Ottawa.

The trustfulness we placed in Bopp in times of peace reacts against ourselves in time of war.

Lord! but we are a bunch of easy marks when called upon to play the war game on the basis of duplicity, dishonesty, treachery, murder and fire in the name of military necessity.

C. J.