

A MILITARY GUARD AT SANDWICH JAIL

Taking Precautions for Trial of Charles Respa

ACCUSED OF DYNAMITING

**Public Will Not be Admitted to the
Court House During the Trial —
Reports That Attempts to Free
Accused Were Made.**

(Staff Correspondence of The Globe.)

Windsor, March 5.—Despite the refusal of Major-General Sir Sam Hughes to provide military guards at courthouses where alien enemies charged with serious crimes under the explosives act are incarcerated, Sheriff Daignon to-day assumed the responsibility of instructing Lieut.-Col. Welch of the 99th Overseas Battalion, in training here, to furnish a guard of fourteen men, who will protect the courthouse property at Sandwich, where Charles Respa will face trial to-morrow afternoon on a charge of dynamiting the Peabody factory here some months ago. After a consultation with Chief Justice Sir Glenholme Falconbridge, who will preside at the Assizes, the Sheriff announced that the public will not be permitted to attend the trial, and that only jurors and those furnished with a special order will be allowed in the building. This order will remain in force until the close of Respa's trial.

Lester to Be a Witness.

The Crown witnesses will include William Lester, an accomplice of Respa, who at the October Assizes was committed to the Kingston Penitentiary for fourteen years in connection with the dynamiting of Peabody's factory and the Armouries here, and Provincial Constable J. P. Smith and W. H. Jenkins, who, with the late Constable Nash, captured Respa at Bois Blanc.

Crown officials stated to-night that if counsel for Respa asks for a further enlargement of the trial it will positively be refused.

Upon the arrival of Respa, who comes from the American side, from Toronto to-day, a military guard of fourteen men was stationed around the courthouse, with instructions to permit no one to enter the building. Owing to numerous ugly rumors which had been circulated during the past couple of weeks, the Crown authorities promptly set about to take every precaution necessary to guard the prisoner, who appears to have many friends in Detroit.

Large Sum Subscribed—What For?

A meeting of German sympathizers was held in one of Detroit's leading hotels two weeks ago at which \$2,500 was subscribed for a purpose which the police have been unable to directly ferret out. The authorities, however, feel satisfied that the money was intended to be utilized for the purpose of obtaining by under-hand methods, if possible, the liberation of Respa.

While the whereabouts of Respa during the past months had been kept secret from his friends, it was not generally known by the citizens that a previous but unsuccessful attempt had been made to secure his freedom.

Plot for Respa's Liberation.

Following his indictment by the Grand Jury at the October Assizes his counsel secured an enlargement of the case until the present Assizes. The first intimation the local police got that friends of Respa were plotting to obtain his liberation was shortly before the death of Provincial Constable Abe Nash about a month ago. The constable saw several people acting suspiciously outside the court house one evening, and it is said he actually caught them in the act of making tests of the foundation, apparently for the purpose of obtaining a desirable place to lay something for explosive purposes. Single-handed, he interfered, but they managed to elude arrest.

Nearly Broke Away.

As the Crown officers agreed that it would not be safe to keep Respa in the Sandwich Jail, pending his trial, the prisoner was removed to the much safer quarters at Guelph. Two hours after his departure Provincial Constable Nash, now deceased, discovered that several of the cell bars at Sandwich had been severed with a file, which he subsequently located in a water tank in the cell. Just how Respa got possession of the file the police have never been able to solve. When the Provincial Attorney learned the circumstances it was suggested that the Militia Department at Ottawa issue a general order for the supplying of a military guard in such cases. The Deputy Minister of Militia, it is reported, gave assent, but for some reason or other the order, it is stated, was subsequently countermanded by Major-General Sir Sam Hughes.

Sheriff Takes No Chances.

"I do not feel inclined to take any chances with desperate characters endangering the lives of the people in the neighborhood of the prison," declared Sheriff Daignon. "I am prepared to assume any responsibility in connection with the safeguarding of the jail."

Strong Force of Officials.

In addition to the military guard the Dominion police are represented by James Parkinson, the Provincial police by Superintendent Rogers and Inspectors Boyd and Miller and Provincial constables from Niagara Falls, Sarnia and Windsor, besides four special plainclothesmen and W. H. Jenkins, a secret service officer from Detroit.

Prisoner Brought to Town.

Respa was brought to Toronto on Saturday by Inspector Miller. On the trip to Windsor to-day he was closely guarded by Inspectors Boyd and Miller, and upon his arrival he was rushed in an automobile to the Sandwich Jail and placed under a special guard. He was subjected to a thorough searching before being placed in a cell.