

HUN SPY TELLS TALE OF HIS TORONTO DOINGS

Amusing Yellow Yarn in American Paper Concerning Von der Kowpper.

FOOLED HIMSELF

Officers He Interviewed Declared That He Is Just an Accomplished Liar.

The Boston American published the following rather "yellow" yarn, which should provide some quiet amusement for Canadians, and particularly the military men of Toronto. The story is headed as follows: "Confession of 'Spy' Who Won Canada. Hobnobbed in Exclusive Clubs and Entertained by Chiefs; Twice Held; Was U.S. Soldier."

The American's story is as follows:

"Twice arrested in Canada as a German spy and twice released through influence of 'mortified' Canadian Statesmen and military chiefs, Hans von der Kowpper, in touch with the inner circles of the Kaiser's secret service system, is glad he is back in Uncle Sam's domains. Boston looked good to him last night.

His success in Canada as a spy for the Fatherland was really remarkable. Twice arrested and twice set free with official and profuse apologies—and all the time a secret agent of the hated Teutonic enemy—was a feat worth while.

But think of hobnobbing for six months in the most exclusive clubs of the Dominion with the bright lights of social and military life; of visiting the homes of these distinguished people as their honored guest; of making an impassioned speech for recruits in a crowded Toronto theatre, and of being introduced in a stirring address by Sir John Foster (sic), Minister of Finance—and all the time a German spy!

But that isn't all. So impressed were the army recruits with Hans' aid in recruiting that he, himself, was accepted in the American Legion of Canada and gazetted as a colonel, the American Legion being the 97th Canadian Battalion, C.E.F.

German Prisoners Abused.

Hans von der Kowpper was always welcome at the Conservative Club of Toronto. It was there that Sir Sam Hughes, Minister of Militia, made his home, and it was there he chatted over recruiting and the prospects of the war with the persuasive and likeable German agent.

There was nothing too good for Hans von der Kowpper in the homes and the clubs and the hearts of the hospitable war chieftains of the Dominion—but, goodness knows, they didn't know him. Of course, his name was Smith or Kipling or something else in Toronto.

And that's how he captivated Lt.-Colonel ——— of the ———, Kowpper, a veteran and a former officer of the National Guards of New York State, visited Colonel ——— at his home, suggesting new methods of recruiting, and telling "stunts" tried successfully by the United States during the Spanish War. At once Kowpper was admitted to the charmed circle.

The German agent also met Major LeGrand Reed.

High Pay to U. S. Men?

Captain Lyndom of the regular Canadian army was another who looked with favor on Hans.

Kowpper reports abuse of German prisoners, herded in cattle sheds, and persecution of sympathizers with the German cause; a preacher in one case being "ridden out of town on a rail."

Colonel Greer, commander of the Sportsmen's Battalion, told Hans that of those who enlisted in this branch only a comparatively few had ever carried a gun. Boys under twenty serving as lieutenants and strutting

about the streets "like peacocks," until higher authorities stopped a "lot of tom-foolery." It was declared \$500 bought a lieutenantcy, \$1,000 a captaincy, and \$5,000 a majorship.

Kowpper was first arrested as a suspect at King Edward's Hotel in Toronto. His letter to his mother in the United States had been opened by the censors. The letter criticized the place where the American Legion was herded, "in an old cattle shed." He appealed to Lieutenant-Colonel — and Hans was released at once.

Arrested as Firebug.

When fire swept through the Ottawa Government Building Kowpper was arrested as a firebug suspect at 2 o'clock the next morning. He had been seen with a musician who was wanted and who was later detained. Hans was at that time staying with friends of Major Tom Flannery of the Sportsmen's Battalion. Once more Hans was liberated. His friends were insulted at the "insult" to so strong a champion of the allies.

Directly after the Ottawa fire, however, Hans was gazetted a lieutenant in the American Legion to recruit for the Canadian army—nice work for a German agent! Receiving his commission, Hans returned to the Arlington Hotel in Toronto, where the Prince of Wales, afterward King Edward, was entertained.

But sharp-eyed army commanders can't be fooled all the time. At midnight Hans was warned by a hotel man that he was being watched. Under cover of darkness he slipped out of town, making his way to Hamilton and then to Bridgeburg.

A bit more of travel, a short walk to Fort Erie and a ferry to Buffalo—and Hans von der Kowpper got back alive to the U. S. A.

Hans von der Kowpper thinks it's very risky business being a spy, but it is all right if you get home alive.

A Star representative saw several officers of the Sportsmen's Battalion, and got their version of the affair. They had no hesitation in describing the "spy" as a fanciful liar.

Lieut.-Col. R. H. Greer, O.C., 180th (Sportsmen's) Battalion, after having read the sensational "confession" of the German spy, recalled the man immediately. He declared that the man now calling himself Hans Von der Kowpper, came to him shortly after the work of forming the battalion had started in January of last year. "This man declared that he was a newspaper correspondent and called himself White. He stated that he was from Chicago and had come to Canada for the purpose of securing material for articles for American newspapers and magazines. We had located our headquarters at the Sportsmen's Club in Richmond street west. One morning this man came to Capt. Thos. Flanagan and said that he had a proposition whereby he could get us 200 or 300 recruits." Capt. Flanagan brought him to me.

"What is your proposition?" I asked him.

"If I can get you 200 or 300 recruits, will you give me a lieutenantcy?" he asked.

"I told him that I would not make any deal with him, and that we did not do things that way here. After considerable hedging, he told me that he could get 200 or 300 deserters from the American army who would be glad to come over here to fight, I then told him we did not want them, and he left the room. While he was in the club he talked about the war, and I was struck with his pronunciation of several difficult German names. I have a peculiar

faculty for detecting a German who talks of German names in English. I do not think I could possibly be fooled. The moment he left the room I sent for Capt. Flanagan and said, 'Captain, that man is a German spy. Find out where he is living and make some investigations.'

"Captain Flanagan then went to the Arlington Hotel where he learned that White was living a life of ease. He did not rise any morning until noon, and most days he remained in his bed until the afternoon. From the hotel White had sent several telegrams to New York papers, stating that he had a sensational story to sell, and asking how much material these different papers could handle. The sensational stories concerned the movements of the American Legion.

Deported Him.

"That afternoon I sent Capt. Flanagan to Col. Grasett, and I later called on Inspector of Detectives Kennedy. I told the inspector that there was a German spy in town and that he had better be **deported** immediately. The inspector sent men to the hotel, and within twenty-four hours the German was across the border.

"I do not think that this man is a German spy. He was a slightly-built man, badly dressed and ill-groomed. I noticed at the time that his shoes were badly broken. I have no doubt that he was an American newspaper man, but a consummate liar. He told most wonderful tales of the enormous sums of money he made as a newspaper correspondent. Familiar with newspaper men, and having some knowledge of the money they earn, I knew that this man was lying.

"Col. Greer denied absolutely that there was ever anything said between himself and White concerning the price of different commissions in the army. "My whole interview with him did not take over fifteen minutes. At the end of that time I was positive that he was a liar; that from his pronounciation of different words that he was a German, and that he was a good man to have out of the country. I believe that the other statements made in the story concerning his intimacy with prominent Canadians, his speeches at recruiting meetings, and all the rest of the yarn was manufactured out of whole cloth."

Capt. Flanagan, who is mentioned by White or Von der Kowpper as an intimate friend, believes that he is a "dope" fiend.

To Raise \$800,000 For Missions.

The General Board of Missions of the Methodist Church decided yesterday to fix \$800,000 as the amount to be raised during the year 1917-18.