

SPY AS SEEN IN WAR TIME PURELY PRUSSIAN PRODUCT

System of "Sowing" Germans in Foreign Countries Began Before 1866

London, Nov. 6.—D. Thomas Curll, continuing his series of articles in the Times on what he observed in ten months he spent in Germany, writes of "Spies and Semi-spies." He says:

"Spying is just as essential an ingredient of Prussian character as conceit, indifference to the feelings of others, jealousy, envy, self-satisfaction, industry, inquisitiveness, cruelty, imitativeness, materialism and the other national attributes that will occur to those who knew Prussia as distinct from the other German States.

"Prussian men and women hardly know the meaning of the word 'private,' and as they have Prussianized on greater or less degree all the other states of the empire; they have infused to Germany publicity as to the state of a man's business and fortune.

Past Masters in Spying.

"The British or American boy or college student who spies or sneaks is not popular, and is apt to receive what he deserves. All this is reversed in Germany, where an entirely different moral code prevails. With these elements in their character it is natural that the Germans should be past masters of the art of espionage.

"It does not follow that they are equally successful in the deductions formed from their investigations of foreign matters. But they are so egotistical, so fond of making reports, so fond of seeing things from only their own point of view, that while they may be successful in obtaining possession, by spying, by purchase or by theft of the plans, say, of a new battleship, they are unable to form an accurate estimate of the character and

intention of the people upon whom they may be spying.

"Their military spying is believed to be perfect, but is marred occasionally by the contempt they feel for other nations in military matters. I presume there is not much difference in the system of the various nations, except that German military spying probably is more thorough.

System of "Sowing" Abroad.

"The system of 'sowing' Germans in foreign countries, as I have heard it called in Germany—that is, getting them to naturalize, was begun by Prussia prior against Austria, and was so successful under Moltke and Bismarck that it was developed in other countries. Thus while comparatively few Frenchmen, for example, are naturalized abroad, German residents go through the form just as suits their particular business or the German Government's, double nationality being regarded as a patriotic duty to the Fatherland.

"There are as a rule three schools of German espionage in other countries—those attached to the embassies, to the consulates, and those working individually. They have no connection with each other but forward their reports direct to Germany. There is a fourth class of fairly well paid professional spies, men and women alike, who visit foreign countries with letters of introduction, and attend conventions of scientific, military and industrial congresses. They receive from \$200 to \$500 monthly pay.

"Many semi-spies in the German commercial, musical and theatrical world are from their point of view honest workers, enthusiastic for German kultur. They recently fastened upon England because the German for many years have been taught to regard this country as their next opponent. They are now as industrious in the United States as they were in England before the war, because those Germans who think the war has been won believe the United States is their next enemy."