

## PECULIAR CHEMICAL SPRAYED OVER HAY

### German Farmer Has Bought Four Autos Lately—Often Out Till 3 a.m.

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Tillsonburg, Nov. 23.—The barn-burning mysteries are reaching a high point of intensity in Oxford county. To-day information has come that a well-known farmer north of Mount Elgin, whose name is withheld, has discovered a very peculiar-colored chemical sprayed through two separate places in the barn in the hay. On opening the barn door he was amazed to find the barn full of intense moisture, and on investigation found the above-mentioned chemical. Coincident with the above, another very important clue has been discovered in the fact that a farmer of German descent, who came near being sent to the internment camp for his abuse of the British flag at the beginning of the war, has purchased four autos this summer, and has been followed many times at night recently, and he did not arrive home till 3.30 a.m. This morning Geo. A. Rounds' barn was consumed. A Provincial detective has been summoned, and startling developments are expected.

## FRANCE A HEAVY LOSER IN MATTER OF SHIPS

### PROSPECTS OF HER MERCHANT MARINE DISCUSSED IN CHAM- BER OF DEPUTIES.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Paris, Nov. 23.—The prospects of the French merchant marine after the war was the subject of an interpellation in the Chamber of Deputies to-day by Deputy Andre Heese, who is dissatisfied with the 120 million francs for new constructions and 30 million francs for the purchase of merchant ships voted by Parliament. "Before the war," he said, "our mercantile marine occupied the fifth place among the nations. Great Britain being first with 19,880,000 tons, Germany second with 5,000,000 tons, the United States third with 2,880,000 tons, Norway fourth with 1,800,000 tons, and France fifth with 1,080,000 tons. Since the war began our fleet has lost 3,21,000 tons, while the amount of new construction laid down during the same period has only been 69,000 tons.

"Why? because a few hundred specialists are retained in the army and the constructors cannot import the necessary raw materials. The Germans are making a great effort to bring their merchant marine up to five million tons. We must apply to Britain to come with the necessary materials to the aid of France, who she knows has saved the liberty of the world, and thus save us from becoming vassals of Germany."

Other speakers complained of disorder in the methods of loading and requisitioning shipping.

The debate was adjourned until tomorrow.

### LOOKING FOR LIEUTENANT.

#### He is Alleged to Have Cashed Sup- posedly Forged Cheques.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Quebec, Nov. 23.—Three inquiries are under way to-day to discover an alleged Lieutenant in one of the local battalions who yesterday afternoon cashed supposedly forged cheques to the amount of \$5,000. The cheques he cashed in the Bank of Montreal and also in the Quebec Bank were supposed to be pay cheques of soldiers. It is stated the alleged forger went to the Molsons Bank previously, where he asked for a credit of \$30,000, saying he had cheques to cover the amount. The officials there, however, refused to grant his request. It is supposed he stole blank cheques in the militia office, and then had a duplicate of the militia seals cast to mark his cheques.

### CAN VISIT IRELAND.

#### 199th Battalion May be Welcomed by Duke and Duchess.

(Canadian Press Despatch.)

Montreal, Nov. 23.—Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice, Honorary Colonel of the 199th Battalion (Duchess of Connaught's Own Irish-Canadian Rangers), announced to-night that before they go to the front they will have an opportunity to visit Ireland, and probably will be welcomed there by the Duke and Duchess of the Connaught.