

MANY SPIES ARE EMPLOYED AS WAITERS IN THE BIG HOTELS

Prevailing Conditions Aid German Secret Service in That Respect

LOOK INNOCENT BUT CAN LISTEN

Hotel Management Here is Largely Dependent Upon Alien "Help"

"Spies for the German Government have been working as waiters or in other capacities in the great hotels of Canada, the United States and Great Britain for the past decade," remarked Mr. George Wright, proprietor of the Walker House, to a representative of The News to-day. "The German secret service has had men placed as waiters all over the world," he added. "The business man, earnest in conversation, overlooks the waiter, or does not think of him at all. He will talk at a table all unconscious of the fact that the silent man standing behind him may be taking advantage of the conversation for the benefit of the German nation. It possibly never occurs to the talker that the waiter is perhaps a man of a high degree of intelligence notwithstanding apparent lowly position."

Secrets Revealed.

"I am quite convinced," concluded Mr. Wright, "that the home life of our nation and that of others has been absolutely revealed in secret confidences to friends which have been overheard by waiters, housemaids, governesses and persons in similar positions. The reason is that the Germans practically control these services all through Great Britain and Canada. Take the railway hotels and dining system, here you will find that there are Germans in charge. This has been going on for 20 years, since the big hotel proposition first developed. It is the same in all the large institutions of the kind on the other side and Great Britain has recently become very much alive to the fact."

"Germany and Switzerland started out to control the world from the service standpoint in the hotels, which are the homes of the people when they are away from home," said Mr. Wright. "That has given the Germans particularly a marvellous help to their system of espionage in the simplest way."

"What is the remedy?" Mr. Wright was asked.

"Why, we should have a national training school for such services," he answered. "We have not got the people qualified to fill the positions. If I want to get trained employes I have got to send across the line, and I have to break the law to do that. We should be in a position to develop them here. As it is now the Germans and Swiss are practically in control of many branches of the service."

A National Training School.

"The stand I took at the National convention was that the hotelkeepers should appeal to the Government for assistance in the establishment of a national training school, where the various branches of hotel service, including mechanical engineering, refrigeration, front office work, accounting, the chemistry of food, domestic service, etc., would be taught to all the employes of these institutions in Canada and such a school could look for support for the establishment of this instruction from the allied corporations in the hotel and catering business. The railroad companies have gone along the lines of developing the system so that where they produced first class service in their hotels and on dining cars and steamships, they were bound to induce travelers to patronize them. Where the service is poor travelers will not go if they can help it. The railroads recognized the fact that before people started out the questions asked were: What sort of dining cars has that road got? How are their hotels and have they got good tables? How are their places conducted? The consequence has been, especially on this continent, that the railway companies have devoted more time and attention to that branch of the service to the public than to any other department that goes to make up modern railway corporations."

Organization in Europe.

"There is an organization in Europe," continued Mr. Wright, "called,

I think, the National Congress of hotels.

It is composed of delegates from hotel organizations in Great Britain, Spain, Switzerland, France, Italy, Germany, Austria and even from some of the South American Republics. The United States of America, strange to say, have never had any delegates because they have never had a national body that could become affiliated with the congress. That is, they have had no national business association. There is an organization on the other side, which is an Hotelmen's Mutual Benefit Association, but it is a sort of a fraternal and insurance society and is not eligible for membership. There was nothing until the formation of the American and Canadian Hotelkeepers' Protective Association, which is an organization for protective purposes against the professional dead beat, but since the convention of the Hotelmen's Mutual Benefit Association in New York last April followed by the annual trip to Europe, which included visits to Great Britain, Germany and Austria, the hotelmen have become much impressed with the benefits accruing from the association in Europe and on their return proceeded to constitute a body that could derive some of these benefits. As a result the American Congress of hotelkeepers came into being and it has nine accredited delegates to the European body which holds a convention every three years. The next convention was due to be held next month, but it has been abandoned owing to the war. We had a meeting at the Iroquois Hotel in Buffalo last July when the American Congress asked me to act as the delegate representing Canada at the European congress. I have been a member of the executive of the Hotelkeepers' Protective Association.

Governments Interested.

"That congress in Europe had delegates from all the principal European Governments in attendance thus indicating the strong importance attached to it," said Mr. Wright. "Like the Swiss particularly, they all recognize that there is more real money brought into a country through the institution of properly conducted hotels than through any other branch of public service in the hands of private individuals."

"The great trouble in the successful operation of these institutions from a culinary standpoint is the fact that in this branch of the service, in a majority of cases the best offices are in the hands of aliens, not only in Canada but in the United States and Great Britain. Most of the large institutions of this kind on this side of the water are controlled, either by German or Swiss, or by descendants of people of those nations, and the International Stewards' Association, a body largely controlled by Germans in the United States have taken up the matter of a national training school for American hotel employes, and their president, Mr. Eugene Gerrard, is connected with the Shredded Wheat industry, which, like many other of these food supplies, are mainly controlled by Germans."

How to Support It.

Mr. Wright's idea is that the hotelkeepers and the allied trades in Canada would support a system of training schools established by the Government. A maintenance fund could be created by the hotel owners, the revenue from which would be sufficient. Abattoirs, railways, etc., could be depended upon to endow chairs. Wealthy men interested in the business would make bequests that would swell the maintenance fund. He says it is the only solution of the problem of taking the hotel service question out of the hands of aliens and every progressive hotelman would be pleased to send his help to such a training school and pay for the instruction. The salaries pertaining to many hotel positions are well worth striving for and are much higher than in many other branches of business.

"From a national standpoint such a school should be established," he concluded.

TRUST COMPANY'S MANAGER MET ACCIDENTAL DEATH

Vancouver.—That William Robert Arnold came to his death on the morning of October 12 from the accidental discharge of a pump shot-gun was the verdict brought in by a coroner's jury at the inquest held in the case of the late managing director of the Dominion Trust Company.