

# ROWENS IS CHARGED WITH HIGH TREASON

For First Time in Toronto, Man  
is Brought up on This  
Charge

IS PUNISHABLE BY DEATH

Alleged That He Was Helping  
Thirty Austrians to Leave  
Canada

For the first time in the history of Toronto, a charge of High Treason was preferred in the local police court to-day. The offence is punishable by death.

James J. Rowens, 397 Markham street clerk at the offices of Mr. Louis Gurofsky, steamship agent, of Queen street west, is the accused. He is charged with "having assisted public enemies at war with His Majesty, by attempting to assist them to get out of Canada." Rowens pleaded "not guilty," and the investigation was remanded for a week.

Crown Attorney Corley explained to Magistrate Denison that the charge against the prisoner came under the head of "High Treason," and was an offence that would have to be tried in the high courts.

## Sold Tickets to Austrians.

Rowens was arrested on Wednesday at Gurofsky's office at the instigation of the immigration officers at Niagara Falls, and was taken to Stanley Barracks where he was held under armed guard until to-day. He is now being looked after by the police. It is alleged that he attempted to get thirty Austrians out of Canada, and that the latter intended assisting their country in the present war. It is expected that as the police investigate the case others will be involved and it is not at all unlikely that more arrests will follow.

The Austrians have been brought to Toronto and will be put under a gruelling examination by the police and military authorities.

## Said They Were Rumanians.

The police allege that Rowens obtained tickets for them to go to the United States and accompanied them to Niagara Falls, Ontario. When stopped by immigration officials and questioned regarding their nationality, they stated that they were Rumanians.

Rowens is a Russian Jew, 28 years of age, and has been in Canada only a year, all of which time he was employed as a clerk and agent by Mr. Louis Gurofsky. He formerly came from Moscow, the old Russian capital, and according to his employer, Rowens was an officer in the Russian army and a barrister. He is single and well educated. Although somewhat pale when he stood up in the dock of the police court to-day to answer to the charge, he replied to the accusation in a clear tone. He was neatly dressed and groomed. So far he is not represented by counsel.