

# HIGH TREASON CHARGE LAID AGAINST ROWENS

## Sequel to Stoppage of Austrians at Niagara

**Alleged Accused Persuaded Austrians to Leave Country for Native Land and Told Them They Could Do Better There.**

Charged with high treason, John J. Rowens, 397 Markham street, appeared in the Police Court yesterday morning. He pleaded not guilty, and was remanded without bail. He will be tried in a higher court. The offence is punishable by death.

Rowens is employed in the steamship offices of Mr. Louis Gurofsky, and was arrested on Wednesday afternoon by Plainclothesmen Maurer and Hess, following information given to the local police by the immigration officers at Niagara Falls, Ont.

On Tuesday evening the officials at the Falls stopped a party of Austrians, who had tickets to the United States. Not satisfied with the statement that they were Rumanians, the officers further questioned members of the party through an interpreter. They are alleged to have admitted that they had been brought to the Falls by Rowens with the alleged intention of evading the immigration officers to go to Austria to take part in the present conflict. The information thus obtained was sent to the local police, who immediately arrested Rowens.

### Taken to Stanley Barracks.

Rowens was taken to Stanley Barracks. An investigation was held on Thursday. The examination of the party of Austrians brought from the Falls required some time. Each of fifteen witnesses, it is stated, identified Rowens as the man who had come to them at a camp near the Falls and persuaded them to leave the country. Rowens, it is said, told the Austrians, who were out of employment, that they could do better in their own country, where they were needed.

There is the possibility that others will be involved as the case proceeds.

Rowens is well educated, speaking many languages. He emigrated to Canada from Russia.