

ZIRZOW SAYS HE MADE

UNTRUE STATEMENTS

Claims "Influence" Made Him Say Things About Mr. Nerlich.

TORE UP DOCUMENT

Surprised Court by Tearing His Signature From a Document.

Arthur Zirzow, chief witness in the Nerlich high treason trial, astonished the court yesterday afternoon by tearing his signature from a document which had been placed in his hands. It was a statement, Zirzow declared, which he had been forced to sign in order to convict Mr. Nerlich of treason. Since the last trial, the young German has greatly changed, having lost much of his military appearance and become quite haggard. He was brought up from Fort Henry to give evidence, and when questioned as to his movements since coming to Toronto he stated that he reached the city in May last, worked in Toronto in a chewing gum factory, but did not get on very well, receiving only \$9.50 a week.

Promised To Stay.

On August 21, 1914, he gave an undertaking to the authorities that he would not leave Toronto. Towards the end of October Zirzow went to the Nerlich office and asked the accused for employment. He told him he had been a German army officer, as had his father, and he showed Mr. Nerlich his discharge. Zirzow wrote his name on a piece of paper, which was given to the accused when he met the witness. It might have been a week later, said the witness that he went to see Mr. Nerlich again. The accused this time asked Zirzow to dine with him at the Prince George Hotel.

Here the witness showed Mr. Nerlich a letter he had received from his sister asking him to come home. Zirzow then proceeded to translate the letter. It took considerable time as Zirzow was only able to bring it into English with difficulty.

No War Talk.

Zirzow remembered little about the dinner at the Prince George, though he told that his brother, Ernest, referred to in the letter, had been wounded at the battle of the Aisne and had received the Iron Cross. The first time he met Mr. Nerlich they did not speak about the war, but referring again to the Prince George dinner, Zirzow declared he had started to talk war, but Mr. Nerlich said he would not like to speak about it.

As to statements he had made in the police court, Zirzow said they were not true, and also declared he had been influenced by statements made at Stanley barracks.

"What part of your statements was not true?" the Crown asked.

"That I was talking about war any time I was in Mr. Nerlich's house."

As to living at Mr. Nerlich's home, witness declared he went in by the front door and met all the Nerlich friends who came to the house. Mr. Nerlich had paid \$5 for dancing lessons for the witness, and before attempting to leave Toronto he had received \$10 from Mr. Nerlich, and \$8 from others, because he was "hard-up."