

STUDY SANITY OF LOUISA MARKESFELDT

Girl Was in Women's Court and Sent to Hospital

"OVERDEVELOPED EGO"

Magistrate Asks if it is Case of Too Many Novels

The case of Louisa Markesfeldt, the girl who has been mystifying the public, and posing as a German spy, came up this morning in the Women's Court. The charge against her to which she pleaded "not guilty," was vagrancy.

Just a very ordinary girl in plain blue serge suit and black hat, looking worried and unhappy. Louisa Markesfeldt impressed one merely as a working girl of an ordinary type. She is to be sent to a detention hospital and kept there until it is found whether she is quite sane.

"Perhaps she is not actually insane, but she has a craving for publicity and an over-developed ego," said Crown Attorney Corley, in presenting her case to Magistrate Kingsford.

"Is it a case of reading sixpenny novels?" asked the Magistrate.

Louisa Identified.

When confronted with a girl that had known her when she worked as a domestic at Shelburne, Ont., Louisa Markesfeldt denied that she knew the girl, and asserted that she had never been at Shelburne. The girl in question, Miss Ada Noble, who had been specially brought to Toronto to identify Louisa, was taken over to the jail and had no difficulty in picking the "Girl of Mystery" out from among a number of women prisoners. However, Louisa gave no indication that she knew Miss Noble. The latter was positive that it was the same girl that she had known at Shelburne.

Inspector of Detectives Kennedy told The Daily News that Louisa had also denied that she had been sent out to Canada from Lambeth, England, by the Barnardo Home, despite the fact that Miss Sillars, traveling inspector for the institution, had identified her as one of the girls that had been brought to this country by the Home in 1906. Several other people identified the girl as Louisa Markesfeldt, but she insists that they are wrong.

Dr. MacMurchy's Opinion.

"In reading the sketches of her in The Daily News, and in what Inspector Kennedy has told me of her I observe many of the characteristics of the 'defective delinquent,' probably of the type called 'moral imbeciles.'" Dr. Helen MacMurchy was speaking of Louisa Markesfeldt.

The only treatment for "defective delinquents," said Dr. MacMurchy, was to place them under constant supervision, as their judgment was never to be relied upon, and they were always liable to become the prey of unscrupulous persons who were apt to use them to their own nefarious ends.

Among the traits recognized by Dr. MacMurchy were the girl's love of notoriety, her attempts to make the utmost display of her knowledge, her apparent failure to appreciate the importance of the truth, and her morbid love of children, horses and dogs.