

# NEWSPAPER AGENTS TAKEN FOR SPIES

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Fears of German spies flourish in western towns and cities. Some of them lead to the apprehending of dangerous characters while other lead to laughter, although it is hard for the persons arrested to enjoy the humor.

One of the latter cases has just come to light in the return to Winnipeg on Saturday of Moses Bachand and a man named Fawcett, western representatives of La Presse, the Montreal French daily. Bachand has been the western agent of the paper for the past four years and Fawcett is his assistant.

Bachand is a French-Canadian and Fawcett is an Englishman. They make their headquarters in Winnipeg and for a long time have been "doing" "write-ups" of western towns for publication in La Presse. For this purpose they visit the towns, get their information and take a few pictures to illustrate the articles. For several weeks they had been working towns and villages in northwestern Manitoba. For some time the villagers had been suspicious of them. The liveryman at one point told them that he understood they were to be arrested, but they laughed at it. However, when they reached Brandon early in December they were taken from the Imperial hotel by a squad of soldiers and marched to the military headquarters at the winter fair building, on the charge that they were German spies. When they were brought before the colonel in charge it took only a few minutes to clear the matter up and they were released.

Bachand and Fawcett arrived back in Winnipeg Saturday, hot under the collar that a French-Canadian and an Englishman should be arrested for German spies. However, it appears that the sight of two men around the towns with a camera made the residents suspicious and the authorities had been notified. The men had been trailed for several weeks and were "landed" when they arrived at Brandon.