

ENEMY PLOT TO DESTROY WELAND CANAL
DISCOVERED IN NEW YORK; TWO ARRESTED

LEADER WAS HEAD OF SECRET POLICE OF HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE, NEW YORK.

Also Believed to be Chief German Spy in United States; Assistant Was Art-Dealer; First "Hyphenated" to be Arrested

New York, Dec. 18.—A plot to blow up the Welland Canal is charged in connection with the arrest of three prominent Germans last night. The arrests are said to be the prelude to a series of startling exposures of German propaganda in this country, which may link together a number of events that have occurred in the United States.

The first man arrested was Paul Koenig, head of the Bureau of Investigation of the Hamburg-American Line, and believed to be the head of the German secret service in this country. Koenig is a well-to-do man, and has been conspicuous in German circles. He took out his first papers in connection with his plan to become an American citizen ten years ago, but never applied for his second.

The second man is Richard Emil Leyendecker, retailer of art goods at 347 Fifth avenue, and living at 640 Morris avenue, the Bronx. He is a naturalized American citizen, and these arrests make the first instance where the so-called "hyphenated Americans" have been arrested in connection with the German propaganda.

The third person arrested was Fred Metzler, alias F. R. Reimer, who was arrested in Jersey City last night.

Military Enterprise from States.

These men are charged under Section No. 13 of the Federal Criminal Statutes with planning a military enterprise or undertaking of hazard against a country friendly with the United States. The penalty on conviction is three years in prison or \$3,000 fine, or both.

Koenig was arrested outside his office near the Hamburg-American Building shortly after 6 o'clock. Leyendecker was nabbed in his shop. In addition a number of other persons, including Koenig's wife, were invited to the offices of the Department of Justice, and there were questioned until a late hour.

The precise details of the alleged plot were withheld by the Federal authorities, but it is understood that Koenig and Leyendecker had employed spies, who went out from Buffalo and Niagara Falls to photograph the canal, prepare plans and make arrangements for blowing up the waterway at its most important point, and that nitro-glycerine was to have been used as the explosive.

Still Hope to Succeed.

Koenig and Leyendecker were in Buffalo about four days, according to the authorities, and returned to New York with the execution of the alleged plot left in the hands of their agents. As far as is known by the Department of Justice, it was said last night, they still contemplated the carrying out of the plot, when the arrests took place, whenever the opportunity offered.

With the arrest the special agents of the Department of Justice, under Wm. M. Offley and Jos. A. Baker, and the detectives, under Captain Tunney, of the bomb squad, raided the offices of both men, and they packed up a great mass of material concerning the movements of German secret agents. Secret codes, which were changed every week to elude any persons who might have been shadowing them or listening over the telephones, also were found.

These codes showed that when Koenig or any other of his men telephoned to another "to meet me at south ferry," that meant Pabets, 125th street, or some other place. In addition to these codes there were found many other documents of great importance, over which the detectives and the agents were pouring to-night, including maps and drawings of the Welland Canal.

Tapped Their Phone Lines.

While the authorities would give comparatively little details last night, it was learned, however, that the arrests, which were so important that A. Bruce Bielaski, head of the special investigators of the Department of Justice, made a special trip to New York to supervise the affair, followed an investigation of more than a year. Both Koenig, who, by the way, figured in the Stahl case under the name of Stemler, and Leyendecker have been under surveillance by the police and agents of the Department of Justice for more than a year. Their movements have been followed closely. That was made possible by a tapping of their telephone lines. The men are said to have sought to outwit the detectives by using the code for telephoning.

The authorities give denial to the belief that there was any connection between the plan to blow up the canal and the series of explosions in munition factories and the fire in sugar ships in this country. It was learned, however, that within a short time the Grand Jury will take up a new line of investigation that is expected to bring together under one head many of the acts of violence that have been attributed to Germans in this country.

Had Many Aliases.

The complaint on which warrants were issued this afternoon by United States Commissioner Clarence Houghton was prepared by Roger B. Wood, United States Assistant Attorney, after conference with Raymond B. Carfay, Assistant United States Attorney who for months has been working with Mr. Offley. The complaint made by Mr. Offley names Koenig under 13 different aliases. Those names are Wegenkamp, Wegener, Kelly, Winter, Perkins, Stemler (mentioned in the Stahl case), Rector, Berg, Boehm, Kennedy, James, Smith, Murphy Munday.

Leyendecker is accused of having used the names of C. D. Decker and R. Decker.

The Charge in Detail.

The complaint reads verbatim as follows:—
"At the City of New York, County

of New York, within the southern district of New York, on Sept. 27, 1915, the defendant unlawfully, willfully and feloniously did begin and set on foot and prepare the means for a military enterprise to be carried on from the United States against the property, territory or dominions of a foreign prince, with whom the United States was and is at peace, that is to say, that the said defendant on Sept. 27, 1915, at the City of New York, within the southern district of New York, did begin, set on foot and prepare the means for a military enterprise to be carried on from the United States against the Dominion of Canada, a colony or dependency of the King of Great Britain and Ireland, and it was the purpose and intent of the said defendant then and there to destroy, mutilate and damage the Welland Canal, a waterway traversing portion of the said Dominion of Canada for a distance of 27 miles from Port Colborne to Port Dalhousie, in the said Dominion of Canada, the said Welland Canal being used for the transportation of foreign and domestic commerce, and it was the purpose and intent of said defendant then and there to destroy, mutilate and damage said Welland Canal by force of arms, the object of the said enterprise, or hazard so begun and set on foot, being to destroy, mutilate and damage said canal and the commerce of the Dominion of Canada, with which the United States was and is at peace, and for the purpose of carrying on said enterprise the said defendant left the territory of New York, in the County of New York, within the southern district of New York, on Sept. 27, 1915, and proceeded by the Lehigh Valley Railroad to Buffalo and from thence to Niagara Falls, in the State of New York."

Confidential Reports.

"That the sources of deponent's information are confidential reports made to him, statements made by various witnesses, and independent investigation which he has made in his official capacity; that the reasons that the sources of deponent's information are not more fully set forth is that to reveal such sources of information would be contrary to public policy and injurious to the interests of the United States; against the peace and dignity of the United States in violation of section 13 of the United States Criminal Code; wherefore the deponent prays that a warrant may issue for the apprehension of said defendant in order that they may be arrested and dealt with in due course."

Zeppelins Had a Cargo of Bombs

Following an Explosion the Craft Was Entirely Destroyed

Canadian Press Despatch.

New York, Dec. 18.—An Amsterdam despatch to a news agency here to-day says:

Destruction of a German Zeppelin and the death of the entire crew was reported by travelers arriving here to-day from Brussels.

The Zeppelin was passing over the outskirts of Namur headed for Ypres with a heavy cargo of bombs, the travelers said. What caused the accident is unknown.

Three peasants, working in nearby fields, were arrested and sent to Germany in an effort to keep the news from becoming public.

A Year Ago To-day

DECEMBER 18, 1914.

England declared a protectorate over Egypt, and appointed as Sultan Prince Hussein Kemal Pasha, uncle of the ruler now deposed.

The Russian authorities admitted that the German troops were only 18 miles from Warsaw, but claimed that the German attack was being checked.

The Kings of Norway, Sweden and Denmark met at Malmö, Sweden, to consider joint action for the protection of commerce.

PAINFUL SWOLLEN VEINS QUICKLY RELIEVED AND REDUCED

Mrs. R. M. Remler, of Federal, Kansas, writes an interesting account of her success in reducing a severe case of enlarged veins that should be encouraging to others similarly afflicted. She suffered with badly swollen and inflamed veins (in fact one had broken), for more than seven years before she became acquainted with Absorbine, Jr., and used it. Absorbine, Jr., was faithfully applied for several weeks and, to quote from her letter, "The large knots in the veins left, it was all nicely healed; and has not bothered me since."

Absorbine, Jr., is an antiseptic liniment—cooling, soothing, safe and pleasant to use. \$1.00 and \$2.00 at your druggist's or postpaid. Liberal trial bottle postpaid for 10c in stamps. W. F. Young, P.D.F.

116 Lyman's Bldg., Montreal, Can.