

WELLAND PLOT WAS ONLY PART OF HUGE CONSPIRACY

New York, Dec. 21.—Information obtained by the federal authorities yesterday from witnesses appearing before the grand jury, which is investigating the alleged plot of Paul Koenig, head of the detective bureau of the Hamburg-American line, to blow up the Welland canal, have widely extended the scope of the inquiry. After the grand jury had adjourned for the day federal officials stated that the Welland canal plot might prove to be merely an incident in a conspiracy which extended throughout the country.

Indictments against Koenig and Richard Emil Lyendecker, the New York arts goods dealer, who was arrested with him, are expected to be returned on Wednesday. United States Attorney Marshall admitted, however, that these indictments would probably be merely the forerunner of others to be sought from subsequent grand juries, dealing with other activities of Koenig.

While the Koenig case was occupying the attention of one federal grand jury, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was appearing before another which is concluding its inquiry in the case of Franz von Bintel, charged with instigating strikes in munition factories.

After leaving the grand jury room Mr. Gompers declared that he knew of no instance in which any leader of organized labor had been corrupted by German agents. He intimated that he had information in regard to attempts

being made to bribe union heads. Mr. Gompers will resume his testimony today, when Frank Morrison, secretary of the Federation of Labor will also appear before the jury.

Metzler's Confession.

Frederick Metzler made a full statement yesterday concerning the alleged activities of Paul Koenig who, he said, had twenty-five agents in New York alone and reported the results of his investigation to Captain Von Papen, the German military attache.

According to Metzler, Koenig's activities through agents extended to Quebec, Burlington, Vt., Boston and Portland, Me. His activities in this city, Metzler charged, brought into his possession, among other things, secret reports made by attaches of the Russian embassy on the result of tests of speed boats in Long Island Sound. These, said Metzler, Koenig got through Frederick Schleindl of the National City Bank, now under arrest.

Metzler charged flatly that it was Koenig who sent George Fuchs to destroy the Welland canal, but Fuchs, he said, reported, after visiting the canal, that its destruction could not be accomplished at that time.

The authorities have evidence which they believe connects Koenig with the fire on the Minnehaha.

After making his confession, Metzler went before the grand jury. That body heard also witnesses from Buffalo who testified concerning the Welland canal plot.