

WIRELESS MAN HAD ASSISTED GERMANS

British Officers Boarded Vessel and Took Him Into Custody

MONTREALER WAS SUSPECT

His Accent Helped Him—War Situation in the Far East

Mr. George Blankensee, well-known in Montreal where he has lived for many years and a dealer in precious stones with headquarters in Birmingham, told an interesting story of the war situation in the far East.

He went to China and Japan and the Straits Settlements on business, but was able to do very little. He found that part of the world greatly excited over the war however, and when the steamer Manahurio upon which he was a passenger arrived at Hong Kong it was surrounded by English torpedo boats and halted.

English marines came on board and demanded to be shown up to the wireless operator, who turned out to be a German, and they found sufficient proof right in his office to shoot him ten times over.

Messages Intercepted.

It appears that he had broken the neutrality laws by keeping German war vessels in those latitudes like the Gneisenau and the Nurnberg, posted on the movements of English vessels, thus making the latter an easy prey to the Germans. Some of his messages were intercepted by the English; hence his arrest. He was taken to Stonecutters' Island, opposite Hong Kong, and his fate is unknown.

The Chinese, Mr. Blankensee says, were apparently more friendly towards England than Germany, but they resented Japanese interference.

He himself was suspected of being a spy in Hong Kong on account of his name, which sounds German, but the officer who came to examine him happened to be from the Midlands, "and as soon as I opened my mouth," said Mr. Blankensee, "he knew it was all right."

Transports Ready.

As to Japan, Mr. Blankensee says his impression is that the country is in need of movers to guide it to the advantage to stick not only the spirit but the letter of the agreement with England, even as far as sending troops to Europe if asked to do so.

"They have been mobilizing in Japan right along," says Mr. Blankensee, and when I asked why "I was told so as to be ready to send troops to aid the allies if necessary in Europe. For that reason also," he said, "they are holding numerous steamers ready."