

## A GERMAN PLOT.

The opinion is growing that back of the attempt of a German to destroy the C.P.R. bridge at Vanceboro, between New Brunswick and Maine, is a plot to embroil Canada and the United States in an international quarrel. For her present policy in dealing with American affairs, Germany needs all the discord she can create between the United States and Great Britain or British countries.

The most suspicious circumstance connected with this case is the needless surrender to the law of the culprit. He might have escaped. The bridge might have been destroyed by a time bomb. He sacrificed his liberty so cheerfully as to arouse instant suspicion. A political plotter alone would have courted arrest so deliberately. What did this man Van Horn do?

He destroyed, or attempted to destroy, the Canadian end of the bridge, and then he courted arrest on the American side. He advances the familiar plea, that his is a "political offence," and he asks the United States to refuse to deliver him up to the Canadian authorities, whose prisoner he ought to be by reason of the territory in which his offence was committed. He appeals to Count Von Bernstorff, German Ambassador at Washington, and endeavors to make a dramatic incident out of a situation which, in all probability, was rehearsed, Bernstorff and all, before it took place.

The scheme has been devised with characteristic German efficiency. The administration of justice in the United States is complicated and unsatisfactory. Witness the Thaw case. This German Van Horn expects to drag his case through the courts, no doubt, backed as he probably is with money, and cause no end of trouble.

Of course, the common sense thing to do is to turn the man over direct to the Canadian authorities. But it may do much good to have the United States make an example of this man. If a German citizen, he is a raider who made an attack upon Canada from a neutral country. The neutrality of the United States has been violated then, and the United States may be argued to have considerable responsibility in the matter. This is the time to set up a pre-