

# Strong Evidence Given At Police Court Today In a Treason Charge

## Everyone Should Help Germany With Blood, Money and Strength, Says Prisoner—German Club Connected With the Case—Committed for Trial

The much-talked-of treason charge against Peter Dick, who it is alleged, is a subject of the German Emperor, was commenced at the Police court this morning, before Magistrate Musick.

The prisoner seemed a sorry looking specimen of humanity as he entered the dock. His hair was unkempt and towed, his face covered with a 10-days' growth of beard, and he presented generally a haggard appearance. During the hearing of the evidence the prisoner sat for the most part, with his head buried in his hands; he frequently moved his body with an uneasy, jumpy motion and once or twice attempted to rise and leave the dock. He also repeatedly muttered comments on the evidence being given.

Briefly, the charge against the prisoner is that, he did, on November 18, 1914, form an intention to stir up foreigners, to wit, subjects of the Emperor of Germany, at present at war with His Majesty the King of the United Kingdom, to invade Canada with force, by conspiracy with one Pfeifle to carry it into effect by publishing certain writings, instigating subjects of the Emperor of Germany to invade Canada, and that he did adhere to the enemies of the King of England, without the realm, and that he did have these in his custody and possession.

C. C. McCaul and H. A. Dickie prosecuted for the crown, instructed by the Dominion police at Ottawa. M. M. Charleson defended the prisoner.

### Possessed Uniform and Arms

Mr. Charleson read telegrams with the object of proving that the prisoner was Canadian born. One was from A. Dluck, which stated that Peter Dyck (Dick) was 28 years old and that he was born near Plum Coulee in Manitoba, of Mennonite parents. The second telegram was from H. H. Hamm, registrar of Altona, Man., which substantially confirmed this.

The first witness called was Detective Effenberger, who arrested the prisoner on November 18. Information had been received by the police that a certain foreigner living on Fraser avenue had arms, uniforms, ammunition, and so forth in his possession. When he arrived the prisoner was not at home, but upon an examination of his trunk they found a sword, a military coat and helmet with the words "Für Gott and Vaterland" on it; also a rifle and cartridges and a seal showing the words "P. Dick, inventor, and his true." There were also some photographs and papers. Among the papers were some in the handwriting of the prisoner; he had seen the prisoner write. One paper gave prices of German uniforms, buttons, gilt epaulettes, sword-knots, also a bill from Bannerman's, New York, relating to a sword and helmet. These letters were addressed to the prisoner. There was also a newspaper clipping as to Germany's ability to defeat England. The prisoner told him that he had bought most of the things in Canada. When asked to explain the possession of the various articles, he repeated several times that it was "all

foolishness." He said he had the firearm to go shooting with.

### Offers Canada to Germany

One paper written in German was to the German consul in New York. This advocated forming most of the nations in Europe into a united Germania. The United States, the writer claimed, was too much British, which had its own way in American waters.

"Such damnation," he concluded, "should be sent to hell." He "damned Canada" for sending soldiers over to fight the Germans. He also suggested putting Canada into Germany. He said that here in Canada they would long since have broken loose, only they had no weapons. They should raise the German flag over all Canada, there were lots of Germans, Austrians, Swedes and others who would help.

This communication was signed, "From a Right True German, who has always lived here. Always for Germania." The prisoner admitted writing this.

A number of similar letters were also read. They were written in German but Mr. McCaul read the English translations of them. They were all strongly anti-British in tone, as the following sentences taken haphazard from them will show: "To hell with the British"; he advocated that Germany "should destroy the English nation and take the colonies." This pious wish was uttered, "To hell with these speeches which point only to peace and think only of holiness"; "we will unite with the German war party, so that we can over-run the world." "Everyone," the prisoner wrote, "should help Germany with blood, money and strength to enlarge herself and get the British colonies or anything under British protection." This letter appeared to be signed by Peter Dick, Eric Wolfe and Franz Groening, who were described as "a German bund (society) to have the proper oversight of the Germans in Canada and will not stand for British rule."

Cross-examined, the witness said he did not know that the sword was what was known as a dress sword and would not be used in war; he did not know whether it was a German sword; the prisoner always talked in a rational manner to him.

Detective Dealey, who assisted in the arrest, gave corroborative evidence, adding that the prisoner shared a room with a man named Pfeifle.

### Conversations Recalled

The next witness was Charles Ricketts, who said that he was in the cells when the prisoner was also there, and he talked over the charge with him. Witness asked him if he had anyone behind him, and advised him to tell all he knew and clear himself. He talked about the German spy business; he said he was a member of the German club; he said he went to Stubbe's real estate office, and that afterwards Stubbe introduced him to the German club. He was also taken to Herold office, where he saw Krakenhagen the latter also said he would make him a member of the club; he further said that he had sent two letters to the German consul at New York; he went to the German club the night he joined the 101st and admitted that he had worn the tunic and helmet in the club. Two men stood over him, while he wrote certain of the letters in the club; one he said was Pfeifle, Krakenhagen also being there; the prisoner also admitted writing another letter which he took to the club, where it was addressed and stamped. He also said he had written to the Nebraska Free Press for photographs of the German Emperor; during the conversation with the witness, prisoner said that he knew all about dynamite and nitroglycerine and knew how to use it and blow the whole place up.

Witness was cross-examined at considerable length, his evidence not being shaken. Prisoner said that Krakenhagen had been at his rooms; he said he felt very nervous after leaving the club the night the letters were dictated to him.

The prisoner was committed for trial.