

# LEFLER CONFESSES DYNAMITING PLANS

## Border German Who Helped Gets Ten Years in the Penitentiary

### BREAKS DOWN IN COURT

## Admittedly Tool of Detroit Ger- man Who Employed Him

By Canadian Press.

Windsor, Ont., Aug. 11.—"If I am to be convicted on this crime I am going down an innocent man.

"This man (pointing his finger above), knows I am innocent of wrong-doing. I never was in sympathy with the Germans and never shall I be while I am on earth."

This was the fervent declaration of William Lefler, who yesterday was sentenced by Judge Dromgole to ten years in Kingston Penitentiary, on the charge of being an accomplice in the dynamite explosion which partially wrecked the Peabody plant in Walkerville on June 21; and five years on the charge of conspiracy in attempt to blow up the Windsor arsenal. The sentence is to run concurrently, which means that full term is ten years.

### Lefler and Wife Sob.

Both Lefler and his wife completely broke down when court passed sentence. Lefler appeared to be dazed, and with tears streaming down his face he protested his innocence, while Mrs. Lefler exclaimed in a voice almost drowned by sobs, "My God, I'll be dead before he is let out."

In a statement before sentence was passed, Lefler briefly outlined his career since boyhood which was spent in Oxford County, Ontario. He related the circumstances surrounding the shutting down of the Tate Electric factory, Ford City, just before the war started and how Albert Kaltschmidt offered him a job as night watchman.

Following the closing down of the plant, said the accused, Kaltschmidt was a frequent visitor until the immigration authorities refused to let him cross the border. Lefler continued to do odd jobs for him, however and it was while engaged in fixing some screens at Kaltschmidt's home in Detroit last May, that the latter called him up from his office and said he had another little job for him.

"I was used to doing these odd jobs for him," said Lefler.

### Afraid to Do Anything.

"When I saw him at his office later he told me that he had some stuff in the vault at the old Tate plant in Ford City and that he wanted me to take two valises across. He never told me that stuff was dynamite and I did not find out until the other man was placing it in the valises.

"I picked up what was left and threw it over the fence. I felt like calling up the police. I did not know what to do and I was afraid to do anything.

"Some time later officers Nash, Smith and Morand came and said they wanted me. I did not refuse to go. They wanted me to make a statement. I did not do it right away. But they kept at me. I then thought the best thing to do was to make a clean breast of the whole thing."

### Was Born Near Otterville.

"I have always had a friendly feeling for the British and the others fighting the Germans and Austrians," said Lefler, "and I can't understand how I bowed to the biddings of Kaltschmidt. I never stopped to think what I was doing or I should never, if not under hypnotic influence, use dynamite to injure the British.

"I was born in Canada, down near Otterville, and I have the best interests of Canada and the Mother Country at heart. How I came to get mixed up in this affair I feel that I shall never be able to explain."

It was at this juncture that Lefler passionately protested his innocence and broke down, sobbing bitterly.

"The only thing that is worrying me," he said in conclusion of his statement, "is my dear wife, whom I love dearly and who loves me."

### A Plea for Leniency.

In pleading for leniency, Barrister Morton, counsel for the accused, stated that the confession made by the prisoner may prove useful to the Government in bringing the "real criminal to justice."

"This man is evidently a tool of Kaltschmidt, who is a man who will do anything to accomplish his purpose," said Morton.

In passing sentence Judge Dromgole stated that Lefler had been convicted of two of the most serious crimes. He had taken into consideration every circumstance that may have been in Lefler's favor.

"But law and order must be maintained in this country and lives and property must be protected" said the court.