

USE DICTAGRAPH TO TRAP SPIES

American Detectives Obtain Record at Alleged Meet- ing-place

GERMAN AGENTS BUSY IN BOSTON

One of Federal Sleuths Leaves for Canada Following Disclosures

Canadian Press Despatch.

Boston, Feb. 9.—Federal authorities were engaged to-day with reports that Boston was being used by German sympathizers as a base for the direction of hostile activities in Canada.

Reports of this character have been current for a long time, but lacked official confirmation. To-day for the first time it was admitted by one in the employ of the National Government that typewritten copies were made of dictagraph records alleged to have been obtained at a meeting-place of men under suspicion. This admission was coupled with the assurance that it would be denied if the identity of the author was made public.

United States District Attorney Anderson went to Washington on Monday. Yesterday Edmund Billings, collector of the port of Boston, followed Mr. Anderson to the capital. Their local offices would not disclose the nature of the missions of the two men.

Hundred Shadowed.

According to the reports which led to the admission regarding the dictagraph records, the movements of about 100 men have been shadowed with the result that a dictagraph was installed in a Milk street office to determine if any of these men were conspiring to commit or influence the commission of acts of war against Canada.

Following information believed to have been furnished by Ambassador Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, Federal Agent Schmid trailed the suspected men to a State street office, and succeeded, it is said, in making dictagraph records of conferences held there Saturday afternoon and Sunday. It is believed that the conversations thus secured led to the hasty departure of John Howard, assistant to Schmid, for Canada, and that it had something to do with the destruction of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

Utmost secrecy has surrounded the incidents and Federal Agent Schmid refuses even to listen to rumors that he was conducting an investigation, or that dictagraph records had ever passed through his hands. However, because of the sudden "visits" of Collector of Customs Edmund Billings, and United States District Attorney Anderson to Washington, added interest has been added to the situation.

Because other parts of the country had become too hot for conferences, it is hinted that Boston was picked for further moves against Canada, and the ease with which Canadian points can be reached from here leads to the belief that for a while Uncle Sam's agents will wage a silent war against the suspected German sympathizers.