

# AIDE OF VON PAPEN DEMANDS RELEASE

## German Embassy Claims Diplomatic Immunity for Alleged Plotter

### HIS PAPERS ARE SEIZED

## Seventy Pounds of Documents May Furnish Clues to Many Conspiracies

Canadian Press Despatch.

New York, April 19.—Government officials here faced a unique problem to-day, resulting from the demand of the German Embassy in Washington for the release of Wolf Von Igel and the return of documents seized in his office when he was arrested yesterday on an indictment charging him with complicity in a plot to destroy the Welland Canal.

Von Igel formerly was secretary to Capt. Franz Von Papen, the recalled military attache of the German Embassy, which claims diplomatic immunity for him.

The embassy demanded the return of the papers seized in his office on the ground that the office is a branch of the embassy. Seventy pounds of documents and letters taken from Von Igel's office are in the possession of federal authorities. It was reported they were of great importance, as throwing light on various German activities in this country during the last twenty months.

Hearing Next Tuesday.

Although Counsellor Polk of the State Department, upon receiving the request of the German Embassy, advised the Department of Justice to return the papers and to free Von Igel unless the alleged offence was committed before he became a member of the embassy staff, federal agents here said they had as yet received no such instructions.

The case seems to hinge upon the question whether the offence charged against Von Igel was committed before he was employed by the German Embassy. It is charged that the Welland Canal plot was organized September, 1914, within two months of the beginning of the war. Records of the State Department show that it received notice of the appointment of Von Igel as a member of the embassy staff in September, 1915, one year after the alleged crime.

Von Igel is at liberty under \$20,000 bail. A hearing in his case is set for next Tuesday. Federal prosecutors asserted that he would be released only upon instructions from the Attorney-General in Washington.

Counsel has been engaged for the accused man, and a diplomatic and legal battle to obtain his release is expected.