

THE FATE OF SPIES.

CAUGHT IN TIMES OF PEACE, THEY ARE JAILED.

Attempts to Secure Plans of Fortresses and Patterns of Guns—Foreign Spies in This Country.

The recent conviction at St. Etienne, France, of John Cooper and Walter Rutland, two English spies, who were caught while trying to obtain samples of the new French and Russian carbines for British Government contractors, and condemned to fifteen and two months' imprisonment, respectively, is of international interest. To a free-born American the word "spy" has an especially odious meaning. It is an undeniable fact that what little espionage is done in the United States is exclusively done by foreigners. Abroad, matters are different, and though a spy is considered a debased creature, espionage itself is in full blast and well organized in Russia, Germany, France and Great Britain. All European Governments, more or less, have so-called secret funds available to keep a well-organized spy service going. It is generally divided into three distinct branches—namely, political, social and military espionage. I shall deal with the latter alone.

The armed peace which European nations maintain and the constant fear among them of being attacked by a neighboring power at any moment naturally make it desirable for one nation to know what the other is doing in the way of offensive and defensive preparations. Secret information of this kind can not, for obvious reasons, be obtained through the official channels of military or naval attaches, who on account of their position in a foreign country, have to be satisfied with what they can observe for themselves or are shown voluntarily. It is therefore evident that if a Government desires to obtain possession of so-called state secrets, such as plans of fortifications, war vessels, mines, fixed torpedoes, samples of powder, cartridges and arms, it has to employ secret agents or spies for this purpose.

Germany has been credited with having the most efficient spy service in France, where it did some excellent work. In 1879 it proved that the German maps of France were more accurate than those used by the French staff, and small swamps, brooks, roads and village points for an army were found on the German maps and did not appear on the French. Furthermore, the equipment of the French troops and fortresses were thoroughly known to the German leaders. Within her own borders Germany defends herself efficiently against foreign espionage, and how carefully she watches every foreigner is shown by the numerous arrests which have been made there within the last five years. Unfortunately for the over-zealous officials, most of the poor victims proved to be harmless landscape painters, on account of their sketching of the extensive great difficulty in convincing the German authorities of their identity.

All the service powder, cartridges and rifle factories in Germany, Russia, France and some other European countries are Government property, and it is impossible for outsiders to obtain access to them. Walking on a glacier of a European fortress is also prohibited, and if an intruder out of curiosity once in a while happens to put his foot inside even the smallest fort, he is stopped by sentinels and is lucky if he is not locked up. These measures are carried out vigorously, and even an active officer of the German army, if he wishes to visit one of these Government factories, has to apply for a special permission to do so. The revealing of the secrets of any of these institutions is high treason, and consequently only very trustworthy men are employed. Moreover, that the employes may never forget the penalties inflicted for a breach of trust, extracts from the Penal Code printed in black letters are profusely placarded on the walls inside the buildings.

Apart from this, the men are divided into classes, each class manufacturing year after year the same part of a rifle or a cartridge. In this way no Government mechanic or subaltern can obtain exact knowledge of the manufacture of a whole rifle or cartridge. So it comes to pass that the spy has hard work to obtain what he wants. It goes without saying that among such a large body of men, Governments employ a black sheep, can always be found.

With regard to France, matters are just as bad as they are in Germany, and perhaps in some instances worse. The German population, as a rule, leave the spy-catching trade to their stubborn officials, while in France, where patriotism is more fervent, every citizen of the third Republic thinks it his sacred duty to look with a suspicious eye on every foreigner who enters the country. Innumerable mistakes are the result, and innocent travelers are often placed in extremely annoying positions. Yet it must be admitted that German spies are not only plentiful in France, but they work very systematically.

In the United States the foreign spy, as a rule, is a rara avis. The only nation which ever has attempted to establish a system of military espionage in America is the English. In September, 1888, a military looking Englishman arrived at Washington. He carefully studied the Washington Navy Yard, then went to W. Fort, Annapolis, New London and Newport Monro, but he learned little or nothing of any value. At Willet's Point he attempted to obtain the charts of submarine mines and fixed torpedoes, but was unsuccessful, documents of this kind being pretty well guarded. Plans of vessels and torpedoes, however, are hardly kept secret, and any one applying to the Patent Office can easily obtain a very detailed description of any new weapon manufactured in America for army or navy purposes.

It may be stated here that all the details of the new plans for American coast and harbor defense are in the hands of a few superior officers. No subaltern official has access to them and no contractor receives copies of them, so that the secret is thoroughly guarded. The plans, for instance, of the new fortifications at Sandy Hook, Boston Harbor, San Francisco and other places are, I am positive, not known to more than perhaps four individuals out of over six millions. However, the more the armament of the United States becomes efficient, the more the curiosity of foreign powers will be attracted, and it is therefore reasonable to expect that in ten years from now the spy fever will also have invaded these shores.—New York Recorder.

Fifteen Shots a Second.

A mine manager in Nevada claims to have invented a gun of remarkably rapid firing capacity, the implement having a Winchester barrel and stock, with a fifteen-repeating magazine in the stock.

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W. L. DOUGLAS FINE CALF HAND-SEWED \$4.00 and \$5.00 SHOES for Gentlemen are very stylish and durable. Those who buy this grade get a bargain, as shoes of this quality are sold every day from \$6.00 to \$9.00.

W. L. DOUGLAS \$3.50 POLICE CALF SHOE is made with three heavy sole. Extension Edge; it gives excellent satisfaction to those who want to keep their feet dry and warm. If you want to walk with ease, buy this shoe. One pair will do for a year.

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It is a duty you owe to yourself and your family during these hard times to get the most value for your money. You can economize in your foot-wear if you purchase W. L. Douglas Shoes, which, without question, represent a greater value for the money than any other shoe in the world, as thousands who have worn them will testify. Make in the world, as thousands who have worn them will testify.

"August Flower"

My wife suffered with indigestion and dyspepsia for years. Life became a burden to her. Physicians failed to give relief. After reading one of your books, I purchased a bottle of August Flower. It worked like a charm. My wife received immediate relief after taking the first dose. She was completely cured—now weighs 165 pounds, and can eat anything she desires without any deleterious results as was formerly the case. C. H. Dear, Proprietor, Washington House, Washington, Va.

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In other words, it's sold on trial. No other medicine of its kind is "just as good" as the "Discovery." The dealer is thinking of his profit, not of yours, when he urges something else.

Should Have It in The House. Dropnet on Sugar, Children Love to take Johnson's Aromatic Compound, Sore Throat, Toothache, Colds, Croup and Pains. Revolves all Summer Complaints, Cuts and Bruises. The magic hold everywhere. Price 50c. by mail, 60c. Express Post, 80c. J.S. JOHNSON & CO., BOSTON, U.S.A.

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This shoe has been on sale throughout the United States over eight years, and has given excellent satisfaction, as the increasing sales show. We are now selling more shoes of this grade than any other manufacturer in the world. Try a pair—you cannot make a mistake. One trial will convince you that it is the

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W. L. DOUGLAS FINE CALF HAND-SEWED \$4.00 and \$5.00 SHOES for Gentlemen are very stylish and durable. Those who buy this grade get a bargain, as shoes of this quality are sold every day from \$6.00 to \$9.00.

W. L. DOUGLAS \$3.50 POLICE CALF SHOE is made with three heavy sole. Extension Edge; it gives excellent satisfaction to those who want to keep their feet dry and warm. If you want to walk with ease, buy this shoe. One pair will do for a year.

W. L. DOUGLAS \$2.50 and \$2.25 and \$2.00 SHOES are excellent shoes for every day. Workingmen all wear them.

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