



John Rathom's Revelations



The spy system that radiated from the German Embassy
and the full details of the plot for sinking the "Lusitania"

FROM—Berlin Foreign Office.

TO—Botschaft, Washington—

669. (44—W)—Welt nineteen-fifteen warne 175 29 1 stop 175 1 2 stop
durch 622 2 4 stop 19 7 18 stop IIX 11 3 4 5 6.

This is a copy of the wireless message sent from the Foreign Office in Berlin to the German Embassy in Washington, which was intercepted at Sayville, the wireless station in America, by the Providence *Journal's* wireless operators. It created the greatest interest in the *Journal* office, because it followed none of the known codes and, in form, was unlike any other message that had been received at Sayville up to that time. It was interesting also because static conditions were unfavourable that morning, and the fact that four attempts were made before it was successfully put through indicated its unusual importance. The method by which it was deciphered is illustrated on the next page.

In the following article Mr. John R. Rathom explains the reasons which led to his formation of a private secret service to counteract the German plots in America. A facsimile of the secret wireless message from Berlin regarding the sinking of the "Lusitania" is given above, and the ingenious manner in which it was decoded is carefully and fully explained.

TO properly understand the story of German intrigue in America it is necessary to realise that the work of propaganda opened up through the German Embassy in Washington at the beginning of the European war was not conceived in a night, and did not spring full-grown out of the emergency then created.

The United States, the only great nation in the world without any political secret service or espionage system, with no knowledge of secret diplomacy, no machinery with which to guard its military, naval, or governmental secrets, the ranks of employees in every government office freely open at all times to men and women of every nationality, and containing within its borders the most polyglot population ever brought together under a civilised form of government, had been for thirty years before the outbreak of the European war a fertile field for German propaganda.

Germany's sources of information with regard to every condition about which she desired to secure information in the United States were practically limitless. A large number of willing and subservient Germans, working without hindrance or any suggestion of espionage, had been enabled during a long period of years to lay before the German Foreign Office very complete information which might be useful to the fatherland in any future emergency on that continent. Even in the ranks of the army and navy, there were hundreds of men, citizens only in name and owing their first allegiance to Germany, keen and eager to do at any time whatever Prussia called on them to do. The secrets of American mills and factories, the methods and scope of American banking interests, the operation of American railroads and American shipping—all of these facts had been for years the very alphabet of Germany's knowledge of American daily life, a knowledge secured not by outside spies working under immense difficulties, as would have been the case in any country of Europe, but from the very heart of America's economic and

social movement by an organisation of men actually engaged in the work itself.

Thus it was that when the German Foreign Office, through the Embassy in Washington, began what appeared to be the easy task of moulding American sentiment to its will, all the necessary machinery was ready at hand.

This condition, coupled with the firm belief on the part of Germany that the millions of her subjects who had become citizens of the United States would not hesitate for a moment in any choice that might be laid before them between adherence to the fortunes of Germany

or to the land of their adoption, seemed in the minds of the men responsible for German foreign policy to make it certain that in whatever channel they desired to direct American sentiment their will would be practically law.

For nearly a generation German influence on American school boards had been insidiously shaping public sentiment through school books and histories. Exchange professors, liberally sprinkled with Imperial decorations, had maintained and increased a constant propaganda of reverence for German institutions through many of the educational centres of the United States. And the great German commercial houses which had secured a foothold in the United States, and which were virtually outposts of the German Foreign Office, had gained strong positions in many vitally important elements in the German commercial life. It was, therefore, on known ground that von Bernstorff and his numerous associates began their work of intensive cultivation of Prussianised doctrines in America.

With every path apparently wide open to their feet, they proceeded at first without any thought of serious opposition, to mould the United States to their will, to stultify its national ideals, and so drug its national conscience that, regardless of what might happen in Europe, it would stand by, a disinterested spectator, except for the growth of a keen desire to see Germany triumphant.

It is well, to begin with, to know something of the personality of the men into whose hands was entrusted this new and crowning movement which was to lead to a glorious success for German diplomatic methods. For purposes of this analysis it is not necessary to dwell on the personality or character of Dumba, the Austrian Ambassador, or any of his fellow-officials representing that Government in America. None of them, from the day war began, was ever anything



Captain von Papen
Military Attaché at the German Embassy.

but a puppet in the hands of German Embassy officials; they had no will of their own, and they had been directly ordered through their Foreign Office to put themselves entirely in the hands of von Bernstorff and his associates.

The German Ambassador had been for years a social lion in Washington, and this rôle was particularly congenial to him. He liked the attention of wealthy people which came to him as a perquisite of his position, and the social influence which it let him wield. His personal vanity was great, and his subordinates often played upon it as an easy road to favour and advancement. He, in turn, was not above using his social connections as part of the machinery to spread German propaganda in America, and in this work he found easy victims in some of the people of Washington who were flattered at the attentions showered upon them by the distinguished representative of a great European Power. Social weaknesses were played upon by both sides. Capt. Franz von Papen, the German military attaché, was another member of the Embassy staff to whom social triumphs were more than ordinarily fascinating. Capt. Karl Boy-Ed, the naval attaché, a man of infinitely greater mentality than either of the other two, cared little for social life at Washington, though he was personally well liked in social circles there.

When the propaganda of the German Embassy began to meet with opposition, and it gradually dawned upon the minds of these men that the task before them was filled with pitfalls and difficulties, it was interesting to note the change in their attitude. Von Bernstorff took up the rôle of martyr. He posed, and succeeded in having his pose believed in by a large part of the American public, as a creature of unfortunate circumstances, crushed between the upper and nether mill-stones, and powerless to prevent the growing insolence of his Foreign Office in Berlin, as displayed against the United States.

Returning to the Embassy from a visit to Secretary Lansing on April 10th, 1916, after the attack on the steamship *Sussex* by a German submarine, he said to Prince Hatzfeldt, in the presence of Baron von Schoen, First Secretary of the Embassy, Haniel von Haimhausen, Counsellor, and another man employed in the Embassy: "I told the Secretary of State to-day that the poor Ambassador was crushed to earth by the lack of understanding of the American people shown by my Government in Berlin; that accursed Foreign Office which

puts such burdens on me!" This declaration was received by the group with hearty laughter, in which the Ambassador joined.

During this period a good many people were trusting in his sincerity and believed von Bernstorff to be in a cruel personal position, calling, as far as he was concerned, for nothing but sympathy; a man forced by his Government to do and say things to which he himself was entirely opposed. As a matter of fact, many of the messages alleged to have come from his Government to him, and to have been received and transmitted by him in despair to the American Government, were actually prepared under his personal direction, sent to Berlin by cable through Swedish channels, and then forwarded back to him by wireless from Nauen, the principal wireless station in Germany.

Bernstorff and von Papen had no scruples about adding to their material wealth by means of knowledge secured by reason of their official connection with their Government. Working through a well-known New York stockbroker, whose personal affiliation with the Embassy was common talk in Washington and New York, von Bernstorff repeatedly purchased and sold considerable blocks of shares of various industries.

Von Papen's methods of enriching himself did not stop at these outside activities. His manner of accounting, or rather lack of accounting, for many large sums of money supposed to have been spent on propaganda work brought about, more than once, a very rigid scrutiny of his financial condition and his agents' receipts. One of his common lapses in this direction was the giving of elaborate parties at Washington clubs to satisfy his own social desires, and the inclusion of the bills for these parties in his official accounts as being necessary for the progress of his propaganda work. One of the bills so rendered showed that a golf club luncheon had cost him nearly £4 per head for eleven people. The note accompanying this bill declared that the outlay was "far more than justified in the results secured." As his ten guests on this particular occasion were all Wash-

ington people, none of whom by the most extreme stretch of the imagination could be able to render him any diplomatic service whatever, this particular account was disallowed, and he was compelled to pay the money out of his own pocket, or rather out of the pockets of certain rich and gullible German-Americans in New York City, who more than once tided the

Transatlantic Passenger Steamers. (175)									
TRANSATLANTIC PASSENGER STEAMERS.									
Includes only regular passenger lines from New York. Owing to the European war this list is liable to change.									
STEAMERS	Year.	Port.	Builder	Gross Tonnage	Insurance Power	Length	Breadth	Depth	
NEW YORK, PLYMOUTH, CHENBOURG AND SOUTHAMPTON, Pier foot W. 24th St., N. Y. (Office, 9 Broadway.)									
AMERICAN LINE (ESTABLISHED 1892)									
St. Louis	1895	Philadelphia	Wm. Cramp & Sons	11890	17500	554	62	43	
St. Paul	1895	Philadelphia	Wm. Cramp & Sons	11839	17500	554	62	43	
Philadelphia	1895	Glasgow	J. & G. Thomson	10735	16500	550	62.3	42	
New York	1895	Glasgow	J. & G. Thomson	10736	16500	550	62.3	42	
NEW YORK AND GLASGOW, Pier foot W. 24th St. (Office, 17 Broadway.)									
ANCHOR LINE (ESTABLISHED 1892)									
Cameroun	1911	Glasgow	J. & W. Henderson	10938	11000	535	62	36	
Columbia	1901	Glasgow	D. & W. Henderson	6392	8400	500	56	36	
Caledonia	1904	Glasgow	D. & W. Henderson	8222	10200	515	58	36	
California	1907	Glasgow	D. & W. Henderson	8641	7000	490	55	35	
NEW YORK AND LONDON, Pier foot W. 17th St. (Office, 9 Broadway.)									
ATLANTIC TRANSPORT LINE (ESTABLISHED 1892)									
Minneapolis	1904	Belfast	Harland & Wolff	13448	9000	615.6	65.5	45.3	
Minneapolis	1904	Belfast	Harland & Wolff	13539	9500	615.6	65.5	45.3	
Minnetonka	1907	Belfast	Harland & Wolff	13440	9500	615.6	65.5	45.3	
Minnetonka	1909	Belfast	Harland & Wolff	13517	9600	615	65	44	
Minnetonka	1912	Belfast	Harland & Wolff	13517	9600	615	65	44	
NEW YORK, QUEBEC, BRISBANE AND LONDON, Pier foot W. 14th St. (Office, 21 State Street.)									
CUNARD LINE (ESTABLISHED 1840)									
Caronia	1905	Glasgow	J. Brown & Co.	30000	31000	650	72.5	61.9	
Carmania	1905	Glasgow	J. Brown & Co.	30000	31000	650	72.5	61.9	
Carmania	1907	Newcastle	Swan & Hunter	32000	30000	790	88	66.6	
Carmania	1907	Newcastle	Swan & Hunter	32000	30000	790	88	66.6	
Carmania	1914	Glasgow	J. Brown & Co.	47000	50000	901	97	73.6	
NEW YORK, QUEBEC, BRISBANE AND LONDON, Pier foot W. 14th St. (Office, 21 State Street.)									
CUNARD LINE (ESTABLISHED 1840)									
Carmania	1905	Newcastle	Swan & Hunter	12600	12600	440	64.5	49	
Carmania	1911	Newcastle	Swan & Hunter	13150	13150	455	65	49	
Carmania	1910	Newcastle	Swan & Hunter	12775	12775	455	65	49	
Carmania	1913	Newcastle	Swan & Hunter	13150	13150	455	65	49	
Carmania	1914	Glasgow	J. Brown & Co.	15000	15000	485	65	53	

Every attempt to decipher the wireless message (reproduced on the previous page) completely failed, until someone who was familiar with the inner workings of the German Embassy remembered that on the morning of April 29th Prince Hatzfeldt (of the German Embassy staff) had been hunting for a

New York World Almanack.

National Model License League. (622)									
STATISTICS OF THE PRESS									
THE American Newspaper Annual and Directory, published by N. W. Ayer & Son, reported the number of newspapers published in the United States in 1914 as follows:									
Alabama	243	Indiana	762	Nebraska	641	South Carolina	165		
Alaska	25	Iowa	844	Nevada	41	South Dakota	415		
Arizona	68	Kansas	735	New Hampshire	110	Tennessee	311		
Arkansas	324	Kentucky	309	New Jersey	379	Texas	1,081		

The World. (19)									
The World.									
JOSEPH PULITZER.									
April 10, 1847 + October 29, 1911.									
The World's purpose, to "turn on the light" in the interest of the people at large, was not forgotten during the year 1914. This inspiring aim was responsible for a remarkable feat in the journalistic world. It led THE WORLD to investigate the business methods of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company, nothing daunted by the fact that the corporation was controlled by some of the greatest living financiers, men whose decisions were supposed to be the									

The first two words of the message "Welt 1915" supplied the clue, and following the numbers as representing page, line and word in the *World Almanack*, the message was decoded as follows:

Warne	=	Warn	19	7	18	=	not
175	29	1	=	Lusitania			
175	1	2	=	Passengers	LIX	11, 3, 4, 5, 6	=
durch	=	through			Voyage across the Atlantic		
622	2	4	=	Press			

ington people, none of whom by the most extreme stretch of the imagination could be able to render him any diplomatic service whatever, this particular account was disallowed, and he was compelled to pay the money out of his own pocket, or rather out of the pockets of certain rich and gullible German-Americans in New York City, who more than once tided the

gallant captain safely over his very frequent financial rocks.

To both von Bernstorff and von Papen, the sanctity of human life, as their work became more vicious, was a matter entirely out of their calculations. The Ambassador who had received all courtesies from the American Government, the recipient of unusual honours from many American Universities, indebted to hundreds of Americans for exceptional and continuous hospitality, never once lifted his voice to his Foreign Office in opposition to any order for the carrying out of propagandist activities in the United States which involved the loss of hundreds of innocent lives.

Time after time he, with von Papen and Baron von Schoen, gleefully celebrated the destruction of munition plants in America. When word came that the *Lusitania* was sunk, the Bernstorff's Press agents reported him as being "overcome with grief and regret" in a fashionable New York hotel—he was at that moment actually giving a supper party elsewhere in New York, and during this supper party the destruction of the *Lusitania* was hailed as a glorious triumph for German naval prowess. During the evening von Papen, touching glasses with his chief, made the remark:

"This is the end of the mistress of the seas."

Capt. Boy-Ed, who was not at this function, alone among the entire group of German Embassy officials persisted in declaring that the sinking of the *Lusitania* was a blunder of the worst kind.

On another occasion when, at a conference at 11, Broadway, the offices of the Hamburg-American Steamship Co., the question as to what should be done to silence the Providence *Journal* came up, von Papen and Koenig, known as the "chief of the secret service" of the Hamburg-American Line, at once declared that the *Journal* office should be blown up, Boy-Ed declined to accept this point of view, and refused to have a hand in such proceedings, earnestly advising against it.

It is interesting to note, in connection with the mental attitude of these two Embassy officials with regard to crimes of this character, that while von Papen since his return to Germany has been twice decorated by the Emperor, and has been advanced a rank to a colonelcy, Capt. Boy-Ed has remained a captain and has received no such honours at the hands of the German Government.

In this connection I present here the translation of a letter, not hitherto published, sent by Capt. Boy-Ed to Adolf Pavenstadt,* of 112, West 59th Street, New York, from German

* It may be noted that Pavenstadt's name has been brought prominently forward in the Bolo Pasha trial in Paris, Bolo having apparently been the guest of Pavenstadt on several occasions during his visit to the United States.

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Aside from the acknowledged duty of every manufacturer to make an honest product there is an equally important moral responsibility, the careful assembling and testing of each motor so that life may be safe with it. The workmen and management of the Scripps Company recognize this duty. They design, construct and test all Scripps motors with this responsibility clearly in mind.

THESE ARE THE PROOFS:

The successful voyage across the Atlantic of the 35-foot motor boat "Detroit."
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Records made in endurance tests and in the every-day service in all parts of the world.

The 1914 Scripps models contain many new improvements, all of which are embodied in the 1914 Scripps Motor Book. Seventeen different models, including one, two, four and six cylinder types, semi-speed, medium duty, and extra heavy duty, are shown.

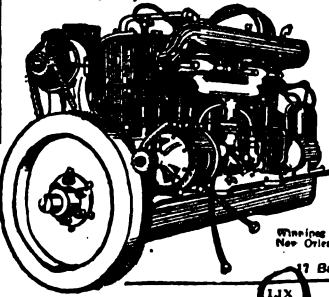
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N. Market St.
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Co., foot of Main St.
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Marion St.
San Francisco, Cal.—Edgar Arms
Co., 543-545 Market St.
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Portland, Me.—Keller Hardware Co.
118-120 West Superior St.
Toronto, Ont.—Schmidt-Holmes via
wire Co., 2 Carleton St.
Montreal, Quebec—W. E. Baker, 70
Rue Blain, Atwater St.
Winnipeg, Man.—D. A. Ross
New Orleans, La.—Arthur Davis, 130 Chartres St.
EXPORT OFFICE
11 Battery Place, New York City.

LINE

Steamships
ILASGOW
May 1, Noon
May 7, 5 p.m.

1 Pier 64, N. Y.
May 7, 5 p.m.

1 Pier 14th St.
34 State St., N. Y.

All-the-Water
by-Water

LINE Steamships
Lvs. Pier 19,
8 P. M. Tues
Ship 200-miles, 22-
10 CITY BEAUTY
Tourist and N. Y.
one 6800—Cost
CORPORATION

LINE
17th Ave. Paris,
MARSEILLE
and Anna, June 1
Thon & Marseilles
Aug 1
17 State St., N. Y.

LIANO
11 DAYS
June 28
105 & 312 St.
1 B'way, N. Y.

LOUIDA
Colombia, South
17th Ave., N. Y.

ADVERTISEMENT.

NOTICE!

TRAVELLERS intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or of any of her allies, are liable to destruction in those waters and that travellers sailing in the war zone on ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk.

IMPERIAL GERMAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C. APRIL 22, 1915.

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HEATON
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This Modern Hotel
Delightfully Located,
South, will be at the
41th St., New York, to
10th. Information requested
be promptly attended

Marblehead
THE RO
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Faces all
BOOKLETS

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As a result of the instructions received by wireless from Berlin the above advertisement was inserted in the *New York World* and *New York Times* of May 1st, 1915. The advertisement obviously referred to the *Lusitania*, which was sunk six days later, but the announcement was ingeniously dated April 22nd, 1915, for insertion by the newspaper of May 1st.

General Headquarters in Berlin under date of March 5th, 1916. Pavenstadt's address, on this letter, is likewise the address of the German Club (Deutscher Verein):

DEAR MR. PAVENSTADT: In order not to appear rude any longer, I do not want to let another Sunday pass without sending you a line to show you that I have certainly not forgotten you, in spite of all the commotion, turmoil and work.

I sincerely hope that I shall soon have more leisure for my private affairs than I have now. That will probably be the case if I am left in my present appointment, which is very interesting and very agreeable (being independent and greatly esteemed). Unfortunately, however, that is not a certainty. At least the sword of Damocles seems to be hanging over me, and, if it falls, I should again be transferred to another very busy and exacting appointment (in Berlin). Such a change will be most unwelcome to me, at least for the present, as I am rather upset on account of my nervous complaints. Above all, I am also sleeping wretchedly. In other respects, however, I am very well, as I said before, and it is grand to be in the thick of it amidst all the knowledge, decisions and plans.

Papen has been for some time on the West front, as battalion commander in a Guards regiment. It was a pity he brought so many useless papers, cheques, etc., with him. I hope that his bad luck has not inconvenienced you too. His superiors do not appear to have taken the matter tragically, as he was awarded a second Order.

Everybody here is full of confidence, though nobody ventures to say how long the business will last.

Kindest regards to all our common acquaintances, especially Messrs. Rath, Siedenburger, Neuhoft, Fleischmann, Baron Schröder and yourself.

From your faithful and very grateful friend,

KARL BOY-ED.

While von Bernstorff directed everything that was done in connection with the blowing up of factories, the placing of bombs in freight ships, the poisoning of mules on transports, and all the other movements aimed to terrorize the United States and to paralyze traffic with the Allies, he invariably kept himself away from any conferences concerning details of these plots, and the most elaborate precautions were always taken, whenever it was possible, to get him out of the way at the time when such outrages were scheduled.

On two occasions when munitions plants were blown up he had gone to Lenox, the summer home of the Austrian Ambassador, Dumba, on the preceding day. His constant declaration to both von Papen and Boy-Ed was that he must never be bothered with details concerning these plots, and that, after talking over the general scheme, the carrying out of all such work should be conducted without any reference whatever to him, so that he should be ignorant of details until the matter under way was concluded.

Bernstorff's idea was that in order to make Americans believe whatever he wished them to believe, it was necessary only to state his case—the training of the German State-made mind—was not shaken for a long while after the beginning of the European war.

(To be continued.)



John Rathom's Revelations

An account of a remarkable interview between Mr. Rathom and Captain Boy-Ed, and the wireless conspiracies which originated in Berlin



The Secretaries of the Austro-Hungarian Embassy at Washington

These men, with Dr. Dumba, the Ambassador, were all in the work of obtaining fraudulent passports. The method was this: Austrian labourers (chiefly longshoremen) who had become naturalized American citizens were instructed to apply for passports to Austria. When obtained these passports were bought by the Austrian officials and turned over to the Germans, who erased the names and substituted the names of German reserve officers and soldiers, who were thus enabled to return to Germany by way of Austria. In the group above, from left to right, are: Baron Erich Zweidinek, counsellor and Chargé d'Affaires and, after the recall of Dr. Dumba, in charge of the Embassy; Prince Alfred zu Hohenlohe-Schillingsfurst, attaché; Baron Stephen Hedry de Hedri et de Genere Aba, Chamberlain to his Imperial and Apostolic Majesty; second secretary Consul-General von Grivicic; K. Schwenda, Josef Schoedel, Frank J. Sobotka, and Charles Pollak, all secretaries of chancellery.

Mr. John R. Rathom, in his opening article, amongst other things described how Count von Bernstorff, the German Ambassador at Washington, falsely posed as the victim of the Foreign Office at Berlin and was compelled to carry out instructions that were distasteful to him. He was also most careful not to allow himself personally to be ever mixed up with the more dastardly outrages which he had himself helped to plan.

At the end of February, 1915, von Bernstorff spent several days with Captain von Papen and a lawyer, busily engaged in concocting a scheme of false affidavits in order to attempt to make Mr. Bryan, then Secretary of State, believe that immense quantities of dum-dum bullets were being shipped from American factories to the British War Office. There was never any ground for this accusation, which originated in the German Embassy. The day before the Ambassador went to Mr. Bryan with his alleged evidence he actually rehearsed his approaching visit to the Secretary of State in his own library, with one of his secretaries posing as Mr. Bryan. He said to this man at the conclusion of an impassioned plea which lasted about five minutes—"Am I impressive enough? Is my statement forceful enough?" to which the man replied, "Most forceful, Your Excellency."

"If it appears that way to you," replied the Ambassador, "we will have no trouble with the big-mouthed (*grossmaulichen*) gentleman."

A question that has been repeatedly asked ever since America entered into a state of war with Germany is: "How was it possible, with the precautions naturally taken by the Teutonic Governments and their agents, to get inside facts from the German Embassy and from many of the offices of the German and Austrian Consul-Generals?"

The answer, given here for the first time, is simple enough. While the entire story of the methods used in getting inside the Teutonic lines in America cannot be told at this moment, it is sufficient for present purposes to say that from the beginning of the European war, and for some months prior to that time, the *Journal* was able to bring to its aid the services of many Bohemians and Southern Slavs from every part of the United States. It was largely through the self-sacrificing activities and the remarkable mental equipment of many of these men that I was enabled from day to day to receive and tabulate information from the very heart of the German and Austrian propagandist system in the United States—both the Embassies and many of the Teutonic consular offices throughout the country.

These men (and women as well) not only took grave risks

in this work—for they were braving German vengeance—but gave up their time, and in many cases their own funds, without a shilling of compensation from the *Journal* or anybody else, in order to give the facts which would prove to the American people the manner in which they were being tricked and fooled by the German Ambassador and his fellows.

A large number of the men engaged in this work were lawyers and doctors. A great many of them were labourers in factories, some were publishers of Croatian and Bohemian newspapers, and the list included several hundred students in colleges and high schools. Every one of the men among them of age was an American citizen. It is impossible to pay too high a tribute to their energy and faithfulness.

It became apparent to both the German and Austrian Ambassadors, after these men had been at work for a few months, that the stories printed by the *Providence Journal* must have had their sources in some dangerous leaks. Count von Bernstorff—between May, 1915, and December, 1915—discharged one of the employees of the German Embassy on suspicion of having been involved in these leaks, and this man was immediately approached through friendly channels with the result that he has been on the pay roll of the *Providence Journal* Company ever since his discharge. The right man was never discovered by the Ambassador, nor, until the day he left for Halifax, did he have the slightest inkling as to who this man was.

Four months of listening on the Sayville and Tuckerton wireless stations through one of the best equipped and highest powered stations on the North American continent, from the day the European war began, had also brought to me an immense mass of information concerning the propagandist activities, not only of German and Austrian aliens in America, but also of hundreds of American citizens of German and Austrian birth. From many of the latter I was able to secure a great quantity of material, particularly when, as I was frequently able to do, I started many of them in active recrimination against one another.

On Sunday, May 2nd, 1915, some months after the *Providence Journal* had begun its series of exposures of German propaganda, which at that time very few people in the United States believed to be true, I received a telephone message at a New York hotel, where I was staying, from the steward of the German Club at 112, Central Park, South. After stating who he was, he said that two gentlemen, one of whom was Captain Karl Boy-Ed, were very anxious to have a chat with me, and asked me if I would see a representative of Captain Boy-Ed's, and accompany him to the clubhouse at eleven o'clock that morning. I replied that I would, and half an hour later a man, who was afterwards identified as Dr. Führ, one of von Bernstorff's New York spies, came to my

rooms, stating that he was from Captain Boy-Ed, and had a car at the door.

I went with him to the German Club and there, for the first time, met Captain Boy-Ed, who received me in a large private room.

He said he had one or two important matters to talk with me about, and that while he realised the *Providence Journal* was antagonistic to him and to the German cause, he felt that he wanted to state frankly what was in his mind, and try to establish better relations with us. He said that his people were not at all satisfied with the way in which the German side of the case was being presented through American newspapers, and he wanted to ask whether I believed from my experience that the fault lay with the character and method of presentation of the material itself, or whether the majority of the large papers were so biased against Germany that they would not print the matter submitted. I told him that, regardless of the sentiments of American newspapers, they were naturally and rightfully antagonistic to any movement that looked like a propaganda attempt to use their columns in any way, and that in my judgment the material with which newspaper offices had been flooded by the German Publicity Bureau was on its face so false and malicious that no decent newspaper could handle it. He said he felt that criticism of this kind was somewhat just, which led him up to what he stated was the first of the matters about which he wanted to talk with me. He then asked if I would undertake the supervision of a German News Bureau, having headquarters in New York, and with branch offices in Chicago, Denver, and San Francisco, which would issue regularly to the Press semi-official statements from the Overseas News Agency, and also regular translations of news stories and articles appearing in the German newspapers.

He said he would be prepared to pay £2,000 a month for the maintenance of these bureaus, which ought to be run by skilled American newspaper men having a large and friendly relationship among other newspaper men, and he would be glad to pay £400 a month for my personal services, and a bonus of £2,000 at the end of six months, and would also agree that I was not to be known personally in the matter at all, and that I would be permitted so to arrange the installation and work of the bureau that nobody could suspect my connection with it.

I told him that it was absolutely impossible for me to undertake any such work or to suggest to him the name of any man who might undertake it.

After a few moments he said he was sorry, but that he had been instructed to lay the proposition before me, and had done so. He then said that there was another and vastly more important matter which he wanted to take up with me. "I know that you have an appointment in Washington at the White House with the President during the coming week, and in connection with that appointment I want to place a matter before you which comes from the Ambassador, who is now upstairs in the club. He does not feel that it would be wise to see you personally."

The following is, of course, not a shorthand report of the statement he then proceeded to make, but is very close to being as correct as if taken down in shorthand.

"We want you, when you see the President, to lay before him the suggestion that he reconsider his attitude regarding the embargo on arms. We want you to suggest to him that if either he or Mr. Bryan will go so far as to declare publicly to their fellow-citizens that, while there is no breach of neutrality in the making of arms, they would beg manu-

facturers not to indulge in the practice any further, he will very materially hasten the coming of peace by reason of our desire to meet him more than half way."

I said that I did not understand his meaning, and wanted some further light on his proposition. Captain Boy-Ed then continued:

"If the President will make this plea to American manufacturers, and if it results in the stopping of traffic in war munitions from this country, the German Government will set in motion at once the preliminary machinery for peace negotiations. The only basis for any present negotiations will be the stoppage of the arms and ammunition traffic between this country and our enemy. You can tell the President that this proposal is based on that proposition, and that if the embargo is carried through effectively, Germany will begin negotiations immediately, and will agree to withdraw from Belgium and from the occupied portion of France. We will not consider the payment of one penny in indemnity, nor will we consider giving up any part of Alsace-Lorraine. Germany will agree to rebuild, in as good a condition as they were before the war, all public buildings destroyed in Belgian towns, but that is all. We have a specific reason for wanting these facts laid before Mr. Wilson from outside sources. What do you think of it?"

I told Captain Boy-Ed that I thought he must be crazy, and suggested that if the German Embassy or the German Government had any proposition to make to the President of the United States they had their regular diplomatic channels through which to make it.

Captain Boy-Ed replied that the German Government could not directly or indirectly put itself in any position of making the first move, but if the President or Secretary of State could be induced to approach the German Ambassador or the German Foreign Office with a question based on the lines suggested, his Government would at once acquiesce and "go more than half way."

He added: "You don't realise what a tremendous influence we can bring to bear on Mr. Bryan, for example, through his church affiliations, and through many of our good friends who are close to the Administration. Anyway, we want you to make the suggestion to the President when you see him this week. You will

find a great many forces moving along in that direction before the week is over."

I asked Captain Boy-Ed how he knew I was going to see the President.

He replied: "We know whatever we wish to know."

I told him that if I did see the President I would tell him what he said.

Captain Boy-Ed broke in at once with the exclamation: "No, you must not say where this proposal comes from! All I want you to do is to throw out a suggestion as to how such an act on his part will be received by our Government. Tell him you have inside information. I forbid you to suggest to him that you have ever seen or talked with me."

I told Captain Boy-Ed that I should put the whole subject before the President, and should state exactly what the proposition was, and from whom it came.

This ended the conversation and I left the club.

On Wednesday, May 5th, the entire matter was laid before the President. On the same day the German propagandists all over the United States began a fresh campaign for an embargo on arms. The announcement was also made, on the same date, of the beginning of a campaign to finance a new German paper in New York to fight against further munitions shipments, and the Germans on that date also began an endless-chain petition to the President, urging an



Captain Karl Boy-Ed,

German Naval Attaché at Washington.

extra session of Congress to put an embargo on the shipment of arms.

The suggestions put out by Captain Boy-Ed were directly in line with four or five other attempts, made by the Germans in America through other channels, to keep the Administration at Washington under the belief that Germany was anxiously seeking some basis for peace.

Careful examination of our wireless reports showed a constant and suspicious connection between many large commercial and shipping houses in the United States and the German Foreign Office. Further investigation disclosed the fact that the code numbers and combinations of letters being used by the German Embassy in its messages to Berlin were in many cases duplicated by messages sent out from the Atlantic Communication Company (the ostensible owner of Sayville, the American wireless station), the Siemens and Halske Company of New York, the Hamburg-America Line and North German Lloyd Line, and many other concerns. Starting with this knowledge, it soon developed that the great strength of the German propaganda system in America was largely due to the fact that these great commercial houses were nothing more than outposts of the German Foreign Office, heavily subsidised and acting directly under the orders of their home offices, which in turn took their orders from Foreign Office officials.

One of the first discoveries made by the *Journal* was the existence of a chart drawn to resemble a family tree, the trunk of which bore the label of the Foreign Office. Spreading from this trunk were three branches, and at the bottom of each branch the words, "Telefunken Co." Spreading from each of these three branches were limbs bearing the names of electrical firms throughout the world.

This tremendous network of great electrical concerns, all of them in turn having sub-agencies and all being directly connected with wireless and telegraphic communication of every description, was continuously at the service of the German Government. Thanks to heavy Government subsidies these concerns were able to underbid, and did underbid, their competitors in the price of installation of wireless plants throughout the American continent, and we discovered in many cases before the construction of such plants that they had successfully imposed their will on various Central and South American Governments by insisting on selecting their own locations for the construction of these plants.

The most interesting discovery made in this connection by my representatives was that during the time that the United States Government was planning a series of wireless stations throughout the Philippine Islands the Gesellschaft Fur Drahtlose Telegraphie in Berlin, a branch of the great Telefunken system, sent to its branch in New York City and to its office in Manila (represented by the firm of Germann and Co., of Hamburg) a long communication setting forth that the wireless stations to be constructed by the United States Government in the Philippines must be bid for at such a low price by their agents that there would be no possibility of their losing the contracts.

A former manager of the Atlantic Communication Company notified me that the definite understanding with reference to this matter was as follows: "Our superior knowledge of wireless must be set forth in arguments to convince United States 'wireless' officials that the stations should be where we have designated them on this map, regardless of their own desires in the matter, so as to make it certain that if Germany comes into control of the Philippine Islands the wireless stations shall be in the most advantageous positions for the work of the German Government."

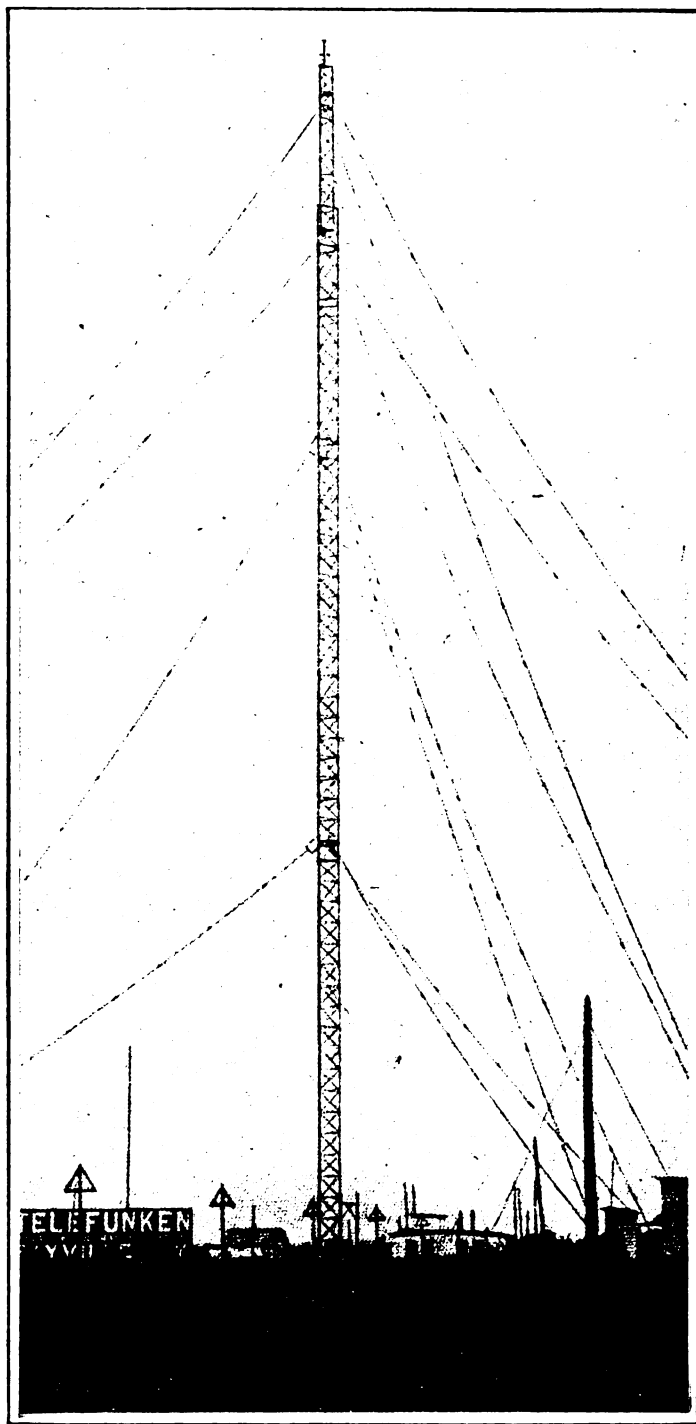
The Hamburg-America Line and the North German Lloyd Line, in addition to being under the direct supervision of Captain Boy-Ed (who practically had charge of the movements of all the ships of both concerns), made regular reports through their home office to the Foreign Office in Berlin. Among these reports were accounts of disbursements, not only for the legitimate outlay of a steamship company, but also for the upkeep of two large bodies of secret service men who took charge of all fraudulent passport work for the German Government, and who between the outbreak of the European war and the time of America's entry into the war shipped on Swedish and Dutch vessels a large number of German reservist officers, and also of German army officers, from America. The latter, through bribery, were allowed to escape from Siberia after having been captured by the Russians, and were brought through Japan or China into the United States, held in boarding houses in New York and shipped with false passports to Europe as opportunity offered.

These great corporations were used also for other purposes by the German and Austrian Governments and the Embassies in Washington. A plot to blow up the Welland Canal was worked out in the Hamburg-America offices by Paul Koenig, chief of the secret service of that company. In an attempt to fool the American Government, hundreds of wireless

messages, ostensibly relating to steamship matters, but really secret Government codes, were sent continually to the German wireless stations at Nauen and Elivese signed by these steamship and electrical concerns under orders from von Bernstorff, in whose office such messages originated.

The great majority of the men working in these establishments were German and Austrian aliens, but they invariably included, usually among their general managers or directors, several who had acquired American citizenship solely to permit them to conduct their propaganda work with more freedom.

Truly, the German Ambassador, von Bernstorff, was not



The Wireless Station used by the German Plotters

At Sayville, L. I. It was equipped with the German Telefunken apparatus and was owned by the Atlantic Communication Company before the United States Government took it over after it had been proved that it was being used to send military information to Germany in violation of our neutrality.

underestimating the boundless credulity of a democracy when he said once in his Embassy, in a burst of pardonable pride in his ability to make the American people believe what he wanted them to believe: "*In dem Lande der unbegrenzten Möglichkeiten ist alles möglich!*"—"In this land of unlimited possibilities everything is possible!"

We regret to announce that publication of these articles by Mr. John R. Rathon will have to be suspended at the request of the United States Authorities.