

MOST STARTLING CHARGE

ASQUITH AND HALDANE NAMED MEMBERS OF CORRUPT PLOT.

Said Germans Have 47,000 Names of English Men and Women Whom They Hold in Bondage Through Fear of Exposure.

London, May 31.—Noel Pemberton-Billings, member of Parliament for East Hertfordshire, and publisher of the newspaper Vigilante, opening his defence in his trial in Bow street police court yesterday on the charge of libelling Maud Allen, dancer, and J. T. Grein, manager of the Independent Theatre, called Mrs. Villiers Stewart to prove the existence of a book which Pemberton-Billings alleged had been prepared by German secret agents, containing the names of 47,000 British persons said to be addicted to vice and held in bondage to Germany through fear of exposure.

Mrs. Stewart, under examination by Mr. Pemberton-Billings, said the book which she had seen, but which was not produced, contained the names of ex-Premier Asquith and Mrs. Asquith, Viscount Haldane, former Secretary for War, and Justice Darling, who is trying the case against Pemberton-Billings.

Capt. Spencer, another witness, said he would only give the names of those who had been approached and had succumbed to German temptation. He had placed the information before the Foreign Office, the War Office and the Admiralty. "There was great political pressure brought to bear," said the witness, "and I was told that if it were published it would undermine the whole fabric of the Government. I

then took it to the political machine."

Tried to Suppress It.

Capt. Spencer declared that pressure had been brought to bear to suppress the matter in September last, when "a political crisis was on and they were trying to bring Asquith back to power."

Mr. Pemberton-Billings explained that his object in calling evidence to the existence of the Book of Names was to prove the existence of the "cult" referred to in the alleged libel, and its political significance.

Continuing his testimony, Capt. Spencer, who was a member of the International Gendarmerie in Albania before the war and aide-de-camp to Prince William of Weid, and is now a member of the Royal Air Force, said he wrote the article which contained the alleged libel and which was based on a letter from Marie Corelli, the novelist. Last September he had heard of a camanilla in financial circles, whose object was to get Asquith back in power and make a German peace.

Attack on Miss Allan.

This case arose out of the publication in Mr. Pemberton-Billings's paper, Vigilante, of an attack on Miss Allan such as it was unworthy of any man to make upon a woman, according to the prosecution.

The meaning of the passage complained of was that there was some connection between nameless vice and the performances at the Independent Theatre. This was made clearer by a cryptic reference suggesting that if Scotland Yard were to seize a list of the members subscribing to the Independent Theatre, there was "no doubt they would secure the names of several thousands of the 47,000."

The explanation of this reference was discovered in an article in the previous issue of the paper, in which the alleged libels were directed against whole classes of people, not excepting the very highest in the land. The writer said that there had been many persons who had been prevented from putting their full strength into the war by corruption and blackmail and the fear of exposure; and that there were reasons for supposing that the Germans were making use of the most productive and the cheapest methods.

More than a thousand pages of the book were filled with the names mentioned by German agents in their reports, including the names of 47,000 Englishmen and women.

Secrets Threatened.

There was the suggestion that the most sacred secrets of State were threatened. It also declared that German agents, by certain means, could obtain information as to the disposition of the fleet, and that "the thought that 47,000 Englishmen and women were held in enemy bondage through fear calls all clean spirits to mortal combat."

Maud Allan figured in the affair for the reason that she had been engaged to play the part of Salome, in a play called Salome, originally written by the late Oscar Wilde. The play, which included a dance, was to be put on at the Independent Theatre under J. T. Grein's management.

When a man depends upon the school of experience for his education, he gets very thorough what he learns, but at the same time he is required to learn a great deal that he would rather not know.

If you expect but little you are liable not to cry over disappointment.

From The Countryside

Frontenac

HOLLEFORD.

May 30.—Buyers have been through securing horses for shipment. School is closed to-day, as Miss Reynolds, the teacher, was called to her father's bedside, he being very ill. J. J. O'Reilly has erected a windmill. G. T. Babcock and daughter, Jessie, spent Sunday at Bellefleur. Mr. and Mrs. E. Donnell and son, Oris, Kepler, at A. J. Redmond's; Miss Susie Whan, Pleasant Valley, spent Sunday at S. Martin's. Mr. and Mrs. Murphy, Hartington, at J. Babcock's. Mrs. J. Deline is home after spending a month in the city.

KEPLER.

May 29.—The recent rains have greatly improved the hay and grain crops, but is hindering farmers getting their planting done. A number from here attended the Sunday school convention at Collins Bay last week. The Red Cross workers met to-day at Mrs. E. P. Lawson's. A. Kavaner has returned from Kingston, where he has been receiving medical treatment, and is very much improved in health. W. Orser and family spent Sunday with friends at Wilmore. Clayton Lindsay, Sydenham, has been visiting friends here before leaving for Petawawa camp. J. McBride, F. Johnston and Dr. Knapp, all of Kingston, and former Kepler boys, paid their friends here a flying visit recently. B. Clark and family, Kingston, spent the week-end at A. Kavaner's. Mrs. W. Cordukes, Kingston, is spending a few days at H. E. Johnston's.

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICT

Clipped From the Whig's Many Bright Exchanges.

Richard Ringer, caretaker of the Picton post office, has been obliged to resign owing to failing health.

On Thursday Mrs. (Rev.) Swayne was the recipient of a most fitting purse and address by the ladies of Athens and Oak Leaf W.A.'s.

Dr. G. J. and Mrs. White, Chicago, have returned to Picton and are occupying their summer residence, "Lilac Lodge" overlooking the bay.

Mrs. J. M. Whelan, who spent the winter months in Wallace, Idaho, arrived at Deseronto on Wednesday to spend the summer with her parents.

The subscriptions reported to the Y. M. C. A. Red Triangle Fund for Prince Edward County amount to \$802.69. Prince Edward's objective was \$1,000.

Mrs. J. E. Scott, Smith's Falls, has received the sad news that her brother, Capt. E. J. Glasgow, of the 15th Battalion, was killed in action on May 9th.

Mr. and Mrs. James Macdonald, Smith's Falls, have received word from their son, Capt. J. H. Macdonald, that he had been made manager of a hospital in England.

Jeannette Sampson and Margaret Neffin, Deseronto, recently passed at Kingston the examination known as the "qualifying examination for the outside civil service."

Following an illness extending over a period of two weeks, Harvey Miller, one of Brockville's most respected citizens, passed away in St. Vincent de Paul Hospital, on Thursday at the age of seventy-five years.

In the Baptist church, Smith's Falls on Monday the marriage was quietly solemnized of Miss Elizabeth Doughton, and Ernest Charles Eldridge, both of Smith's Falls.

Donald M. Reid, only son of late M. J. Reid, Brockville, met an accidental death in Pembroke on Thursday afternoon. He was accompanying an automobile on an elevator when the mishap occurred.

The marriage took place in Toronto on May 16th of Miss Susan B. Tennant, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur G. Tennant, Toronto, formerly of Pembroke, to Bndr. Christopher F. Kelly.

The death took place on Thursday of Mrs. Alice Rice, of Brockville. She was in her fifty-third year and was born at Jasper, a daughter of the late William Driver. Her husband, George Rice, predeceased her by nine years. She leaves a family of six children.

The Woman's Auxiliary of St. John's Church, Smith's Falls, was represented Whitsunday when the W. A. memorial to their late president, Mrs. Bliss, was presented and dedicated. The memorial is a large and beautifully engraved brass alms basin with an appropriate inscription.

Defendant Wins Suit for Damages.

Picton, May 31.—An interesting case in connection with the sale of a horse was heard before Judge Derogoe on Thursday. Suit was entered by Mr. Smith, a veterinary surgeon of Wellington, who claimed damages from Oscar Parks, Sophiasburg, for breach of warranty. It appears that Smith bought a horse from Parks. Smith was not satisfied and returned the horse, asking to have purchase price refunded. Parks refused and the action was to recover. After hearing the evidence judgment was reserved. Decision has now been given, however, dismissing the action, with costs.

William Stevenson Dead.

Picton, May 31.—Walter T. Ross received a telegram on Tuesday from his cousin, Mrs. William Stevenson, Fort William, telling him of the sudden death of her husband, and asking him to break the news to her father, Walter McKennie. Mr. Stevenson, who had been in delicate health for some weeks past, died at Minneapolis, Minn., where he was in hospital. Mrs. Stevenson was with him. Mr. Stevenson had for many years been manager of the Bank of Montreal at Fort William. Funeral in Picton.

The death occurred Wednesday of Mrs. Alice Reid, wife of John W. Reid fifth colonel of Sidney. She was seventy years of age.



Canada's Registration
Its Purpose and Application

CANADA faces the gravest crisis in her history. Four years of war have taken from the Dominion a heavy toll in talent and labor, yet despite the shortage of man power, our Allies still depend on Canada to maintain her own fighting forces at full strength and to increase her exports of food and war materials, so vital to them, and to the successful prosecution of the war.

Every ounce by which Canada can increase her food production and every ounce Canada can save in her food consumption is needed for export to the Allies.

Should the war continue for another year, food cards and a rationing system may have to be instituted. It is the duty of Canada to be prepared for whatever situation circumstances may force upon her.

It is quite probable that before the war is won our Government may have to place restrictions upon the occupations in which men and women may engage. In such an event the Government wishes to be in a position to render all possible assistance in keeping our population usefully and profitably employed.

Registration Day, June 22nd

These conditions point to the necessity of Canada knowing the exact capabilities of her men and women at home.

All persons residing in Canada, male or female, British or alien of 16 years and over, will be required to register on June 22nd and truthfully answer the questions set forth upon the registration card.

It is not the Government's intention to conscript labour in any form, but to assist in directing it wisely, so that every available unit of human energy may be utilized to the best advantage.

The information procured through registration will be used—as an aid to the Military Authorities in procuring the men necessary to maintain "Canada's First Line of Defence"—to mobilize all units of available labor in the Dominion and direct them from less essential to more essential occupations—to establish and intelligently administer a system of food rationing should that become necessary.

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CONCRETE FOR PERMANENCE

Secures Mathematical Master.
Picton, May 31.—Owing to the resignation of W. A. Robertson, B.A., now on active service with the Royal Air Force, a vacancy was created on the Collegiate staff in the mathematical department. This vacancy was filled when H. Clarence Kinnee, B.A., was engaged. Mr. Kinnee is at present on the staff of the Morrisburg High School.

Smith's Falls Sells Debentures.
Smith's Falls, May 31.—A new issue of Smith's Falls debentures, \$28,000, yielding six per cent., will be offered during the next few days to the citizens of Smith's Falls. The bonds mature at different dates ranging from one to twenty years, and are in denominations of \$100 to \$1,000.

Some people advance the theory that to-morrow should take care of itself. The poor house is full of the class of individuals.