SWEDEN AND ENGLAND BELIEVED TO BE EAGER FOR WAR

Clash Appears to Be Inevitable, as Both Prefer Open Hostilities to Present Strained Conditions

By F. CUNLIFFE-OWEN.

GREAT BRITAIN'S firm resolve to extend her blockade of Germany and Austria in such a fashion as to prevent any contraband from reaching them either directly or indirectly bids fair, according to present appearances, to bring Sweden into the war on the side of the Central Powers before many days are past.

King Gustav, whose mother was a German princess; his queen, who as a sister of the reigning Grand Duke of Baden is a grandchild of old Emperor William; his brothers, and in fact all the members of his family save the English born Crown Princess, a daughter of the Duke of Connaught, have been endeavoring ever since the beginning of this great international conflagration in August, 1914, to commit Sweden definitely to the cause of the two Kaisers. The court of Stockholm is entirely pro-German. So too is the old aristocracy, while nearly all the lawyers, the physicians, the college professors and the Lutheran clergy, having received at any rate a portion of their education in German universities, are pronounced in their Teuton sympathies. The Swedish army, too, is pro-German.

The only element that has been against the nation participating in the fray against the Allies has been that of the commerce and industry of the country. For as long as they have been able to carry on trade with Germany on the one hand and with Great Britain, the United States and all other neutral nations on the other they have been reaping a golden harvest; a harvest which it was thoroughly realized in Sweden could only continue as long as present conditions prevailed.

Germany, cut off by the British blockade of the North Sea from all direct trade with the oversea nations excepting Sweden, has been obtaining through the latter nearly all her foreign imports. A certain quantity have reached her through Norway, Holland and Denmark. But in all of these countries the leading merchants, in conjunction with the Governments, have organized certain so-called oversea trusts, the members of which pledge themselves to refrain from reexporting to Germany any foreign goods imported under their auspices.

Sweden, however, has all along declined to consent to anything of the kind, taking the ground that it would constitute an impairement of her sovereignty to tolerate any restriction of her trade by any foreign Power or Powers. She would not listen to any suggestion of a supervision by the Allies' consular agents within her borders of the exports to Germany of goods which had been imported from abroad. In fact she would not hear of any restriction upon either her imports or her exports. The extent to which she has benefited by this policy is best shown by the fact that her imports from the United States alone during the last twelve months have risen to a figure almost five-fold that immediately prior to the war.

The British partial blockade of Germany, according to official statistics accepted alike by belligerents and neutrals, has had the effect of diminishing exports from the United States to Germany by $316,000,000 for the year 1915. But American exports to Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Holland were augmented correspondingly to such an extent as to account for more than two-thirds of the decrease in direct trade from this country to Germany. Sweden has figured most largely in this connection and has been importing such vast quantities of American goods as to be absolutely beyond the capacity of consumption of her meagre population of five millions.

Sweden has indeed all along been the weak point in the scheme of Great Britain to cut off Germany from supplies from the outer world, and the Allies have become firmly convinced that as long as Sweden is permitted to continue to send into Germany not only all her own manufactures and produce but also all the goods that she imports from America and from elsewhere beyond the seas, even from Great Britain herself, it is idle to look for any complete success of the economic siege of the Central Powers.

Realizing this, England has now announced her intention of blockading all Germany's ports in the Baltic as effectively as she has blockaded those on the North Sea. Some months ago English submarines made their appearance in the Baltic. How they reached there remains more or less of a secret. There are only two entrances to the Baltic. One the Kiel Canal, which is crowded from end to end with the Kaiser's navy, which has sought refuge there since the beginning of the war. The other lies around the northeastern portion of Denmark, by way of the Cattegat. The Great Belt, between Fuenen and Seeland, and the Little Belt, between Fuenen and the mainland of Jutland, are Danish territorial waters and have been mined so thickly by the Danes, for purposes of defence, that not even submarines could pass.

As for The Sound, it is a recognized international waterway, through which warships are supposed to have a right to steam, at any rate in times of peace. But it is also territorial water, being less than three miles wide at the narrowest point, between Denmark and Sweden.

At one time both Sweden and Denmark were on the point of mining The Sound at this point, so as to save both countries from the risks and anxieties inevitable from the passing in and out of belligerent warships. But the plan fell through, and ultimately Germany herself mined the southern portion of The Sound. There is every reason to believe that the mining has not proved effective, as mines are apt to break loose, and the fact remains that the Baltic is now swarming with British submarines, which have already sunk a very large number of German ships trading between Swedish, Norwegian and German ports, especially steamers heavily laden with ore and also vessels freighted with timber. They made no attempt, however, to interfere with vessels flying the flag of any neutral country.

The number of English submarines in the Baltic is now so large, indeed, as to warrant the English declaration of a blockade of all the Baltic coasts of Germany, in this way preventing any supplies from reaching the Kaiser's dominions from Sweden, either in Swedish ships or by the Swedish railroad ferry which, bearing trains of heavily laden railroad cars, runs day and night between Trelleborg, in Sweden, and Sassowitz, on the German coast. Not content with this, Great Britain is now beginning to hold up every ship bound for Swedish ports, no matter whether from the United States or from any other country, and to seize provisions and other goods on board that it has reason to know are in reality destined for transmission from Sweden to Germany.

This action by Great Britain, which has for some time past been vigorously advocated by the English and French press of every shade of political opinion, as being the only means of pushing home that economic warfare against the Central Powers upon which the Allies rely so much to assist them in their military operations, has naturally had the effect of creating a great popular outcry throughout the length and breadth of Sweden. The mercantile and industrial classes are beside themselves with indignation. They see that all the golden harvest which they have been reaping ever since the beginning of the war until now has virtually come to an end. They appreciate the fact that not only will they be prevented from gathering in money with both hands by exporting at an enormous profit to Germany imports which they have obtained from the United States, from South America, and even from Great Britain, but that they will also be debarred from sending any of their own domestic manufactures and produce across the Baltic into the Kaiser's dominions.

This means that a period of great economic depression will have to be faced in Sweden, that her industries will languish, that the laboring classes will be thrown out of employment and that her foreign trade will dwindle down to far below its ante bellum proportions. The mercantile and industrial classes, therefore, who hitherto have been the most powerful champions of neutrality and who have constituted an insuperable obstacle to the earnest desire of the King, of the court, and of his nobles to join the Germans in the present great international conflagration, are abandoning their opposition to their sovereign's views and, full of bitterness against Great Britain, are now ready to give their consent to a participation of the nation in the fray, against the Allies.

That King Gustav is disposed to take advantage of this change of sentiment on the part of the industrial and trading classes of his subjects is apparent from his speech from the throne on the opening of the Riksdag, or national Parliament, on Monday last, in which he called attention to "the usurpation of power by the belligerents." He added that "the belligerents have neglected in ever increasing degree to observe the written international laws for the protection of neutrals and limiting violence in war." The Swedish Government "has more than once been obliged to intervene against attempts to put Sweden's industrial and commercial life under the usurped control of another Power"—this other Power being, of course, Great Britain.

King Gustav wound up his speech by intimating that an increase of Sweden's forces on land and on sea was imperative, and invited Parliament to appoint special delegates for the purpose of "discussing national questions of a secret nature with the executive branches of the Government."

These utterances of King Gustav, which have been generally construed, both in Sweden and abroad, as foreshadowing the rupture of diplomatic relations with England and of war with that country, must be taken in conjunction with the statement made some time ago by his Prime Minister, M. von Hammarksjold, to the effect that "Sweden will take up arms for the defence of her territory, or for any cause of equal importance." M. von Hammarksjold has always been in sympathy with the views of his sovereign, and it must not be forgotten that he was brought into office on the platform of a large increase of armaments and the adoption of a vigorous foreign policy. Moreover, his administration has depended all along for its legislative support upon the so-called Activists: upon those who are in favor of a participation in the present war on the side of Germany.

That friendly relations any longer exist between Sweden and the Allies it would be ridiculous to assert. Indeed, in the King's speech at the opening of the Riksdag on Monday last the absence of the customary reference to the existence of friendly relations with the various foreign Powers was conspicuously absent, an omission which is considered extremely ominous by those few who favor the maintenance of neutrality. Moreover, the Swedish Government, in retaliation for the action of England in seizing from the steamship Hellig Olav a large quantity of rubber consigned from New York by parcel post to a merchant at Stockholm engaged exclusively in the export business to Germany, has commenced to hold up all the letter and parcel mail in transit through Sweden to Russia and from Russia to England. This action, in view of the circumstance that the Archangel route between England and Russia is now closed by ice, and that the new American built railroad from Petrograd to its ice free port on the Murman coast is not yet open for traffic, is subjecting Great Britain and Russia to so much trouble and difficulty as to be tantamount almost to an act of war.

Then, too, Sweden has during the last three or four weeks inaugurated the practice of convoying her merchant vessels and ferryboats bound for German ports with cruisers and destroyers flying the Swedish flag, in order to avoid their being interfered with by English submarines. This in itself is bound to lead to a breach of the peace between the two Powers at any moment. As soon as Great Britain proclaims the blockade of the Baltic ports such a practice cannot be continued without becoming an act of war.

A very serious feature in the present condition of affairs is that practically both nations are anxious, not for peace, but for war. All Sweden is roused against the English to such an extent as to render the people entirely amenable to the earnest desire of King Gustav and of his Government to embark in the fray on the side of Germany and Austria.

On the other hand, Great Britain would be equally glad to have Sweden as a fullfledged foe, instead of a most unfriendly neutral. Open hostilities between herself and Sweden would enable her to render far more effective her blockade of German ports. It would render more facile the complete stoppage of the export of all supplies, contraband and non-contraband, from Sweden to Germany. Moreover, it would have the advantage in the eyes of Great Britain of diminishing to a great extent the causes of friction between herself and the United States, since Sweden has been the chief intermediary of large American importations into Germany.

If England goes to war with Sweden it means that not only will the blockade of German ports become more effective but that Swedish ports as well will be rigorously closed to all foreign trade. Inasmuch as Sweden and her industries are almost entirely dependent upon Great Britain for their coal, for rubber, for tin, and other goods indispensable to Swedish trade and industry, the lieges of King Gustav would soon find themselves in a very sorry fix.

England, indeed, has acquired the conviction that if Sweden embarks in the present war on the side of Germany it will do no more harm to the Allies than that to which they have been already subjected at the hands of King Gustav's Government; while it will in many respects be of great advantage to the Powers of the Entente, and contribute in their opinion to bring to an earlier close the present international conflagration.

True, Sweden has an army which already mobilized in view of eventualities numbers between 400,000 and 500,000 men. But it is difficult to see to what use they can be put, save for purposes of defence. The German expectations that Sweden might successfully invade Finland and reach Petrograd through the grand duchy were based on a wholly mistaken belief that the Finns would rise in revolt against the Czar as soon as ever Russia found herself involved in a European war and would welcome an invasion by the Swedes and further their movements.

The Finns, however, have long memories and recall that, no matter how much they may have had to grumble against certain features of Muscovite domination, the tyranny they suffered in the eighteenth century at the hands of the Swedish Kings was so cruel and intolerable as to cause them always to side with Russia in any trouble that she might have with Sweden. Experience of the last hundred years has shown that whenever Russia has been engaged in war her Finnish troops have always been conspicuous by their magnificent bravery and by their devotion to the cause of the Czar.

In the present war they have lived up to their reputation in this respect, and if the Swedish army, in spite of the immense distances to be traversed and the difficulties in connection with transportation, absence of roads and climatic conditions, were to succeed in invading Finland to any extent it would find itself received there, not by a friendly, but by a thoroughly hostile population nearly as big as that of Sweden. It would have to fight every inch of its way along the several hundred miles of swamp, lakes and dense forests before it could hope to get anywhere near Petrograd.

Of course the Swedes might attempt a landing at some point further south, on the coast of Finland. But that could not be dreamed of without the support of the German fleet, which would have to emerge for the purpose from its hiding place in the Kiel Canal. Once out the German fleet would face the danger of annihilation by the swarms of English submarines in the Baltic, backed up by the new Russian fleet and also, in all probability, by British battleships and cruisers, which would take advantage of Sweden's abandonment of her neutrality to make their way through the sound to the Baltic.

Sweden's attitude of unfriendly neutrality toward England and France ever since the beginning of the present war is characterized by a considerable amount of ingratitude. For it is to France, and more especially to Great Britain, that the Swedes are indebted for the territorial integrity of their kingdom during the last hundred years. The treaty by which Russia became possessed of Finland in the early portion of the nineteenth century left the boundary line of the Grand Duchy somewhat indefinite, owing to the fact of there being two towns, one actually on the now existing frontier line and one further west, bearing the name of Lyngstuen. Russia took advantage of this to lay claim to the western Lyngstuen, near Tromsoe, and on several occasions was on the point of taking possession thereof, in order to enforce her pretensions—pretensions which would have given her ice free ports on the Atlantic.

In each instance Great Britain and France stood in the way, and in 1855 England and France, at the pressing instance of Oscar I., concluded a treaty by which they pledged themselves to maintain, with their armies and navies, if necessary, the integrity of his kingdoms of Sweden and Norway. The object of the treaty drawn up and devised by Lord Palmerston, was, as stated in Article II thereof, to "resist the pretensions or aggressions of Russia," and was announced in the speech from the throne in the House of Lords at Westminster by the late Queen Victoria on January 31, 1856.

Some twelve or fourteen years afterward, when Russia again showed signs of proposing to invade Scandinavia, availing herself of the everlasting Laplander grazing difficulty as a pretext of offence, Charles XV. once more successfully invoked the intervention of Great Britain in behalf of Sweden, and Russia was induced to abandon all her hostile designs.

In fact, Sweden has repeatedly in the nineteenth century been saved from invasion and from the loss of her territory by the friendly intervention of Great Britain, and in a lesser degree of France.

The Swedes seem entirely to have forgotten this, as well as the extent to which Great Britain, particularly Scotland, helped them, and fought for them, in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. To-day, with the Swedes, it is chiefly a question of dollars and cents, and while some excuse may be found for the aristocracy of Sweden, which is composed largely of junior branches of German families, and which in point of race and blood is more than half Teuton, little or none can be found for King Gustav, who, unlike his fine old father, the late King Oscar, who was so proud of his Gascon peasant ancestry, seeks to forget, and to obscure the fact, that he is the great-grandson of the French revolutionary soldier of fortune, Marshal Bernadotte, and to emphasize the German blood in his veins that comes to him only through his mother, a member of the insignificant German princely house of Wied.

PRINCE CHARLES. BROTHER OF KING GUSTAV.

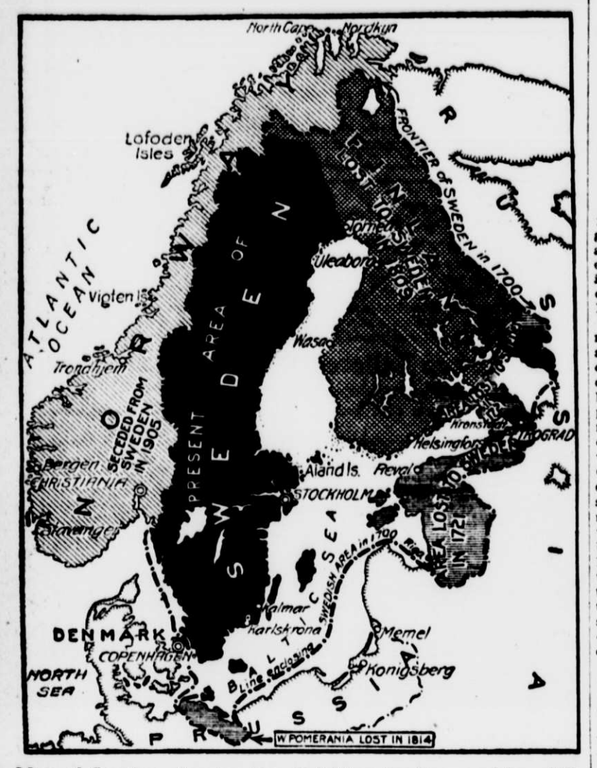
K. A. WALLENBERG MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

M. DAN BROSTROM MINISTER OF THE NAVY

DR. HJALMAR VON HAMMARSKJOLD. PREMIER and MINISTER OF WAR.

KING GUSTAV V.

CROWN PRINCESS MARGARET VICTORIA.



Map of Sweden, showing her shrinking territory and her difficulty of invading Russia across Finland.

Why British Charge Swedes With Base Ingratitude and How Break Would Benefit Allies

GERMANS RECKON THE COST OF PEACE

Enormous Burden of Taxation Foreseen, but People Are Defiant.

Special Correspondence to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 10. An exceptionally frank article regarding the actual economic conditions in Germany appears in the *Kochische-Zeitung*. The writer calls attention to the seriousness of the situation and expresses great doubt as to the possibility of Germany being able to increase her income after the war in a proportion sufficient to meet the situation. Extracts of the article follow:

"Never shall we be able to forget the seriousness of these times. The effects of this war will not be wiped out with the conclusion of peace. In all circumstances, as the Secretary of State for the Imperial Treasury has said in the Reichstag, we shall have to bear a colossal burden of taxes after the war. It is useless to make guesses about the extent of the coming taxes. But even superficial consideration shows that after the war we shall have to place a far higher percentage of our income at the disposal of the State, in the shape of taxes and customs.

"In addition to these great sacrifices, smaller sacrifices are required, and the future as well as the present demands privation. How can one measure these sacrifices in comparison with what our soldiers have to bear in the rain of shells, in frost and wet and without even the most miserable conveniences?

"Let us not forget that many German women are to-day walking a road of suffering, and that there is much need among the families of the lower middle classes which is not yet allayed in spite of all readiness to help.

"We know who is responsible. A war is no child's play; but this war is of quite special horror because of England's cunning and violence, and because England's sharpest weapon is aimed at the lives of our children and of our weakest and most helpless.

"Anybody in England who has the very smallest conception of economic life has known for a year past, ever since the beginnings of our organized economy, that the German people as a whole will continue to hold out in this war for years to come. And every neutral knows that if England in the course of a long war can still claim a success it will be the elements of the German people which are physically and economically the weakest that will succumb to the pressure. If the English yet succeeded in gaining a triumph it would be our babies and the weakest members of our people that would go under; never the people as a whole. And even this we shall know how to prevent.

"England will not be able to satisfy her ambition and to make good the failures of her strategy by a great murder of children. We who are strong and capable of resistance must and will bring every blow to naught. But to this end fresh sacrifices must be made. Our enemies, now that the war is approaching its climax, and now that the last trumps are being played on the enemy's side, shall learn that in our capacity and readiness to make sacrifices we have by no means reached the end, and that our readiness will be all the stronger and more willing the more plainly we see through these horrible methods of warfare. Seeing that everything that the British spirit of invention has devised against us has hitherto turned into a blessing for us, we may be sure that the enemy's last spring will not find us weak.

"We have never had and in future shall have less than ever any lack of bread. The supply of potatoes, which caused us such anxious hours and which seemed to be in such hopeless confusion, has now been happily assured.

"Thanks to the heroism of our soldiers the existence of the German citizen is so secure that he hardly realizes how little this terrible war has altered the conditions of life in Germany. This is the reason why we hear complaints about trifles instead of being every sort of discontent and all superfluous complaints put aside at the outset. The renunciation of these popular and customary complaints is itself a sacrifice which is now required in the interests of our fatherland—required not only from him who complains without reason but also from him whose heart is devoured by real suffering. Complaints will make nothing better; but many of these letters of woe make breaches in our front in the field which may be more serious than many breaches made by shells.

"The dictates of the simplest gratitude ought to shut the mouths of those who complain. The time for big talking has long gone by. We have entered upon the days of tough endurance and silenced complaints; and it is more than ever necessary that every German should find in every other German a trustworthy support."

BRITAIN SOON MAY MOBILIZE DOCTORS

Inadequate Organization of Medical Forces Creates Serious Problem.

Special Correspondence to THE SUN.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—With the growing numbers of wounded from the front as Britain's army expands and the spheres of operations increase, this country is faced with a dearth of doctors, and the strain on the medical men left to look after the civilian population is becoming heavier every day.

Seeing that the needs of the army must be attended to first, this strain is bound to increase, and a movement is now on foot to get Lord Derby to assume the organization of the civilian medical service so as to free more doctors for the army by promoting greater efficiency and better organization at home.

The scheme, which is supported by a great many leading men in the medical world who see that much energy is wasted by its being directed into wrong channels, is to divide the entire medical strength of the country into groups somewhat on the lines of Lord Derby's system of recruiting. It is proposed to divide the doctors into the following three groups, according to age and physical fitness:

A—For service with the army and navy abroad.

B—For service with the army at home.

C—For civilian and public health, asylum and prison duties.

In group A it is proposed to place all those under 35 years of age, who are physically fit for service with the army in the field; in group B all those under 50 years of age, and in group C the remainder of the medical profession, including women doctors.

It is now very generally recognized that the haphazard enlistment of skilled engineers of all sorts in the British army was a mistake, and with much delay and trouble skilled engineers were brought back from the firing line to serve their country not less bravely but certainly more efficiently in the munition factories. There is only a limited number of skilled engineers, and it is essential that each be placed in the post where his skill can be employed to the best advantage.

Exactly similar conditions apply in respect of medical skill available for the army and the civilian population. The strength of the medical profession in the British Isles is known. There are about 30,000 medical men on the register all told, and these 30,000 include the men who have retired from active practice. On them has fallen the responsibility of serving the sick and wounded from armies now to be raised to 4,000,000 men, and at the same time of providing for the needs of the civilian population of the British Isles of about 40,000,000 souls.

At least one-half of the entire body of the medical profession has now been called for service with the army and navy. The strain on the half left to look after the civilians has been carried to the limit, and it is recognized that the only way in which further relief can be obtained for either service is by improved organization in the use of the men available.

Asked whether he thought there was any possibility for such reorganization, a high officer of the Royal Army Medical Corps characteristically answered, "Is there any department connected with the war that does not need reorganizing? Officers of the R. A. M. C.—all officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps are fully qualified medical practitioners—state that there is much waste in men and want of skill and consequent loss of life and limb. The following is a characteristic example: A young Harley street specialist, one of the leading men in London, volunteered for military service. He was sent to the front and found himself employed in ticking names off a list of wounded. Meanwhile operations demanding the highest expert knowledge and experience were being performed by men who were beginners at the work, and who knew very little about expert surgery.

The superintendent of one of the large London hospitals put the case as follows: "The mistake has been to rush off all the doctors to the base hospitals, distributing them on the old system of a unit to each regiment, and depleting the service at the place where it needs to be strongest, namely, at home. A specialist who joins the Royal Army Medical Corps is no longer regarded as a specialist; he is just a 'qualified man.' He may be an eminent pathologist, or an aural expert, or an authority in any other branch of medical science, but to the War Office he is just an army doctor.

"The base hospitals, moreover, are not the places for other than emergency treatment. In difficult cases the critical surgery begins at the home hospital, and it is just here that we are severely overtasked and understaffed. At this hospital, for example—and ours is just a typical case—we could not carry on our work at all if it were not for former members of the staff who have come back to give us a hand in the emergency. They are elderly men who cannot stand the strain of the night and heavy work. All our senior surgeons went off to the front earlier, and we are left with the juniors and these returned veterans.

"The situation grows graver, inasmuch as we are getting no young students in their first three years who are coming along; they are all enlisting instead. The War Office gives us no encouragement. What has to be recognized is that for hospital purposes we want the real experts, the best men, here in London. We might organize emergency corps from London to go to particular points on the front, like Neuve Chapelle or Loos, to meet special calls."

The doctors now want Lord Derby to step in and evolve order out of this chaos, and they believe he is the man to do it.

THIS photograph, just received, shows a British despatch rider racing at top speed along a road on Suvla Bay to escape snipers. He is in full view of the enemy. The crosses, marking the graves of allied dead, extend all along the shore at this point, indicating the severity of the fighting for possession of this strip of the Gallipoli peninsula. Note the warships of the Allies in the bay.

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LOST CRUISERS WELL MANNED.

LONDON, Jan. 10.—Replying to criticisms that the British cruisers Good Hope and Monmouth, which were sunk by Von Spee's squadron at the battle of Coronel, were manned entirely by reserve ratings, First Lord of the Admiralty Balfour has informed Commander Bellairs, M. P., that neither of the ships had on board less than the authorized proportion of active ratings, and in fact the Monmouth had a crew composed almost entirely of active service men.

THIS MENU IN PARIS AWAITED KAISER

Was to Have Been Served Aug. 15, 1914, but His Majesty Was Delayed.

PARIS, Jan. 7.—In going through the papers of the former manager of the Hotel Astoria the investigating magistrate has come across a copy of the menu for the dinner to be given to the Kaiser at the hotel on August [illegible], the day in which he planned to enter Paris. It is headed by the date August 15, 1914, and is as follows:

Rocher de caviar d'Astrakan
Bisque de homards
Consommé double [illegible]
Truite saumonée [illegible]
Filet de bœuf Renaissance
Suprême de volaille Jeanne [illegible]
Neige au citron
Caneton Bigarade
Salade japonaise
Asperges d'Argenteuil [illegible]
Ananas vellé à l'orientale
Paniers de gourmandise
Fruits de printemps

Vins:

Nackenheimer Riesling
Château Beaucaillou
Pipes Heidsieck, goût anglais
Mumm, grandes marques

It will be remembered that the Astoria manager, a German named [illegible]sler, was arrested as a spy [illegible] days of the war, was shot [illegible] then acquitted and placed [illegible] tration camp. He has since been [illegible] of misappropriation of funds [illegible] to his hotel company and it is [illegible] nection with this charge that [illegible] are being examined.

What evidence exists to [illegible] menu with the Kaiser has not [illegible] known. It is hardly surprising [illegible] menu should be found among [illegible] manager's papers, but on [illegible] this menu hardly seems [illegible] brating the Kaiser's entry [illegible] treated capital; it really represents [illegible] little banquet such as was [illegible] hundred before the war. The Kaiser would dine at a hotel [illegible] of his entry, which is given when the Elysée Palace [illegible] is hardly likely that the [illegible] even if a spy, a hundred [illegible] label the menu weeks in [illegible] its true object.