The New York Times.
August 9, 1917

PRO-GERMAN PAPERS UNDER CLOSE WATCH

Government Investigators Looking After Anti-American Utterances in Many Quarters.

SOME MAY BE SUPPRESSED

Sections of Espionage Act to be Invoked in Checking Attacks Upon This Country's Welfare.

An official of the United States Government who is now engaged in an investigation of certain anti-American and pro-German pamphlets and weekly newspapers printed in this part of the country, said yesterday that one result of the investigation has been to prove to him that not only are the persons identified with this propaganda laboring in the interests of the enemies of the United States, but that in a majority of cases they are also working to bring about in the United States such a condition of affairs as the so-called Soldiers' and Workmen's Council sought to bring about in Russia. Within the past few weeks some of these publications have assumed a pro-German attitude even more violent than before the United States declared war on Germany.

For weeks past the Post Office and Department of Justice inspection services have been keeping a close watch on the circulation of these anti-American publications, so far as the mail is concerned, and among the possibilities of the near future is the suppression of at least some of the more violent of these papers and pamphlets. The country-wide investigation now under way is being made under the authority of Section 3 of Title 1, and Sections 1, 2, and 3 of Title 12 of the Espionage act, which was signed by President Wilson on June 15 last. These sections are as follows:

Title One.

Section 3. Whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully make or convey false reports or false statements with intent to interfere with the operation or success of the military or naval forces of the United States or to promote the success of its enemies, and whoever, when the United States is at war, shall willfully cause or attempt to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty, in the military or naval forces of the United States, or who shall willfully obstruct the recruiting or enlistment service of the United States to the injury of the service of the United States, shall be punished by a fine of not more than $10,000 or imprisonment for not more than twenty years, or both.

Title Twelve.

Section 1. Every letter, writing, circular, postal card, picture, print, engraving, photograph, newspaper, pamphlet, book, or other publication, matter or thing, of any kind, in violation of any of the provisions of this act, is hereby declared to be non-mailable matter and shall not be conveyed in the mails or delivered from any Post Office or by any letter carrier: Provided, that nothing in this act shall be so construed as to authorize any person other than an employe of the Dead Letter Office, duly authorized thereto, or other person upon a search warrant authorized by law, to open any letter not addressed to himself.

Sec. 2. Every letter, writing, circular, postal card, picture, print, engraving, photograph, newspaper, pamphlet, book, or other publication, matter, or thing, of any kind, containing any matter advocating or urging treason, insurrection, or forcible resistance to any law of the United States, is hereby declared to be non-mailable.

Sec. 3. Whoever shall use or attempt to use the mails or Postal Cervice of the United States for the transmission of any matter declared by this title to be non-mailable, shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than five years, or both. Any person violating any provision of this title may be tried and punished either in the district in which the unlawful matter or publication was mailed, or to which it was carried by mail for delivery according to the direction thereon, or in which it was caused to be delivered by mail to the person to whom it was addressed.

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Espionage Act

The principal objects sought by those responsible for the circulation in this country of these pro-German, anti-American newspapers, pamphlets, and circulars, are:

First—To stir up trouble between the United States and Great Britain by circulating statements that England brought about the present war, that England is really an enemy and not an ally of the United States, and printing cartoons and drawings the purpose of which is to create in the minds of the people of the country the impression that President Wilson and other high officials of the Government are tools of the British Government, exploited for the selfish purposes of Great Britain.

Second—To spread broadcast the statement that the United States went to war in order to save the fortunes of certain rich men and of various corporations engaged in the manufacture of munitions of war, and that President Wilson willfully and knowingly uttered an untruth when he said that the United States went to war "to make the world safe for democracy."

Third—To instigate all the trouble possible between American employers of labor and their employes, and to make the laboring people believe that they are being exploited in this war in behalf of the corporations and men of great wealth.

Fourth—To embitter the Irish-American population against the United States Government and endeavor to make them believe that President Wilson favors harsh measures in the handling of the Irish problem, this part of the propaganda being in charge of certain Irishmen who long ago left Ireland to make war on England from the United States.

Fifth—To agitate in all parts of the country in favor of a peace such as Germany favors and against which President Wilson, Lloyd George, and other Entente statesmen have time and again warned the peoples of the allied nations.

Sixth—to create the impression that American newspapers, while ostensibly owned by Americans are in fact owned by Englishmen and that the policies of these papers are secretly dictated by the British Government.

A few quotations taken at random from several issues of the various anti-American publications referred to indicate the violent and seditious nature of this propaganda. These are from recent issues of a violent anti-American publication, the avowed policy of which is to create all the trouble possible between the United States and England.

The English are so entrenched in Calais that the French are wondering if they ever intend to get out—if Calais is to be another Gibraltar!

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"Three million loan subscribers."—Headline. In other words, three million Americans who are interested financially in the war—not in its ending but its duration.

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"Wheat crop offers little for export. Nation must economize and use substitutes to aid Allies." Headline. Surely, the nation will eat soap, shavings, grass, anything to let Englishmen get wheat, meat, and American products. If England is going to get the good things, let's move over there and enjoy American resources.

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Milwaukee.—"At a meeting of the stockholders of the German-American Bank, the corporate name of the institution was changed to the American Exchange Bank. The action was taken by a unanimous vote."—News Item. Shame on the cowards!

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The British Ambassador has written a letter to Senator Hale suggesting that Portland Harbor be deepened that it may be extensively used by Canadian shipping—much to the offense of Senators King and Sherman. But why should Spring-Rice have addressed Hale and not Congress as Balfour did, while the President sat in the gallery?

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Mayor Thompson won't truckle to England, and, therefore, he is a traitor. He wants to conserve American foods for Americans first and therefore he is a menace to Americans.

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The following paragraphs are from the September issue of a monthly publication, which is considered by Government agents to be one of the most dangerous published in this country:

In America the month just past has been the blackest month for freemen our generation has known. With a sort of hideous

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apathy the country has acquiesced in a regime of judicial tyranny, bureaucratic suppression, and industrial barbarism, which followed inevitably the first fine careless rapture of militarism.

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The United States has a more extended record of atrocities to her credit than any other nation of the civilized world. The number of negroes lynched in this country since 1885 amounts to one in every four days. Some ironical god or destiny must have brought this long story of bloody public crime to its culmination in East St. Louis last month, just as we set forth on our chivalrous crusade to rid the world of "German" frightfulness.

This week's issue of a notoriously pro-German publication prints on its first page, in box form, an article signed "Robert M. La Follette," the concluding sentences of which are a plea for the election of men to Congress who will advocate the same policies as La Follette is now advocating.

"The citizen should begin to work now," says the Wisconsin Senator, "for the election of a Congressman who represents his views on the war issues. If he would preserve his liberties, his freedom of thought and speech and action he should not be intimidated by the threats of the war traders and their newspapers."

Here is one paragraph from a four-page document recently sent through the mails by a committee said to represent the Socialist-Labor Party:

> What are the reasons for America's entry into the war? The principal immediate casus belli is the interference of Germany's submarine blockade with the profitable trade with the Entente Allies and the fact that this constitutes a violation of international law. But that is no explanation in itself, as Great Britain's mine-laying in the North Sea is equally a violation of international law. But in this case the violation has been submitted to, and American ships have been kept away from danger. The talk about the killing of Americans is calculated only to stir up warlike feelings in the masses who must do the fighting. If American ships had persisted in traversing the mine-sown area in the North Sea, the British would have been guilty of taking American life also.
>
> Besides, the capitalists who want war care nothing for American lives. When did they ever let considerations of humanity interfere with their profit-making? Think of their massacre of the working class at Ludlow, Col., at Bayonne, N. J., and many other places; and the slaughter of American workers in industry, largely preventable except for considerations of profit! Yet "we" submitted to the British violations and went to war over the German ones. Why? Because "our" sympathy is on the side of the Entente Allies. And why is that? Because if the Allies do not win, and win quickly, they may not be able to pay interest on the money that J. P. Morgan and his crowd have loaned them. Besides, we cannot afford to let the industrial capitalists lose money by interference with their profitable trade. Sooner let thousands of American young men be killed in battle.

The country-wide activities of the so-called People's Council are well known. That organization is now publishing a propaganda pamphlet called "Facts." In a recent issue there appeared these verses, captioned "The War Maker":

He walked in peace in a frock of black
  In the fields beneath the Dome;
But he did not know what it was to yearn
  For the place we once called home;
He did not know what it was to die
  And rot in the burning sun,
A thousand men in a dripping trench
  All rotting one by one.

He did not wear a gilded coat,
  Nor a helmet on his head,
But he spoke the word that hurled us all
  On the scrap heap of the dead.

When President Wilson designated the Sixty-ninth New York as the first of the New York troops to go abroad, the Irish agitators lost no time in branding it a pro-British, anti-Irish move. This week's issue of the Gaelic American prints a long article on this "outrage," in which it says:

> The rumors which have been floating around for some time in relation to the Sixty-ninth, namely, that it was to be quietly smuggled out of the country and paraded through Ireland and England, for the purpose, if possible, of turning the tide of Irish Nationalism and inducing Irish youth to go and fight England's battles in Europe—those rumors seem to take concrete shape in rushing off the Sixty-ninth in this spectacular fashion for reasons that are purely political. We find it hard to believe that the War Department can be so fatuous as to think that any such paltry

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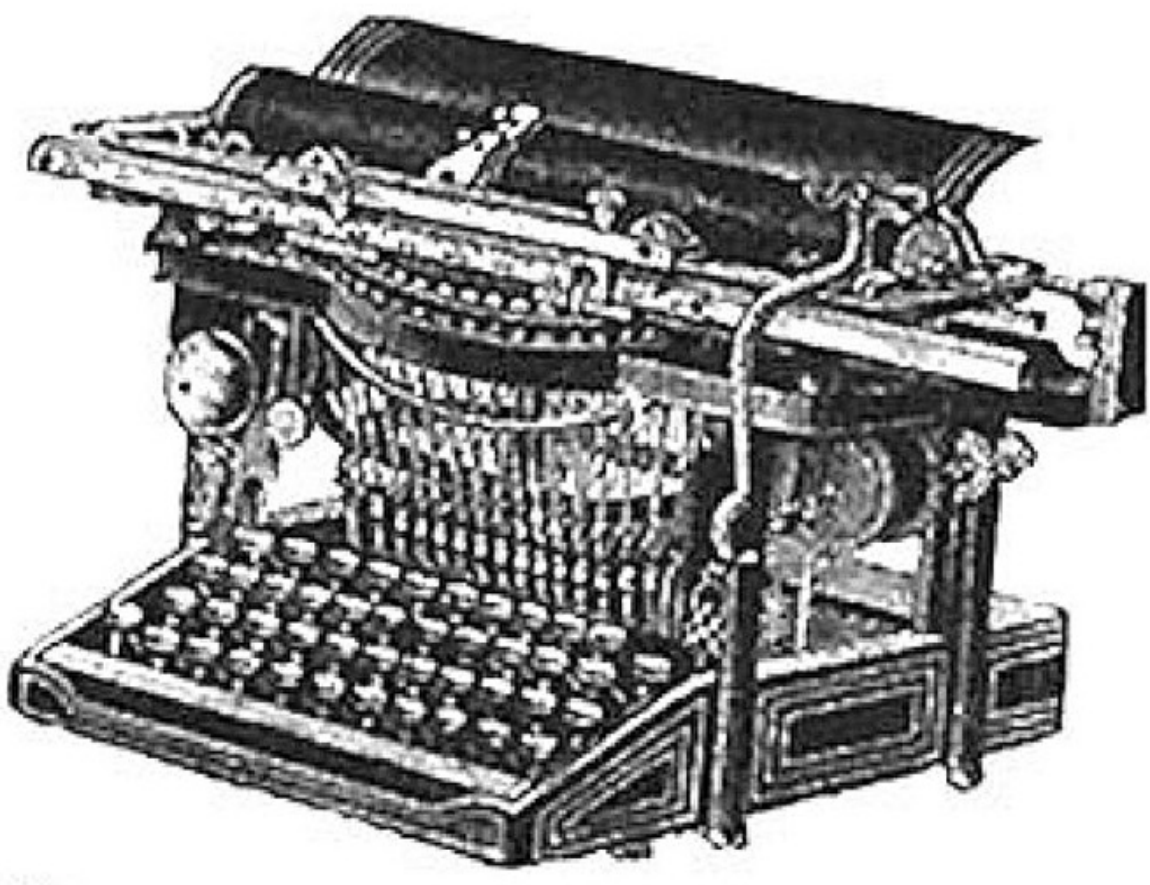
attempt at befooling the Irish race in America can be successful.

But Ireland's day is coming. It is at hand. The mighty blows that are staggering England and are sending her clamoring to America for help are breaking the bonds that bind Ireland. While the last vestige of her tyranny remains to fetter the upgrowth of Irish nationality, while a shred of alien English influence works banefully against Irishmen at home or abroad, England will have Irish enmity to deal with. Irish-Americans will not be cajoled or "honored" or humbugged into instrumentalities for saving England's neck here or in Flanders.

The Post Office authorities have sent tons of such stuff to Washington for inspection by the officials of the department.

"We know all about it," said Postmaster Patten yesterday, "and Washington is being given all the evidence that comes into our possession. As to what action is to be taken is a question I am not in a position to answer."



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