

MENACE TO GERMAN EMPIRE SEEN IN CHILDREN'S PICNIC

Berlin Police Also Disperse Religious Gathering at Clergyman's Home as Peril to National Safety.
Says Visiting Russian Singer

BECAUSE they were considered "menaces to the safety and peace of the German empire," 100 children holding a picnic near Berlin one day in August, 1914, were driven to their homes by the German police. This is according to Andre Arensen, Russian singer. The real reason back of the breaking up of the picnic, Mr. Arensen said, was that the children were members of families which had left the German Lutheran Church and had established a reform church, contrary to the dictates of the Kaiser.

Mr. Arensen was held a prisoner in Germany for a year. At the beginning of the war he was interned as an alien enemy. He had permission, however, to go where he wanted at any time, providing he made detailed reports to the police of his every movement.

During one of his trips away from the internment camp he saw the picnic incident. As another instance of kultur, Mr. Arensen said that one night he saw a religious gathering in a clergyman's home dispersed on the ground that the assemblage was a danger to the empire.

The meeting was broken up for the same reason the picnic was stopped.

While walking in Berlin one day, Mr. Arensen said he was attacked by a German singer. Mr. Arensen brought suit against the German and in a lower court the judge ruled the German should apologize to Mr. Arensen. The German refused and appealed to a higher court. In the upper court, the judge declared from the bench:

"You (meaning the German) did right. That is the spirit of Prussia, to show to all enemies of the Prussian rule nothing but the iron fist. Had I been in your place, I, too, would have exhibited the iron fist and did as you acted." Mr. Arensen then was assessed the costs of the case.

For the next few months he was continually watched and his trips were viewed by many agents of the German police who compared his reports with their own. At the end of a year, Mr. Arensen was advised by a German singer who wanted to see the Russian obtain his liberty to appeal to the kaiser for a pass out of Germany.



HELD A YEAR IN GERMANY

Andre Arensen, a Russian singer, tells of tyranny of Berlin police

Mr. Arensen made the appeal. The kaiser granted the request and Mr. Arensen went to Switzerland, from which country he came to America.

Mr. Arensen has brought suit here against Harry Davis, Pittsburgh theatrical manager, alleging breach of contract, when the recent opera festival was held in Philadelphia under Mr. Davis's direction. The singer, through his attorney, Daniel O'Connell, asks for \$700, which he says is due him for time the manager cancelled before the expiration of the contract.