



THE IMPERIUM

The pre-eminent power in central Europe, the Imperium is a mighty colossus that spans the continent from the shores of the Baltic to the warmer climes of the Adriatic. From its capital in Berlin, the network of industry, rail and military might is harnessed for the good of its citizens. The Kaiser and his supporters, the enigmatic and powerful Teutonic Knights, are surrounded by enemies but are confident in their ability to marshal their forces and destroy utterly those who would threaten their glorious realm. Let them come and break their strength upon the bulwark of civilisation; the Imperium shall not go shrinking into the darkness like some thief in the night. Blood and Iron!



[Decoded on the 21st May 1869 From the files of the *Deuxième Bureau*.]

Mme. Ombre,

Apologies for the unorthodox method of transmitting this information to you, my normal contact with the Second Bureau has been interrupted after an encounter with our Teutonic friends. I have spoken to the Professor as you requested, and liaised with our mutual contact with the Lodge, but do not have anything to report on the particular questions you asked.

I was, however, able to complete the task you assigned me in Heidelberg, and will despatch the result through the secondary channel.

The watchword, as ever, will be "Represailles". Our usual cipher will suffice this time.

Sincerely,

Le Renard

[*Deuxième Bureau Note: The papers arrived via Geneva two days later. We have, unfortunately, not had any further contact with Agent Renard in Heidelberg. Either he remains under observation or has been seized by the Teutonic Knights. Recommendation for further action has been passed to the Bureau Chief. The decoded papers are attached below.*]

THE CROSS OF EUROPE

The Imperium is a super-state that bestrides central Europe like a colossus, composed of the hereditary domains of the Kingdoms of Prussia, the extensive territories of the Confederation of Scandinavia, the Royal House of Bavaria and the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Each of these nations, whilst nominally an equal partner in the affairs of the Imperium, are in reality subservient to the will of the dominant power of Prussia. The Prussian King is also the Imperium's Kaiser, the absolutist and authoritarian monarch whose enlightened despotism vouchsafes the security of Europe against the decadent western powers and the tyranny of the Russian Commonwealth to the east. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: Of course, Agent Renard paraphrases their propaganda here.*]

The current Kaiser, Friedrich Grunder, is lauded as the "Grandfather of Europe" by the patriotic Imperialists of these four nations – but the monolithic edifice he and his forebears constructed is anything but. There are weaknesses that could be exploited by a well-funded and equipped foe, and only by carefully examining the nations' and the Imperium's history can we hope to exploit. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: Appended to the original report was a hastily scribbled note where Agent Renard requests funds to cover a debt he owes to the local police constable after his last breach of curfew. Perhaps this oversight caught up with him?*]

NEITHER HOLY, NOR ROMAN

Over one thousand years ago, His Holiness the Pope crowned the Frankish King Charlemagne Kaiser of the Romans. This act revived the long lost Roman Empire in Western Europe, and after a four hundred year hiatus, gave Europeans an "Emperor" once again. This was a politically calculated move, granting Charlemagne the sovereignty he claimed over other European rulers, whilst simultaneously giving the Pope great temporal as well as spiritual power.



Of course, the reality was rather different from the propaganda. Charlemagne's "empire" was hardly deserving of the term, and whilst unchallenged in his own day, his successors were never truly recognised as Kaisers in the sense that they were superior to any of the kings and queens who surrounded them. No attempt was made to truly revive the traditions and structures of the Roman Republic or its Empire, and whilst Charlemagne passed into history, the state he left behind was little different from the feudal kingdoms that surrounded it. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: Imperium propaganda is similarly grandiose in style, but likewise devoid of substance if you have the wit to see through it.*]

Nonetheless, the Holy Roman Empire he formed would endure beyond his death, bequeathed first to his own dynasty and then to others. In time, the autocratic emperors who ruled it lost their overwhelming power. Each major city and province, as well as some bishoprics and petty kingdoms, were afforded the right to elect their Kaiser upon the death of his or her predecessor. Thus, the Holy Roman Empire became a multi-layered and complex state of Free Cities, Principalities, Domains and more besides, all ruled by their own noble dynasties and with an overlord of their own choosing.

THE GREAT CONFLAGRATIONS

Such a complex mixture of feudal and semi-democratic systems was sure to create tension and division. As some great houses grew in power (in particular the Habsburgs of Austria) and influence, others waned and grew envious. Throw into this mixture the heady emotions of reforming religion and you have a tailor made recipe for war and violence.

On several occasions the Holy Roman Empire fell into civil war, with the various German states and greater powers competing with one another for territory, wealth and divine favour as they sought ultimate mastery over their neighbours.

In the end, a curious form of natural selection eventually won out. The major dynastic houses, who could command greater wealth, military forces and loyalty from their subjects (regardless of religious confession – many were to enforce compromises on such issues), absorbed or dominated the latter. By the time of our Revolution, the Holy Roman Empire was officially dominated by the House of Habsburg and the Prussian and Bavarian Kings.

During the campaigns of the late Kaiser, the influence and power of the Habsburgs in Austria was greatly diminished. The Austrian claims to Northern Italy were bloodily repudiated, and Napoleon I invaded Austria itself on several occasions. The pressure was maintained by his successors during the ill-fated reign of "Emperor" Joseph, when the marshals narrowly defeated Austria at the Battle of Austerlitz in 1805. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: Although the subsequent defeat at Jena, despite the death of the Prussian King, was a major setback.*]

THE RISE OF HEINRICH OTTO

With Habsburg power humbled, and the Prussian king dead, the French marshals wrongly believed that the power of the Holy Roman Empire had been dealt a crushing blow. Of course, as we now know, that confidence was misplaced.

In 1806, outraged electors demanded the abdication of the Habsburg Kaiser Franz,



whose failure to defeat the French marshals had badly damaged confidence in the already weakened Austrian military. The abdication of a Holy Roman Emperor was not entirely without precedent, but it was a dramatic turn of events that paved the way for the rise of a completely new leader.

With the death of King Friedrich Wilhelm III at the Battle of Jena, the Prussian crown had mysteriously passed beyond the House of Hohenzollern to the, at that point, obscure German aristocrat Heinrich Otto. It has proven impossible to determine exactly how the succession was decided, but his apparently limitless source of wealth and boundless determination to see Prussian glory restored no doubt inspired much of the support. *[Deuxième Bureau Note: There are Teutonic files on his succession, or at least that's what Agent Renard's source at the local Lodge tells him.]*

When the time came to choose a successor to Kaiser Franz, the new King Heinrich Otto, was the clear favourite. He was invested as Holy Roman Emperor on Christmas Day 1807. This was a meteoric rise out of comparative obscurity; so concerned was the continent with the on-going French Civil War that his coronation made only a few ripples in the international press. That was to change. *[Deuxième Bureau Note: Agent Belette in London has made it a habit to study newspaper reports; she is attempting to create an analytical theory of deduction using such things.]*

THE COMING STORM

Within a few short months of his confirmation as Kaiser, Heinrich Otto embarked on a major program of military reform, ably assisted by the major Prussian

military minds of the day: Blucher, Clausewitz, Gneisenau, Scharnhorst and more. These individuals were to form the Kaiser's "braintrust" for a stunning intervention in European affairs.

First, however, the Kaiser had to build up his military might after its bludgeoning at the hands of the French Grand Armée not two years earlier. Major new military factories were established, with millions of Marks invested in all manner of military designs. Across the territories of the Holy Roman Empire, a massive network of railways spread like some strange living thing, connecting every conceivable area in a world-class transportation network.

[Deuxième Bureau Note: Quite apart from the military applications of swift lines of supply and communication, the rail network served to make swift civilian transportation from all the areas of the Empire practicable for the first time. Indeed, Agent Renard reports that to travel on the Imperium's high-speed connections between Berlin and Vienna is quite an experience.]

Dwarfing all his other projects, however, was the dramatic decision to revive (at least publicly, more detail later) the famed Teutonic Knights of the Germanic past. Almost overnight, a whole infrastructure of Lodges, Commanderies and fortresses were established throughout the Holy Roman Empire under the new terms of an Imperial Charter for the Knights' use. Whole factories worth of military material, some of it highly experimental, ended up in the hands of the new Teutonic military machine: the Ritterorden.

[Deuxième Bureau Note: It is believed that the 1808-09 period saw the first European use of a motorised suit of personal



armour, strong enough to withstand modern weaponry but light enough to be practical in a military setting.]

With his new military base, Kaiser Heinrich Otto had a military powerbase unparalleled in Europe, and a cadre of intensely loyal officers and personnel that reached far beyond his official home in Prussia. At a Council of Ministers, summoned by the Kaiser in the spring of 1809, Heinrich declared his intentions to centralise the Holy Roman Empire.

No longer would it be a weak alliance of states, united only by shared culture and language. Instead it would be a close union of strong powers, with a unified central government and military. His vision for the future was highly persuasive for the ministers present, so too was the obvious strength of the Teutonic Knights who accompanied him.

In fact, the coming of the Imperium was something of a coup d'état. The Austrian Habsburgs were placed under close arrest by elements of their own military, supported by the Teutonic Knights' Austrian Commandery. The Bavarian King Ludwig was presented with the declaration after the fact, made aware of his subordinate status without his consent; a fact he took with magnanimity given the circumstances. *[Deuxième Bureau Note: The Teutonic Knights frequently use blackmail and manipulation where outright intimidation is unnecessary. It is highly likely that many of the ministers of the smaller states, as well as many of the lesser German princes were leaned on heavily during this time.]*

On the 1st August 1809, Heinrich Otto was crowned Kaiser of the Imperium. With rapturous applause he was acclaimed in

Berlin as the "Protector of Europe" and the "Guardian of the Fatherlands". Present at the coronation were the German and Austrian princes and Electors, who oversaw the transition of total power to their new ruler. Within a month, the new Kaiser had appointed a new head of government: Reichskanzler Wilhelm von Ostenberg, and had summoned a new elected advisory chamber, the Imperial Diet and Senate. With all in place, Kaiser Otto was ready to unleash his plans for conquest.

THE PRUSSIAN WARS

1810 dawned in blood and iron. The Imperium's Navy began with an overwhelming bombardment of the Scandinavian coastline. Thousands died in the first few hours of the new year as the first stage of the Kaiser's plan unfolded. Rumours of war had been circulating all the previous winter but had started to dwindle when the Kaiser departed for his New Year holiday in the Black Forest. Unbeknownst to the outside world, however, the Kaiser had kept well abreast of news thanks to his high-speed rail network.

Almost overnight, the huge Imperium military machine, the Reichswehr, had swung into action. Units moved from garrison to jumping off points by armoured train – the latest Imperium innovation that provided headquarters, barracks and supply for entire regiments. These were loaded onto special invasion barges, pre-laid with rail tracks and ferried across the Baltic. *[Deuxième Bureau Note: Has Agent Chenille managed to secure those barge blueprints yet?]*

The Confederacy of Scandinavia's armed forces were ill-prepared for the sudden



onslaught, and they were not the only ones. Barely hours after the news of the Imperium's northern invasion had flashed around the world's consulates than the roar of the Imperium's guns were heard in new places. The rumble of artillery and tank engines filled the air as the Austrian regiments of the Reichswehr sprang into action – this time attacking North Italy. Without prepared defences, Venice and Lombardy were both forced to give way, falling back on more secure positions as the Austrian army made steady headway.

Kaiser Heinrich was still not done. Barely a few months had passed to allow for the re-deployment of certain units before a third front was opened to take advantage of the fragmented and disordered state of France. This time the Reichswehr and Ritterorden forged over Mosel into French territory, striking at Republican forces in East as well as the few Imperialist and Royalist bastions they encountered.

Everywhere, across all these fronts, the suddenness of the Imperium's onslaught served to embolden their forces and weaken the resolve of their opponents. By the end of the year, Imperium arms had won all of Scandinavia apart from stubborn resistance in the far north, pushed Republican France back to the Marne and besieged Paris, and almost brought Venice to heel.

The Kaiser, however, may well have risked too much. The following two years were a series of checks for the Imperium's military. In pushing hard against his disunited neighbours, Otto also gave them reason to unite. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: It is at this point that concerns about the Kaiser's sanity begin to appear in the journals, diaries and letters we have*

managed to acquire from the period. It appears, however, that the Teutonic Knights were at least aware of his mania but chose to allow it to run its course. Why they would do such a thing remains, for now, a mystery.]

The French Civil War petered out as the Imperium's invasion unfolded. The Imperialist position in Spain collapsed, as did the Royalist cause. Patriotic Frenchmen and women rallied to the Republic in its time of need, whilst in Italy the normally fractious Italian States formed their emergency League. Only in the pacification of Scandinavia did the Imperium achieve success, and even then, at a cost in men and materiel far greater than expected.

In 1812 the Kaiser compounded his error by launching yet another invasion: the Russian Offensive had begun.

END IN SIGHT

The Russian Offensive that unfolded in 1812 was a disaster from the start for the Imperium. Whilst whole swathes of Polish and Russian territory were seized in the opening months, by the winter of that year the whole operation had bogged down in the terrible weather. More and more troops had to be withdrawn from the other fronts to stabilise the territory gained against repeated counterattacks, leaving the other territories poorly defended. The Battle of Borodino in September 1812 put paid to the main thrust of the Imperium's strength, and the Commonwealth began its brutal retaliatory march. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: It is interesting that not a single formation from the Ritterorden took part in the offensive.*]

In 1813 military disaster piled on military disaster. With the disaster of Borodino only



a few months old, the League of Italian States launched its own counter-offensive that gutted a weakened and demoralised Austrian army. Once again, the Habsburgs' forces were pushed beyond the Alps and back into their own territories. In the west, unable to land a knockout blow, the French Republicans could only watch as Blucher's army was outflanked and crushed at the Battle of Waterloo by British Crown forces under the Duke of Wellington [*Deuxième Bureau Note: The Crown's intervention prevented the balance of power in Europe shifting decisively to the Imperium, but by that point, in our opinion, the affair was largely settled.*]

Kaiser Heinrich Otto, faced with his dreams crumbling around him, committed suicide in his hunting lodge in the Black Forest later that same year. In 1814, his successor, Karl Wolfgang, was elected by the Diet and Senate as the new Kaiser of the Imperium. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: It is likely Heinrich Otto intended his son to succeed to the position, but after taking his own life he was in no position to contend the decision to elect a successor by the Diet and Senate he had founded. The fact that this solution was supported by the Teutonic Knights made it all the more likely to succeed.*]

PEACE WITH HONOUR

Kaiser Karl Wolfgang served as leader of the Imperium for only seven years, but in that time managed to drag the new realm back from the brink and forge it into something that could last. Working swiftly, Kaiser Karl arranged the construction of a massive series of fortifications along the Imperium's eastern border: the terrifying Wolfgang Fortresses. With these in place, and still under construction, the Kaiser was

able to bring the various foes his predecessor had united to the negotiating table.

As it happens few of his opponents had the strength or resolution to carry the war further. The League of Italian States lacked the cohesion necessary to engage in an offensive operation, and few Italians wished to die in a campaign that would only serve the goals of Lombardy and Venice rather than their own state. France, alas, was in no state to do more than cling on desperately to the newly regained banks of the Mosel. The mercurial Crown, however, was the first to sign a peace treaty – their short-term objective achieved the British had no desire for a continental war. The Peace with Honour was signed in 1815, with generous terms to the Crown as Kaiser Karl urgently sought to calm the European flames.

With this treaty in place, and with Italy and France signing deals soon after, the Russian Commonwealth could no longer force the issue. With the Imperium free to dedicate all its forces to its eastern border, such a campaign would be folly. The Russian Commonwealth and the Imperium did not sign their own peace deal, but instead agreed to abide by the terms of a limited truce. The Commonwealth still has not forgiven the Imperium for the 1812 assault. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: We continue to remind the Russians of this fact whenever appropriate.*]

THE PASSING OF THE MANTLE

Kaiser Karl did not enjoy his peace long. Scandinavia, the one region which had fully capitulated, erupted in revolt in 1817 and would remain fractious for a further three years. It took much of the



Kaiser's mental energy and diplomatic skill to eventually admit the Provisional Government of the New Scandinavian Confederacy into the Imperium as the violence petered out in 1820.

Upon Karl Wolfgang's death in 1821, there was much mourning throughout the Imperium. A dedicated man of peace with his eye on the future, the Kaiser was a much beloved monarch who had won the hearts and minds of his disparate peoples. It is a common saying amongst Imperium officials that whilst Kaiser Otto may have forged the Imperium, it was Kaiser Karl who made it.

The Diet and Senate elected Friedrich Grunder to succeed Kaiser Karl, becoming the third emperor of the Imperium and the longest reigning. Kaiser Friederich succeeded the throne in 1821 at the age of thirty-two, and reigns still today. Under his stern visage a whole generation of Imperial citizens have matured, and it is to him that half a continent of citizens looks.

THE IMPERIUM TODAY

The Imperium is an autocracy, governed by decree by the Kaiser. In practice, much of the day-to-day practicalities of government are handled by the Reichskanzler Otto von Bismarck, a Prussian Junker with a similarly firm commitment to the paternal nature of the Imperium's government. A professional civil service, based in Berlin, acts as the epicentre of Imperial power. Also involved at the head of the Imperium's government is the Grandmaster Anna von Malberg of the Teutonic Knights, who advises Kaiser and Reichskanzler both on the situation at home and abroad.

A Council of State governs the country with the Reichskanzler, and its members are

chosen jointly by the Diet and the Senate. The Diet itself is an elected chamber, much the same as the National Assembly, but unlike ours it is not a full legislature. It may debate and pass resolutions, and may remonstrate with the government, but has no real power. Political parties are officially banned in the Diet, although many of its members are linked to associations or clubs that fulfil the same role. All Imperium citizens may vote for the Diet.

The Senate is a more curious institution. Its membership is allotted proportionately to the member states of the Imperium (Austria, Prussia, Bavaria and Scandinavia) with most of the seats given by the government or reigning monarch of that nation. A few seats are expressly reserved for the minor city states and German principedoms. The most significant bloc in the Senate are the so-called "Industry-Set", the wealthiest coal, steel and principally rail barons with sufficient net worth to qualify for the short-list. Of all the world powers, only the Imperium deliberately allows representation for such interests in its assembly. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: Of course, cynically, one could say that the Imperium is the only one to make such interests public. Of course, this does not stop the Imperium's socialist underground from gunning for such figures, sometimes literally.*]

Under the wise leadership of Kaiser Grunder, the Imperium has gone from strength to strength. The natural resources of its central European territories have been tapped and are constantly exploited to expand the Imperium's industrial base. Millions are trained as soldiers to defend the Imperium, and its defences and military stockpiles are forever improved upon.



The Knight-Luminaries of the Teutonic Knights make ever more fascinating breakthroughs and discoveries with each passing year. Indeed, this is the refrain that the Kaiser often repeats at his dwindling public appearance: “For the Imperium and for progress!”

To this end, the Imperium’s navy has adopted a modular railway based system for changing the loadout of a vessel’s weapons and equipment. The Knight-Luminaries have also refined the work of that turncoat Nikolai Tesla to create Arc technology. Tesla’s defection to the Union over a decade ago was not the deathblow to the Imperium’s technological developments that perhaps he might have assumed. At the direction of the Kaiser, Tesla’s facilities in Graz were commandeered by Heinrich Ruhmkorff. His refinements to Tesla’s work has revolutionised the military might of the Imperium. These voltaic devices are the cornerstone of a new form of weaponry hoped to give the Imperium a decisive edge in the forthcoming conflicts.

AN IRON FUTURE

The one question that dominates any predictions for the future is that of the succession. When Kaiser Friederich eventually dies then it is likely that the Imperium would be paralysed with grief for some considerable time. He is not called the “Grandfather of Europe” for nothing, and the love and respect his people hold for him is nothing compared to the skill and charm which he continues to employ holding the Imperium together. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: It is perhaps for this reason Agent Renard counselled against our proposed Operation Guillotine. With the Kaiser’s death we presume the Imperium will fracture and then collapse,*

but it is possible that instead that it would unite in fury against any opposing force if it were known to exist; especially if it were proved that that force had killed their beloved sovereign.]

At present, none doubt that the Princess Wilhelmina Grunder is the likely candidate. She has served in the Reichswehr with distinction and has been tutored extensively by her grandfather in the matters of state. Her current position as an advisor to the Provisional Government of the Scandinavian Confederacy is not an accident either, as it places her close to some of the most extensive Teutonic Knight research stations and development labs. Nonetheless, there are those who might favour her father Prince Ruprecht, although given his failing health as well that is unlikely to come to pass.

The only possible cause for friction I can see is in the dissolute but popular figure of Franz Heinrich Schultz von Habsburg, the young nephew of the Austrian Kaiser. He may be put forward as a candidate by the more liberal sections of the Diet, and under his weak rule I am sure France could find opportunities. Alas, with the Teutonic Knights and Bismarck himself against such an event we are unlikely to be given such a gift. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: That does not mean we should not try. There are Austrian dissident movements who could be encouraged with a bit of financial support and a few instruments of war... if we are willing to go that far.]*

THE TEUTONIC SHADOW

[*Deuxième Bureau Note: So much for the public history of the Imperium. Now Agent Renard’s report turns to a weightier subject. The following paragraphs contain all that*



he could surmise or conjecture about the real history of the Teutonic Knights. Please be aware that as of it's writing, he was still trying to gain access to some of the records of the Lodge. He had promised to communicate any further findings to us but after several months without update we must presume that no such illumination will be forthcoming.]

The Teutonic Knights are the power behind the throne in the Imperium and have been since the accession of Kaiser Heinrich Otto in 1806. Whilst ostensibly the same organisation as the medieval knights who crusaded in Eastern Europe, the present Knights appear to have only a distant connection to that organisation and may in fact pre-date them if the information I have encountered is correct. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: Certainly, Heinrich Otto's rise owed much to the work of the Teutonic Knights, even before he had officially re-established them. Reconstructing a conspiracy over such a historical gap does lead to a certain degree of paranoia. One could almost see their guiding hand behind every evolution of the Holy Roman Empire and the Germanic people if one were not rationally inclined to dismiss such illogical fantasies.*]

The Teutonic Knights, at least in public, are a patriotic organisation committed to the defence of the Imperium and loyalty to the reigning Kaiser. They are to be found across the Imperium, with each nation hosting its own Commandery (a Knight fortress) as well as Towers and Lodges in most major urban centres. Each of these institutions is a member of one of the six "Rites" of the Knights: the Prussian Rite, the Austrian Rite, the Scandinavian Rite, the Bavarian Rite, the Luminary Rite and the Lesser Rites. As is to be expected,

each Rite has its own Master, with the Grandmaster acting as head of the Knights and serving at the right hand of the Kaiser.

Most members of the Teutonic Knights are not privy to all of its secrets. The rank and file will often be no more than what they appear: patriotic citizen and burghers of the Imperium's towns, worthies who have joined the Knights out of national sentiment and local pride. The Lodges they join are usually attached to the Lesser Rites and are of little importance save for the charity work they do throughout the Imperium. Nonetheless, they act as gateways into a far more dangerous world.

Those who demonstrate a greater loyalty to the Knights may rise higher in the ranks and are in time trusted with greater secrets. Unfortunately, we know few details about either the process of initiation or the nature of the secrets, but it appears from their record thus far that the Knights have been committed from the start to creating, maintaining, defending and supporting the Imperium. To what ultimate end it is difficult to guess. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: As remarked on earlier, it is telling that they did not support Heinrich Otto fully during the Prussian Wars. While they did not actively encourage his self-destructive course, they certainly allowed it to happen.*]

In practice, the guiding hand of the Teutonic Knights can be found across the length and breadth of the Imperium. From the Lodges who slowly form and influence public opinion and local politics, right up to the Knights-Luminary who act as scholars, researchers and designers on behalf of the Knights or else the government itself or other major industries. The Knights as an entity have much wealth invested in the



greatest industries within the Imperium, and their financial ties across the country are used to good effect to influence or direct developments and even policy.

Beyond the borders of the Imperium, the Teutonic Knights sustain a formidable intelligence network which informs the Council of Masters back home. These agents, sometimes Knights-Luminary acting as visiting professors or else members of the Ritterorden under the guise of mercenaries, infiltrate and observe, sometimes acting to eliminate or counter threats to the Imperium before they emerge. Within the Imperium, similar duties fall to certain members of each Lodge or Tower, which act as centres and safe-houses for the purposes of counter-espionage and the more thuggish acts undertaken by the Knights. [*Deuxième Bureau Note: Our sources have confirmed that Georg Stieberis is the Teutonic man in London. Is it worth*

sending Agent Belette and Agent Orques to attend to the matter, or do we leave him in place to frustrate the Crown?]

Dissidents, Socialists and those who oppose preferred Teutonic policy often find themselves incommoded in some fashion. I have encountered reports of bribery, blackmail, salacious rumours leaked to the local press as well as outright intimidation, beatings and murder. Such gangs represent, at a small scale, the level of influence enjoyed nationally by this organisation. Such acts are not undertaken by the normal rank-and-file of the Lodges and appear to be the preserve of a certain subsection of the Knights, colloquially referred to as the "Geheimgesellschaft" [*Deuxième Bureau Note: Ironic that such a name should be so publicly known and feared! Not that they would appreciate the joke. It is possible that Agent Renard's visits to the Lodge were too frequent for his own good.*]

