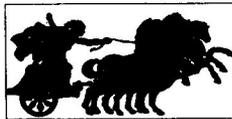


The most powerful man in the world

The Life of Sir Henri Deterding

BY GLYN ROBERTS



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to grab half Russia and *you* know how rich it is." He was offering them a bribe for their support now, while he and the other gangsters needed it. Was this not precisely what Rechberg had been saying in half the Tory rags of Europe for the better part of a decade? A letter from Rechberg to the Paris *L'Eclair* published on September 12th, 1925, under the title "The Bismarckian Method" offered just such a perfectly frank proposal of a joint burglary of Russia.

It is believed that on this visit Rosenberg's secretary and contact man was Georg Bell. Bell had useful connections with business and politics, and it is reported by Johannes Steel that he had attended a number of meetings of the "Ukrainian Patriots" in Paris as joint delegate of Hitler and Deterding.

During February Deterding was in the Hague, where he had, so Steel reports, asked Bell to meet him. But Bell was already in a very jittery state, owing to the part he had played in a happening not usually associated with his name—the burning of the Reichstag.

Who burnt the Reichstag? The authors of the well-documented *Brown Book of the Hitler Terror* have proved conclusively that it was done by arrangement with friends of the Nazis in order to enable them to smash all opposition in Germany, to destroy the Communist and Social Democratic Parties, to occupy all Trade Union premises and confiscate all funds. It was Georg Bell who first got in touch with the semi-cretinous Dutch homosexual, Marinus van der Lubbe, the man whom the Brownshirts used as their tool, in an endeavor to prove that he was a dangerous foreign Communist. The meeting took place either in April or in May, 1931, during van der Lubbe's first visit to Germany. Bell himself is believed to have shared van der Lubbe's psychological abnormality, and this facet of their personal characters is not without importance in grasping the significance of their political activities. It was notorious that most of the storm troop leaders round Roehm were homosexuals, and that a number of them, notably Karl Ernst, the former Berlin hotel bellhop, were promoted because they were