

MAR 26 1946

SMALL, PLAIN, FRIGHTENED TWISTS GLOVES NERVOUSLY

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Montreal, March 26 — Kathleen Mary Willsher is the most out-of-character performer in the court drama now in process to hear charges against Fred Rose under the Official Secrets Act.

Small, plain and frightened looking, the 40-year-old stenographer, who was witness for the crown against Rose and who will herself face espionage charges Thursday in Ottawa, contrasted sharply with the other witnesses—decisive Igor Gouzenko and surprising Gordon Lunan, who was committed for contempt of court at the conclusion of yesterday's session.

She answered questions put to her by special crown prosecutor F. Philippe Brais, in a thin, hushed voice that was scarcely audible at the back of the courtroom. Twice Joseph Cohen, counsel for Rose, had to ask that she speak up. Looking nervously from her questioner to the faces in the body of the courtroom and back again, she told of meeting Rose shortly after she came to Canada in 1930 and of "being sympathetic to the policies of the Communist party" and of wanting to "help stave off war."

Is Very Nervous

Her white face, on which there is no trace of make-up, is familiar to all those who have attended the Rose hearing. She has been on hand at every session, sometimes listening intently from a back seat in the courtroom, sometimes sitting by herself on a bench in the corridor.

She looked almost diminutive as she stood in the witness box wearing a small black felt homberg, black dress with a severely high neck, oxford gray tweed coat and black low shoes, the costume she has worn every day of the hearing.

As she testified, she was unable to conceal her nervousness. She paused before answering each question and when, under protection of the court, she admitted giving out

information obtained in the office of the British high commissioner where she worked in Ottawa, she blushed and twisted her gloves in her hands.

Mr. Brais seemed conscious of her discomfiture for at one point in the testimony he reminded her that he was not "trying to be unpleasant," in his questioning.

Met At Study Group

She told the court of meeting Rose while she attended a study group to discuss political history, economics and socialism in Canada and admitted giving him "some information from my office early in 1939 when not actually under oath of secrecy."

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WEAPONS
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