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BUSCH SAYS HE AND MOTHER OWN $500,000 GERMAN BONDS

Bought Before We Entered War, Brewer Explains—Have $3,000,000 in Liberty Bonds.

August A. Busch, the brewer, said today that he and his mother own $3,000,000 of Liberty Bonds and $500,000 of German war bonds, the latter purchased from the St. Louis Union Trust Co., when they were on public sale here, prior to our entrance into the war. The statement was made in reply to Alfred L. Becker, Deputy State Attorney-General of New York, who said it had been learned, in connection with the New York Evening Mail inquiry of New York, that the Busch family bought at least $1,000,000 of German bonds.

Busch said that in 1916 he purchased $400,000 of the German bonds for his mother and $100,000 for himself. "They told me the sailors on the interned German vessels were penniless and that the money was to be used by Germany in caring for them," he said. "I had a little German blood in me, and we were not at war with Germany then, so, like a good fellow, I bought the bonds. They make a small showing beside our Liberty Bonds." The latter, he said, are owned by himself, his mother and the brewery.

Virtually all the shares of the Busch estate inherited by Mrs. Clara Busch von Gontard and Mrs. Wilhelmina Scharrer, residents of Germany, was invested in Government bonds before the United States declared war, Busch said. The holdings now consist of $545,000 of Government bonds and $155,000 of Liberty Bonds.