

Children's Evening Story

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GROUND HOG DAY.

Billy Woodchuck had been asleep for a long, long time. The world above was white with snow. But no matter how hard the winter winds might blow, or how heavily the snow fell, in their underground chamber Mrs. Woodchuck's family were snug and warm in their beds.

When Billy was ready they stole out of the room, leaving the other children sound asleep. "Wheew!" said Billy Woodchuck when they stepped outside at last. "How cold it is!"

"What is it, Mother? Has spring come?" Billy asked. "No, my child," she answered. "At least, I do not know that it has."

"Then why are you setting up?" Opening both his eyes, Billy was surprised to see that Mrs. Woodchuck was putting on the warmest clothes she had.

"You're not going out in those doors, are you?" he inquired. His mother was already drawing on a pair of thick, red mittens.

"Yes," she said. "This is Ground Hog Day and I must go out and see what the weather is like."

"But I thought every day was Ground Hog Day for us," Billy replied. "Well, you might say that it is," she agreed.

"May I come with you?" he asked. By this time he was wide awake. Mrs. Woodchuck looked at him somewhat doubtfully.

"Young ground hogs like you aren't supposed to go out this time of year," she said. "It's still quite cold, you know."

"Please, Mother!" "Well, you must wear plenty of warm clothing," his mother told him. And she gave him so many coats to put on that Billy would not have known himself if he had looked in the surface of the brook.

"I don't know that anyhow, then, for the brook was covered with ice."

Most endless stream—armies prepared, Miss Brown says, to the last detail of field equipment.

Each soldier carried an extra pair of hobnailed shoes, she noticed, and as they swung along the Berlin streets in perfect military alignment, they sang and laughed with utter confidence that soon they would be marching home again, victors over Germany's traditional enemies.

Then began the long wait for the Kaiser's triumph. First confidence of early victory ruled Berlin. Then, when Belgium made her supreme sacrifice, the Germans were astonished, but not dismayed.

As England, France and Russia joined the fray the people of Berlin continued to feel certain of eventual victory, and when their armies swept on toward Paris they believed the end was near.

The world knows the story of what occurred on the battlefields, but few of us can realize what was taking place and has been taking place through all these months in Germany.

The attitude of the German people during this great war. Occasional dispatches come from neutral capitals bringing news of official happenings, but outside of the German empire little accurate information is to be had of the effect the war is having on the men, women and children who make up the stay-at-home population of Germany.

This is exactly the story with which Miss Brown's articles deal. Here is the intimate, inside history of Germany's people in war time. It is a faithful story, full of pathos and homely truths, with an occasional touch of humor. It is told well; it omits nothing. It helps the reader to an intelligent understanding of the conditions existing among the people to whom the whole civilized world is looking now in the hope that they may realize the immensity of their autocratic ruler's crimes and repudiate them by overthrowing him.

There will be no revolution in Germany, Miss Brown says, because the people lack a leader and the spirit of independence. The extent to which they have been oppressed by the Kaiser's inhuman reign of militarism is explained in admirable manner by her illuminating articles.

The Courier feels pride in being able to publish this important contribution to war history. We have obtained the exclusive publication rights in this territory and we offer this extraordinary feature with confidence that it will be enjoyed and appreciated by our readers.

After three years of war, this is the Englishman's view of Germany and the German people. It is worth re-reading and careful study. This letter, it is a translation into the language of the layman of the dignified declarations contained in President Wilson's reply to Pope Benedict.

INSIDE HISTORY. Today The Courier begins the publication of a series of articles by Marie Bonini Brown, an American opera singer, who only recently returned to her home after having lived more than three years in Berlin.

Arriving in Berlin in the spring of 1914, this American student found conditions there and all over Europe about as they had been for many years. Berlin was the same city of music, art and good cheer that it had been for so long. Its welcome was the welcome it always had extended to Americans seeking education or entertainment.

But in the weeks that the American girl occupied in getting acquainted with her surroundings, momentous events were transpiring behind the scenes, in their inner circle of rascally diplomacy which centered at Potsdam and spread its tentacles over much of Europe and the whole world.

as her jackals, and still in full cry for a new Mitteleuropa from Berlin to the Bosphorus! Is all this done in sheer defense?

And, if Britain will not suffer Belgium to be made an enemy land; if France will not abandon Alsace-Lorraine, which was torn from her in 1871; if the free nations of the West will not leave the smaller States of Eastern Europe to be victims of Hapsburg tyranny—this, forsooth, the All-Highest Liar tells the world is rank spoliation and conquest.

And some recreant Labour men, some ribald journalists, whom the real Labour and the honest Press disown, adopt this impudent paradox. Recreant Labour men, ribald journalists, listen to a man who stood back to back with the great leaders of the trade-union emancipation, who for fifty years has appealed to the Press in every cause of reform. I tell you that the stalwarts of Labour in that day, and the Press which worked for them in those hard times, would turn from you with pity and with scorn.

The savagery, the greed, the meanness of these three years of war were no exceptional outburst of wickedness. Not for three years, but for thirty, nay, for fifty years, Prussian militarism has been the enemy of civilization. Its orgy of lust and robbery began with the dismemberment of Denmark in 1864, when Bismarck began to rule. Two years later, by a sudden spring, he made Austria his tool.

Four years later he tore the eastern provinces from France. For forty-four years he and his successors have plotted, bullied, undermined their neighbors to gain the domination of the world, until in 1914 they engineered the most hideous catastrophe in the history of man. And now that the civilized nations have joined to put down this infamy they cry out that to make them disgorge some of their plunder is rank oppression and thirst for conquest.

And some workmen and some writers are so silly, so dishonest, as to believe this patent trickery. Why, if a footpad robbed an honest man on the highway, or a burglar was caught breaking into his safe—would you pacifist bystanders—cry out, "Oh! don't use your revolver, pray loose your grip on his throat! He has had enough now, he says he will go home!"—of course, with a swish!

We do not want an acre of real German soil. We would not take it even as a gift, as a "dedand." Indemnities in cash we can hardly look for from bankrupt Germany, doubly bankrupt Austria, trebly bankrupt Turkey. The just, perhaps the only practical reparations for the unfathomable ruin they have wrought would be the occupation for a generation of their railroads, factories, docks and mines, until some small percentage of their devastation had been repaid.

Hard upon the Prussian people, pacifist may say. But the Prussian people are of one mind with Kaiser and Army. In all the world's history no race has been so drilled, schooled, sermonized into a sort of fervent religion of hate, envy, jealousy, greed, cruelty and arrogance. Man and woman, girl and boy, have been taught from childhood this inhuman vain-glory and lust of power. It has grown to be their sole Gospel, Creed, Hymnal and Prayer Book. Britons and Americans can not comprehend how a great and intellectual people can have come to a cult so Satanic. But history tells us how the fanaticism of Calvary once schooled whole populations into a fervent belief in crime as a religious duty. So the Thugs of India used to organize assassination into a holy profession. Today we are in arms to put down Thuggism in Europe. It is a libel on Attila to call the Kaiser a Hun. He and his are Thugs. Assassination, conspiracy, plunder, forgery are their state religion. And the only way to cure Thuggism is to make the Thug feel that it is too dangerous a cult for the worshippers of Devi to practice.

If, as they blasphemously pretend, their "old German God" were really the God of Moses and Aaron, of Joshua and Samuel, the Pharaoh of Potsdam and his host would indeed see "wonders," and Berlin would be as salt as any city of the Plain!

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Quietly the preparations were made—preparations which have only come to light in recent months to shock the whole civilized world—and finally, when the militarist autocracy was ready for its supreme effort to conquer the world for Prussianism, the blow fell.

In a day Berlin changed from a city of pleasure to an armed fort. Armies marched through the streets in an al-

opposed to war has been repeated in Latin-America, or at least sent there in the hope of preventing Latin-America from supporting the United States and the allies in this war.

A notable example of this influence is the speeches recently made by Senator La Follette, Townsend and others, though they themselves may personally have had nothing to do with the sending of these utterances to South America. Obviously, expulsion of La Follette from the senate would go far toward rehabilitating the prestige of the United States in foreign countries, just as it would add to the self-respect of loyal American citizens here at home.

JUST A BARE CHANCE. Pope Benedict's progress thus far as a peacemaker has served only to emphasize the probability that the war is far from ended. It is apparent that the Kaiser and the whole intricate militaristic organization which depends on his autocracy, when they do not avoid a revision of the German mode of government and the substitution of a constitutional form for the unlimited monarchy.

No less plain is the determination of all the active enemies of Germany against considering any proposal for peace which does not include just such a reform in Germany's methods of government as a guarantee against future upheavals.

The extreme anger displayed by the Kaiser's spokesmen and the inspired German press over President Wilson's suggestion of internal reforms gives reason for the belief that there is, after all, some hope that the various demands for political changes in Germany may crystallize in a movement which cannot be suppressed even by the emperor's mailed fist.

The opinions of many observers who have spent years in Germany is that the people never will revolt. While there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of this view, there still remains room for speculation on the possibility that fear of an active revolt may force the emperor to grant reforms as a measure of safety.

The strongest argument to support this course of reasoning lies in the frantic efforts of the Kaiser's supporters to discredit President Wilson in the eyes of the German public and clinch the conviction that in suggesting a diminution of the Kaiser's autocratic power he is making a desire to bring ruin to the German people.

The speech of Dr. Kaempf, president of the reichstag, is an instance. In his address on the United States government's reply to the pope, he said: "He who tries to drive a wedge between the Kaiser and the people bites on granite, owing to the common sense of the German people."

We read in President Wilson's note to the pope the word "humanity." Are we to believe the words of a man who had the power to preserve hundreds of thousands of lives by preventing the export of munitions and war material from America to the entente?

Can that man boast of humanity who, apart from the munition supplies, prolonged the war by his unneutral attitude before America? German papers repeat the words "England's war of starvation against German women and children?"

If the German war lords entertained no fears regarding the temper of their public it does not seem probable that they would devote as much effort as they are expending to create hatred in Germany against Mr. Wilson. It is evident that they are considerably alarmed over the possibility that the president's repeated appeal to the German people to forsake themselves may eventually, "drive the wedge between the Kaiser and the people."

Meanwhile, America and the allies can only wait for the awakening and hope that it may come. They cannot allow the hope to deter them for a moment in their preparations for increased military activity nor diminish by so much as a single bullet the force of their opposition to the Teuton armies.

THE ENGLISH VIEW. America is not the only nation to be cursed by the pacifist, pro-German and obstructionist. The very nation against the Kaiser has their enemies at home, but fortunately, in every nation the great bulk of citizenship is loyal and true.

In England a mis-guided labor party, ruled by socialistic agitators, has caused the government no little anxiety, but the loyalty of the ruling majority of English workers is as great and as unchanging as is the loyalty of the great bulk of American labor.

No better illustration of this fact has come to hand recently than a letter from Frederic Harrison of Bath, England, published in a recent issue of the London Times. The Times, as those who read English papers know, is a peculiar institution. Aside from its high standing as a newspaper, it is a forum for the English people, and "letters to the Times" are a prominent part of current English literature. Mr. Harrison's letter is reproduced in full because of its particular interest and the intense spirit which it breathes.

Editor of the Times: In the fourth year of the war we find the Hun, now satiated with blood and booty, and at last trembling in sight of the ruin that awaits him, masquerading as a peace-loving people defending their children and their homes. And in this he is abetted by some Britons, some Russians, both traitors to their country and their race. In all the mountains of forgery and falsehood which German diplomacy has built up in the fifty years since the advent of Bismarckism as the national gospel, no more ludicrous plea has ever been uttered than this cry, that the allies were waging an offensive war of aggression to conquer and destroy innocent Germany, now standing on its defense. And British cranks are mean enough to repeat this brazen lie: Germany on her defense! Still trampling in blood and ashes on Belgium, Russian, Poland and Courland, Serbia, and Rumania, with Austria, Bulgaria, Turkey,

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PROCRUSTINATION. When Governor Harding spoke at the conference of governors and state councils of defense in Chicago in August, he evoked little interest, telling a story illustrating the serious condition confronting coal users and the crying need for decisive action to establish fair retail prices and assure an adequate supply for the winter.

Following that conference President Wilson announced a schedule of tentative prices for coal at the mine mouths in the various states and later, when he appointed the national coal administrator, the announcement was made that several of these prices probably would be changed.

The uncertainty continues and some days, at the very least, must elapse before Iowans, for instance, are to know exactly the basis on which they will be permitted to buy coal for household use.

Meanwhile, the summer has merged into autumn and cool weather finds a big proportion of householders delaying their coal purchases in the hope that lower prices will be afforded them when the government's elaborate machinery finally gets to working.

Meanwhile, also, the dissatisfaction among the coal miners which originated with the flamboyant and selfish crusade of several big industrial captains in Chicago has crystallized in a demand for wage increases amounting to about 25 per cent.

Failure by the miners to get what they want usually presages a strike and consequent shortage of coal production. The demand presented yesterday was made by miners from the central competitive field, in which Iowa is not included, but the unwritten law of the coal industry for decades has been that of the central states. It is apparent then, that a coal strike or an increase in the mine mouth prices—natural result of an increase in wages—will be the next development in the coal situation. Possibly both can be avoided, but neither the miners nor the operators regard that as probable.

In either case, the individual consumer must suffer, unless his foresight already has impelled him to buy coal for the winter and stand the chance for a cut in price.

The weakness in the government's handling of the coal situation seems to lie principally in the delay in doing something definite. This delay seems to be attributable to the fact that the men who have been delegated to solve the various problems have only the layman's knowledge of the coal industry and the coal trade.

Mr. Hoover has summoned to assist him in fixing prices of wheat, men who are acquainted with every one of the various steps by which wheat is grown, harvested, marketed, ground into flour and marketed again in that form. He has made some progress even if he has not effected any marked reduction in the prices of flour or bread.

If these farmers, traders and millers are honest enough and loyal enough to serve the nation faithfully, it would seem reasonable to suppose that a sufficient number of patriotic and conscientious men could be selected from among coal producers, miners and dealers to form an advisory board for Mr. Garfield.

At the present rate of progress, the coal administration may get into motion by the end of the coming winter—and it may not.

T. R. AT HIS BEST. The thousands of persons who crowded into Chicago's stockyards pavilion last night to hear Colonel Roosevelt hoped to listen to a scathing, Rooseveltian denunciation of disloyalty, and they were not disappointed.

There is something decidedly refreshing in the Roosevelt sort of language just now. Some of the colonel's reclaimed popularity may be due to the suppressed emotion in Washington; some of us feel a little sympathy for him because of his rebuff when he sought a commission to fight in France; others glory in his ability to put into virile words their feelings of contempt for disloyal Americans. Whatever the cause behind it all, there is inspiration in reading the sentences in which he flayed La Follette and "skinned alive" the other pacifists and obstructionists with which the country is cursed.

After all, there is but one Roosevelt. While there have been times when that number was far too great, and while we cannot bring ourselves to take back seats from the criticism we have been moved to make of his political gyrations, there is no denying that he is serving his country just now as if should be served.

Roosevelt and Billy Sunday stand alone as inventors of phrases which carry the last atom of punch. They have the faculty of commanding the enthusiasm of audiences cultivated to the highest degree.

In his speech within Chicago's melting pot last night Roosevelt was at his best. No one could have heard him without experiencing an increase of patriotic fervor. His brand of oratory is needed in America more than his brand of military knowledge is needed in France.

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Daily Courier, 1 year by mail, \$3.00. Semi-Weekly Courier, 1 year, \$2.00.

Address, The Courier Printing Company, Ottumwa, Iowa.

Entered as second class matter October 17, 1902, at the post office, Ottumwa, Iowa, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Foreign representatives: Cone, Lorge and Woodman, Advertising Bldg., Chicago; 225 Fifth Ave., New York City; 503 Victor Bldg., Kansas City, Mo.

The Kuehlmann chapter of the German reply to the pope's peace proposals is far more interesting and far more sensible than is the chapter by Michaelis. Although it may not obtain direct results, it indicates quite clearly that the desire for a peace without conquest is not confined in Germany to the socialists and the oppressed.

The fact that the foreign minister has been permitted to utter the first word from Berlin which sounds at all like "reparation" may mean that Kuehlmann's well-known desire to placate the English people has found favor among others close to the throne. It may, on the other hand, be the Kaiser's method of feeling out the strength of the Hindenburg-Tripitz war party, and Kuehlmann may instead be selected for spokesman against Michaelis as a safeguard against the latter's losing his prestige with the pan-Germans should their opposition to any sort of compromise prove too strong for the Kaiser to neutralize.

Should the junkers be able to gather enough strength in a campaign against the reichstag program, it would be easier for the Kaiser to capitulate by removing Kuehlmann than by finding a new chancellor.

However, there is good reason to believe that the pan-German idea is losing strength even among the dejected Germans. The failure of the submarine is becoming more difficult every day for the exponents of the ruthless warfare to explain. The fact that the allied armies are forcing the Germans into a corner in Flanders and beating them at Verdun cannot be concealed from the people at home even by the cleverly twisted official reports issued by the Berlin war office.

While the capture of Riga was an important event in the war, it does not indicate military strength on the part of Hindenburg. Riga invited capture for months; the Germans did little more than march in and take possession. Whether they could have conquered a well-organized Russian army is open to serious doubt in view of the defense administered to the city. The occupation by remnants of the Slav forces which paused in their helterskelter retreat when they realized they were not being pursued.

Meanwhile, the situation on the Italian front is anything but comforting to the Teutonic powers, with Mount San Gabriele in Italian hands and Trieste and Pola menaced.

It is evident, however, that the biggest element in bringing about the change in the German government's attitude toward peace is traceable directly to the United States. President Wilson's unequivocal refusal to treat with the Prussian autocrat has had time to "soak in" on the German intellect. That it created a sensation is self-evident. That its intimate circle is evident from the frantic and indignant comments which the war lords inspired in the German press. But there can be no doubt that it has had exactly the impression on the German public which its author intended.

That Mr. Wilson meant no less than he said was indicated to the Germans when the reply to the pope was followed by disclosure of the fact that for months the authorities at Washington had known the secrets of the disgraceful diplomacy of the Kaiser's agents in several world capitals as well as in every corner of the United States. The unmasking of Bernstorff, who had posed at home as a friend of the American people, doubtless permitted the German public to glimpse him and themselves as they must appear before the eyes of American people.

At this juncture, the plea for a peace which would permit Germany to regain her lost social and economic prestige—a plea which Kuehlmann, no doubt, had been arguing at every opportunity before and since his appointment as foreign minister—naturally would assume major weight and importance.

Naturally, the question which is foremost in America bears on the results of the proposal regarding Belgium—and there is no reason for anticipating any other course—the Kuehlmann offer can have no direct result in a peace conference, or, as Maximilian Harden suggests, an armistice to permit a consideration of terms.

The Wilson note was extremely and admirably clear. While it did not demand abdication by the Kaiser, it made plain the determination of the United States government against concluding a peace treaty with the German government until that government should cease to be an unlimited monarchy.

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The fact that the foreign minister has been permitted to utter the first word from Berlin which sounds at all like "reparation" may mean that Kuehlmann's well-known desire to placate the English people has found favor among others close to the throne. It may, on the other hand, be the Kaiser's method of feeling out the strength of the Hindenburg-Tripitz war party, and Kuehlmann may instead be selected for spokesman against Michaelis as a safeguard against the latter's losing his prestige with the pan-Germans should their opposition to any sort of compromise prove too strong for the Kaiser to neutralize.

Should the junkers be able to gather enough strength in a campaign against the reichstag program, it would be easier for the Kaiser to capitulate by removing Kuehlmann than by finding a new chancellor.

However, there is good reason to believe that the pan-German idea is losing strength even among the dejected Germans. The failure of the submarine is becoming more difficult every day for the exponents of the ruthless warfare to explain. The