

Pioneer Press: While the yawlers are busy in their conventions attacking evils that have grown up around court procedure, it might be well enough for them to inquire why common-sense has never been applied to the construction of wills: The lay mind cannot understand why a man in his right mind cannot take a pen and write, "I want my property left to

my three brothers" and have it stand as legal and unbreakable as if a lawyer drew it up in ten thousand words. The other day in New Jersey a man dropped dead just as he was in the act of signing his name to his will in the presence of witnesses, and because the signature is lacking the will may be thrown out. Yet the man's purpose was plain and capable of perfect proof.

# Confessions OF THE GERMAN EMPEROR'S Personal Spy

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## HAPPENINGS IN THE FATHERLAND

### News of Interest Gathered in Germany and Austria.

#### PEACE HAS NO BAD EFFECTS

German Army of Today Just as Efficient and Courageous as in Former Times.

A few weeks ago we heard doubt expressed as to the efficiency and value of the German soldier of today. Forty-four years of peace, with ever rising prosperity, with good living and enjoyment of life, it was said, probably had diminished his fighting capacity, his earnestness, his manliness, his strength against all the hardships of campaigning. Also, it was said, the leaders and generals of the present day had none of the experience of war; they would often find the situation a puzzle; they would blunder. Those who expressed these opinions did not know, or did not appreciate the incomparable education of the German soldier—did not know how well he was prepared physically, mentally and morally for his great task; prepared in peace for what he was expected to encounter in war. And what is true of the soldiers is true in a more profound way of the leaders. There is good blood among them, good knowledge, high ambition, faith in their capacity, indomitable will power; in short, all the qualities that make them fit for commanding their regiments, divisions, corps and armies. So we were right in doubting the daily reports of battles bringing victory to the Belgians. The first results have been won for the Germans in a comparatively short time and with comparatively small losses. Brussels, the capital which tried to rival Paris in prosperity and beauty, is in German hands; the left wing of the allies' army is turned, the right wing of the Germans faces south, and Antwerp, the great fortress, expects to be isolated from the rest of the country and to undergo a long, formal siege. Satisfied with such results we may confidently look forward to coming events with the battling armies and give attention to the navies. We admit that very little about them has been reported as yet. We hardly know where to look for them on the map. We suppose the giant among them, the English navy, has her hands full in the channel to shield the transports of English soldiers to the continent and to protect her merchant marine from becoming prizes. Another part, we think, is in the North sea, watching any movement of the German fleet—the rest is "sweeping" the oceans. The German fleet has probably kept on the defensive up to the present, watchfully waiting for her opportunity.

#### WILL FIGHT TO LAST MAN.

"Germany has been attacked and, therefore, has no responsibility for the European war," says Count von Bernstorff, German ambassador to the United States, who has just reached this country from Berlin. "To the last man in the empire we will defend our country. This war has no other object but the destruction of the German and the Austrian empires and we believe we will be able to prove to all the world that this cannot be achieved. The German people are as one man for the war. It is neither the emperor's war nor a war of the officers, as many have charged. It is a war of the German people. I am old enough to remember 1870 and the enthusiasm that stirred our country then. In this war the enthusiasm is ten times as great as it was then. The women and children and the old men have uncomplainingly gone into the fields to gather the crops—glad to give what help they can to their country. And we have wonderful crops this year. Every man, woman and child, old enough to know what war means, has volunteered in some service. As an illustration, there is a multi-millionaire in Munich who is today delivering mail from door to door. He volunteered to do a postman's work because the postman had to go to war." Germany is bound to win in the end, Count von Bernstorff said; it is fighting because its cause is just. He predicted that Americans would come to regard the conflict in this light. Italy, he believes, would not take sides against Germany. "My wife is with the Red Cross at Munich," said the ambassador; "and my son is with the emperor's guard. All my secretaries have gone to the front and I regret that I was not able to see active service myself. From the emperor to the lowest unskilled workman in the Fatherland, Germany is united to defend itself against the unwarranted attack of jealous powers. The German people will fight to a finish and will be victorious in the end. At the outbreak of the war the English cut the cable to this neutral country for the sole purpose of preventing the truth from coming here. There was no excuse for that act, except the desire to deceive the people of the United States as to the true conditions of the war. But I believe Americans will prove themselves fair

enough to weigh carefully all the news that comes from English and French sources."

#### PRUSSIAN TAXES HEAVY.

The small Prussian city of Gorzno has lost the distinction of levying the heaviest tax of any city in the kingdom, which it possessed since 1911 until last year. The citizen there who earns \$100 a month paid \$15.75 monthly as an income tax alone, not including church, real estate and business taxes. The city of Stuhm now has, according to the reports for 1914, the highest taxes of any Prussian city. These amount to only 11.7 per cent of the \$100 a month man's earnings. The rate of taxation increases progressively, so that the man with \$2,000 yearly pays \$276.19, a little more than 13 per cent, and a man who has an income of \$4,000 yearly is taxed \$613.20, nearly 15 per cent. Twenty West Prussian cities impose a municipal income tax of at least 300 per cent of the state tax. The highest municipal tax of the Greater Berlin municipalities is 110 per cent and some of them get along with 100 per cent.

#### WON SUCCESS IN GERMANY.

Jan Sikesz, the Dutch pianist, who will make an American tour this season, comes to this country heralded as one of the leading artists of the day. When only eighteen years of age he won the first prize at the Royal Conservatory, Amsterdam. In Vienna, Sikesz devoted himself to a thorough training under the direction of Leschetizky. Since then he has been received enthusiastically in the leading cities of Holland, Sweden and Germany and on numerous occasions has delighted members of the royal family of Austria by his brilliant playing. Sikesz scored a remarkable success at the concert with the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. The young virtuoso received tremendous applause after his rendition of the Saint Saens concerto. He responded generously to many encores. His highly developed technique allows the combination of delicacy and poetic charm of interpretation without loss of fire and brilliancy.

#### NOTED YOUNG COMPOSER.

Many accounts, either incomplete or misleading, have come to hand concerning Erich Korngold, the youthful Viennese composer. The Literary Digest, from various authentic sources, has compiled the following account of this interesting youth: "At seven years old the boy, who was born in 1897 in Brunn, Austria, was already a skilled pianist and at the age of eight he began composing little pieces, waltzes and so forth, which even then gave promise of greater achievements. His first instruction in composition was under Robert Fuchs and Alexander von Zemlinsky in Vienna. Indeed these two musicians have been his only teachers. Korngold first became known to the public at the age of eleven, through some piano pieces which he had written. His greatest achievement to date is his 'Sinfonietta' for full orchestra, Op. 5, which was composed nearly two years ago at the age of fifteen, and which had its first public hearing in Vienna on Nov. 28, 1913, under the direction of Felix Weingartner.

#### AMERICANS WELL TREATED.

A thorough canvass of American refugees at Rotterdam shows that the

Germans have been universally courteous to them. The hardships undergone by citizens of the United States have been due in all cases to the conditions attending mobilization, the lack of facilities for travel and at first a restriction of the hours during which the streets could be frequented. A week after the opening of hostilities the latter restraint was eliminated. The government took measures not alone looking to the safety of Americans, but also to their comfort. Those hardest hit by the war are American students in Germany, who have found difficulty in getting their usual remittances. Every measure has been taken to help them.

#### FRAU WAGNER'S DAUGHTER.

Frau Iselde Beidler, the daughter of Cosima Buelow-Wagner, has evidently made up her mind not to let the question whether she is the daughter of Hans von Buelow or Richard Wagner rest where the courts left it. It is announced that she has in preparation a book to be entitled "Reminiscences of My Father," and, as she has claimed all along that she is the daughter of Wagner, it is obvious whom the book will be about. As she was eighteen years old when Wagner died she will be able to add some interesting details to the innumerable facts already printed.

#### DIPPEL IN THE ARMY.

Andreas Dippel, lately in Carlsbad, is said to have been drafted into the Austrian army. It is difficult to say in what manner his New York enterprise of giving a season of light opera will be affected. Fritz Kreisler is another musical personage who has been called upon to battle for Emperor Franz Joseph.

#### MUNICH HONORS STRAUSS.

The municipality of Munich has decided that it should have a street named in honor of its most illustrious musical son and in consequence one of the principal thoroughfares of the Bavarian capital is shortly to be renamed the Richard Strauss strasse.

#### SWANVILLE

September 2.—Miss Eva Abeling of Long Prairie is visiting at the John F. Muske home.

The B. B. Cox and A. J. Hunt families, who have spent several weeks at Pillsbury lake, returned to town last Thursday.

A. J. Hunt has disposed of the Swanville News, the new proprietor taking possession at once. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt expect to move back to Minneapolis in a short time.

Mrs. Helen Van Zile of Little Falls The Long Prairie girls ball nine was down Wednesday and played a very exciting game with our girls. The score was 16 to 20 in favor of Swanville. A

dance was given for the visitors at the pavilion in the evening. On Thursday of this week our girls will go to Long Prairie for a game. Here's wishing them a third victory over Long Prairie.

is visiting relatives here. Mrs. E. F. Grey returned Monday from a week's visit with the Clarence Aleshire family at Lincoln.

J. F. Muske was a business caller at Grey Eagle Monday and Tuesday. Rev. and Mrs. M. Kretzschmar and family spent Sunday at Villard where Rev. M. Kretzschmar installed his brother, Rev. J. Kretzschmar, pastor of the Lutheran church there.

A large crowd from Long Prairie attended the dance at the pavilion Friday evening.

E. Kalher is in the cities on business this week. The dedication of the new Lutheran school will not take place until September 15.

The public schools will open Tuesday, September 8, with an entire new corps of teachers.

Miss Irene Bain began her duties as telephone girl September 1. Theola Pearson, who has had charge of the board for some time, has resigned.

The Wm. Siems, W. Anderson and W. Cox families autoed to Walden Sunday. All report a very pleasant trip.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Schuette and Mr. Elmer Schuette of Red Bud, Ill., who have been visiting at the I. Hitzemann home, returned to their homes last week.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Stith, Jr., and family spent Sunday with the Geo. Johnson family of Pillsbury, returning Monday morning.

#### TWIN LAKES

September 1—Mike Ciminski came up for a visit last week.

Frank Ciminski sold a horse to Vince Witta Saturday.

Lawrence Ciminski and Frank Schippritt returned from Moorhead Saturday.

Issdore Olek called Sunday on Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ciminski.

Herald want ads bring results.

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At the 1914 Fair over one million dollars' worth of live stock from all parts of America will be shown. There will be a machinery display covering more than 70 acres. Forty county exhibits, displaying products of field and factory from all corners of the state, will crowd Agricultural Hall. The Woman's Building will be a never-ending source of delight to the women. A hundred other exhibits might be mentioned.

The amusement program is an excellent one. Thousands of dollars have been spent in engaging some of the greatest acts before the public. On each evening a grandstand fireworks display will be given on "The Opening of the Panama Canal."

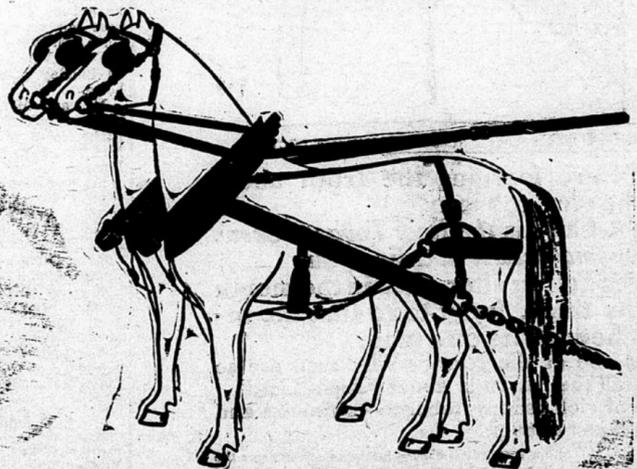
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