

## GERMAN NOTE IS HELP TO PEACE

Officials at Capital Pleased Despite Lack of Terms.

### NEXT MOVE UP TO ENTENTE

Allied Embassies in Washington See Only Move to Influence Opinion in Germany and Abroad—Wilson Waiting for Text of Note.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Germany's reply to President Wilson's note is regarded here as having advanced the peace movement another step, despite the fact that it disappoints in not meeting his suggestion for an avowal of terms.

The reception Germany's reply receives among the entente allies, whose statesmen have publicly declared against such a program, now becomes the point upon which a further move is hinged.

The German note probably is the prelude to a series of carefully considered delicate moves in the great game of world diplomacy, and possibly leading to an approach for a real discussion of peace terms on grounds which all the belligerents may feel can place them at no disadvantage.

#### Wilson Is Waiting.

This is the official view of Germany's reply so far as it has been formulated on the basis of the unofficial text.

The official copy has not been received and President Wilson was keeping his mind open.

Neutral diplomatic quarters, too, regarded the note as a step toward peace, and rather leaned to the view that Germany might follow it with a confidential communication of some sort outlining her terms.

The view of the entente embassies, frankly expressed, was that the note was not an answer to President Wilson's communication, but rather a document for circulation in Germany and in neutral countries.

It was everywhere agreed that the principal sticking point was the lack of a definite statement of terms such as President Wilson asked and such as Lloyd-George declared the allies would require.

## TEUTONIC POWERS ASK FOR PARLEY

Berlin, Dec. 27.—The text of Germany's answer to President Wilson's note has been transmitted to James W. Gerard, American ambassador.

The answer, which also contains the reply of Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey, says:

"The high minded suggestions made by the president of the United States of America in order to create a basis for the establishment of a lasting peace have been received and considered by the imperial government in the friendly spirit which was expressed in the president's communication.

"The president points out that which he has at heart and leaves open the choice of road.

"To the imperial government an immediate exchange of views seems to be the most appropriate road in order to reach the desired result.

"It begs, therefore, in the sense of the declaration made on Dec. 12, which offered a hand for peace negotiations, to propose an immediate meeting of delegates of the belligerent states at a neutral place.

"The imperial government also is of the opinion that the great work of preventing further wars can be begun only after the end of the present struggle of the nations.

"It will, when this moment shall have come, be ready with pleasure to collaborate entirely with the United States in this exalted task."

The answer of the central powers concludes with the usual diplomatic terms of politeness.

## SAYS ALLIES CANNOT STOP TO TALK PEACE

Paris, Dec. 27.—In addresses at the National Congress of the French Socialist party, Arthur Henderson, the British cabinet minister, and G. H. Roberts, member of the British parliament, both affirmed, amidst enthusiastic cheers, that the war must be fought out until full guarantees have been obtained for a lasting peace.

"In my opinion," Mr. Henderson said, "if France and ourselves were to enter into negotiations under existing conditions we should be nations in bondage. Nothing less than that is the price our enemies would exact for peace today."

Emile Vandervelde, the Belgian Socialist leader, said:

"Our comrades who have remained in invaded Belgium, endure German domination with admirable firmness. Nothing but encouragement reaches us from them. So that it would seem that the persons most hostile to war are those farthest from it."

## A Puzzling Case

Setting a Detective to  
Catch a Detective.

By ETHEL HOLMES

They say a woman can't keep a secret. I can testify to the fact that one woman I have known could keep a secret so well that she guided me, a detective with a reputation for shrewdness, to the detection of the real criminal, I having been set upon her to expose her. And this she did without revealing to me the fact that she knew him to be the man I should have been after.

One day I was directed by my chief to call upon the president of the Third National bank. I did so, and he said to me:

"Mr. Williams, we have a woman in our employ whom we suspect of embezzling our funds. The case is a singular one, and I must give it to you so far as it has already developed. There is a mystery connected with it which is very puzzling.

"We had in our employ a man whom we esteemed very highly. One day he failed to turn up at the usual time for the day's work. His wife was telephoned to know if he was ill. She replied that she was about to telephone the bank for information concerning him. He had not come home the day before nor during the night. She was terribly worried for fear that something had happened to him.

"The person among our employees who had last seen the man—Walter Pixley—said that Pixley had told him that he was going to see a man who owed him a hundred dollars. He had hurried away from the bank to catch his creditor at his office before the close of business hours. We learned from Mrs. Pixley the name of the debtor and sent a man to him for information concerning her husband. The party said that Pixley had visited his office in company with a veiled woman, who had waited for him without. The money had been paid him, and he had been seen to go away with the woman.

"This information communicated to Mrs. Pixley threw her into hysterics.

"The next phase of the case was the report of one of our bookkeepers that funds were missing from the bank. My informant, Mr. Carter, told me that he had suspected Pixley for some time, and as soon as Pixley disappeared Carter had made an examination of certain books kept by Pixley and had fallen upon proof that he was a defaulter. Carter is an expert accountant. I have always had great faith in him. He brought me his proofs of Pixley's guilt, which I examined, and although Pixley had been doing all he could to render the accounts confusing, Carter convinced me that he was a defaulter.

"Now I come to the third act of the drama. Mrs. Pixley, who had undoubtedly been deserted by her husband for another woman, came to me and begged for some employment in the bank. She claimed that as a girl she had attended a commercial college and had studied bookkeeping. I pitied her and gave her the position made vacant by her husband.

"The end of my story and the point at which I wish you to take it up is a report this morning from Carter that more funds are being taken from the bank and that he suspects Mrs. Pixley of being the thief. You see from what I have told you that the case is a very complicated one. While I do not propose to lay out a course of action for you, I would suggest that you watch Mrs. Pixley. This of course you cannot do in the bank. You can only do it outside of the bank."

I confessed to the president that the matter did look rather puzzling. Had Pixley not deserted his wife for another woman I would have suspected that Mr. and Mrs. Pixley were in league to rob the bank. And yet, Pixley having done so, it did not seem likely that Mrs. Pixley would work on the same ground as he. I told the president that I would first find out something about Mrs. Pixley. When I had done that I would proceed to the next step in the premises.

I sent a party to Mrs. Pixley's home to sell her something, to draw her into conversation and to ask her at what institution she had studied bookkeeping. My emissary returned to me with the information that Mrs. Pixley had looked at the questioner concerned, but had given the Merton Business college as the place where she had received instruction. I at once went to the Merton college and asked to see a record of the students. The maiden name of Mrs. Pixley did not appear as having been a pupil there, and Mr. Merton declared that at the time Mrs. Pixley claimed to have been there he did not receive women students.

So far so good. I had nailed Mrs. Pixley in a lie. This tended to confirm me in considering her as guilty. But why she should steal from the same bank as her husband was a puzzle. The only reason I could think of was that she was enabled through sympathy to secure a place there, which she could not do elsewhere.

Another complication bothered me. Mrs. Pixley was reported by her fellow employees to be a pretty good bookkeeper. She must have received some

training in this respect, but why should she have lied as to the school where she had studied?

I made no progress after nailing the lie upon Mrs. Pixley and at last determined to make her acquaintance and by pretending as a friend, or to be smitten with her, to get the secret from her. Under pretense of being a bank examiner I became familiar with the employees, she among the number. I treated her with deference and sympathy. One day when she was leaving the bank after business hours I joined her and walked with her. Passing a restaurant, I told her that I was going in to take a lonely dinner. Would she help me out with her company? She consented, and, selecting a table in a corner where we could converse without being overheard by others, we dined together.

I commiserated with her at having such a husband, expressing wonder that any man should desert so charming a woman. She seemed to feel very bitterly toward him, but, of course, if she were a thief, as well as he, it might be a part of her game to feign this. I asked her if she suspected who was the woman with whom her husband had gone away, and she said she felt sure of the person. I got nothing out of her, but was impressed with the belief that there was a good deal in her, whether for good or for evil, though I did not feel that it was for evil. After dinner I escorted her to her home and left her at the door, at the same time receiving an invitation to call upon her.

Despite all my efforts I found nothing to implicate Mrs. Pixley, and there was no evidence at the bank to prove that she was purloining its funds, though the president had put Carter on the watch for this. After a time Carter said that whatever was her way of taking money, it was so subtle that it was beyond his penetration. However, the cash on hand was constantly deficient, and Carter suggested that Mrs. Pixley be simply discharged without any reason being given her. The president communicated this to me, and I suggested that he put the matter off. I had become convinced that Mrs. Pixley had a secret. I was steadily gaining her confidence, and I hoped in time she would let out something. To this he assented.

A couple of days after this I received a note from Mrs. Pixley, as follows:

Dear Mr. Detective—You are on the wrong track in shadowing me. Conceal yourself under the steps leading up to the bank tomorrow night (or, rather, the next morning) at 1 o'clock and wait till I come.

I cannot tell why, but I was not so much astonished at this as might be expected. I was certainly rejoiced, because I knew important developments were to come. At the appointed time I went to the bank and waited in the shadow of the steps. Ten minutes later Mrs. Pixley went up the steps. I joined her. She tapped at the door, and it was opened by the watchman. We went in behind the counters. Mrs. Pixley opened a safe, took out some heavy account book, which I laid on a high desk for her.

"How is it that you can come here at such a time and open this safe?" I asked her.

"The watchman is in my secret. I am allowed the combination of this safe, which contains only books."

And here began the revelation. I am something of an accountant, this being one reason why I was put on the job. Mrs. Pixley spent two hours with me over a set of books, showing me that Carter had manipulated them to conceal certain peculations. And the entries bearing upon them were so dovetailed into certain entries in a set of books that had been kept by her husband as to make it appear that Pixley was the defaulter. And I could not see how Pixley could have shown that he was innocent in the matter. I looked aside at Mrs. Pixley and asked:

"How about the woman with whom your husband decamped?"

"I was the veiled woman who went with him to collect the money owed him, but I didn't go away with him. One day he discovered how Mr. Carter, to conceal his peculations, had manipulated these books. He came home so broken down that I, fearing he would make a poor showing under an investigation, concocted this plan whereby I might have an opportunity to study out the problem for him. The watchman, Callahan, has always been my husband's friend and at the risk of losing his job has admitted me here at dead of night. I have had an expert accountant with me at times, and together we have unraveled this conspiracy and can make a showing such as I have given you."

"Where did you get your knowledge of bookkeeping?"

"I studied it after my husband left. The person you sent to find out about that caught me unawares. But at the time I did not know she came from you."

"Mrs. Pixley," I said admiringly, taking from under my coat my badge of office and handing it to her, "I resign in your favor. If I am worth \$10 a day as a detective you are worth a hundred."

As we left the bank I handed a twenty dollar bill to Callahan, but he declined to accept it. The next morning I called on the bank's president and was obliged to confess that my work had been done by the woman he had sent me to watch. Carter's books were examined without his knowledge. Pixley was summoned home by his wife and put in Carter's place. Mrs. Pixley was given five shares of the stock of the bank, worth \$8,500, and her husband is as chipper as before he was lugubrious.

No, sir, I don't believe that a woman is any more liable to divulge a secret than a man, especially when it becomes her interest to keep it. At any rate, such is my experience.

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## The Princeton Union

(Established in 1876 by R. C. Dunn)

FOR 40 years the Union has been a Welcome Visitor Weekly in Thousands of Homes in Mille Lacs and Adjoining Counties. It has ever been a Consistent Advocate of what it believed to be for the Best Interests of Mille Lacs County and the Rum River Valley in Particular, and the State at large in General.

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While the Union Covers the Local Field Thoroughly each week it is more than a mere Local Paper—it is a Newspaper of Statewide Reputation and has made Princeton and Mille Lacs County Familiar names in the Northwest.

Owing to the Enormous Increase in the cost of paper and other Printing Material the Subscription Price of the Union Should be Increased to \$1.50 per year, and it may become absolutely necessary to make the increase later, but for the present and until January 1st, 1917, the Subscription Price Will Remain at

## One Dollar Per Year

to Minnesota subscribers only—outside the State, to cover the extra expense of mailing, \$1.50 will be charged.

There is no Margin for Profit at \$1.00 per year, and all subscriptions must be paid in advance.

Wishing each and every Reader of the Union a Happy and Prosperous New Year, we remain

Truly yours,

R. C. DUNN, Publisher.

### GLENDORADO.

Wishing the Union and R. C. Dunn a Happy New Year and may the following year be a success to all.

Misses Anna and Esther Holmberg of Minneapolis arrived home Saturday evening to spend the holidays with their parents here.

Philip Magnus, who is employed in St. Cloud, came home Saturday evening to spend the holidays with his parents and friends in Klondike.

Mrs. T. W. Thompson passed to the great beyond Friday noon at the Northwestern hospital at Princeton, where she had been for the past few months. She leaves besides her husband and three children, a large circle of friends who will miss her loving smile and cheery disposition which she carried to the end. Tuesday afternoon at 1 o'clock the remains were laid at rest in the Lutheran cemetery at Glendorado. Rev. Gullerude conducted the final services.

Miss Gertrude Clepper, teacher of school district No. 33, south, left on Saturday for a two weeks holiday vacation at her home in Rices.

Agnes Carlson of St. Paul came home Friday evening to spend a couple of weeks with relatives and friends at this place.

Henry Ryberg of Center City is visiting friends here and his smiling face is always welcome in Glendorado. Hon. Ed Indreus, who has been in St. Paul the past week, arrived home Saturday to spend the holidays with his family here.

Word was received here that Chas. Christian, jr., of Biwabik, passed away December 15. Pneumonia caused death. Mrs. Christian was formerly Mae Guss of this place, and we extend our sympathy to the bereaved widow and daughter.

Miss Tillie Ford, after a visit of

nearly three years in the state of New York, returned home Saturday evening, for an extended visit with her aged parents of this vicinity.

Thomas Hubbard made his usual drive east Sunday afternoon.

Rev. T. B. Clark held services in the M. E. Church Sunday and a large congregation attended.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Crooks and family were entertained at a Christmas dinner at the E. B. Bachelor home.

Arthur Hubbard, who is employed at the Sam Walker home in Santiago, spent Christmas at his parental home here.

Mrs. Huldah Hubbard had the misfortune to lose a big yearling last Friday. The animal was pushed into the stock well by the herd.

### Worms Make Children Fretful.

If your child cries out in sleep, is nervous, puny and listless, he may be a victim of worms. Begin treatment at once with Kickapoo Worm Killer. This candy laxative in tablet form kills the worm and removes it quickly and easily. Don't permit your child's development to be retarded by the continued draining of his vitality by worms. Get Kickapoo Worm Killer at your druggist's, 25 cents.—Adv.

### BLUE HILL.

Miss Edna Olson has returned to her home after spending a year with her uncle at Ponca, Nebraska.

Nick Knutson, Ole Gilbertson and John Meyers spent a couple of days last week in Minneapolis.

Anton Olson went to Minneapolis last week, Thursday, to meet his daughter, Edna. He was accompanied by Kaster Fall.

Neely Griffin, who was acting the part of Santa Claus at the school entertainment at the Campbell school, came near being badly burned when the cotton which composed his make-

up caught fire. The fire was quickly put out and Neely got off with a few burns.

John Kisner and wife spent Christmas at Zimmerman with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Briggs.

Mrs. Chas. Brande left last week, Thursday, for an extended visit to her two brothers, Wm. and Fred Dunn, at Fulton, S. D. She will visit other relatives and friends at Mitchell, Alexandria and Ethan before returning. Chas. Brande accompanied his wife as far as Minneapolis, and spent a couple of days seeing the sights.

John South spent Christmas day with Mr. and Mrs. Hartman camp.

Wm. Sweringer and family and Grover Jensen and wife and daughter spent Christmas day in Greenbush with the Wm. Welden and Frank Welden families.

C. W. Taylor sold a fine colt to Otto Borneke recently.

Clarence Taylor has been baling some hay and straw for Isaac Bayler.

With this issue of the Union we end another year of correspondence. We have failed in many ways to make good, and our "hen track" writing confuses the linotype man, but we will try to do better in the future. And we wish a happy new year to all readers. (You're all right, Chas.—Lino.)

We are in the market for poultry and offer top prices. Springers 14¢ a pound, and 14¢ a pound for heavy hens. Rabbits, \$1.40 a dozen. Townsend Produce Co. 1-17c

### Notice.

Lona Fendell Stock Company will appear here on next Tuesday, January 2, instead of Saturday and Sunday. The play will be "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine." Don't forget the date, next Tuesday, January 2. A diamond ring will be given away above Tuesday. 1-17c