

ZIMMERMAN BUSY EXPLAINING.

German-Mexican Alliance Incident Gives Him Unpleasant Moments.

Copenhagen, April 1.—The German-Mexican alliance incident, it is evident from reports brought by persons recently arriving from Germany and from press reports of the Reichstag sessions, continues to provide unpleasant moments for Dr. Alfred Zimmermann, secretary for foreign affairs. His defense of his action behind the closed doors of the Reichstag committee and in the open house has not availed to check either public or private criticism of the act itself and, still more, the greater crime of being found out.

Dr. Zimmermann's latest explanation in the Reichstag on Friday is dismissed by the Tageblatt as avoiding the real crux of the matter, namely, the wisdom of the step as a matter of policy. Formal justification for the proposal is unquestioned, but, as the Tageblatt points out, the vital point is the effect that overtures might be expected to have on Mexico, Japan and opinion in the United States, particularly in the Western and Southern States.

**Under Investigation.**  
Regarding Mr. Zimmermann's statement that the manner in which the American government obtained cognizance of the instructions is still under investigation, the Associated Press is informed from an authoritative German source that it is known that this could only have occurred through the United States government being in possession of the code in which the instructions were telegraphed, either before they reached Washington or were on the way. The latter is regarded as the more probable and there is considerable anxiety as to the further material which the United States may have obtained through this insight into the most confidential German communications.

**How Was Note Sent.**  
The channel whereby the instructions were conveyed to Count von Bernstorff, the former German ambassador, at Washington, is described mysteriously as a "special and particularly secure" one, but it is considered not impossible that the foreign office took advantage of the State department, which allowed the American embassy at Berlin now and then to transmit communications between the German government and Count von Bernstorff, embodied within such dispatches were other messages, in a second "inside" code. One such message was transmitted by Ambassador Gerard about the date of the Mexican discussion.

The text of the instructions as made public from Washington has never been published in Germany. Revisions include omission of the offer to Mexico respecting Texas. Even at that, the Socialist critics have ridiculed the idea that the Mexicans would consider the possibility of conquering Arizona and New Mexico.

GOLDEN EGG GOOSE RIVALED.

Kansas Pullets Start New Year With Heavy Laying Streak.

It is certainly not the fault of 112 Rhode Island Red pullets belonging to Mrs. W. T. Glanville, who lives east of here, that fresh eggs are so scarce at present. For the week ended January 13, these pullets laid 16 1-2 dozen eggs. From January 13 to 16 they laid 151 eggs.

Mrs. Glanville gathered 51 eggs January 16, which has so far been their best laying record. The pullets have since been maintaining the record they have set since they began laying early in January. They are the best paying investment on the Glanville farm for their value. The eggs have been marketed at from 35 to 42 cents a dozen.

Most of the hens in the country are on their annual winter strike. Mrs. Glanville believes her simple rules in feeding and caring for the flock may aid their desire to lay. The rules: First, for the morning feed a ration of kafir corn only scattered on the ground in the bed, so the chickens have to work for their breakfast by scratching out the seeds. One other feed is given at night, a hot mash of bran and corn chop.

The chickens have all the skimmed milk they care to drink during the day and plenty of fresh water. They are given the liberty of the farm and are out ranging over a large part of it during the day. Aside from these simple rules, Mrs. Glanville has no other regulations. She advises the hatching of early chicks for winter layers. Most of her pullets now making such a good record were hatched early in April.—Cottonwood (Kan.) dispatch to the Kansas City Star.

**Practical.**  
Now, Johnny," said the teacher, "suppose you wanted to build a \$1,000 house and had only \$700, what would you do?"  
"I s'pose I'd have to marry a girl with \$300," answered the young financier.—Kansas City Star.

URGES RECRUITING OF N. G.

Governor Tells Captains it is Necessary to Swell Ranks.

Columbia, March 31.—The following statement was issued at the governor's office today:  
Governor Manning today sent letters to the captains of the infantry companies in the National Guard of South Carolina urging upon them the necessity of recruiting their respective commands up to the maximum war strength provided by law. A similar letter will be sent to other officers in the National Guard in the near future.

The letter is partly confidential in that in the opinion of the governor part of it would come under one of the censorship regulations agreed upon between newspapers and officials of the army, navy, and State departments of the government. The letter in part is as follows:

The Governor's Letter.

"The policy of the war department, in which I concur, is to have the present National Guard units recruited to their maximum strength in case of a declaration war with Germany. I, therefore, urge upon you the necessity of exerting your efforts towards recruiting your respective commands up to the maximum war strength provided by law.

"I think that you can obtain the best results in recruiting by pushing the matter while at your home rendezvous for after a call is issued you will be in mobilization camp, busy with affairs of administration. Recruiting after the mobilization is also more expensive than at the present time. When recruits enter the National Guard they know the officers who will be over them, while in the case of the volunteers the personnel of the commissioned officers will be unknown. Furthermore, the disposition of volunteer forces in active service will not have the same amount of consideration as will the National Guard."

Governor Manning has said that he thinks the National Guard of South Carolina will again be called into the service of the United States, and it is to prepare for this eventuality that he has called upon all commanding officers to obtain recruits. It is also necessary to fill the depleted ranks of the various commands due to the discharges granted for various reasons since the recent muster-out.

DOG IN COURT ENDS OWN CASE.

Collie Picks His Master and Magistrate Affirms Judgment.

Dan handed down the decision in his own case at the West Farm court. Dan is a fluffy, high bred collie, with a deep orange coat, a spotless white shirtfront and an excellent legal mind. He solved a problem which puzzled even Magistrate Groehl.

Frank A. Fox, a Canadian manufacturer, and Frank G. Cornish, a broker, living at New Rochelle, appeared in court and announced that they wanted the custody of the dog. Fox said that Dan was his property, but that he had run away from New Rochelle and was now in the hands of George J. Lockman, the Bronx, who, he related, refused to turn him over unless he could prove ownership.

Lockman, when summoned, appeared with Dan and reiterated his stand.

"This is a valuable dog," he said. "How do I know he belongs to these men?"

"Well," deliberated the magistrate, "I can't tell, either. Suppose we let the dog decide?"

The court was silent, while Dan sniffed doubtfully about the legs of Lockman and Cornish. Then he saw Fox, and decided the case. There was a yelp of delight, an orange flash through the air and the dog had both paws on the shoulders of his master, whose glasses and hat flew off at the force of his greeting.

"Mr. Fox owns the dog," said the magistrate, interpreting Dan's decision.—New York Tribune.

The Twice Told Tale.

A Massachusetts lawyer, according to Lippincott's Magazine, has a notoriously treacherous memory for details. This failing occasionally leads him to garble a joke in repeating it. Recently he met a friend who, clapping him on the shoulder, said enthusiastically:

"Well, old man, this is a fine day for the race, isn't it?"

"Why what race?"

"The human race?"

"The human race," said the friend—and fled.

This was the first time the lawyer had ever heard this very ancient joke, so he determined to get it off on the next man he met—and he did, in this manner:

"Hello, Godfrey, isn't this a fine day for the trot?"

"Trot—what trot?"

"By gad," stammered the lawyer. "I swear there was a joke there, but I can't find it now!"

FOOD SCARCE IN GERMANY.

Batocki Says it is Imperative to Seize All Supplies of Foodstuffs.

London, March 28.—A dispatch to Reuter's Telegram company from Amsterdam says:

"According to the Dutch newspapers, the food question in Germany was again discussed by the Reichstag committee today. Adolph von Batocki, president of the food regulation board, gave a detailed statement of the available supplies and expressly declared that the seizure of all stocks of foodstuffs in the country was imperative. He intimated the possibility of the abolition of meatless days and said a State contribution would be made towards increased prices at the rate of seventy-five pfennings for the wealthy and eighty pfennings for the poorer communities per capita weekly."

Adolf von Batocki, president of the German food regulation board, in a statement to the Reichstag committee, admitted that the compensation for the reduction of the bread ration were not sufficient, but declared no other solution was possible, according to a Central News dispatch from Amsterdam.

Overestimated.

Despite all the experiences the food administration authorities had gained and the knowledge of conditions they had acquired, the supplies, continued Herr von Batocki, had been too highly estimated, but the seriousness of the situation did not justify either sharp criticism or utopian proposals.

The supplies of pigs were not sufficient to permit the slaughter of the number which strict necessity required, the food dictator is quoted as declaring, and therefore, the reserves of cattle would have to be drawn upon considerably. Increased production was impossible, owing to the lack of labor, leaving out of consideration the enormous difficulties of transportation. In any case, the speaker said, it was impossible to live without potatoes and bread and the agriculturalists must be made fully aware of their obligations.

First of the Lazy Men.

During the civil war, says the Philadelphia Ledger, a captain of a company which had sixty men in its ranks, none of whom was as energetic as the officer thought he should be, hit upon a plan which he believed would cure the men's habits of laziness. One morning, after roll call, the captain, addressing his command, said:

"I have a nice, easy job for the laziest man in the company. Will the laziest man step to the front?"

Instantly fifty-nine men each took a step forward.

"Why didn't you step to the front?" inquired the commander of the one man who did not come.

"I was too lazy," replied the soldier.

The Grand Slam.

"I was worrying about you last night, my dear."

"There was no use."

"I know, but I always worry, over trifles."

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