

the gauntlet that little Serbia had flung to her, and that he himself had to be faithful to his alliance with the Dual Monarchy. Perhaps Mr. Wilson never saw that imperial proclamation. Certainly he has never seen—it has not yet been disclosed—the correspondence that took place between Berlin and Vienna before the outbreak of the war. If it has not been carefully destroyed, that correspondence may still become one of the most valuable and illuminating revelations in all history. What the President may have seen are recent letters from certain English writers, imploring his help for their propaganda of peace; and it is conceivable, with his well-known sentiment for pacificism and humanitarianism, that he mistook these letters for the voice of Europe.

#### PACIFIC CRANKS

One of these letters formed the basis of a resolution asking for President Wilson's intervention, which was adopted at a meeting of the "American Neutral Conference Committee," held in New York early in December. This letter came from the pen of Mr. Charles P. Trevelyan, M.P., and it is said to have been smuggled out of England along with others of the same tenor, and to have been brought to the United States by special messenger. After proclaiming his belief that his fellow-countrymen were heartily sick of the war, but were prevented from advocating peace negotiations by the apparent hopelessness of the outlook, Mr. Trevelyan's appeal continued as follows: "But if once it were brought to the consciousness of ordinary Englishmen that Germany was ready for a reasonable peace, to abjure her conquests and, above all, to evacuate and help to compensate Belgium, a rapid and radical change would appear in popular opinion. This, indeed, asks the American President to risk his possible value as a backstairs diplomat, but American Presidents are apt to believe that the common-sense of common men can make better judgements on vast issues than even well-meaning rulers. Perhaps they might help our poor European world by trusting the soul of our common folk." Other smuggled messages were forwarded