ferretrenberg and Dentiffen.

Inntillenhaus bei Cycanberg. 31. Deganber 1915.

Berte Belleblattlefer im fernen Teras!

Der so frühzeitig eingesette Winter hat nicht standgehalten. Bor Weisnachten hat's etwas gefroren und Ende Dezember war's hier wieder so warm wie im April. Biele unserer Soldaten waren dabeim auf Urlaub, aber die meisten sind schon wieder sort. "Rach dem Feste, "am 27. Dezember; beachte der Spremberger Anzeiger' die splgende schone weichnachtsbetrachtung, die ich den werten Boltsblattesern im sernen Legas und andrer Orten hiermit darbiete:

"Eruft und murbig, wie es in folder harten Beit bem beutschen Bolle anftand, ift bie ffeier bea Beianachtefeftes porüberetaengen. Unferer Rinberweit. der für bas unfägliche Leid, das aber ber gangen Rulturmeit laftet. moch bie richtige Ertenntnis fehit - biefen g. St. allein glücklichen jungen Menfchentinbern baben wir nathrlich die Restfrende, auf bie fie min bolben Jahr im vorave gewartet haben, nicht werberbe , wollen. Barf in fo vielen Familien boch Die Abmejenbeit bes Beters am Weihnachtstage ohnehin bereits ei-. men Schatten anf Die Beibnachts-. freude felbft ber Rinderbergen. Und für bus Mutterberg bieft es, trat dengen, ichweren Caraon b

Correspondence from Germany (by Matheus Hantschko)

Family Home near Spremberg December 31, 1915

Dear Volksblatt Readers in distant Texas! The winter which entered earlier was not sustained. It froze a bit before Christmas but by end of December it was as warm as in April. Many soldiers were home on leave but most have left again already. The "Spremberg Gazette" issued the following Christmas reflections on December 27th which I now wish to make available to all Volksblatt readers in Texas and elsewhere: "The celebration of the Christmas holidays passed in earnest and dignity as befitting the hard times confronting the German people. For our world of children, which is lacking in true recognition of the unspeakable suffering which weighs on the entire cultured world – these, at present, singular lucky youths – we naturally did not want to spoil the happiness of festivities for which they had waited a half year in advance. Hadn't the absence of a father on Christmas day cast a shadow, already, on the Christmas spirit residing in the hearts of the children of so many families. And, for the hearts of mothers it meant, in spite of the continuous heavy worries, to appear exceedingly happy in order to avoid heaping negative burdens upon the hearts of yearning children.

[The next three lines are not readable – translations begin with the next page]

ein ernftes und faietfiches, aber tein froblides fieft, Gelbft bort, wo bem Gingelnen nicht burch perfonliche Beteiligung an ben beftebenben ernften Berbaltniffen bie Seffreude eingebammt war, unterblieben mit Mudficht auf weniger Beneibenswerte allaufante Menfierungen ber Fröhlichteit. Umfo fter-Ler war ber Befuch auferer Gottesbaufer, die am beiligen Abend und an ben beiben fefttagen me glen Stunden bie Schar ber Gottes-Dienftteilnehmer toum faffen tonnten. Und wenn begreiflicherweife in vielen Sallen bitteres Beib unb i idmerer Rummer bort Eroft und i Linberung fuchte - ebenfo groß | war bie Rubl jener, bie bas Beburfnis anwandelte, Gottbertrauen und Rufunftshoffen auf die MI. macht bes Schöbfers au befunben und mit bem Dante für feine uns bisher fichtbar erwiefene Gnabe an perbinben. Und Diese tief im beutichen Boile murgelnbe, bon aller fremblanbifden Onfterie fo bim- | meiweit entfernte religible und fitt- !! liche Rraft wirfte auch auf fleinmutige Bergen beruhigend und ftab- 1 lend. Ein Abgiang biefer fillen. erften, aber ehernen Buverficht auf [Deutschianbe Befteben und Butunft le fiel auch auf bie fonftige Beib. nachteftimmung. Es mar ein "Rriegsmeibnachten", dem unfer ganges beutiches Bolt bie richtige Muffaffung entgegenbrachte." " Mit treu-beutidem Gruf an alle t

Bolloblattlefer verbleibe ich Der Gifenbahner

since nothing else could be done, a serious and spiritual but not a happy holiday. Even those who were not limited in celebrating, because they weren't burdened by personal serious involvement, refrained, with respect for those less enviable, from noisy expressions of happiness. Thus stronger were the visits to our houses of worship which, on Christmas Eve and the two holidays, were almost overwhelmed by the masses of divine service participants. And when, understandably, as in numerous occasions, those with grim sorrow and heavy grief were to seek comfort and relief there – the numbers of those inclined to express faith in God, to seek hope for future omnipotence of God and to combine thanks for His, until now visibly provided grace, were equally as large. And this religious and moral strength from the distant heavens, deeply rooted in the German people and devoid of all foreign hysteria, took effect even on the timid hearts in a calming and toughening way. A reflection of this quiet, first, but brazen confidence for Germany's existence and future, also fell upon the general Christmas spirit. It was a "Wartime Christmas" to which the German people brought the appropriate perception."

With a loyal German greeting to all readers of the *Volksblatt*. I remain The Railroader