

JAPANESE, WITH THE AID OF MYSTIC STICKS, PROPHECIES FOR 1915.

Diviner Says President Will Meet Three Great Problems and Will Come Out Right in All—Roosevelt's Tendency Downward, He Asserts—No War Between This Country and Japan.

New York Dec. 24.—Following a custom that was imported into Japan from China ages ago, Denshot Kodama a Japanese prophet and diviner, prayed before a fruit trimmed altar for two hours yesterday at the Nippon Club, in West Ninety-third street.

When the ceremony was concluded, Kodama gave out 1915 prophecies concerning the war, including the date of its ending, concerning the future of President Wilson, which was bright, and the future of Col. Roosevelt, which was rather gloomy.

Kodama chose yesterday for his prayers because it was the shortest day of the year. For many years on this day, it has been his custom, he said to ask of the "Almighty Power" about the national and international events and to announce his prophecies.

Proceeded Shinto Religion "But this year I was away from my own land," he explained "and so I made my devotions and sought answers to my questions here in the Nippon Club of your city. The prophetic power which I invoked was not taught to me as part of the Shinto religion or any other religion. It came to the Japanese before the standard religions did.

"In Japan I would have erected on my altar a plain piece of wood on which I would have draped decorations of white. But here I chose a little green tree and decked it in white and put fruit near it and lighted candles. The white decorations represent truth and the power and purity of the Almighty Power."

A question submitted to Kodama had to do with Col. Roosevelt's immediate future.

Dark Outlook for Roosevelt. "It was a picture of a stream running placidly down hill," he answered "No tendency to run uphill, or torrentous tendency. That means that Col. Roosevelt will be going down all next year and never going up at all. It also means that he will submit to it. I saw this picture once before. I asked what would happen to Victoriano Huerto in Mexico. He was then at the height of his power, but he ran down hill after that as I prophesied he would."

Kodama announces the picture he saw when inquiry was made about President Wilson. "I saw a man rowing a boat across water," he said, "and I saw him reach the other shore in safety. This means that President Wilson will face troubles, but will solve them all right. I predict that he will meet three big problems next year, two of them domestic and one connected with foreign affairs. He will settle them all right and when he has done so there will come an end to his unpopularity. The people will like him for doing it. One will come to him from the Southwest, I would say from Mexico.

War to End in May "When I asked about the end of the war I saw a picture which enables me to predict that the war will end next May by the intervention of a powerful nation. Since one of the problems I saw brought to President Wilson came from abroad I feel that he may be the powerful force which intervenes to end the war."

Kodama said that six of the twenty-one questions he asked as he prayed had to do with the armies and navies of the warring countries. It explained the predictions he was willing to venture that all must be fulfilled before May, since that month was to see the war ended.

"In the first place," he said "the British fleet will do a very daring and bold thing in the spring. It will raid the German naval base and will successfully assault it. The battle will be one of the greatest ever fought in naval history—one to be remembered, and it will end in the complete destruction of the German naval base despite the mines guarding it. The German army, however, will before

this time perform some brilliant exploits in Russia. The British cavalry will win victories greater than the artillery and infantry, while the French artillery and infantry will exceed in skill the French cavalry.

Victory for British Navy. "The French losses will be more staggering than the English because the Germans will center their assaults more directly upon the French than the English. I saw, when I was asked about the English army, a dog swallowing a young chicken. The dog was very sick as it had strangled upon a bone. This meant that the Germans would have much trouble trying to down the British. When I asked about the British navy, I saw a rod being struck into the midst of breaking eggs. In that way the British Navy will smash the German.

"I saw a man being stabbed in the back when I asked about the French navy. I predict for it surprise, I believe, awaits it in Mediterranean waters.

"I saw a hunter hunting a mountain over for a prize when I asked about the Russian army. The prize, I would see, lay hidden upon another mountain. That means the Russian army will campaign in the wrong direction. I predict distrust of the general staff and a lack of harmony in the Russian army. A placid stream appeared to tell the fate of the Russians navy. It means the Russian navy will lie still and never do anything in the war.

Peace Between Japan and America "A thunder storm in with thunder claps in all parts of the sky answered my prayer about the United States and Japan. The noise of jingoes between the two countries will sound loud, but will do little harm—more harm in Japan than in the United States. A frozen sea thawing out depicted Japan and Germany. It means that after the war good spirit will prevail between us."

Mr. Kodama, a middle-aged man who wore long hair parted in the middle, smiled a little over his prophecies, and readily abandoned them. He said that when he was younger and less adept in the art his prophecies often came out wrong.

Mr. Kodama said he was here on a tour of the world, as a student, and expected to take up three years on his trip. He planned to stay here until June, he said so as to reach Europe after the war has ended.

The Methodist Church.

There will be services at the Methodist church next Sunday at 11:00 a. m. and at 7:30 p. m. The sacrament of the Lord's supper will be administered at the morning service. Important announcements will be made at this service and the members are all urged to be present. At the evening hour the pastor will take up a new series of sermons on Ten Commandments. The heating plant is fully adequate to heat the church in the coldest weather, that we have in this climate. The new windows for the church auditorium have arrived and will be installed this week. The walls will also be tinted this week, so that next Sunday the church will be more comfortable and more beautiful than it has been.

Sunday school meets at 9:30 a. m. The lesson for Business Men's Bible Class is the first chapter of Romans. This class has undertaken for this year a study of the great doctrines of Christianity as found in the Epistles of Paul. Let every man bring a New Testament with him. All men who would like to engage in this interesting study are invited to join this class.

To Magistrates.

Mr. J. J. Barrow, Clerk of the Superior court, requests us to call the attention of the Magistrates in the county to the importance of making prompt returns of all cases tried by the M. Court will convene on Monday, January 11th, and there are still several Magistrates who have not made their returns. Let everyone attend to this at once.

Brakes Hip by Falling.

Mrs. S. M. Beasley, mother of Mr. W. F. Beasley, suffered severely from a fall on the sled and ice in the yard of her son on Monday morning.

In the fall she received a broken hip besides being badly bruised. Her many friends will be glad to learn however that she is getting along nicely.

A NEW YEAR IS BORN WHAT WILL IT BRING US?

A New Year is born! Nineteen hundred and fifteen. What will it bring us? Will it be a year of plenty—or of want? Will it be one of happiness—or of misery? Will it be one of honor—or of obloquy? Will it be one of life—or of death? If we only knew!

A New Year! To many of us it will be a year of plenty—if we do our part—if we but use our brains, and our energy, and our perseverance—if we use them in the right way. But will we do that? Will the right way appeal to us? Many of us have made the customary New Year's resolutions, with the full intention to live up to them. But will we so live? Will the year be one in which we place right above all other considerations?

Will it be one in which we place honor above gold, and charity above creed, and gentleness above arrogance? Or will we plunge headlong into a fanatic and gasping rush for the golden end of the rainbow? Will it be a year in which our simple word is as good—or even better—than our bond.

Or will it be one in which we haggle, and twist, and squirm, and evade, and conceal, and deceive? It may be the one, or the other. But which will it be? We mean well—but will we do well? Only time can tell.

A New Year! To some it will bring sorrow, and sadness, and tears. It will bring suffering, and agony, and despair. It will bring want, and hunger, and desperation. And from desperation to crime is often but a step! And crime is the pathway that leads down to the depths of hell into the arms of the devil—to everlasting torment and the eternal damnation of a soul.

But the sadness of such an ending might often be avoided if we but extended a helping hand in time. Just a little help—a few kind words—a slight effort to obtain food and employment for those who are unfortunate, yet worthy—who are tottering upon the brink. We might extend that help—we could give something—if we would! But will we?

A New Year! And there is a King of Kings, who keeps a great book, and each page of that book contains the life record of a human being—OF US! It will contain our records for this new year that is just born, as it contains our records for the years that are gone. And what will be our record for this new year? Will the Great Book record little acts of kindness, of good cheer, of assistance to the maimed, and the sightless, and the aged, and the needy of compassion for the little child that knows no home.

Will our records for the new year be such as will bring a loving smile to the kindly face of the King of Kings? Or will it bow His gentle heart in grief and sorrow? It will be as we choose to make it. But what will we choose? A New Year! Will it bring gladness to all homes? Or will it find some who are yet weary, and heavy laden, and in need of rest and spiritual cheer? Not all of the good people have their names inscribed in a church register.

The world is full of good people who seldom see the inside of a house of God, to whom His teachings are but a memory, whose pleasures on earth are so few there surely must be some great recompense for them in the life beyond. Some of these may be closer to us than we think, may be low in the depths of poverty, may be hungering for the voice of a minister, yet fearful of entering a church lest they be shamed by their rags.

What will the new year bring them? Will it cast but a little sunshine into their shadowed lives? Will it send some brother or sister to invite them to a place of worship, where their souls hunger may be appeased by the gentle words of a man of God? We might be a "good brother" or a "good sister" to these worthy unfortunates. But will we? It might add cheer even to our own hearts. But do we want such cheer?

A New Year! What will it bring to our community? Will it bring us a continuation of that great peace which providence has thus far bestowed upon us? Will it blaze for us a highway through the network of entanglements which have drenched the soil of half the world with the life blood of thousands upon thousands of the most intelligent and enlightened peoples of all times?

Will there be a bright and shining star to lead us safely through the appalling perils that now beset the earth? Or will the new year visit upon us the withering blight of war, and pestilence, and famine, and extermination? Will the sweet music of the humming wheels of industry and the joyful notes of gladsome voices raised in song be replaced by the roar of cannon, and the shriek of shells, and the bursting of bombs, and the groans of the maimed, and the mutilated, and the dying? Which will it be? If we only knew!

A New Year is born! Nineteen hundred and fifteen! "And what of that?" you ask. Not much—just a little—and yet so much! Nineteen hundred and fifteen! Only four words, and yet those words signify that today we reckon our time from the year in which Christ was born—that Christ was our ideal man—our perfect man—the only man who was in all things a man!

And in the infancy of the new year shall we keep before us the (Continued on Page Six)

BROWN-MAY

Quiet Home Wedding Celebrated This Afternoon at Three O'Clock At Home of Bride.

Miss Athalea May, daughter of Mr. James M. May was united in marriage this afternoon at 3.00 o'clock to Mr. James Howard Brown of Holton, Kansas, the marriage being very quietly celebrated in the presence of only a few friends at the bride's home on Halifax street. The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. C. Wooten, pastor of Edenton Street Methodist church.

The bride wore a handsome cloth suit of midnight blue with a becoming hat of the same shade. Her bouquet was of white carnations.

After the ceremony Mr. Brown and his bride left for Charlotte to spend a week or so visiting his parents before going to their home in Kansas. The many friends of the bride regret very much to see her leave the city. She is a charming and attractive girl with a beauty of disposition that has greatly endeared her to all who know her. She has been connected with the State Health Department for some time.

Mr. Brown is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Brown of Charlotte. He is a graduate of the class of 1911 of A. & M. College and is very pleasantly remembered by many friends in the city. He is also a graduate of the Kansas City College 1914. He is county Y. M. C. A. secretary with headquarters at Holton, Kansas.—Raleigh Times.

Make a Stir.

Make a stir! What for. Because if you do not you never will accomplish anything. Life is a field into which harvest hands, in great numbers, have been sent. Make a stir! Swing the scythe and cut down the grain. Use your hands, binding into bundles all that is ready for the garner. Make a stir. If you are a merchant, to be on the alert; display your goods, attract the people, and in a lively way move around them, and show you are a willing servant, even anxious to accommodate in the smallest of matters. Advertise! Be energetic here. Why, your patrons are looking for some word from you, and really expect you to announce some great bargains, as you profess to labor in their interest. Stir around. Make the most of your opportunities; and make life a grand success. Life is a battlefield and no battle was ever won without a struggle, and no struggle ever took place without some stir; hence we repeat it, make a stir, or you will never gain a victory.

Progress of European War.

Paris, Dec. 30.—The official announcement on the progress of the war as given out by the French war department this afternoon, reads as follows:

"In Belgium we have won a little territory in the region of Nieupoort, opposite Polders, and to the north of Lombaertzyde. The enemy subjected St. Georges to a violent bombardment. This is the position we are putting in a state of defense.

"We have captured a German point of support located to the southeast of Zonnebeke on the road between Becelaere and Paschendale. "From the Lys to the Oise there is nothing to report.

"In the valley of the Aisne and in Champagne the enemy has manifested another burst of activity which has taken the form particularly of a violent artillery fire to which our heavy artillery replied effectively.

"In the Argonne we have made slight progress in the region of Four Departis.

"Between the Argonne and the Moselle there has been cannoning along all the front, but particularly severe along the heights of the Meuse.

"In the Vosges the enemy delivered an attack against our positions at Latete de Faux; this was repulsed. "In upper Alsace we are consolidating our positions. Our heavy artillery reduced to silence the German howitzers which were bombarding upper Ashpach."

France claims slight gains near Nieupoort in the official announcement given out by the war department this afternoon. This communication also recites other points along the line where German attacks have been driven back. There has been heavy bombardment at St. Georges, in the Aisnet region, and on the heights of the Meuse. Russian assertions that an impor-

tant victory has been won over the Austrian forces in Galicia were confirmed today in an official statement from Vienna, in which the admission was made that the Austrians were compelled to retreat along the entire eastern front. It is said that the situation to the north, in Poland, is not affected by this reversal, although Petrograd asserts the movement of the main German movement of the main German army has been checked with losses described as enormous.

Austrian's defeat at the hands of Serbia apparently has been followed by renewed activity by Montenegro, whose troops have carried the fighting to Austrian soil in Herzegovina, and are now undertaking a vigorous offensive movement. The Vienna war office attacks thus far have been repulsed easily.

Russia's claim to a victory over the Turks in the Caucasus is disputed by reports which reach Berlin from Constantinople saying the Turks have won "another success" and are pursuing the retreating Russians. It is also said at Constantinople that another British attempt to land troops in Arabia failed.

Russian announcements of defeat of the Germans are disputed today in the Berlin war office, which states that the attacks of the invading armies in Poland have made progress, and that strong Russian assaults have been repelled. No mention is made, however, of the situation in Galicia, where the Russians are described as having inflicted a severe defeat on the Austro-German forces.

The French campaign for repossession of its lost province of Alsace, one of the first objectives of the republic after the war's outbreak, apparently is making progress. Unofficial reports last night that the allies were shelling Muelhausen are supplemented today by the statement of the French war office that the town of Steinbach, in upper Alsace, has been invaded.

In France and in Belgium the fighting drags on with small victories for each side. The German official announcement tells of the capture of a French trench in a burned forest west of Apremont the temporary loss of this trench but adds it was retaken later after three counter-attacks.

Both Paris and Berlin mention minor gains with violent fighting at various points. The French statement says the allies have captured the Belgian town of St. George, around which heavy encounters have been in progress for some time.

Another striking charge in the eastern military situation where neither of the contending forces has been able to keep the ascendancy for any considerable period, is indicated in dispatches from Petrograd and Vienna. The Russians now appear to have won the upper hand.

The Petrograd war office states the Germans, who have been pressing forward in Poland have been repulsed with heavy losses. In Galicia the Austrians are reported to have suffered a reversal and to be hastily retreating. Their defeat apparently breaks up the maneuver aiming at combined Austro-German attack on the southern forces of the Russians, which, if successful might have imperiled the Russians left wing.

Berlin, however, views the situation in the east with optimism, intimating important developments in Poland may be expected shortly.

Fighting in the west has been interrupted by a violent storm. Notwithstanding this hinderance further progress has been made by the allies, according to the French war office.

Recent developments have given the United States a more direct interest politically in the European situation. Washington has sent to the British government a note voicing its objection to the methods employed in holding up and searching American vessels. Another important question is raised by Germany's disposition not to recognize longer American consuls in conquered Belgian territory unless they are acceptable to Germany.

Egerton's Big Sale.

As will be seen from his page advertisement elsewhere in this issue Mr. R. Z. Egerton will begin a record breaking sale on Saturday. This sale will be in charge of Mr. Wood, of Wood Bros, sale promoters of Philadelphia, who has successfully conducted a number of sales in Louisburg. The public may look for something nice and interesting in this sale. Egerton's sales are always popular.