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N E P T U N E

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**Antwerp American Club
defends ex-consul general**

All Antwerpians who have obtained, or applied for visas permitting them to visit the United States are aware of the rather intimate nature of the questions which they have to fill in when making their application.

When a certain personage named Einstein presented himself at the Berlin U. S. Consulate recently to transact the necessary formalities before crossing the Atlantic, he was interviewed by a member of the staff in the usual meticulous way. Mr. Messersmith, now Consul-General in Berlin (and who, as most Antwerpians know) held the same position for years in this city, was absent at the time.

Mr. Einstein patiently listened to formal queries about his ancestral history, sanity and health without impressing his important identity upon the unsuspecting official. Then he went out and reported the incident to an American newspaper correspondent.

This would all be very funny were it not for the fact that Mr. Einstein made the unhappy mistake of accusing the Consul General, Mr. Messersmith, of the indiscretion of which he had been a victim. Mr. Messersmith is now subjected to a great deal of unfavourable comment, and the incident may have serious consequences.

In order to show their loyalty to their late Consul, the American Club members in Antwerp passed a vote of confidence in Mr. Messersmith's integrity, and cabled the U. S. Government in the following terms (which have been communicated to us by Mr. L. R. Coleman, Chairman of the Press Committee):—

Via Western Union

NLT

Secretary of State, Washington D. C.

Members this Club after long years association consul general Messersmith in Antwerp considering him among greatest servants Americans abroad and of our Government vehemently denounce recent criticisms as utterances emanating parties uninformed and unacquainted his great character and work.

American Club of Antwerp.

Antwerp, 13/12/32, 18.45 p.m.