

New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1919.

Owned and published daily by New York Tribune Inc. A New York Corporation. Office: 120 N. York St., New York, N. Y.

Subscription Rates: By Mail, including Postage in the United States and Canada. One Year, Six Months, Three Months, One Month.

Entered at the Postoffice at New York as Second Class Mail Matter

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The Supreme Issue

Deprecating the controversy with Italy, but recognizing the supreme importance of the issue, Lord Reading, the British Ambassador, is full of hope...

Thus the British Ambassador, although avoiding any lifting of a threatening ferule, declares by implication what to him is the big thing at Paris...

Let us not shrink from the full consequences of this conclusion. Any one at Paris who, through pride of opinion...

New hates and distrusts were deliberately fostered. It has seemed, so artfully have successive plausibilities been emphasized, as if there were a central agency from which a command has steadily come...

In this juncture it is pointless to plunge into a minute weighing of the merits of a specific controversy. Every possible thing on this score has already been said during the argument at the conference.

We are familiar with the principle that there are circumstances under which a man may be too proud to fight.

The Unsettled Treaty

On March 4, 1918, replying to a question in the British House of Commons as to whether copies of all treaties, secret or public, and all other memoranda of other agreements to which Great Britain had become a party since August 4, 1914, had been communicated to President Wilson...

Whatever may be true of others, the so-called "secret treaty" of April, 1915, was no secret as far back as March, 1918, to our government. When the armistice with Germany was under negotiation it had knowledge of its contents.

The aid of Italy helped to win a war as much ours as hers. Her 700,000 dead were a vicarious sacrifice that saved many an American household from sorrow.

not say her purposes, declared to our President, were bad and imperialistic. We did not condemn her for fighting for Italian Irredenta while she fought for general civilization. We eulogized Garibaldi. We cheered her on to destroy the last vestiges of Teutonic conquest...

The Italians, within their ancient borders, wished to live a free and united family. To tell them now, a people who more than any in Europe have been the victim of violations of the principle of self-determination, that they are imperialistic seems a strange thing to them.

Never Liked Italians: "But now there came multitudes of men of the lowest class from the south of Italy and men of the meaner sort out of Hungary and Poland, men out of the ranks where there was neither skill nor energy nor any initiative of quick intelligence...

"The people of the Pacific Coast had clamored these many years against the admission of immigrants out of China, and in May, 1892, got at last what they wanted, a Federal statute which practically excluded from the United States all Chinese who had not already acquired the right of residence...

"They had, no doubt, many an unsavory habit, bred unwholesome squallor in the crowded quarters where they most abounded in the Western seaports, and seemed separated by their very nature from the people among whom they had come to live...

Feeding the Bolsheviki: Concerning the feeding of Russia, Mr. Hoover says the plan is, first, to have "complete distribution to all classes, regardless of all distinctions..."

The humanitarian motives which inspire Mr. Hoover are sympathized with by all Americans. The surplus products of this country, heaped up under an economic system against which the Bolsheviki have declared war, have always been at the disposal of messengers of mercy.

The Bolsheviki, so far as concerns Central Russia, are not territorially set apart. They are intermingled with the population and are not distinguishable from their neighbors.

The local governments in the famine districts are in their hands. No authority other than that of the soviets exists or is permitted to exist.

Nor does the soviet central government show the slightest willingness to cease fighting, except as it is compelled by force so to do. If the Siberians continue their advance in the East and the Cossacks and the anti-Bolshevik Ukrainians push on from the south, Lenin and Trotsky may seek an armistice, but it would be to give them time to prepare further.

Russia has been the greatest cereal producer in the world. Her loss of this distinction and the famine are the result of discernible causes. Hunger came with the rise of Bolsheviki power and will disappear, it may be assumed, when Bolshevism goes, and probably not sooner.

Let us not seek to anodyne uneasy consciences. The way to help the well disposed of Russia is to help them rid themselves of Bolsheviki rule. This our government and other governments refuse to do.

One Kind of Snob: A man standing in front of the Tribune bulletin board yesterday passed this comment on the picture of "Psyche" there displayed from the Sunday supplement: "I always wanted to have a copy of that picture in the house. But, of course, now that everybody's going to have it, it's spoiled."

It's not uncommon notion, either. The instinctive desire for something rare and exclusive is as widespread as human nature. Of such is the great democracy of snobs to which everybody belongs.

Yet we think most of us recognize this instinct for what it is and give it just as little sway as we humanly can. It is a mean and an unpleasant and a hateful trait wherever it crops out.

As a matter of fact, true art is the most democratic thing in the world. It exists wholly apart from classes or masses or any affectation or snobbery.

Montenegro Vanishes: The national assembly of Montenegro has voted in favor of incorporation into the new Jugoslav state. Thus one of the most picturesque and valiant of the little kingdoms of Europe vanishes into the past.

Nicholas, the aged sovereign, was a remarkable personage. He exercised patriarchal powers and lived with extreme democratic simplicity. He was the proprietor of a hotel in Cetinje, a poet, a playwright and passionately fond of the great American game of draw poker.

The military collapse of Montenegro in 1915 excited much suspicion. The Austro-Hungarians took the impregnable Mount Lovchen, opposite Cattaro, with hardly any effort.

Nicholas went into exile in Paris, where kings in exile have been wont to congregate. His sons had disqualified themselves for the succession. His people, a pure Serb stock, longed for union with the other South Slavs.

WANTED: A peace that Germany will not forget.

Surveying From the Sky: Lecturing before the members of the Royal Geographical Society upon mapping from air photographs, Lieutenant Colonel M. N. McLeod, D. S. O., R. E., said that, owing to the experience gained in the war, very little development was required to give us the power not only of preparing from air photographs complete and accurate large-scale maps of civilized and highly developed regions, but also of obtaining reasonably accurate maps of unexplored regions.

"A two-hour day," echoed the editorial, sharer of our spacious, air-cooled office. "How would you kill that other hour?"

The Conning Tower

The Good Sports

The luck was mine, quoth the pool player, But you played so well, I'll swear You merited well the game you won, For you beat me fair and square.

I played my best, quoth the tennisier, At the net and the old base line, And my health was never better than now, But your game is better than mine.

In reviewing Mr. George Jean Nathan's "The Popular Theatre," M. A., in the New Republic says that one of the main points in his indictment is that the theatre is bad for literature just as the mouth-harmonica is bad for music.

As to the mouth-harmonica being bad for music, we simply sweep that idea aside. Unless it be charged that the piano is bad for music, for there are many more poor pianists, in proportion, than poor mouth-harmonica players.

The Power of the Press Agent; or, Ain't It a Grand and Glorious Feeling?

When you haven't heard from the Best Girl in months— And you had ten bucks up on the Yanks for the Opening Game— And you hear the Allies are going to support the Omak régime—

Oh-h-h Boy! Ain't it a G-r-r-r-and and Glor-ri-ous Feeling?

Mr. Stephen McKenna is another British author who tries to show his familiarity with the American language, and is no happier than Mr. Thomas Burke.

Who Sent Decatur? To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Early in January I received extracts from the diary of my brother, the Rev. Frederick N. Jessup, a missionary (with my classmate, Dr. William S. Vanneman) in Tabriz, West Persia.

When Tabriz was seized by the Turks the American Consul escaped and my brother and Dr. Vanneman stayed to protect the American property, of which there was a great deal in the city.

Supposed by the Turks to be recipients and administrators of the fund for Armenian and Syrian relief, my brother and Dr. Vanneman were seized and imprisoned in the hope of extracting from them the possession of these moneys, which the Turkish officer in command intimidated his willingness and ability to "properly disburse."

This outrageous imprisonment having terminated some weeks later, and the Turks having been unsuccessful in their attempts to compel these two Americans to betray their trust, my brother's diary reached me, and on the information contained in this letter I communicated with the Department of State at Washington these facts, supposing, of course, that, as in days gone by, that department would be eager and vigilant in its defence of the rights of American citizens.

Some two months later—that is, just the other day—I received an acknowledgment of this letter from the State Department, referring to the occurrence as the alleged imprisonment of the Rev. Frederick N. Jessup, and stating that it would endeavor to ascertain the facts in the case from our representative in Teheran.

Since the American Consul had run away from his post when the Turks entered Tabriz (although we were not at war with Turkey, as you readers will remember), and as the only persons from whom authentic information could be obtained were these two Americans who were imprisoned, and as I have already furnished the State Department with that information, I am seriously at a loss to understand the attitude of the State Department and its exaggerated deliberation in proceeding in this manner.

In the second place, there have been repeated references in the public prints to the imprisonment of Mr. Dana, one of the American mission in Beirut, in respect to whose case perhaps the State Department would like some information.

Germany To-day

Industry Unbeaten

By Samuel Crowther

Special Correspondent of The Tribune, Just Returned From Germany

IF THE revolution of last November had not broken the German morale and set the working people to discovering some method by which they could live without work, German industry would have finished the war in stronger condition than when it started.

Germany is not really so serious as the surface indicates and which I shall take up in another article, German industry today has little in the way of reconstruction to undertake, and if it had the raw materials it would be going ahead with a capacity greater than it had before the war. The plants are there and ready to go ahead, once new belts and lubricating oils arrive.

In so far as bricks and mortar and machinery are concerned, German industry is ready to function. It is bothered by these points:

The Only Obstacles

- 1. The lack of raw materials, especially leather, oil, cotton, nickel, copper and aluminum. 2. The lack of internal transport by reason of the taking over of so many locomotives by the Allies and the lack of ships for export trade. 3. The fear that many of the world's markets will be closed to German goods; they are not afraid of decreased sales on a sentimental basis, for none of them know how the outside world regards Germany. 4. The finance of exports and imports on the decreased value of the mark; but Krupp's and several other companies have already arranged that their sales abroad should be in the foreign currency.

The condition of German industry as a whole is much better than that of England, and is as good if not better than that of the United States. They have less to unlearn, and they are not agitating themselves with any great departures from old theories of production.

No Stocks for Export: First, get rid of some misconceptions. There are no great German stocks ready for export. The present government will not pay export subsidies, and the German manufacturer does not want them.

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Glimpses

By Wilbur Forrest

COBLENZ.—Post-war Congressional investigations may have the opportunity to probe into overseas tobacco sacks and cans before all the boys return home. Gradually some grades of tobacco shipped to the troops in Europe have become inferior in quality, indicating that some one is engaged in making a better percentage of profit than during the earlier days of the war.

The Air Service sausage balloon that floats over the German fortress of Ehrenbreitstein almost daily was used recently for observation purposes, even though the "intelligence" telegraphed down to the ground did not include the most important observation. Lieutenant —, observer, scanning underlying territory with field glasses, "spotted" a pretty villa peeping from clusters of trees on a hillside about two miles from the Rhine, on the east bank.

At the present rate of exchange it costs nine mills in American money to travel by steamer from Coblenz to Ehrenbreitstein. Two steamers constantly ply between the two points, competing with the pontoon bridge over which travelling on "shank's horse" is free. The distance is 250 yards. And the "lazy" water trip is most popular with the American soldier, who is the constant patron of the steamers.

Six thousand dozen baseballs, 6,000 catchers' gloves, numerous thousands of other gloves, 10,000 baseball bats, hundreds of chest protectors and masks, enough uniforms to clothe an infantry brigade—this is some of the baseball equipment already received by America's military force in Germany for the 1919 baseball season.

After-the-War Production: In the way of weaving from paper, from nettles and from reeds, great progress has been made, and in these Germany will be a competitor of the world if the prices can be brought down.

The most serious shortages of industry were in leather for belts, oil for lubricating, in rubber for all its varied uses, in nickel and in copper, and no substitutes worth while were found.

Perhaps the busiest army in all Rhineland is the French army of occupation with headquarters down the Rhine at Mayence. They are actively engaged in collecting French property stolen by the German armies in Northern France during hostilities. Much has been found and identified in the Allied area of occupation, and, by request of the French, much booty, especially machinery, has been recovered in the Third Army area.

Felonious Dogs: To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Your editorial of to-day on the "New Felony" touches the heart of every owner of chickens, and grateful are we for even this slight measure of protection. But how about the worse thieves, the chicken-killing dogs, which are allowed to run at large and devastate whole neighborhoods? These are not, he it noted, honest country watchdogs, household pets, companions and protectors of children; such dogs rarely kill or chase chickens, but the millionaire's kennel of "valuable" dogs, ranging at night in defiance of the law and killing whoresale until their poor country neighbors, who depend largely on their poultry for their food, have not a hen left.

And Mr. Lloyd George in Paris: Applying for the license of Carregilly nalt Inn, Llanfairfechan, at Bangor police court, an ex-metropolitan police sergeant apologized to the bench for his inability to pronounce the name.

A Northern Secession: Rhode Island is marked by fate to play an historic role in the opposition to Federal prohibition. The state Legislature has already authorized the Attorney General to test the constitutionality of the Federal amendment. And now the state Senate has passed a bill making lawful 4 per cent beer in the dry time to come.

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