

New York Tribune

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

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A Matter of Policy.

The Tribune does not agree with Mr. Wilson's preparedness programme nor can it approve of much that he is now saying in its behalf.

But The Tribune recognizes clearly that if the President succeeds in rousing even a slight measure of public appreciation of the peril of the country's present defenceless state, he will have accomplished much and will have materially contributed to the advancement of the general cause which The Tribune holds of supreme importance to the country.

As The Tribune sees it, the present time is not suitable for criticism either of the President's programme or his platform pronouncements on behalf of that programme.

Niggardly Protection.

Arguing for the passage of the Kern-McGilluddy bill raising the rates of compensation for injuries to civil employees of the Federal government, Mr. Neill, formerly Commissioner of Labor, declares that no other country is so disgracefully niggardly in its treatment of widows and orphans of killed employees as this one.

Entirely aside from the humanitarian aspect of such conditions, they are not good business. Least of all should they be tolerated now, when the country needs not half-hearted or grudging service, but the most loyal and thoroughgoing devotion all along the line.

British Labor and the War.

To those who have hoped that the British trade unions would make a firm stand against the military service bill the results of the Bristol conference must be profoundly disappointing.

Those Germans who made light of the methods by which the British government undertook to raise an adequate army were anxious enough about the reaction on the public mind, and especially on the mind of the workmen.

The resolutions adopted are paradoxical. The conference "protests emphatically" and "declares its opposition," but refuses to take any step that might prevent the successful working of the act.

sive disapproval toward the act, but "to agitate for its repeal." Mr. Will Thorne moved the rejection of this clause...

It is clear at least that nothing resembling a national strike is to be apprehended. Even those who were most vehement in denouncing compulsion spoke strongly for vigorous prosecution of the war, and Mr. Bellamy in seconding the resolution condemning the act declared he had no desire to do anything to protect "the shirkers who will not do their bit."

Mr. Brandeis's Appointment.

President Wilson took the country by surprise when he nominated Louis D. Brandeis to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Brandeis's appointment would have been much more logical if it had come at the beginning of Mr. Wilson's term.

Mr. Brandeis's chief service under this administration was that of special counsel to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Now the country is beginning to see that national preparedness requires concerted effort—that the maintenance of a high state of railroad efficiency is as much a national concern as is the training and arming of men for first line defence.

The country has begun to realize this truth. The administration has begun to realize it. This is a day in Washington for searching of hearts and for changing of minds.

Better Prison Accommodations.

Senator Sage's bill providing for the remodeling of Sing Sing Prison, including a new cell block and the beginning of a new farm and industrial prison, either at Beekman or Winthrop, offers a tolerably successful attempt to solve the years old Sing Sing problem.

The policy which the Sage bill is intended to carry out is to erect a new cell block at Sing Sing in a more healthful situation than the existing one, then turn the old one over for use by the prison industries.

This plan, of course, is a compromise. There is bound to be some question about the financial wisdom of spending money on improving the Sing Sing plant, even

for a different purpose than its present use. But those improvements in connection with the building of a new farm prison constitute a vastly better scheme for obtaining increased accommodations than the old idea of patching up the existing cell block, possibly building a new one and letting all improvement rest there.

The Old Guard Ball.

When the enemy's battleships lie off Rockaway and drop projectiles into Fourteenth Street, let it be on the night of the Old Guard Ball.

There was a sound of revelry by night, and Belgium's capital had gathered then Her beauty and her chivalry, and bright The lamps shone o'er fair women and brave men.

We fancy that the Old Guard has danced these many years with that occasion in mind and the sneaking hope, perhaps, that the call to arms might find its hushers similarly prepared.

It is simply the stroke of the wee an' hour. They must wait another year.

The only embargo necessary or desirable at this time is one on the manufacture of poisonous gases in the Senate.

England Must Get Religion to Win—Headline. What kind of a gun is that?

"Goodbye, Summer! Goodbye! Goodbye!"

Secretary Daniels Unmasked.

The facts set forth in the Fletcher report, humiliating and discouraging as they are, have long been a matter of common knowledge, in spite of the efforts of Secretary Daniels to muzzle the responsible officers of the navy and to keep from the public the real truth about the results of his policy of experiment and scuttling.

Admiral Fletcher ought to be safe from punishment at the hands of the man whose memorandum he has so unmercifully exposed.

Prophecies.

Meanwhile the renomination of Woodrow Wilson is a reality a certainty as any future event can be. He need not trouble himself about the single-term plank.

Underestimated.

They gaped you in the comic weekly's sheets, And on the stage they mimicked oft your drawl;

Open Season for Americans.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I have followed your editorials for a long time, and agree with you in nearly every case, yet there is one thing I wish to ask you—if you can't answer it, maybe some of your readers can.

Consult a Dictionary.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Where did your correspondent, L. C., learn his French? And why does he not at least look through a French dictionary before writing about it?

FOUR LITTLE WORDS

And the "Strict Accountability" That Resulted Therefrom.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Sometimes it seems as though President Wilson writes his pretty phrases for the pure pleasure of so doing, without any idea that he will be held to a strict accountability for what he says.

The only way that we can escape the sacrifice is to build up as soon as possible an army of such proportions as to discourage any idea which a hostile European power may have of invading us.

No power looking upon our wealth with greedy eyes and desiring to absorb some of it to pay its war debts is going to wait until we get a big navy and a big army, as we propose to get it.

We have the reputation of being a nation of hustlers. Let Congress put some hustle into its army and navy programme.

Proud Pacifism Explained.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The temper of your editorial "America and Europe" is so admirable that I wonder it should juggle as it does with the President's phrase, "too proud to fight."

"Too proud to fight" connotes the magnanimity that should go with all true power. It does not mean an unwillingness to fight under all circumstances; it means a power that will not stir without great argument.

National Self-Respect.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In the pre-hyphen days of this Republic Willis Holt, Attorney General, expressed himself as follows in the case of the People vs. McLeod, 1 Hill (N. Y.), 277:

"Great Britain has taken the lead among nations in establishing the doctrine that she will not listen to a demand for redress of an injury done by herself while a prior one committed against her remains unatoned for."

While concurring with him in this regard, I must strongly refute his contention that Japan defies the "open door" policy, for which the United States stands sponsor.

Those who are familiar with conditions in the Far East and charge Japan with violating the "open door" policy cannot purge themselves of purposely attempting to discredit Japan, or of being ignorant of the meaning of the "open door" policy.

A Question of Location.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In your issue of December 24, 1915, appeared a letter, dated December 17, 1915, signed "Maurice Mencher," in which he complains against discourteous treatment alleged to have been committed by a clerk in the "Register's Office."

I made a request upon your office for the address of the person who wrote this letter, and while you had the original letter in your possession, no address is given upon it, and I have not been able to find any person in the directory of this name, nor any person of similar name who admits having written the letter.

By what logic does the critic arrive at the conclusion that Japan is seeking to close the



JAPAN'S POLICY IN CHINA

It Is Not One of Exclusion, Since the Other Powers Cannot Be Successfully Dislodged—Room for All in the Flowery Kingdom—Japan and China Should Be Friends.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I have read with keen interest the editorial correspondence on the "China-Japanese complication" by Mr. H. K. Tong, editor of "The Peking Daily News," which is understood to be the organ of British influence in China.

At the outset let me say that, in view of the European attitude toward Asiatic peoples, there is dire need of their unity and cooperation in order to maintain their territorial and political integrity.

As a Japanese I exceedingly regret the lack of wisdom and foresightedness on the part of Japanese statesmen which has animated the Chinese with a sentiment of dislike and distrust.

While concurring with him in this regard, I must strongly refute his contention that Japan defies the "open door" policy, for which the United States stands sponsor.

I have thoroughly investigated this matter and can find no proof that an incident such as described occurred in this office.

By what logic does the critic arrive at the conclusion that Japan is seeking to close the

BURDEN OF PREPAREDNESS

How European Nations Groan Under the Strain.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The theory of preparedness is that the way to prevent trouble is to be ready to provoke it; that the way to keep the peace is to have the instruments of war, and to put them in the hands of those whose interests it is to have an occasional war scare, or war, and then to call it treason to question the honorable motives of those whose economic interests it is to do things with the tools of killing that we have been induced to put into their hands.

Preparedness, therefore, does not prevent or mitigate war, but tends to aggravate it, magnify the evils of war, to undermine friendship and inspire alarm and distrust and hatred among nations.

Germany is accused of having started the armament race that was abruptly ended in August, 1914. And toward the end the tension became so acute that many welcomed the war as a grateful relief from the awful burdens of armaments and from the suspicion of what the other fellow might do if he did not do what he said he was about to do, which was expected of him, anyway.

To-day every great nation is at war except the United States. Every country at war prays that this will be the end of military and of competitive armaments.

I live in New Jersey, where men can get applejack, which turns them into beasts and worse; and women and children are the sufferers. But "legislation must be preceded by accurate information."

The women have been pleading and praying that our men might be saved from a life that worse than death, and how have our legislators answered us? Sipping their toddy, they reply: "Women can't shake their own lives into emotional." They shake their own lives in profound wisdom, and women whose lives are unutterably sad and hopeless, with pinched faces, cry: How long's it last, how long's it last?

"Sober Thoughts on Inebriety."

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I want to add a word to your editorial entitled "Sober Thoughts on Inebriety."

John comes home drunk. He smashes things. He turns us out of doors in the cold. But, never mind, it's the old story, and people don't like hickneyed subjects. They want something bright and funny.

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New York, Jan. 24, 1916. JOHN I. HOPPER, Register.