New York Tribune.

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German Operations in the Western War Theatre and Their Strategic Value.

The capture of Dixmude by the Germans is rated as an important event in the fighting in the western war theatre. Yet it is important only to the extent that it shows a requickening of the German attack on the front between Lille and Nieuport. So far as its bearing on the result of the campaign in Flanders is concerned it has no more significance than the loss or capture of any other single position in a long-drawn-out and very irregular fortified line.

A month ago, after the fall of Antwerp, the Germans started what looked like a campaign for the capture of the French Channel ports. Calais was thought to be the chief objective, and there were some highly imaginative critics who foresaw that the Kaiser, after capturing Calais, Boulogne, Dieppe and Havre, would head for Paris again up the valley of the Seine. No progress has yet been made with that fanciful project. The Germans haven't gotten even as far as Dunkirk, the first port just across the Belgian border. They have been hammering away for nearly five weeks on the line of the Yser River, and an isolated success like the capture of Dixmude means only that their intrenched battle line has been pushed forward a mile at that point, to be confronted with another intrenched line a mile further back.

It is hard to see what large object the German strategy in the western war theatre now has in view. The first and natural objective of the German armies was the destruction of the French armies. After the repulse on the Marne and the deadlock on the Aisne and the Meuse the German General Staff seemed to turn its attention to secondary objectives. The capture of Antwerp was one of these. The moral and political effects of that success may have been considerable, but the military effects were trifling. The German campaign in France was not materially helped by the possession of Antwerp.

Then the cry of "On to Calais!" was raised, as if taking Calais could in any way compensate for having failed to take Paris. The movement on the Channel ports, if it had any military value, was a threat against Great Britain. But to threaten Great Britain while France still remained to be dealt with was an error of judgment on Germany's part. It was allowing political considerations to overshadow military considerations. German hatred of Great Britain is intense, but it was poor policy just for the sake of terrorizing John Bull with suggestions of a German dash across the Channel to neglect the real German objective, which is the crushing of the armies under the command of General Joffre.

Giving the war in the west a turn which might throw Great Britain into a panic was a sop to fierce anti-English popular sentiment in Germany, but it was not good strategy. After Antwerp fell there was much talk about using it as a Zeppelin station and as a general base for an attack on London. The Channel ports, it was announced, would also be seized for similar purposes. Something of a scare in England followed. Yet that scare did not benefit Germany. Its first practical result was the sending to Flanders of additional British troops, not fully trained, but trained sufficiently to meet the second and third line troops which Germany has recently been employing there.

A German invasion of England is not absolutely beyond the bounds of possibility. But it could be accomplished only under exceptionally favorable conditions. The risk would be very great, even if Germany had Great Britain alone to contend with. But having Russia and France on her hands and not being able at present to make headway against either, it would be folly to try to land an army in England. Germany needs all the troops she has to keep up her fight on the Continent. She cannot take the long chance of dispatching an army across the North Sea in transports so long as her own warships are not willing to contest the control of that sea with the warships of the enemy.

"The London Times" occasionally warns the British public of the danger of a German invasion. But that warning has apparently the patriotic purpose of encouraging enlistments. The more Germany's desire to seek a reckoning with England on English soil is exploited the readier will be the response of volunteers to the call of the British government. Germany has therefore been playing Great Britain's game in the operations which resulted in the fall of Antwerp and which have had for their next object the capture of Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne, Dieppe and Havre. The real objective of the German campaign in the west has slipped out of mind while secondary and really unimportant ends have been pursued at a great sacrifice of time, men and material.

It would have been far more rational for Germany to let Antwerp alone and to expend every ounce of energy on taking Verdun. Verdun is worth a dozen Antwerps, with Calais and the other Channel ports thrown in for good measure. If in the last six weeks Germany could have broken the French defences in the valley of the Meuse the second phase of her western campaign would have been as successful as the phase which carried her armies across Belgium and well into Northeastern France. Her position in the west would have been vastly strengthened and she would not have unduly hastened Great Britain's military preparations.

As it is, by using up so much of her strength more or less aimlessly in Belgium, she has merely prolonged the deadlock on the whole western front and put the Allies in a better position to employ next year the superior forces which they have had time to raise, equip and train for field service.

The Man Without a Nickname.

We should never have dreamed of mentioning a nickname in connection with our learned President had he himself not brought the matter up. As he has, it seems permissible to cite his words and remark upon their moral. Said he at the unveiling of General Kearny's statue in Arlington Cemetery, after referring to the habit of the general's soldiers of calling him "Phil":

> I have always been sorry I did not have a front name which admitted of shortening.

To this we must, with all respect, reply "Humph!" How about the Thomas, with which Mr. Wilson was originally equipped and which he shed at some advancing hour in his career? There was a name with as many possibilities as Theodore or William. Yet Mr. Wilson rejected it. And now he lays the blame for the formal standing of his name upon our people's lips to its dignified incapacity for perversion. As if the name had anything to do with it! As if with any handle that stern, proud person would be hailed familiarly! Far, far better Hank James, and quite as well Walt Pater—we cite from the abutting column on the east—as any fresh work in or about the revered name of our Woodrow.

Get the Right Man for a Big Job!

The Board of Estimate will consider to-day a resolution creating the office of Director of Food Inspection—suggested by the board itself and agreed to by the aldermen. This is intended to be a civil service place in the Health Department, to be filled by competitive examination. It is to carry a salary of $5,000 a year.

Work such as is contemplated is of high importance to every person in this city. The best man is none too good for this task. There should be no limitation on the examination in order to favor some particular person. It should be thrown open to all, so that men of the standing of Barnard, of Indiana, and Allen, of Kentucky, might feel themselves free—even requested—to enter the competition. It is even more important that there should be no limitations on the right man, once he is chosen. It is high time this city did something to protect its food supply and did it thoroughly and completely.

Hope for the Teacher-Mother.

Mayor Mitchel says it is his understanding that the Board of Education will soon adopt a policy permitting leaves of absence for teachers about to become mothers. This "understanding" does not jibe with the board's action in the case of Mrs. Wagner and the action against Miss Rodman for her criticism of the board on this issue. It is to be hoped that the Mayor has some advance information on the subject which he will transmit to the board, for that body certainly needs information and a change of policy.

President Churchill tells the Mayor that the board is trying to find out how this teacher-mother situation is handled elsewhere. The board should not confine its research to this country, but should take cognizance of the fashion in which foreign governments make provision for such events in the lives of their women employes. It will find there full precedent for granting the desired leave of absence for maternity and, incidentally, confirmation of the belief expressed by advocates of that liberal policy that such absence will not disrupt any branch of the public service. The economic system is not yet so organized in this country that women employes of private concerns may expect to obtain such recognition of the public value of child-bearing as the preservation of their jobs for them. But where the public itself is the employer there certainly should not be discrimination against any able and efficient employe because of marriage or parenthood.

When Advertising Didn't Pay.

An unemployed machinist of St. Louis, despairing of finding work by any other means, paraded the streets carrying a sandwich sign as follows:

> "Chief Young wants three hundred more policemen to stop increasing crimes.
> "What shall I do?
> "No work, no money, four motherless children to feed.
> "Shall I steal, commit highway robbery or kill myself and children?
> "One thousand are in the same position in this city to-day.
> "Enormous luxury; enormous poverty.
> "What shall I do?"

He was advertising himself—the only commodity he had to sell. Other advertisements were being carried around the city in the same manner, but organized society's answer to his was to throw him into jail. He blocked traffic by causing a crowd to collect.

New York City had an epidemic of jailing seekers after work in unconventional fashion last winter. That treatment didn't solve the problem. The authorities now are aware that the unemployment problem will be more acute this winter than last—so acute that all the charity and relief reasonably to be counted on will not meet the need. "Enormous luxury; enormous poverty"—and what most of the poor ask is a chance to work for wages sufficient to enable them to keep on living in the way to which they are accustomed. Jailing insistent applicants for work and "relieving" meeker ones will not wash society's slate clean.

The Conning Tower

Robert Louis Stevenson: Born Nov. 13, 1850

And down the red-hot valley, lo!
A little frosty Eskimo
Cocked his shining eye and said:
"When I was sick and lay abed,
A wooden spade they gave to me;
I called the little pool a sea.
A child should always say what's true,
As prudent sailors have to do.
In winter I get up at night
When my mamma puts out the light.
This world is so full of a number of things,
Of speckled eggs the birdie sings.
Every night my prayers I say,
And I should like so much to play.

ANNE.

We know as little as a hedge-fence about handling a news-story, but if we were city-editing we should tell the reporter to mention what Miss Rodman, a teacher in the Wadleigh High School, teaches.

As a m. of f., she teaches English, another theme we are as unversed in as a marriage-bell. If the style of her contribution be any tip-off—and it is—our guess is that she is a darned good teacher.

Our thanks to yesterday's newspapers that spoke of Miss Rodman's letter as having been written to "a newspaper." Also to the morning newspaper that said it had appeared in "a morning newspaper."

Woman's Place Is Where the Heart Is.

Sir: Answering Miss Rodman's letter, I should like to see this new game. Don't you think, however, that the rules and object of the game are interpreted incorrectly? The rules are strictly according to FAIR PLAY and the object of the game is to make the men who marry these teachers support them, instead of the city supporting them. These teacher-mothers overlook the fact that twenty or twenty-five years hence, perhaps, their own children whom they have just brought into the world will probably, at that time, be striving for a position as teacher, and then we will hear a plaintive call to the city for the expulsion of women teachers who have men to support them, but who think more of the long green than they do of taking PROPER care of their children.

In regard to the editor's note. Yes, experience has children and experience TAKES CARE of them; is near them all the time. That's where these teacher-mothers should be—home. The mother is the only person who can take proper care of her own child. If, however, they should lose their husbands, then it is time for them to look to the city for support.

A. S. HENRY.

The Mayor said that he had not read the letter.—From last evening's papers.

Do you know? John Purroy Mitchel does not read The Conning Tower.

VIVE LA VIVIENNE!

Said Vivienne on the Peloponnesus,
"That man is as black as the ace of Crœsus!"
"Be careful, Vivienne!" her father warns,
"You're barking up the wrong bull by the horns!"

SINDBAD.

Vivienne, Marjorie thinks, wrote the labels for the pepper boxes of a Brooklyn firm. "Quality," they aver, "is the best policy."

VERBAL AFFINITIES.

Galsworthy—To savour; begins sentences with "and" and "but."
Conrad—Ends 'em . . . .
Hichens—Violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, orange and red—especially red.
De Morgan—Ending sentences with a preposition is the fondest thing he is of.
Carlyle—Refuses "most" in superlatives—one of his curiousest tricks.
Stevenson—Horrific.
W. J. Locke has the largest vocabulary of them all.

W. H. S.

We know how we could discover whether Eleanor Hallowell Abbott melts toward one word more than another; but something tells us we shall never know.

And we should love to tell you one of Johnny Evers's favorite words; but, though you may doubt it, there are things we won't print.

The antipathy of George Randolph Chester to "said" is w. k. His characters never—note the quotes, please—"say" a thing.

Mrs. Wharton, according to Katharine, likes "vaguely."

ALBERT, THE BELGIAN.

I am no worshipper of kings
Anointed to the crown;
But there is one my lyre sings
Whatever fates may frown.

He reaches to the manliness
Of kings we sing of old—
This king with kingdom in distress
Who fights with ardor bold.

He is a man with talents rare
Whose veins are red with blood;
He is a man who fights to dare
The strong invaders' flood.

So, here is an American
Who pins upon the breast
Of Albert, king, the Belgian,
Blue-ribbon prize, the best.

HORACE SEYMOUR KELLER.

Utica.

One Day-Spoiler to Another.

"You know the City Hall and the County Court House; how can you tell the difference between each building?"

"Well, between you, I and the lamp-post, the difference don't exist to the naked eye."

"But how can you judge them apart?"

"Well, firstly, the former is opposite from the latter. And it is different to it in this way, that it has a clock atop it."

PEG.

An advertiser in the Norwich, Conn., Bulletin wants a "good, sound driving horse; fearless of nothing." Irregardless of price?

ON THE OTHER HANDS—

Richard Deadeye	Dick Le Gallienne
Billie of Orange	William Burke
Nap Bonaparte	Napoleon Lajoie
David Jones	Davy Belasco
John Spratt	Jack Drew

Commercial frankness in Schenectady: "Our Great Money Saving Sale. Beware of Other Fictitious Sales."

ENTERED FOR THE ANTI-CLIMAX CUP.

[From the Bennington (Vt.) Banner.]

G. L. Harbour and Harry Taylor left yesterday afternoon for New York for a few days to spend in deep sea fishing and attending grand opera.

She was riding downtown last night, on a South Ferry subway express. Carmine were the lips of her, and lo! the hues of her shoes were many.

It is spreading, usthought, the foot-and-mouth disease.

F. P. A.

GUILTY!

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

THE TEACHER-MOTHER AGAIN

It Is Folly to Attempt to Regulate the Private Lives of Women.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: When are our public bodies going to stop making themselves look foolish by attempting to regulate the private lives of women? Women are not going to put up with such rulings as that of the New York Board of Education on teacher-mothers.

Let us look at the matter in its true proportion. The "teacher-mother" controversy affects, so President Churchill says, sixteen of 18,000 teachers employed by the board, or three-fifths of 1 per cent. Just this little handful of women are sufficiently desirous to be mothers to save money to take the necessary time off and to run the risk of losing their profession for life. What wonderful mothers they must be! Probably most of their colleagues are against them, just as ready to dictate as the rest of the vulgar world always has been—the true sphere of women. But what of that! They are themselves the product of an absurd system which puts in charge of the preparation of the young for life those who know least about it. Our pedants go from high school to college and back again to high school. What do they know of life, of passion and aspiration, of hardship and great achievement? The average experience of the teacher is attenuated, anæmic and second hand. Marriage and parenthood should be the normal experience of the adult without any fuss about it.

No one in New York or any other city finds motherhood so heavy a responsibility for the poor. No Board of Education forbids the charwoman to char after she has a child. In Great Britain a woman is turned out of the civil service automatically on marriage; thus a direct incentive is given to illicit relations or to concealed marriages. Not even the highly trained medical women employed by the London County Council are allowed to judge for themselves; they are warned that on marriage their services must cease. Why not marry and say nothing!

Investigations into sweated industries have shown again and again that employers preferred mothers because, they say, "they are steadier and not so likely to complain." In other words, they are more desperate. How is that question to be solved?

If the Board of Education wants to retain any reputation for decency and common sense it will at least recognize motherhood as an excuse as legitimate for leave of absence as travel or research.

A. E. WARD.

New York, Nov. 12, 1914.

THE CASE OF MISS RODMAN

Wounded Vanity Versus the Right of Free Speech.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your editorial comment on the suspension of Miss Henrietta Rodman by the Board of Education errs on the side of excessive restraint. It had been fondly supposed that lèse majesté laws were confined to certain of the more 'autocratic lands, which our freer country had no inclination to imitate in that particular; but apparently Messrs. Maxwell and Churchill are of a different opinion, and regard their wounded vanity as a more vital matter than the faithful and competent discharge of duty.

The principle of free speech lies at the foundation of all our democratic institutions and is a most essential element in the very structure of our society. If the New York Board of Education is the enemy of that principle it is self-branded as hostile to all that is characteristically American and democratic, and ceases to have any claim to the respect or the support of the citizens whom it misrepresents. Better abolish a thousand boards of education than trample on the elementary right of freedom of expression and of candid criticism of even such august personages as Messrs. Maxwell and Churchill. If the acceptance of a commission to teach in the public schools, which are the property of all the people and not the private appanage of the Board of Education, impliedly involves the denial of fundamental civic rights and the suppression of self-respect and individuality, it is time that the situation were changed by as drastic measures as may be necessary. If anybody must go it should be those who misuse their temporary authority to suppress their critics instead of refuting them by legitimate arguments and demonstrations.

JAMES F. MORTON, Jr.

New York, Nov. 12, 1914.

THE GIFT OF A GREAT, GOOD MAN

The Triune Value of Mr. Wilson as Scholar, Statesman and Christian.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Being one of the rank and file, with nothing to gain and only sympathy to share, I am nevertheless able to recognize and appreciate the world's gift of a great, good man, and wish to express my pride as a citizen of these United States in the Godlike resemblance Mr. Wilson is demonstrating in a situation not unlike Christ's when urged to show His power by converting the stones into bread.

Mr. Wilson is showing us that sometimes now, as well as then, the strength of power is ability to withhold its use. I find him the greatest President since Lincoln and without belittling Mr. Lincoln—in many ways superior, because with Mr. Wilson life's advantages have equalled its opportunities, which for Mr. Lincoln was not so.

In Mr. Wilson we have a triune value of scholar, statesman and Christian friend to the world, in spite of conflicting criticisms from the people he hopes most to serve. Such strength of heroism cannot fail to educate or receive its just recognition. But before his perspective is reached in the midst of such conflict it may comfort him to know he has many unofficial friends who daily offer the sustaining thought of the best that is in them, praying he may continue to exercise the wonderful wisdom and courage he has shown. It only comes to a man who—though serving in the high places—walks with God.

REPUBLICAN STRANGER.

New York, Nov. 11, 1914.

A Mistaken Report of Foot and Mouth Disease.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your issue of November 9, reporting the discovery of the foot and mouth disease at the dairy farm of Theodore Weber, North Bergen, N. J., also says:

"The cattle were brought over from New York on the 42d st. ferry by Louis Heilbrun, a dealer, two weeks ago."

In justice to me, I request a retraction of this statement in your columns for the reason that I have not driven any drove of cattle over the 42d st. ferry; that Mr. Theodore Weber received one cow from me as long as six weeks ago, which had been duly tested by Dr. F. O'Day, of Saugerties, N. Y., and the certificate is now on file with the New York Board of Health.

Furthermore, at the request of Mr. Theodore Weber, I called at his place to buy some fat cattle for slaughtering and found the trouble complained of and immediately requested the services of a veterinarian, who in turn reported the matter duly to the proper authorities.

LOUIS HEILBRUN.

New York, Nov. 10, 1914.

WHAT MR. LOWELL SAYS

The President of Harvard Explains His View of a Two-Year College Course.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I see that I am quoted in your paper as in favor of shortening the college course to two years, and therefore I will ask you to correct this. In discussing the "economy of time in education" I expressed the opinion I have long held that a two years' course in college, preceding the professional studies in medicine or law, is much better than no college course at all, and probably as much as can be expected of most young men. The state universities have recognized this fact by adopting the plan of the combined degree. But I believe that four years of college is far better for those who can give the time, and it is these men who will come to the great endowed colleges.

A. LAWRENCE LOWELL.

Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., Nov. 12, 1914.

HELP FOR RELEASED PRISONERS

Beware of Fakes, Urges the Prison Association.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: From a number of sources the attention of the Prison Association has been called recently to appeals to individuals for financial help by alleged released and discharged prisoners. Investigation by the Prison Association has shown in a number of instances that the appeals have been deliberately planned to obtain money with false stories and misrepresentations.

The Prison Association of New York (135 East 15th st.) is glad to do whatever it can for released prisoners and maintains a trained staff for that purpose. It has close relations with the state and city correctional authorities. I suggest, therefore, that, for the protection of the public and for the real help of worthy released prisoners, the application for aid be referred to the Prison Association, or that inquiry be made of the association as to information that the association has.

This letter is written solely to prevent deliberate exploitation of the public by unprincipled ex-prisoners, and offers a method of helping worthy ex-prisoners.

O. F. LEWIS.

The Prison Association of New York,

New York, Nov. 11, 1914.

Mr. Wilson Swallowed What His Admirer Couldn't.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Under date of November 9 Mr. Dutcher writes you as follows:

"I know that there are thousands of Democrats that feel the same as I do and are stronger than ever in their support of Mr. Wilson, but could not swallow the state tickets put up this year."

Why did he not add, "and strongly indorsed by Mr. Wilson"?

DAVISON BROWN.

West New Brighton, N. Y., Nov. 12, 1914.

WHY GERMANY ARMED

After Allies Are Crushed Peace Will Reign, It Is Predicted.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In Sunday's paper you printed a letter by Mr. Shadwell, "Allies to Free German Serfs." In a way probably he is right; it was on account of the "Allies" that Germany had to make military preparations, and after these Allies are whipped there'll be no more need for "militarism." He forgets that there are in Germany over sixty-five millions of people on less ground than we have in our State of Texas. Few of us Americans have any idea how small Germany really is. If you cut a slice as large as all our New England States put together off of Texas you will still have a larger area than Germany.

Germany was struggling against colossal powers on every side. Imagine that instead of Canada we had Russia on one side of us with practically all Asia at her beck and call, with millions and millions of human material for its army; that instead of Mexico we had the high strung French people thirsting for revenge, with a standing army larger than that of Germany, spending more money for its militarism and pouring millions of dollars yearly into the coffers of Russia to help it arm against us, and let us further suppose that where Bermuda is situated we had England with a navy four times as strong as that of Germany, what would we do, as patriotic Americans? Why, we would do exactly what the Germans did. We would arm and drill so as to be prepared for the great struggle which we knew was coming as the three powers were allied and were preparing to crush us.

But as soon as the Allies are crushed and no sooner, will Germany be free to shake off "militarism." When that time comes the Kaiser will join hands with our President and force the remaining powers to disarm, and we'll have universal peace.

AN AMERICAN.

New York, Nov. 10, 1914.

NEED OF CLOTHES FOR BELGIANS

How the Urgent Demand Can Be Met by Gifts.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The need of the Belgian refugees for clothing of every description is hardly conceivable. With the approach of winter millions will suffer from cold unless relieved.

It is probable at this time that many Americans have given all the money they can afford, but there must be many who have used clothing which they can spare. Every such article for either men, women or children of any age or size is urgently needed by some unfortunate Belgian whom a ruthless war has beggared and driven into exile. I have just returned from Europe and have made arrangements for the distribution of such donations among the refugees through the Belgian Consulate.

Will you not, therefore, aid me in appealing to the American public for old clothes of all kinds, in no matter how small quantities, provided only they are clean and whole? Articles sent to the Belgian Consulate, 25 Madison av., New York City, or to me, at Roslyn, Long Island, will be gratefully received and forwarded for distribution.

T. H. MORTIMER.

Roslyn, Long Island, Nov. 11, 1914.