

New York Tribune.

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

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You can purchase merchandise advertised in THE TRIBUNE with absolute safety—for if dissatisfaction results in any case THE TRIBUNE guarantees to pay your money back upon request.

A Ship Purchase Bill of the Wrong Sort.

The Senate was taken by surprise yesterday when the administration ship purchase bill was invested with the right of way privilege of "unfinished business."

The Republicans in the Senate will be justified in resisting the railroading of the ship purchase scheme with all the parliamentary weapons at their disposal.

The country needs to be informed of the motives and influences behind this measure, which had its origin in the semi-panic in exporting circles which followed the outbreak of the European war.

The entry of the government as a competitor into the Atlantic carrying trade could have no beneficial results. Government operation would be more expensive than private operation.

The United States has to live up to some rather strict interpretations of the law of contraband made by us in the course of the Civil War. Nothing would be more unfortunate, consequently, for the maintenance of our impartiality as a neutral power than the government's entry into the European trade as a general carrier.

The game isn't worth the candle. It would be far more discreet for the nation and far more advantageous for our exporters if we should insure American cargoes carried in foreign as well as in American bottoms, or even if we should grant subsidies to all vessels carrying our merchandise to Europe, instead of compromising our position by engaging directly in the transatlantic trade.

So far as the South American trade is concerned the situation is entirely different. It has been amply demonstrated that private enterprise will not furnish the facilities we need to develop commerce with the east and west coasts of South America.

Were the Fletcher bill limited in its scope to trade with South America there would be little objection to it. But it wrongheadedly contemplates butting into the transatlantic trade, with all its present special hazards.

Righting the Wrongs Done by the Plucking Board.

The Rules Committee of the House of Representatives has just announced that it will cordially support any measures looking to the abolition of the naval plucking board and the restoration to the active list of officers who have been victimized by that board's star-chamber rulings.

just and arbitrary plucking system and withholding justice from Captain Gibbons and other admirable officers railroaded on the retired list will be squarely up to the reactionaries on the Naval Committee, since the Navy Department is heartily in favor of a change.

The Assistant Secretary of the Navy recently put forward a substitute plan for hastening the flow of promotion. According to it officers are to be judged on the three qualifications of record, knowledge and professional reputation, the latter to be found in the opinions of commanding officers.

It is important that the plucking board should be discarded. It is equally important that the injustice which it did to competent individual officers should be made good.

Divorcing Politics from Social Service.

Governor Whitman is entirely right when he says "Politics does not mix well with health and charity." It doesn't. Yet persistent efforts have been made to make them mix in the last four years of state administration.

The Governor calls on department heads to root politics out of these departments. That is a considerable task, as the departments are constituted. Yet it is one that ought to be undertaken—one that must be accomplished, whether by the men who now hold office or by appointees of the Governor's making.

One Price for All Taxicabs.

Mayor Mitchell's signature to the recently adopted amendment to the public hack ordinance brings all taximeter cabs plying in this city under the restrictions of the license system and the new rate of 30 cents for the first half mile.

There is no earthly reason why any taxicab or taxicab company should have any advantage over its competitors in getting business from the public. This ordinance puts them on an equality. If some can get along at the legal rate where others fail, the public can't be expected to weep or to dig down and pay an over-high charge because some officials want over-high salaries or directors over-high dividends.

The Show of the Year.

Time was when New Yorkers dated their year from the Horse Show—not because everybody went, but because everybody was interested. That interest has shifted, moved north some score and more of blocks, to the Grand Central Palace, where everybody who has or hopes to have a car is this week inspecting the cars of 1915.

It is a real tribute to the innate charm and ingenuity of the motor car that this interest persists. Each year we hear more of standardized cars and standardized types of cars, yet each year every car owner returns to prospect among the novelties set forth. The automobile has become as reliable as a cart horse—more reliable, if we exempt the still unsolved problem of tires.

This year's show has, as it happens, at least two important mechanical developments—the eight cylinder motor and the magnetic transmission, eliminating gear changes. Every motorist will want to follow the course of these new efforts, whatever their ultimate fate.

Mr. Ellison "Agin the Government."

If Mr. Ellison, counsel for the policemen's unions, really believes all he says about police conditions and the necessity for their improvement, he should have tried a little work at Police Headquarters before his newspaper denunciation of the administration.

Mr. Ellison has himself been a public official and can calculate nicely the damaging effect of his utterance. The public cannot undertake to judge his motive. It can only know that his method—if he actually was striving for betterment—was woefully bad.

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The Conning Tower

The Boundaries of Appreciation.

When some one pulls a droll idea, When some one thrusts a jocular jab, I laugh right out. You can't call me a Crab.

The dollars that I spend are many To get a little bit of fun; I like a joke as well as any One.

I do not elevate mine eyebrow At what another thinks is rough; I do not have to have the highbrow Stuff.

Yet nothing keeps my heart from sinking— Alas! how then my spirits droop!— At jokes about the noise of drinking Soup.

And though I have a ceaseless yearning For any quip or crank or wheeze, I cannot smile at jokes concerning Cheese.

I used to blame this lovely climate, But deep deliberation shows Me why I have so sad a time at Shows.

"The girl of the period wears her heart on her sleeve, and makes the whole world a sharer in her feelings. She is speculative in everything, and wholly ignores comparative values; her conversation knows no shading; each of her friends is dearest and darling; all her preferences and aversions are either awfully nice or awfully horrid; she has no idea of any such thing as a golden mean, and, withal, expresses her likes and dislikes with sovereign contempt of the tastes of those about her.

Which is a quotation from Harper's Bazar, and we wonder whether the grandmothers among our readers recognize themselves. For the paragraph appeared in January, 1873. Yet it seems to us that we have heard mothers and grandmothers say that the young girls of their day knew how to comport themselves. . . . Did you see "Milestones"?

THE USES OF ADVERTISEMENT.

Sir: My husband, who used to conduct a column in "The Press," went to a contris' meeting at Anne's house. Several persons present asked him about his song, "Witch Woman," which is published by Oliver Ditson Company in both high and low key.

P. S. Anne asked me to write this notice, to let the other contris know that she wants their addresses sent to Anne, 2666 Briggs Avenue, New York.

P. P. S. His cantata, "The Highwayman," has been very successful this season.

A JOKE, KIND OF.

By OUR OWN FRANK TINNEY.

—Hello, Orson. —Hello, Frank. How are— —No, not yet. Let me get an extra line in. Now: Hello, Orson.

—Why, hello, Frank. How are you? —Oh, I'm a' right, Orson. I am. . . . See? Ain't that more natural? Orson, I got a joke, Orson, I have.

—You have a joke, Orson? —Yes, I got a joke. . . . You should say, "Well, Frank, is it a good one?" and then I say: "Yes, but it got in the show anyway."

—Is it a good joke, Frank? —Oh, yes, indeed it is a good joke, Orson, but it got in the show, which runs every night and Wednesday and Saturday matinees, anyway. See? That's so they won't get sore at me for knockin' their rotten 'ol show. Ask me again is it a good joke. To bring us back, like.

—Is it a good joke, Frank? —Oh, it's a swell joke, Orson. [Pause of one minute.] Ask me what it is. You big Norwegian.

—What is it, Frank? —Well, did you see yesterday's Tribune where they had a whole page about Grantland, sayin' compliments about him and everything? . . . Yes, Frank, I saw that. I considered it a remarkable indorsement of that sterling sport-writer, didn't you?

—All you should say is yes you seen it. Don't try to help me so much. . . . Well, didn't you think it would make him feel like a breakfast food, Orson?

—Like a breakfast food, Frank? Why, no. —Ask me how, like a breakfast food? —How do you mean, Frank, "like a breakfast food?" —Why, puffed Rice.

[Exit]

Advertisers will be thrilled to know that the newspapermen in whose automobiles the editor of this Magneto of Mirth was invited to ride in the year 1914 were apportioned among the following newspapers: TRIBUNE . . . . . 7 All other newspapers combined . . . . . 1 Total . . . . . 8

"As a reader," David Arnold Balch, of Ossining, mounts the People's Forum to orate, "I am moved to protest against your printing the vapors of the white-livered, chicken-hearted, third-sea creatures who hide behind initials or a pseudonym."

Unaccustomed as it is to public rebuke, The Tribune begs to reserve the right to admire the piddle of Mark Twain and O. Henry.

But it has no sympathy with the recalcitrant subterfuge of hiding behind initials.

RELIEF THAT DOES NOT RELIEVE

A Complaint from a Starving Man with a Clean Collar.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Almost daily now an announcement appears in the newspapers that a group of socially, politically or industrially prominent gentlemen, hearing of the huge army of unemployed in New York at the present time, the secret having leaked out in the usual mysterious fashion of our best known public secrets, have formed a committee for the relief of said army and will immediately go to it, or report to that effect. Thus the problem is solved—in theory, at least.

Actually, the results are terribly disappointing, largely due to the unwinding of endless red tape and to other slow moving processes where the necessities demand instant action. Useless and tiresome statistics are leisurely gathered, varying in subject from the shrinkage in demand for labor because of the frost bitten Florida orange crop, to the probable number of new voters that will arrive after the war is over.

A young man registering with one of these well intentioned committees should make his claim transferable, so that when he finds it impossible to exist indefinitely on nothing at all his grandchild, having reached the working age, and the committee's office simultaneously, could claim the inheritance. The workings of these special committees and other local charities are certainly beyond human comprehension.

A correspondent hit the nail on the head the other day when he protested against the relief of the unemployed, not at all in keeping with the traditional down and out type, the so-called charitable institutions to which he applied for relief. He said: "I have had similar experiences. One has to lose money, clothes, pride, spirit, ambition, everything, in fact, and sink to the lowest depths of dejected poverty before one becomes eligible for assistance. This registering process, however, is the only difference being that I was allowed to register in the employment bureau of two institutions, a third one declining to do me the small courtesy of replying to a mail inquiry for this purpose. This registering process, however, is the only thing that has happened so far in my own particular case. I broke all speed records getting down to the much heralded Municipal Employment Bureau the second day it was opened, and I have no doubt my application, along with 8,000 or 9,000 others, is resting undisturbed in its original pigeonhole there."

If there was an institution to look after such applicants as are still able to wear a clean collar to whom a preventive might be administered, it would lessen to a considerable extent the number who have to undergo the more difficult operation of a cure. It would also cut down the prevailing number of suicides and robberies. I have been out of work for an exceptionally long period now, and if nothing materializes very shortly I will be reluctantly compelled to select a dark street corner and a section of lead pipe suitable for night work or else give up crowding the universe, because I am unable to dodge the undertakers for a much longer period.

New York, Jan. 2, 1915.

Presidential Neutrality.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: President Wilson having called upon the people of this country to observe an attitude of strict neutrality toward all the belligerents, it is not time for the people to call upon the President himself to do likewise!

Time and again the Washington Exce-

ARMS AND THE SCHOOL

Mothers Are Urged to Oppose Military Training of Children.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: We hear that "the Mayor is considering the introduction of military training in our public schools." I would like to ask what the mothers are considering.

There are two or three things that have been regarded until recently, even by the most masculine minds, as particularly woman's sphere and duty—the home and the training of young children. We are told that if a mother impresses herself and morality upon her children during the tender years of their lives their future will be secure.

God knows, many women and mothers yearn for peace and would do all in their power to bring it about. Men tell us that woman's suffering and torture during times of war are her portion, but many of us are beginning to think that we would like to have some thing to say about this, and if we must be martyrs we would like to be given a choice of martyrdom, and if our little children are to be taught that of which we disapprove without our permission the time has indeed come when we must in all honor and in defence of our young take a stand.

If any period of a little child's life should be sacred from hate and cruelty it is that part when his mind should be prepared for the world's peaceful work and brotherly kindness.

To introduce into the classroom and study hour the suggestion of war and butchery is to debase the mind of the female point of view. No sentimentalism about training the boy for defence can cover the perfectly apparent fact that if he must defend himself and his country it must be against whom? The suggestion is evil and would come at an age when boys particularly have no need of such instruction.

And, pray, what are our girls to be taught during the hours in a mixed class when boys are drilled to anticipate the day when they will be called upon to slaughter their kind?

Mothers, are you stolidly going to accept the male decision as to what your children are to be taught? Do you shudder at the horrors inflicted upon other mothers' sons and then spinelessly keep silence when your own sons are trained for a similar fate? Have you nothing to say as to this? No opinion?

The women probation officers were removed before the protest of women was voiced in defence of the needs of their sex. Mother-teachers are squabbled over while the effect upon the pupils goes unheeded—but do not add this last weakness to the list. Before military training is introduced into the public school system let mothers demand a hearing and side by side with the fathers of their children consider this terrible subject well.

HAROLD T. COMSTOCK. Flatbush, N. Y., Jan. 4, 1915.

BISMARCK AND GERMANY

From a Reader Unacquainted with the Great Chancellor's Memoirs.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In your issue of January 1 you published a "Reply to Professor Wien," signed M. B. In this reply M. B. speaks of German thickheadedness, accuses Germany of the infamy of broken faith, pillage, rapine and murder in Belgium, etc. Furthermore he calls Bismarck a self-confessed forger and plottor for the crime of war, a man without honor, a fit hero for a nation without honor.

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN An Open Forum for Public Debate.

ive has interfered with the rights of our business men to trade in a perfectly legitimate way with the Allies, thus acting on behalf of Germany; now this protest to England is in effect further intervention on Germany's side, as the outbreak of jubilation from that country's press clearly shows. If our President does not feel called upon to express any opinion upon the criminal outrage upon civilization involved in the attack upon Belgium, even when officially asked to do so, surely he might at least refrain from indirect attack upon the Allies by assisting the German cause.

New York, Jan. 1, 1915.

IT TAKES MONEY TO BUY BREAD

Some Illustrations of the Inadequacy of Social Service.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In your able editorial, "The Inadequacy of Social Service," of to-day's issue, you say, "It is high time for something besides theorizing and talk." That reminds me of an old saying, "Talk is cheap, but it takes money to buy bread."

Why has not Social Service been doing things in the time of year when such things should be done—making ready for times of misfortune to the poor, which comes doubly upon them in cold weather? Why have the recreation piers, foot of Christopher st. and West 123rd st. not been fitted up for sleeping quarters as has the one at the foot of East 24th st.? Why are the vacant old public schools, of which there are a dozen or more, not made comfortable for the down-and-outs?

Your smug citizen talks and talks of what should be done for the poor, but seldom acts. Dito the committee on unemployment, who undoubtedly mean well, but are slow in action—red tape seems to be their stumbling block. Why not adjust the blame of cutting after-noon give-aways to the bar-footed, and Commissioner Featherstone is afraid to cover his chilled horses with blankets made for them, because the law says so and so. Out upon such cowardice! Why can't they as Fairbank did when told of danger: "Damn the torpedoes! Go ahead!" And in doing so the public would stand at their backs.

C. N. SWIFT. New York, Dec. 31, 1914.

A CURE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

Socialism and Public Works Are Brought Forward by a Reader.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: A book which every thoughtful person interested in the crying question of unemployment should read is the late Edmond Kelly's work on socialism. Professor Kelly, if I remember aright, was a member of the faculty of Columbia University, who, after opposing socialism for many years, embraced it, and in the book of which I speak told of a melancholy interest attaches because he died soon after completing it; he thoughtfully forecasts certain developments of the public mind in the midst of which we seem to be living this winter. Especially he expresses the opinion that unemployment will be the chief awakener of the people of this country to the disorder, waste and wrong of our industrial system, and that the coming changes in it will enter by that means—that the foolish misery of unemployment will be the first great social sore to be cured (instead of ameliorated).

I do not know whether the New York papers have noted the steps which South Carolina and Georgia have taken to relieve the unemployed—namely, public works.

SARAH N. CLEGHORN. Camden, S. C., Jan. 1, 1915.

I am not able to reply to M. B. in

A CRITIC OF JOHN BURROUGHS

His Words an Insult to Englishmen—Also He Is No Diplomat.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In to-day's issue of The Tribune I read, under the caption, "John Burroughs on Kultur," an entirely unwarranted slur on Englishmen. I am particularly interested in the controversy between Mr. Burroughs and Professor W. Wien in re Kultur, which is a recent writer stated, is synonymous with efficiency as applied to things German. Mr. Burroughs writes: "Naturally my own sympathies would be with your people." Why naturally when his progenitors undoubtedly were English, the name being Anglo-Saxon?

"I like the Germans. I had rather have a German for my neighbor than an Englishman; unless I could pick the Englishman I would choose the German." Does not this statement, showing marked predilection for the Germans, imply personal superiority? Doubtless the picked Englishman would feel highly honored to be in the list, so to speak, in such a selection to base in such exclusive company! Many eminent persons, possessed of excellent and lovable traits are nevertheless obscured with the eye on the chicken coop and pecking patch. There is an incongruity in this truly great man descending to the aspersions and innuendoes of the English.

Posta nascitur, non fit, might be equally truth be applicable to John Burroughs as a born naturalist and ornithologist, an authority on birds without a peer, especially on his and lore. Had he, however, chosen a diplomatic career, instead of exhibiting as an erudite writer and naturalist, he would have been a diplomat; he would have been an absolute failure.

ALFRED PAUL PHILLIPS. Danbury, Conn., Jan. 1, 1915.

The Patent Medicine Campaign

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Glad to note your article on patent medicine advertisements, etc. these days of fakers and loose newspaper printing it does one good, who is interested in the uplift of humanity, to see a paper of the type of The Tribune take the stand you are taking.

GEORGE M. GRANSTON. Kingston, N. Y., Jan. 2, 1915.

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