

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.

The Attorney General to the Rescue of Thaw.

The disappearance of Mr. Jerome from the Thaw case has given satisfaction in just one quarter—Thaw and his friends. They are frankly elated. They feel that with the brains and experience of Mr. Jerome subtracted from the state's case the prisoner's chances are vastly improved.

Why should the Attorney General of the State of New York desert his clients, the people, and go over to the enemy? We confess that we cannot find much illumination in Mr. Woodbury's explanation that doesn't explain. It is to save money.

The most charitable view of Mr. Woodbury's blunder is that which is current in Albany. The Attorney General is represented as moved by sympathy for Thaw and desirous of giving the man a boost toward freedom.

Opinions like these are nothing more nor less than mushy sentimentalism. They come from minds which prefer any sort of wild imagining to the plain truth. When such opinions are cited in extension of the Attorney General's action, the answer is short.

All this is a question of motive. It has no bearing on the unquestioned practical effect of Mr. Woodbury's decision. Whatever his aim may have been, he has betrayed his clients, the people of the State of New York.

It is not so abroad, or in any country with naval pretensions except the United States. The whole world is now ringing with books by German military officers. In England an enlightened policy has created an enlightened public.

Produce the Light Steel Cars.

The report of the Public Service Commission's electrical expert that steel cars can be built as light as the heaviest wooden cars now being operated on the city's elevated lines demands action.

It has seemed to be the consensus of opinion among the commissioners that steel cars on the elevated lines would be preferable, just as they are in the subways and as the Interstate Commerce Commission has deemed them to be on steam railroads.

Bread Starts Upward.

A newspaper reader need not be a wheat farmer, a wheat broker, a flour miller or a baker to know that the price of wheat has been rising steadily. But since his wife has been paying the customary price for bread, his interest in this war-time phenomenon has been somewhat indirect.

Within a week or ten days, however, the bakers of New York propose to raise the price of bread one cent a loaf. Whether we shall continue to think of and discuss the rise in wheat in its rela-

tion to general business conditions or shall suddenly realize that it bears directly on our family budget depends on how desperately we are being compelled to crowd our standard of living.

The remedy is by no means apparent. In view of the volume of complaint sure to develop throughout the land, it is perhaps fortunate that an investigation of the rise in wheat is on the administration's list. It seems unpleasantly likely, however, that its effect will be simply to prove once for all that no corner is responsible for the steady advance, whatever its influence on an occasional flurry.

Absentee landlordism and absentee ownership have been responsible for many evils. The employer who meets his men personally seldom has serious labor troubles. They understand each other and the difficulties confronting both sides, even if they cannot always be in perfect accord.

But how absurdly futile is the question "Is New York wicked?" New York is a political organism existing solely for the comfort, prosperity and protection of her citizens. Even should we feel inclined to clothe her with the German conception of the state as something apart and above its citizenship, a communal essence to be worshipped—even then she would not be a conscious entity capable of morality. New York cannot be wicked; she can merely be unsuccessful.

The Wickedness of New York.

Mayor Mitchell, in imitation of one of the late Mayor Gaynor's amiable weaknesses, has been lured for the moment into an argument over the morality of New York City. Billy Sunday's re-vengeful blast against the "fair name" of our city has tempted the Mayor to deny her "wickedness," and with some show of emotion.

But what persons like Billy Sunday usually mean in their use of the word "wicked" is "pleasure loving." New Yorkers as a class—if they can be considered as a class—must, we think, plead guilty to wickedness in this sense. Their optimism, their vitality, convict them. It is difficult to see, however, just how this can injure our city's "fair name."

The Country's Ignorance of Navy Affairs.

Now that the shortcomings of our navy have become public property, the questions are put: "How did such conditions remain secret? Why did not some one in the navy tell us what was wrong? What do we develop experts at Annapolis for if not to advise the nation what to do?"

The answers are to be found in the fact that naval regulations most stringently forbid any naval officer from writing or assisting in the preparation of any article for publication without explicit permission from the department. Such permission is generally withheld. A naval officer was recently forbidden to write an article for a magazine on so abstract a subject as the "Line and Staff," the department giving it as its opinion that any such discussion was "undesirable at this time," and adding that in any event an article on the subject must be censored by the Secretary of the Navy.

It is not so abroad, or in any country with naval pretensions except the United States. The whole world is now ringing with books by German military officers. In England an enlightened policy has created an enlightened public. Naval matters are widely discussed and understood. Any naval officer is at any time at liberty to discuss in the public prints any subject connected with the naval establishment which does not lend aid or comfort to the enemy.

A good illustration of the workings of the English system was Admiral Sir Percy Scott's outspoken discussion of submarine and battleship. After his revolutionary pronouncement the question was argued for weeks by British naval officers in the publications of the empire. As a result the whole British public was thoroughly informed upon what is undoubtedly the most vital and debatable question of naval policy to-day.

It seems preposterous that democratic America should lag behind other nations in publicity touching public concerns—should, indeed, adopt a star chamber attitude toward what is a matter of general information abroad. Yet such is exactly the case. The American voter is entirely cut off from the best and most intelligent sources of information upon naval affairs. It is only upon extraordinary occasions, when grave public scandals exist which a newspaper can discover and reveal, that the truth comes out. A healthy public opinion upon the problem is impossible of growth.

The Conning Tower

Revolutionary Stuff.

Horace: Book L, Ode 23. "Fata hinc veniunt, hinc mori, hinc vivere." Fear me not, my Chloë, like a fawn that seeks its mother, Frightened of the forest, overfearful of the trees,

Never mine the cruel wish to crush you like a lion, Never mine the wish to be a tiger in a rage. Cut away from mother! Give your bridal-gown a try-on!

Mother Jones told John Davison Rockefeller, Jr., yesterday that if he solved the Colorado mine trouble he would be the greatest man in the country. If he does—and the earnest hope of this Galling of Gaiety is that he will—our nomination for the Greatest Man in the Country is Frank P. Walsh.

We favor the courtesy test for telephone operators—not the company's operators, who are the very rubber-stamp of politeness, but the office operators; those who say: "Who is this? . . . No, he's out."

ADDRESS TO YOUNG MEN. BY MISS MARY ANN O'BRYEN. Written especially for The Conning Tower. Now you young men that are thinking About settling down in life Do not stand on the street corners If you want to marry an intelligent wife.

That is Miss O'Byrne's first contribution to The Conning Tower. We hate to blurb, but it is better than any of the poems in her collected works.

"WHOM ARE YOU'N' GOIN' TO MARRY?" (From the cartoon of a 19c Webster's manual) It is . . . subject to this condition: the advertiser's hands it may go.

It costs only \$27 for three minutes' telephone conversation from San Francisco to New York, so we expect to call up the composing room every night of our stay and dictate the stuff to the linotypist.

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPYS.

January 26—Up and to my own apartment to search for my wife's muff and some book-plates she told me were in the second or third drawer of the stand in the hall, but I could not find them, search where I did. Yet I doubt not they were there. To J. Doyle's with W. Trumbull, and I played him a game of pocket-billiards, and beat him roundly, 69 to 40. Then I did have a go with B. Bulger the great billiard player, and he beat me 55 to 51, but I was forced to give him 5, otherwise I had won. Yet if we had played it even I might have lost too, messieurs, for his skill is so tremendous that I should hesitate to play him for a sum larger than \$50. Mr. Will Donovan did umpire the game, and him I liked greatly. Walked then to the office with M. Rumsey, and all the evening at my labours; and early home and to bed.

27—Up, and to call on Mistress Crosby Little the playactress; and thence to the army with P. Gould the artist, and he did trounce me three sets of tennis, but it was the best exercise I had in two months; and all the day, at my office, I did feel the merrier for it. In the evening to the playhouse to see Mr. Shaw's "Androcles and the Lion," a droll piece and well acted; and if there be a droller playwright than Mr. Shaw, I should like to know who he is.

The Bookman eludes the proofroom with Walter Pritchard Eaton, but, as Mr. Francis Hackett observes in the New Republic, the Macmillan Company seems to have no proofroom at all. In "How to See a Play" he notes Echeverragay, Tagher, Ben Johnson, Samuel Jonson, James S. Metcalf, J. M. Paterson and William Vaughan Moody. And we have a Macmillan book—is it "Three Sisters"?—whose title page says it is published by the Macmillan Company.

"Rhymes Are So Scarce in This World of Ours." I've just re-read Dickens's "Dombey and Son," and I think some good old 'er'er hovered. And helped at this biggest thing ever I've done—A boon to contribs I've discovered!

That overworked "solemn" rhyme herewith decays; Henceforth when you wish to rhyme "column" Just think of Cap. Cuttle, and build up a phrase About him "overhauling the wulium." A. P. W.

"Since his football career he had his hair cut" is from Maximilian Foster's story in the Settepost. "Has he—and have many other non-sporting writers—not learned," asks L. C., Jr., "that the once-popular belief about the length of football players' hair is America's nation's fiction?"

Coming! "Tipperary," by Our Own Billy Sunday. Advt.

All Right Go Ahead and Rest. Sir: I thank you. Since you so kindly inquire what disposition I purpose to make of the belated credit which you grant me for signing my contribution of Tuesday in a truly efficient manner, to wit: A. B. E. P.—like that—I shall tell you. I purpose to rest, as all good efficiency experts do, on my laurels. A. B. E. P. Raphael's Every-Day Guide's advice for January 28 is "Do not sign writings." Bing goes superstitious! F. P. A.



NEWS NOTE—Germans attacked along the entire line in honor of Kaiser's birthday.

THE PEOPLES COLUMN An Open Forum for Public Debate.

NOT A CANDIDATE

Commissioner Wainwright Has No Wish to Succeed Chairman Dowling.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Referring to your Albany dispatch of this morning, to the effect that I desire to supplant Robert E. Dowling as chairman of the Women's Compensation Commission, permit me to say that nothing could be more contrary to the fact or further from my thought or desire. The fact is that I have for some time been desirous of concluding my work on this commission, having accepted the office at the request of Governor Glynn with the understanding that I should hold it only during the formative stages of the work. It is the fact that immediately upon Governor Whitman's inauguration I placed in his hands my resignation, to be acted upon at his pleasure, and in my letter of resignation explained to him my reasons for desiring to be relieved of this duty.

THE WOMAN SUFFRAGE BILL

Mrs. Blatch Explains the Situation as to the Constitutional Amendments.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: May I ask the favor of space in The Tribune to explain the difficulty in regard to the woman suffrage bill in the Legislature, because there has arisen some misunderstanding in regard to the situation? There is no difference of opinion between the legislators and the suffragists, but merely a desire to gain time to consider a technicality.

WHO FED THE BOERS?

What the English Did After the War to Aid the Boers.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: It is a concession on the part of Mr. Albert Staehle to admit that the British did nobly to feed Boer women and children, though he uses it as a cloak for an attack. So 25,000 died in concentration camps from exposure, did they? Perhaps he has the data handy and will state exactly. If he doesn't I shall later.

THE FINEST NEWSPAPER

The Opinion of a Tribune Reader and Its Moral for Advertisers.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I have been one of your "regulars" since January 1, 1914, and have been reading The Tribune and enjoying it more daily. But subways and quick transportation in New York make it almost impossible to read from cover to cover a morning paper which contains as much interesting matter as The Tribune generally contains. It was only recently, through an indisposition that I was given ample time to read the paper from cover to cover for almost a week, and I did enjoy it so thoroughly that I felt it only fair to let you know that your combination of splendid editorials, condensed news statements, special articles, F. P. A., Briggs, Rice and, last but not least, Krebber, together make up about the finest newspaper I have ever seen.

THE DUTY OF THE G. O. P.

Having Failed to Obtain Ships in the Past, It Should Help Now.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: President Wilson's stand for an American owned merchant marine has drawn forth a flood of discussion both for and against the measure. The discussion waxes hot in many quarters. With all these heated discussions, one fact stands out clearly—that we have not the ships to carry our goods to markets clamoring for the output of our factories and mills. Another fact remains—the greatest opposition to the President's measure comes from within the Republican party. Why? While the Republicans agree that we need a merchant marine, they fight the measure in Congress. Why? If they agree that we need an American merchant marine, why did not their interrupted control of the national administration provide the merchant marine so much needed? Before they try to obstruct the President's measure it would be fair that the G. O. P. leaders should answer this question on the floor of Congress.

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THE TRIBUNE'S FIGHT FOR A FREE PRESS.

Whether or not the United States Supreme Court's decision in the case of Burdick and Curtis settled the merits of those cases, it settled one thing effectively. It made it clear that the President was misled and ill advised in allowing his office to be made use of to aid a lawyer's sharp practice.

Burdick and Curtis were a Tribune editor and reporter. In an endeavor to find out from what Treasury official they had learned some facts of public interest they published, the United States District Attorney summoned them to reveal the source of their information, to give the name of their confidential informant. They refused, on the ground that it would degrade and incriminate them. To override this undoubted constitutional right theirs the Department of Justice induced the President to issue pardons to them—pardons in advance, pardons of unspecified and as yet unknown offenses—pardons in return for their refusal to accept these pardons, were adjudged in contempt of court, and sentenced to fine and imprisonment. The Supreme Court reversed the judgment and discharged them from custody.

The decision did not go into the right of newspaper men to receive confidential information and protect their informants, but it had the effect of settling that question, since in future any newspaper man interrogated concerning the source of his information may not only plead his constitutional immunity, but refuse a pardon. It becomes evident, in the light of the decision, that the pardons in these cases were simply manoeuvres to get around the law protecting men from incriminating themselves. The theory on which the device was based was that man cannot incriminate himself. But the court says:

"Indeed, the grace of a pardon, though good in intention, may be only in pretence or seeming; in pretence of having purpose not moving in the individual to whom it is offered, inasmuch as involving consequences of even greater disgrace than those from which it purports to relieve. And it declares that the President's pardoning power and the rights of settling that question, since in future any newspaper man interrogated concerning the source of his information may not only plead his constitutional immunity, but refuse a pardon. It becomes evident, in the light of the decision, that the pardons in these cases were simply manoeuvres to get around the law protecting men from incriminating themselves. The theory on which the device was based was that man cannot incriminate himself. But the court says:

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The Tribune is of opinion that in this case the Secretary of Justice, and the Attorney General combined to establish a censorship over news which it is true or not, and that the Department of Justice protecting a law protecting the scheme to circumvent a law protecting the rights of witnesses by an ingenious trick which would have made the right to silence, because of utter degradation or incrimination, a possible right a deal letter. It was an attempt to drive a horse and wagon through the law.

The Dacia Case.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The letter on the Dacia case by Mr. Michaelis in your columns I think is the most lucid argument I remember ever having read, and I consider it valuable that it should be published. I am, I believe, incriminated by such a letter. I. E. HALTON. Crosson, Penn., Jan. 27, 1915.