

New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth—News—Editorials—Advertisements. SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1915.

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

Dollars Against Lives.

In an effort to achieve economy Assemblyman Hinman, majority leader of the lower house of the Legislature, has introduced five bills which would change drastically the health law and the health policy of the state.

"Public health is purchasable" has long been the motto of the New York City Health Department, and the city spends about \$3,000,000 a year in backing that belief.

The Public Health Council, with Dr. Biggs, the Health Commissioner, at its head, and eminent specialists for its members, was formed. A sanitary code was adopted, based on the best modern scientific practice, and the state was divided into twenty districts, each with a sanitary supervisor in charge to enforce the code.

There was a decrease last year—fully 2,000 lives in the state outside New York City. The department carried on an extensive educational campaign in the care of babies and the handling of baby diseases.

The Hinman bills would cripple the law and the policy which is accomplishing these splendid things. The most vicious of them would require approval of the sanitary code by the Legislature before it could take effect.

Another would reduce the number of sanitary districts from twenty to ten, and the salaries of the supervisors to \$2,500 a year, piling up an amount of work which no conscientious man would undertake and no properly qualified man would think of at such a salary.

This is a question of lives against dollars. The state must not put the dollar above human life.

Protection Against Trade Fakery.

Among the bills which the Legislature should not fail to enact is Mr. Stoddard's amendment to the penal law, prohibiting the use in business of a family name not the real name of a person conducting the business, unless the name descended with the business to the successors in interest.

in court procedure, consuming time and money. This bill has the backing of reputable business men and business organizations. It means not only protection for them but for the community. It should be passed.

Changing the "Poor Man's Court."

The changes in procedure of the Municipal courts to which Mayor Mitchel has given his approval are in the main improvements. The arbitration plan, whereby a judge may hear and endeavor to dispose of a case without red tape; the issuance of summonses by attorneys; the abolition of demurrers, the broadening of the justices' power to create rules so that they may establish courts for the trial of certain classes of actions, will all tend to bring about a prompter rendering of justice through greater speed and smoothness in the handling of the litigants.

It is unfortunate, on that very score, that the limit of jurisdiction of the court has been increased from \$500 to \$1,000. An effort to accomplish this has been made for several years, but always has been defeated before this because the change would deprive the "poor man's court" of one of its advantages.

Music to Soothe the Outlaw.

A favorite theory of ethics would make the basis for human conduct a universal desire to harmonize one's self with one's environment and the universe. Both the good and the wicked have this desire, it is declared, but the wicked lack the instinct to gratify it.

All of this may have some bearing on the assertion of Pittsburgh's Superintendent of Police that music will "convert the crook." Music is simply an interpretation of life expressed in harmonies which even our Mike the Bites and Gyp the Bloods can feel with their defectively strung and poorly attuned nervous systems.

But not all simple fare, whether of food or music, is properly nourishing. Cheap, sentimental tunes induce in the savage breast a pity of self which has no permanent curative value.

Scope of Our War Zone Protest.

In a letter which we publish in another column Mr. Andrew Colvin maintains that we gave too broad an interpretation to the two paragraphs from the State Department's letter of February 10 last, which we cited on Thursday as applying to the Falaba case.

We cannot agree with Mr. Colvin that the note applies solely to attacks by German submarines on American vessels. Its opening paragraph contains a detailed summary of the programme announced by the German Admiralty.

Thus the note postulates for discussion the effect as a whole of the German campaign against unarmed ships, and then warns the German government "to consider, before action is taken, the critical situation in respect of the relation between this country and Germany which might arise were the German naval forces, in carrying out the policy foreshadowed in the admiralty's proclamation, to destroy any merchant vessel of the United States or cause the death of American citizens."

It is unfortunate that the only protection against such shabby tricks now lies

life or not, and the destruction of American lives, under any and all circumstances repugnant to the rights of neutrals.

As to the second quotation from the letter of February 10, we said that it referred to the possible destruction of vessels suspected of using the American flag without warrant. But it did not limit its warning to the consequences of an attack on an American ship assumed to be flying the Stars and Stripes as a ruse.

In his own case, when he was a passenger on a British vessel last August, Mr. Colvin admits that he possessed rights as an American citizen which any German war vessel would have been bound to respect. His status was the same as Mr. Thrasher's status. If a German submarine had torpedoed the vessel and left the crew and passengers to perish the United States would have been right in protesting in his behalf against that brutal violation of international law.

Word and Deed.

Governor Whitman's approval of the census bill, with its failure to place the appointees under civil service regulations, is bad business. His own chairman of the Civil Service Commission and the Civil Service Reform Association condemned the measure.

Despite the Governor's excuse that necessity for immediate action caused him to sign the bill, there is no doubt that the Legislature, aided by an emergency message, could have passed with exceeding speed a bill to suit him if he had vetoed this one.

Murphy as a matchmaker, first aid to Cupid, is playing a new part, though the fact that he's made many other things, from money to Governors, may have helped him.

What better use could there be for a man's ashes than to fertilize some noble tree, as a California "Forty-niner" has ordered that his shall do?

These Germans who have limited the use of malt in breweries in order to use it for bread evidently take no stock in the assertion that beer is "liquid bread."

Old King Alcohol now joins the ranks of those who don't blame General Sherman for saying it.

Soon the beautiful barmaid will exist only in English musical comedy.

Beerthirsty, not Bloodthirsty.

A correspondent sends us this story, evidently from an ironical Swiss paper. A few soldiers belonging to the brass band of a regiment in garrison at Basle went to a certain cafe for refreshments. One of them sat down alone at a table. Later a civilian, a German, joined him, and the two began to talk war politics.

"Oh, no, never!" exclaimed the soldier. "Waiter, a pint of beer and a beefsteak with potatoes for this brave man!" ordered the civilian.

"And your pals sitting at the next table would they also not shoot the Germans if they tried to invade this country?"

"Oh, no, never!" retorted the Swiss. "Waiter, a glass of beer for each of the soldiers at the next table!" ordered the civilian.

"And addressing again the soldier, he asked: 'Is this generally the view held in the Swiss army in regard to a possible German invasion?'"

"I don't know," replied the soldier. "But why would you not shoot the Germans?"

An Appreciation.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I have been reading with much interest in The Tribune your various exposures of "fake" sales, and have been in hope that sooner or later you would reach the "raincoat situation." Upon reading The Tribune of March 29 I notice that you have not only reached the raincoat situation but have treated it in the vigorous manner which it deserves.

It is a pity that the penal law covering false or misleading advertising cannot be enforced in such a manner as to prevent "faking" of this kind, not only in raincoats but in other merchandise.

I feel assured that your various articles will awaken the purchasing public to a realization of some of the conditions now existing, and in behalf of the standard and old established manufacturers of waterproof clothing like ourselves I wish to express my appreciation.

G. B. HODGMAN, President Hodgman Rubber Company, New York, April 1, 1915.

Two Big Fighting Ships.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: You describe the Pennsylvania as "the greatest sea fighting machine afloat." "The Toronto Star" says that the Queen Elizabeth outclasses it in range and bore of guns and in speed. What are the facts?

THE UNITED STATES MUST ACT

How Far Are We Committed in the Thrasher Case?

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The death of Leon C. Thrasher on the Falaba is a regrettable occurrence, but not necessarily an unfriendly act on the part of Germany against the United States.

The old rule was that a merchant vessel of an enemy nation should be destroyed with or without loss of life only when there was danger that she would escape or when it was impracticable to send her to any home port of the nation which had captured her.

How much these rules may have been modified by the injection of the submarine into the naval situation and what bearing such modification may have upon the case of Mr. Thrasher is a grave diplomatic question, but it has no connection with the other proposition—that Germany should not destroy a neutral vessel upon the theory that she may be an enemy flying a neutral flag.

Another Explanation.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I have taken notice of your editorial in regard to the sinking of the British passenger ship. I am forced to differ with you in regard to your accusation of cold blooded murder.

Putting It in Verse.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: To give and take is just,—A shot for a shot, a thrust for a thrust—From hidden bushes to ensnare a foe And even as a hunter lay him low While unprepared to face the bitter strife And ere his arm can clutch his trusty knife To send his soul into the upper air Is vile. But this is war and foul is fair.

Figures Wanted.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I think your editorial commenting on Governor Whitman's veto of Mayor Mitchell's garbage bill is most unfair to the Governor. The public has had no enlightenment from you on the details of the Mayor's scheme for the disposal of garbage.

Interpreting Conscience.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Billy Sunday says he accepts the Bible from cover to cover, yet his denials of it in preaching and practice would fill a volume. On conscience he says: "Your conscience may be wrong, just the same as your watch may be wrong, and the only regulator—the only guide—is the word of God."

England Threatened With Prohibition

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I was struck by the heading of your editorial "England Threatened with Prohibition." Poor old England! One would think that she would lose all that makes life worth living if the drink was cut off.

Peace Through Thought.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I think your paper more nearly represents right thought in journalism than any other New York paper, and I believe you will agree with me that the present state of thought in the world is a grievous thing.

Also with Prosperity and Happy Homes.

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AFTER HIS OWN HEART.



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The Conning Tower. Finally he raised his eyes to the heading on my section and I watched his face anxiously to see what impression it made on him. I was all prepared for the thrill which a young writer thinks he will experience when he sees some one reading the creation of his brain, but—the man gave the title and the first sentences or so an indifferent glance and passed on to more interesting fields.—Ernest Poole.

Life in New York, however, can never be the same to a man who has been buying fresh violets in San Francisco at 50 a bush.

IT WOULD "GET" US "SURE" Sir: If you were "Wild Bill" Donovan, would anything make you so "wild" as to have "Wild Bill" written "WILD BILL"?

In Chicago they have an all-night movie theatre. Spectators have a way of dropping out to sleep, and there is an attendant whose duty it is to wake them up. One imagines somebody asking his wife "What does your husband do?" "Oh," she would answer, "he's a waker in an all-night movie house."

Our hope is that the King's stand on the liquor question will cause "Punch" to omit the full-page whiskey ad it runs in the body of the paper, and to substitute a page of A. Milne's or George Morrow's stuff.

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPEL April 1—By omnibus to my house, which we did find in even better condition than we left it, and Mistress Julia Ferber is an ideal tenant; and solvent, too. For a walk along the river bank, and the Palisades did seem like toys to me, after the great Rockies in Canada. But the town very gay and bright, and thousands of beautiful ladies everywhere. To the office, when till night; and home, and to bed, the first time I have slept in my own bed in near 3 months.

2—The King, I hear, has forsworn alcoholic stimulant; and a good example to set, too; and I am pondering myself the following of it. F. Seymour, hearing of my despair at losing my fountain-pen in San Francisco, hath given me another, albeit I did essay to make payment for it, and sincerely too. With C. Riegelman the barrister to luncheon of a sirloin of beef, and I paid the reckoning, but I gained it all back and 5s. besides, in a game of Kelly-pool, which I played with indifferent skill. Much talk here of the war, which sheweth no signs of abatement. I say nought of Mr. Bryan in the prints today, but fearing to trifle with Providence, made no mention of it.

Also, as we encompass it, Britannia rules the waves of prohibition. All of which must make the Coldstream Guards the King's favorites.

AGAIN THE ATHLETIC YOUNG MAN Sir: Needles to say, you will be interested to know that the athletic young man has interested me so deeply that he will tolerate my indiscretions by success. HERMIT.

We are considering a plan for ending the war. How would it be if we decided to print contributions until peace should be declared? Or—would this be more effective?—to print nothing but contributions?

A Review of Rudyard Kipling's Poem "The King." (From The Complete Poetical Works of Rudyard Kipling, Copyrighted.) I have read the poem of Rudyard Kipling, recently published, which is styled "The King."

This is a fine production the poet has wrought. Full of inspiration and full of deep thought. Papers were so anxious to secure it quickly. That 'twas sent by cable from across the sea. The people, of course, thought 'twas a grand thing.

Just because 'twas written by Rudyard Kipling. 'Tis a fine production, yet it seems to me Magazines have acted rather hastily. Spending much money to have it brought over by means of cable to a foreign shore.

Why send for your poems to a foreign shore. Have we not among us poets by the score. Whose poems are sweeter far than anything Which has yet been written by Rudyard Kipling.

Take the latest poem of Will Carleton "The Leaves of the Book," since it now upon Younger critic's table, place also "The King," Which was written lately by Rudyard Kipling.

Let the competent critic put them to test. Then inform the public which work is the best. I feel sure our country very soon would see That "The King" is indeed a minus quantity.

I'll name you another, James Whitcomb Riley. Whose lines surpass those credited o'er the sea. Take Joshua G. Holland's great poem, "Little Sweet." This one which no foreign poet ever can beat.

Do not think that American poets are all dead. In rhyme and sweet metric we are still far ahead. And if your journals want good poetry. They need not, by cable, bring it over the sea.