

New York Tribune.

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

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Making the Women Pay.

So far as The Tribune knows there was no plank in the last Republican national platform declaring for a twelve-hour day for women.

If there was such a principle enunciated in the last platform of the Republican party in this state this newspaper is equally uninformed about it.

Yet it is a fact that the whole machinery of the Republican party in the State Legislature is being employed to drive through an enactment providing a twelve-hour day, six days a week, for the women who work in cannery factories.

To discuss such a proposal from any point of view of public policy is a waste of time. Such an enactment would not merely be bad legislation, it would be an insult to every humanitarian instinct.

For if there was one thing above another real and vital in the late Progressive revolution, it was one impulse which was not temporary or evanescent.

It was revealed in the words and the enthusiasm of thousands of men and women who had themselves given their lives to making living a little more tolerable, the conditions of life and labor of the less fortunate a bit more comfortable.

Vague, emotional, sweeping beyond the bounds of possibility or desirability, these dreams of the Progressives—the sincere and the loyal Progressives of 1912—were, but with the impossible there was much that was possible, with the transitory much that was bound to be permanent.

The money that is thus to be levied, most of it in this town, will be used to patch the political fences of upstate Republican leaders; it will be applied to unnecessary and wasteful ends solely to obtain real or imaginary political profit.

What is the profit in such legislation? The answer to this question is the exposure of the utter meanness of the whole project.

Such a law will be of political advantage to two or three legislators coming from districts in which the canning industry is an important local trade. It will mean some dollars in campaign contributions in a few counties, some votes in a few isolated districts.

And for such a contemptible gain, for a profit as mean and sordid as this, the State of New York is to be made to give its sanction to a law which can find no defence in humanity, no justification in any argument based on common decency.

Such arguments as must be raised against this bill will hardly obtain a hearing in Albany under present conditions, yet The Tribune ventures to suggest to its women readers, to its friends who are the officers and leaders in the movement to win the ballot for women, a cause in which this newspaper is enlisted, that never was there an opportunity to fight for the protection of women against "man made" laws more unmistakable, more conspicuous. It is an opportunity made to hand, and it will be a misfortune if it is permitted to pass unaccepted.

Meantime is it, perhaps, permitted a Republican newspaper to inquire whether it is the hope of the Republican leaders of this state to drive the present measure through the Legislature solely to provide themselves with a campaign issue for next year? Do they want to fight the next state campaign on the issue, "Twelve-

hours a day, six days a week; this is the portion of labor for women?"

The American Answer.

The answer of the United States to the British notes of March 13 and 15, explaining the scope of the proposed "blockade" of German ports, is a clear and temperate statement of this country's unwillingness to assent to unwarranted encroachments upon its rights as a neutral.

The United States, and every other neutral nation, is confronted with demands on Great Britain's part which make "scraps of paper" out of the restrictions put by international law on the treatment of neutral commerce and virtually nullify the principle of equality of sovereignty on the high seas as between belligerents and nations not engaged in war, outside the sphere of legal blockade and the legal interruption of trade in contraband.

Great Britain puts forward the claim of "military necessity" as a sanction for measures outside the pale of international law. Germany has put forward a similar claim for similar measures to the prejudice of neutrals. But it is evident that the United States cannot, either on her own behalf or as the guardian of the system of privileges and equity established by international law, accede to theories which reduce the international code to confusion and impotency.

Compacts among the nations which have stood the shocks of other wars still survive, so far as we are concerned, and it is our duty to hold fast to them as a safeguard for the future. We admit the difficulties which belligerents face in trying to stretch international law in order to wage war more remorselessly and effectively. But we cannot be expected to help them stretch the law.

There is no argument or precedent, for instance, which can justify us in surrendering our right to trade in non-contraband goods with neutrals or with a belligerent through neutral ports. This the British Order in Council asks us to do, and it contains many other restrictions on our sovereignty on the seas against which we must reserve an unconditional right of protest.

We stand on the international code as it is, and confidently expect an eventual acknowledgment of the justice of our attitude by each and all of the belligerents.

The Unnecessary Tax.

President McAneny's statement is a useful reminder of the fact that the fight over the direct tax remains to be fought and can only be won if every element in this community rallies to resist Albany raids.

There is nothing complex, baffling, concealed about the direct tax question. The figures have been set forth frequently and the single useful conclusion will be assailed only by those who have personal or political ends to serve by such an attack.

Every dollar of direct tax levied this year is an unnecessary tribute to the political purposes of the Republican leaders at Albany, who have persuaded the Republican Governor that his Presidential aspirations will be better served by a huge levy this year than by a possible tax next year.

The money that is thus to be levied, most of it in this town, will be used to patch the political fences of upstate Republican leaders; it will be applied to unnecessary and wasteful ends solely to obtain real or imaginary political profit.

If ever there was a time when this city should defend itself against an effort to plunder it this time is here. It may be impossible to prevent the taking of millions from the local taxpayers, but at the very least such an operation should be made the most expensive in recent political history.

The city administration should spare no effort to expose the utter viciousness of the legislative raid. The protest which the Mayor and Mr. McAneny will make at Albany to-morrow cannot be too vigorously expressed. The people of this town without regard to party should defend the city administration and the city.

The Status of "Interned" Merchant Ships.

Sir: Will you kindly give information regarding a matter which is in controversy? Are the big passenger steamships of the Hamburg-American Line and the North German Lloyd Line which are now tied up at their docks in Hoboken interned or not? If they are, have they or have they not the right, without violation of obligations of the flag under which they sail, to depart from the harbor of New York?

What penalty is attached in case they should make a dash for the open sea? Have the United States authorities the right to prevent by force the departure of these vessels? CHAS. ROOME PARMELE, New York, April 5, 1915.

The German merchant ships now in our ports are not interned, strictly speaking. Only warships are interned in the sense that they surrender the right to go to sea again until hostilities are over. Merchantmen may depart, if they have proper clearance papers and do not seek to evade the neutrality laws by carrying supplies intended for the use of warships awaiting them outside our jurisdiction.

The neutrality law passed by Congress on March 4 last defined more clearly the power of the federal government to prevent the use of our ports as bases of supply for belligerent war vessels. It imposed penalties of from \$2,000 to \$10,000 in fines and imprisonment not to exceed two years, or both, on owners or masters of vessels, either American or foreign, departing without clearance for the purpose of supplying fuel, ammunition, arms, men or

supplies to belligerent ships. Offending merchantmen are also forfeited to the United States if caught violating this law.

The President is empowered to employ the land and naval forces of the United States to prevent breaches of neutrality. Leaving port without a clearance, even if no breach of neutrality is intended, is also a violation of port regulations.

The Constitutional Convention.

For the benefit of the Republican party, which dominates it politically, and of the public, which that party professes to serve, just one thought should be constantly uppermost in the minds of the members of the Constitutional Convention, which assemblies at Albany to-day. That is that, as Mr. Root phrased it, we are running a railroad with a stage coach organization. If it were not for that belief abroad in the state, coupled with an earnest wish to have the machinery of government and the organic law of the state brought up to modern times and put into touch with modern methods of thought, the Constitutional Convention would not be meeting now.

This convention will be working not for one year or five, but for twenty years to come, in which time it is only reasonable to expect there will be as much development in politics, sociology and economics as has taken place since the constitution now deemed outgrown was built. It would be much better to give the state in 1915 a 1925 model than to provide for 1925 and 1930 a 1918 model.

Senator Root and his colleagues should remember that a railroad equipment now contemplates the use of electricity rather than steam. Any proposed constitution which does not prove itself progressive, forward-looking (and that not in any narrowly degree, but in the amplest construction of those terms), will be futile and a denial of genuine service to the people of the state.

Playing Into Billy Sunday's Hands.

At the two poles of religious psychology stand the Unitarians and Billy Sunday. The home hitting, base running, hell defying evangelist has called the Unitarians "nuts." He who has swallowed the Bible at a gulp has with equal brevity and finality thus rejected its careful masticators. And they, foolishly, are resenting this rejection.

It is, of course, nonsense for the Unitarians to seek to fight Billy Sunday except by heaping coals of fire on his undoubtedly tough cranium. To "hire a hall" within a few blocks of the Paterson Tabernacle, and to combat the man with something like his own weapons, seems too hysterical a scheme to be credited to a sect so calmly rationalistic. The threat to requisition Mr. Taft and Dr. Eliot as opposition orators only betrays the more the degree of madness to which the Sunday epithet has stung the members of the Board of Defence. How could these two gentlemen, with their courteous appeals to reason, hope to escape playing into their antagonist's hands? One can picture their tossing their philosophy like baseballs to his mighty bat and his glees as he knocked three baggers and home runs and ranced round the bases to the delirious applause of the multitude.

The Unitarians can better afford than any other denomination to ignore Billy Sunday's abuse, since their members are recruited least from his emotional followers. They can much better afford to ignore than to resent it.

And now the mysterious missing Oliver Osborne is alleged to be a member of a wire-tapper gang. At least that's a good explanation for his failure to appear in court.

Russian boots are described as "the latest fad," but the tipster leaves us in doubt whether they go under or over the universally indispensable spats.

Professor Jacoby would persuade us that the sun spot 100,000 miles long was the merest pimple.

Can Secretary Bryan reconcile himself to prohibition as an aid to military efficiency?

Elephants on His Hands.—Headline. Rather disabling.

The Oyster Excultated.

Sir: An excellent opportunity offered to-day in your third editorial column to right a great wrong done to the oyster industry about two months ago. The outbreak due to the presence in the Sloane Maternity Hospital of Mary Mallon was charged then to the "eating of oysters" by your news writer, and when the charge was investigated personally by one of our directors it was proved to be unfounded, but the injury was done by the prominence given on your front page, although the cause attributed to the outbreak existed only in the mind of the reporter.

After the matter was investigated by our association and the error brought to your attention an article entitled "The Oyster Alibi" was published by you, but treated the whole matter as a mere joke, whereas the original article may have done incalculable injury, owing to the wide circulation and copying value of your news.

The innocent oyster has suffered by many glances and undesired newspaper attacks, and when an opportunity offers the advocates of "truth" should endeavor to undo the work of the past.

EUGENE D. MCCARTHY, Secretary Oyster Growers and Dealers' Association, New Haven, March 29, 1915.

Statistics at Odds.

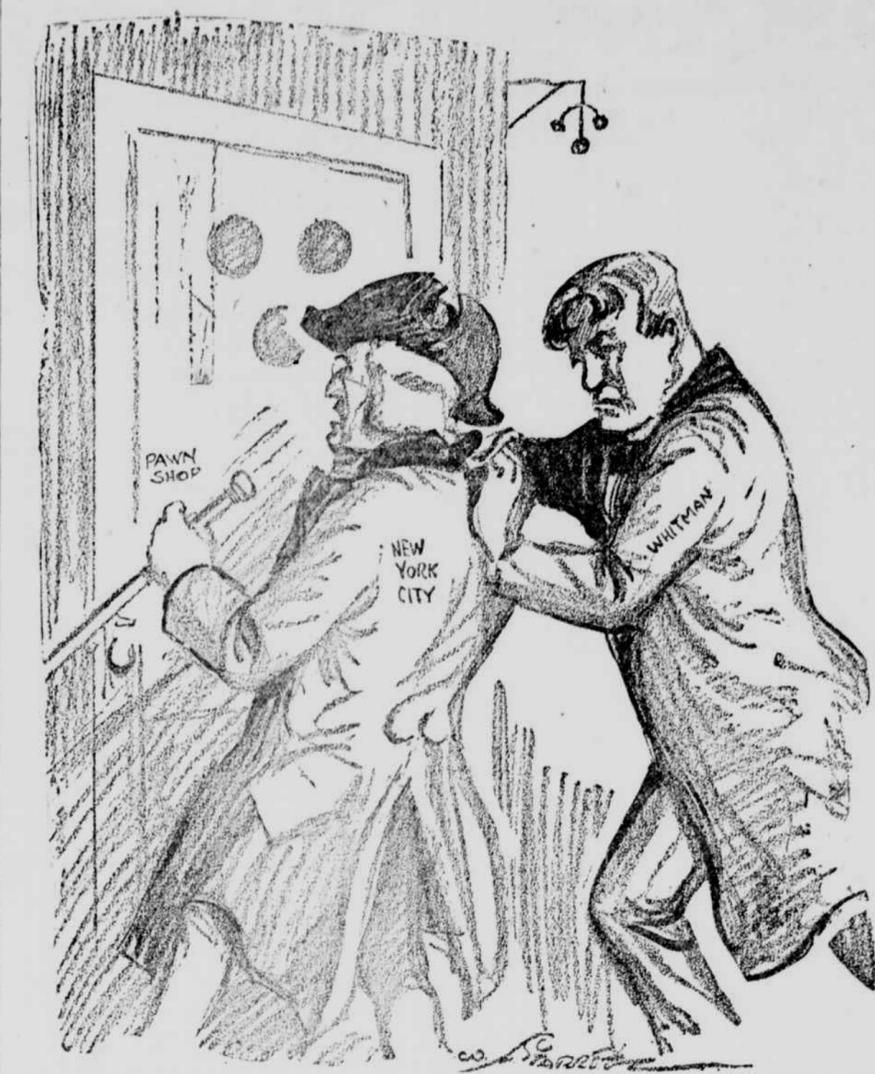
Sir: In your issue of the 28th John Joseph O'Driscoll refers us to Mrs. Arthur M. Dodge for statistics on woman suffrage and quotes her as saying that "The great body of women . . . do not only wish not to vote, but ignore the duty when it is given them."

Yet "in male suffrage states only about 50 or 70 per cent of the men vote. In equal suffrage states 70 or 90 per cent of the women vote, and, as a rule, the men's vote is higher also."

Mrs. Dodge's statistics must differ widely from the above, which I quote from Representative Mondell, of Wyoming, before the 53d Congress in January, 1915.

LINDA L. CONTENTI, New York, March 30, 1915.

TO THE PAWNSHOP.



THE FALABA CASE.

Mr. Colvin Admits That the American Protest Covered It.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Referring to your editorial reply to my letter in this morning's Tribune, permit me to say that I had no intention of attempting to construe the diplomatic note of the United States to Germany in protest of Germany's war zone proclamation. This portion of my letter was merely incidental to the main point.

The note of the United States may easily be construed as broadly as your editorial suggests, and it might be construed otherwise. This is a matter of diplomatic interpretation. Authorities may easily differ upon the point.

I beg to insist, however, that a citizen of a neutral country who in time of war voluntarily boards a vessel flying the flag of a nation which he knows is at war with another takes his own chance of being injured or killed as an accident of war.

If the enemy vessel which causes his death is violating the generally accepted rules of civilized warfare the victim's government has a right to protest and ask damages. Such protest and damages, however, would be on behalf of the deceased as an individual and not upon the ground that the country of which he was a citizen had been offended.

The question at issue in the Thrasher case, therefore, is whether or not Germany violated the accepted usages of war among civilized nations. It does not turn in any sense upon the violation of the rights of this country as a neutral nation.

This is the question which I desired to discuss. The letter was called forth by your editorial of April 1, which distinctly indicated that the writer of it believed the killing of Mr. Thrasher an encroachment upon our neutrality amounting almost to an unfriendly act on the part of Germany.

It is impossible to fix at the present time the status of the submarine in war, or to say to what extent the operations of these novel instruments of naval warfare have modified the formerly accepted rules governing the treatment of merchant vessels of enemy nations by each other. ANDREW COLVIN, New York, April 5, 1915.

Mr. Colvin distinctly said in his first letter that both the paragraphs which we quoted from the American note of February 10 referred solely to attacks by German submarines on American vessels. We are glad to get that he now agrees with us that the note covered the destruction of American lives on other than American vessels.—EJ.

A Powerful Cartoon.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: One of the reasons I enjoy The Tribune so much is on account of the splendid cartoons appearing on the editorial page. The one to-day is most powerful and I have taken pleasure in showing it to appreciative friends. As a daily reader, I wish to voice my praise for your efforts in giving to New York a clean, up-to-date paper.

SUBSCRIBER, New York, April 8, 1915.

Neutrality and the Eitel.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: If a born citizen of the United States may properly enter the newspaper lists so freely used by partisans of the belligerents, the facts in relation to the Prince Eitel's recent career appear worthy of comment as affecting the honor and dignity of the United States.

This commerce raider is reported to have kept the seas for over 10,000 miles, and even after ruthlessly sinking the American ship Frye could have easily made her nearest home port. Instead she put into Newport News, and has been allowed to use the facilities there to repair, clean and coal as she freely, except as to quantity of coal, as though it were her own naval base. Her commander was a guest of honor at the launching of an American battleship, and accounts say has even asked to be escorted to New York in territorial waters.

While the government officials may be technically correct in their treatment of this vessel, their acts would appear very likely to hold up the neutrality of the United States to deserved ridicule if not contempt by all

WHY?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: John Joseph O'Driscoll, in your issue of to-day, refers to Mrs. Dodge, the anti-suffrage president, as a clever and practical lady, when he quotes her as saying that it is "an absurd proposition for a small group of women like the suffragists to try to coerce the great body of women to vote when those women do not only wish not to vote, but ignore the duty when it is given them."

Of course, events in the past have shown us that the last assertion is false, but will you that ever and ask the gentleman if it is "clever and practical" to preach one doctrine and practise another.

If Mrs. Dodge and her co-workers really believe that only 10 per cent of the women in this state desire the ballot, then why the need of an anti-suffrage organization? If "indirect influence" is as they say all-powerful, why do they leave their homes to spend their time at their headquarters? Why do they hold public meetings and speak at those meetings? Why make trips to Albany and Washington just as suffragists do? Why attend suffrage meetings and applaud loudly at those meetings when a question is asked which seems in anyway to reflect on women in general?

According to those dear "old-fashioned ladies" women are ably represented by their men on Election Day. Miss Chittenden last year in a public interview said that it was not necessary for women to go to the polls; that if women want or don't want something all they need do is just acquaint their men-folks with their wishes. Now, if 90 per cent of the women do not want the ballot, and if all those 90 per cent have to do is just tell their men how they feel about the question, why does Miss Chittenden request \$40,000 for a campaign fund to defeat the suffrage amendment? BENSIE SHAGHNESSY, New York, March 28, 1915.

Pipes for Convalescent Soldiers.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I am helping some friends to get together a case of inexpensive pipes to send to the convalescent soldiers in the London hospitals. I am "passing the buck" to all my friends, and wonder whether some of your readers would care to send me one, the cost not to exceed 25 cents.

It is not necessary to say how grateful the poor chaps in the hospitals are for the little things they have been getting, and I particularly request that those who send a pipe put in their personal card, so the recipient will know the gift is a personal "hands across the sea" one.

Donors might care to ask some of their friends to do likewise, and their friends, and so on.

Will you kindly publish this letter? I know you will not mind my asking this favor. REGINALD HUGH MURRAY, 625 West 136th Street, New York, April 2, 1915.

Sinking of the Dresden.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: It seems to me strange that in all the news reports and editorial references to the sinking of the Dresden in neutral waters I have seen no mention of the justification for it.

The west coast republics, and especially Peru and Chili, have complained loudly of Germany's frequent violations of their rights and have done what they could to enforce neutrality and prevent the open and defiant use of their ports and outlying islands as naval bases by the German warships. Only last week Peru seized and interned a German vessel for having sailed with a false manifest and coaled a German warship.

If the Dresden was sunk in a Chilean harbor it doubtless was because she had no right to be there, and would neither intern nor come out and fight.

ROBERT ELLIOT, New York, March 31, 1915.

The Conning Tower.

WILLIAM WATSON. April, April, Laugh thy girlish laughter; Then, the moment after, Weep thy girlish tears! April, that mine ears Like a lover greets, If I tell thee, sweetest, All my hopes and fears, April, April, Laugh thy golden laughter, But, the moment after, Weep thy golden tears.

Each April we reprint Watson's poem, just to be sure that no year passes without our reading it. And, until somebody writes a better April-lyric, we shall persist.

FOOTLIGHT MOTIFS.

Mostly Emma Trentini. Trentini, loudly I rejoice, For I have been enthralled completely By Emma of the liquid voice Who warbles, trills and soars so sweetly. Though when you try to act the child Your arid antics drive me wild.

Trentini, actress you are not; Your broken English is not funny; Yet though you spoke in Hottentot, Your velvet voice were worth the money. They're wrong who say the play's the thing, I come to hear Trentini sing.

That is, that's what I came to hear, Prepared, between your pretty numbers, To drown the moments drab and drear In impolitely restful slumbers. But once I came I kept awake, For more than sweet Trentini's sake.

Not that the play was fine or rare, The comedy did not divert me; The book at best was only fair, Nor was it fresh enough to hurt me. Why did I come again perchance? To see Miss Frances Pritchard dance. IRWIN.

PAGE THE HOTEL-CLERK.

(From yesterday's Business Tribune.) OSBORNE, RAE & CO., heating and ventilating, 241-243 West Forty-first street, petition in bankruptcy by creditors.

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPIES.

April 3.—Up by times, and with the migraine, owing to the punch I had at Nelly Tyke's last night; which did make me playful and full of antics, but gave me no great joy this morning. I am resolved never to touch again any vicious liquors. Stopped in all the day, reading "Ruggles of Red Gap" to my wife, and I found it the rollest taylor I have read in many years; I would be hard put to it to think of a drooler. And when I had finished it was past midnight, albeit I deemed it but scarcely 9 o'clock.

4.—To the office, noting the folk going to and from church; gaily dressed, some of them, and others more somberly. Great speculation among the sporting set as to the outcome of the fight in Havana on the morrow; but I feel certain of Willard's victory, in the 28th round. And by this I shall stand, even though it result otherwise. There was a great snow fell yesterday, but the sun hath melted most of it away, as ever it doth.

5.—Slept ill, what with worrying over things I should not fret over; and early out and walked to my office, to banish my low spirits. But the vapours would not be dispelled. I did stand at the tape-machine to read of the prize-fight in Havana, and it was highly exciting, too. Mr. Willard won, as I had divined. All evening at my scrivening; and thence home, where I find C. Flanders and Mistress Annis, and we did talk of this and that.

Sharing it with E. A. Poe, Dec'd. Dear Sir: Thy Tower is to me As targets in the days of yore To yeomen skilled in archery. Who won the prize, yet yearned the more To make a perfect score.

Tho' what I write, diffuse or terse, Seems frequently thine eye to please, My joy's still cankered with this curse— The rewording of a wheeze, Or altered line of verse.

Lo, on thy parapet of rime How Cato-like I see thee stand, The azure stylus in thy hand,— Ah! sirrah, let this be the time I wholly land! A. E. C.

"Patrograd" is how the esteemed proof-room ran it. "An interesting study in eponymy," observes Karl von Krug, "or patronymics. The capital of Russia evidently derives its name from Pat O'Grady, the celebrated Irish explorer."

"Life" is Real, "Life" is Earnest, and the Grave is Not Its Goal.

Sir: Please decide the following: On January 1 last A. bet B. that "Life" would, sometime in Lent, 1915, print a picture of the devil and a girl—same as it has always done. B. now refuses to pay, saying that A. couldn't lose and therefore can't win. How about it?

Also, a man at my club Saturday said there had been a perfectly good original joke in "Life" within three years; he thought it was in the summer before last; it had something to do with a bathing suit and was illustrated "rippingly." Is this true?

Also, when did the "Adam and Eve" series of clothes jokes begin in "Life," and from what paper did "Life" get the idea? T. F. W.

The power of divination is a gift and our selection, in yesterday's Tower, of Willard to win the fight, was nothing remarkable. Omit flowers.

Rah! Rah! Rah! Caucasian Race! F. P. A.