

New York Tribune

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

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The Leelanaw.

The first thing to be said about the sinking of the Leelanaw is that there is no evidence in the preliminary reports which warrants any conclusion that Germany has been guilty of an unfriendly act.

On the contrary, the incident raises precisely the sort of question that can honorably and safely be left to arbitration, since there is involved a highly technical point of international law.

The incident is wholly analogous to the sinking of the William P. Frye. On that occasion Germany admitted responsibility and agreed to settle the damages. She simply asserted that under her interpretation of the Treaty of 1828 such destruction of neutral vessels carrying contraband was permissible.

But there is a thoroughly sound basis for the German contention, and the German view is reflected in the Declaration of London. The United States can, then, afford to leave the decision to The Hague, since no question of loss of life or property is involved and the ship was not sunk until the crew had been warned and permitted to take to their boats.

In his last note to Germany the President referred to the unusual conditions incident to the present war. We shall do well in any case where the German contention is plainly arguable to avoid any appearance of extreme insistence upon technical points or an overreadiness to perceive in explicable incidents an obstinate and unreasoning policy of destruction.

On the face of the facts as presented there is nothing in the Leelanaw incident to affect the German-American differences now under discussion between Washington and Berlin. The conflict in interpretation of an ancient treaty does not involve a casus belli or even an outburst of resentment. It is merely an incident in a war which calls for patience and self-restraint.

Presupposing that Germany follows her course in the Frye incident and accepts responsibility and agrees to pay the costs, the Leelanaw affair may be promptly dismissed as of no international significance.

Vaccination and Tetanus.

If there were any reason to confide in the good faith and candor of the anti-vaccinists it might be hoped that one of their favorite arguments had been finally disposed of by Dr. John F. Anderson's inquiry into the occurrence of tetanus after vaccination for smallpox. Such success as they have had is attributable in large measure to the skill with which they have played upon the apprehensions of timid persons, and to this end they have made much use of the various accidents that have occasionally followed vaccination as a consequence of impurities in the virus, faulty technique or subsequent infection.

The mischief is that there have been a considerable number of such accidents, and an unscrupulous critic can easily establish a case plausible enough to convince the ignorant whose fears and prejudices they are accustomed to appeal to. It is true that as good a case might be made against the practice of surgery, but that is a point deliberately overlooked by the anti-vaccinists.

Dr. Anderson's inquiry was carried on for thirteen years. He, or his assistants of the United States Public Health Service, examined specimens of vaccine virus sufficient to protect two million persons, and in no instance was the organism of tetanus detected. This negative result evidently proves nothing, but Dr. Anderson's inquiry went much further. He took the pains to procure particulars of all the reported cases of tetanus following vaccination between the years 1904 and 1913. Forty-one proved authentic, while in the same period the number of doses of vaccine virus used in the United States amounted to 31,000,000.

"From this it is concluded," Dr. Anderson observes, "that had the vaccine virus used during that time in the United States been at fault, many more cases of tetanus should have followed vaccination."

There was not a single case of tetanus in the army or navy, though the number of vaccinations far exceeded half a million. Among the cases that were reported and clearly established a large number developed so late as to justify the conclusion that the infection occurred ten days or more after vaccination. The conclusion is that when tetanus does supervene it may generally be attributed with some confidence to carelessness.

It is not to be expected that Dr. Anderson's reasoning will have the slightest effect on the opponents of vaccination. Far more likely is it that they will contrive to turn it to their own account if by any sort of trickery they can do so. Some years ago Dr. Rosenau published the results of an elaborate inquiry into the bacterial contamination of dry-points and glycerinated tubes, and as far as tetanus was concerned his conclusion was substantially the same as Dr. Anderson's. But though he made this perfectly clear,

and stated specifically that having examined many specimens he and his assistants were "unable to find the organism of this disease," yet by gross and deliberate perversion of his words some leading anti-vaccinists have made it appear that his opinion was the direct contrary and have repeatedly misquoted him by way of supporting their own mischievous arguments.

"A Dark and Bloody Mystery."

The following inquiry has come in so many forms from so many correspondents that it must evidently be regarded as serious:

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: It is to be aware, therefore, here goes: Why in 1914 and 1915 does The Tribune persist in advertising the sailing of cargoes of ammunition and thus assist in the destruction of cargo, ship, passengers and crew, which destruction it so properly decries and condemns on its editorial pages? It is a dark and bloody mystery of journalism that I can't fathom. F. H. L. Warren, Penn., July 24, 1915.

Does it not suggest some further mysteries? Consider, for instance, the regular publication of weather reports, not only in our own press, where they are of little moment, but even in the English papers, whose editors must know very well what an important bearing the weather has on the prospects of raids by sea and air. Or consider the deliberate way in which the same papers continue to announce the daily rising and setting of the sun. It is admitted on all hands that the conduct of submarines is attended with many difficulties at night; why, then, should not this valuable information be withheld from their commanders?

The only possible explanation is that the editors presume Germany's commanders do not depend entirely on the American papers for intelligence of this kind. Though F. H. L. is probably accustomed to get such information through the press the Germans could get theirs from the same source as the reporters. The collecting of news is not a magic gift and may be compassed without a very elaborate system of espionage.

The Cloak Trade Award.

The report of the Mayor's Council of Conciliation in the garment trade dispute stands out as a model of sympathetic and reasonable mediation. It is absolutely sound from the economic point of view; yet it keeps in mind the natural and necessary strivings of employes in all industries for a betterment of living conditions and an elevation of the standards of labor.

The council properly rejected two extreme demands of the garment makers' unions: It upheld the right of the employer to control his own business, to select his own employes, to discharge the incompetent and the insubordinate and to maintain shop discipline. Industrial efficiency cannot be attained under the system of open competition unless the employer has a free hand in administration and management. The shop with lax discipline and shipshod methods would have to go to the wall in a business in which competition is as keen as it is in cloak making, and the workers insisting on special privileges prejudicial to efficiency would find themselves out of employment.

The principle of freedom of control was also found to be in conflict with the second chief demand of the unions—that in the slack season work shall be equally distributed among all wage earners of the same grade. This demand, if yielded to, would have led to a permanent tenure, regardless of conditions in the trade. Such a tenure, as the council justly points out, would be an ideal status in a highly stable industry. But it is impracticable in a business subject to as violent expansions and contractions as the cloak trade is.

The council does not discourage the workers from hoping for future approximations to their ideal. But it holds that for the present conditions can be improved much more materially by a 10 per cent increase in the rates of wages and by a closer co-operation between the unions and the manufacturers in removing causes of friction in operation. Freedom to belong to a union is guaranteed, and boards of mediation are recommended to pass on cases in which the workers think that they are threatened with "oppressive action" on the part of an employer.

Finally, the Mayor's Council undertakes to make a further investigation of conditions in the cloak industry, with a view to standardizing wages, and agrees to arbitrate certain questions still unsettled. The work it is doing is public spirited and humanitarian. It will deserve the thanks of the community if it can put on a thoroughly sound and reasonable basis a trade which plays so large a part in this city's industrial life.

"Diablong-Range Poison."

The diabolical devices introduced by the Germans in the present war have possibly caused men on some occasions to credit them with more than their share of fiendish ingenuity. The use of asphyxiating gases, "liquid fire" and so forth is so well established that there is indeed little reason to suppose that they will stick at anything; but the certainty that these things have been used may have suggested Schrecklichkeit as the explanation of a few things that might conceivably be accounted for on other grounds.

Some of the more remarkable novelties of German warfare are described at length in a book lately published, and among other curious passages there is one which seems to have attracted more attention than the rest, though in the main the facts set forth in it are not new. It deals with the use of what is described as "long-range poison," and it is commonly agreed that this is even worse than gassing, being "more abominable because more insidious."

It is perhaps because this device was detected so long ago that it attracted but little attention when the facts were first made known. It was after the Battle of the Marne that examination of a number

of unexploded German shells revealed the presence of a considerable quantity of different varieties of phosphorus, and as it was difficult to account for it upon purely ballistic considerations, it was freely conjectured that the object was to make the wounds more terrible.

This hypothesis was not regarded as plausible at that time, and so the use of phosphorus attracted much less popular attention than the recent use of chlorine. But now that there can be no doubt about the latter, it is at least conceivable that the phosphorus was introduced for the purpose of making the shells more deadly.

There can be no doubt that if it could be brought into contact with the wounds inflicted it might be useful, serving, as was pointed out some months ago by a member of the French Académie des Sciences, to cause localized gangrene and thus to afford a convenient breeding ground for the anaerobes that prevail on the battlefields of France and Flanders, notably those of tetanus and gas-gangrene. In the common shell the phosphorus was inclosed in a small cylindrical box lying in a cavity formed in the compressed explosives, while in the shrapnel the interstices between the balls were filled with the powder, and the balls being more or less rough and irregular it occurred to some observers that they might carry a certain amount of the stuff into the wounds and thus cause considerable trouble.

An enemy that thinks nothing of poisoning wells would probably not hesitate at the employment of any method that would render its shells more deadly, but it is not possible to account in another way for the use of phosphorus? Is it not conceivable that the dense white clouds produced by combustion would greatly facilitate the business of locating the shells? This explanation seems plausible at least, and since the Germans have not as yet claimed the tetanus bacilli and the rest as their allies, we may for the present allow them the benefit of the doubt. It may be noted, however, that the use of pathogenic microbes has lately been suggested by Dr. Steinetz as a probable weapon of the future.

Only a little thing like calling Congress together now seems to stand in the way of a real national movement for military preparedness.

Who is expected to inspect the steamboat inspectors?

Trip to Market Ends at Altar.—Headline. Nevertheless it will have to be resumed.

The U-boats are back from their vacation.

RIChMOND'S PRESIDENT

Danger of a Scandalous Use of Power by Staten Island Aldermen. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is not time that the attention of the city at large be called to the situation which exists with regard to the election of a Borough President for the Borough of Richmond to succeed Charles J. McCormack. The matter affects the whole city because of the position of the Borough President on the Board of Estimate and the fact that he will serve for over two years.

The power to choose the successor to the deceased Borough President is vested under the charter with the three aldermen from Richmond. The electors have no choice and can only trust the aldermen to represent them faithfully. Two of these three men, instead of meeting the duty thus thrust upon them with any fitting sense of responsibility, are using their power simply for the advancement of one of them. Alderman Cole is a candidate for the position. Alderman Fink supports him. Alderman O'Rourke, who alone seems to realize the manifest impropriety of the aldermen electing one of themselves, has refused to join in any such conspiracy against the public interests and has announced that he will vote for any one of a number of prominent citizens who have been suggested.

In order to be elected Cole must first resign. This would leave a tie, and the Mayor would have to vote. Apparently with the idea of forcing the hands of the Mayor, Alderman Fink and Cole are reported to have threatened that they will elect him if Cole is not chosen.

This situation is rendered more disgraceful by the fact that it is possible for these aldermen to elect a man who is fitted in every way to fill the position. Two or three such men are available. Ex-Senator Hayne and William G. Willcox are both eminently qualified and the services of either could be secured. It is a matter of very great public importance when these aldermen use the power delegated to them for their own selfish purposes, entirely neglectful not only of the interests of the Borough of Richmond but of the city as a whole. CITIZEN. New York, July 26, 1915.

The First Grenadiers.

Hand-grenades, which are playing a prominent part in the present war, were reviewed in modern times by General Baden-Powell during the siege of Mafeking. They were afterwards used with dire effect against the Russians by the "slim" Japanese. But they first appeared among the equipment of the British Army in the summer of 1678, when John Evelyn records: "Now were brought into service a new kind of soldiers called grenadiers, who were dextrous in flinging hand-grenades. They had furred caps with curled crowns, which made them look very bold." These primitive grenadiers, after burning their missile, charged the enemy with hatchets, and were frequently killed by their own firework. Besides grenades in pouches and battle-axes, they were armed with muskets, slings (!), swords and daggers; and bayonets, when first invented, were appropriated to the grenadiers. So they must have been walking arsenals.

A Tax on Umbrellas.

A tax on umbrellas would not add materially to the national revenue at such a season as this. It was more or less seriously suggested, however, during the Napoleonic wars. Pitt was at his wits' end for additional sources of revenue. It appeared that everything taxable had been taxed, and in sheer despair he wrote to a friend in Somersetshire asking for suggestions. Back came the reply: "Tax umbrellas, and make the bishops order the prayer for rain to be read in the churches till the end of the war." Elizabeth N. J., July 22, 1915. P. G.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

They Are Satisfied to Work for Themselves and for Others.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In a recent issue of your paper Raymond M. Thurston inquires why so many females engage in business, when it is impossible for us to be associated with men without becoming coarsened. Then he wonders why men jostle us and refuse to give us seats in the cars. His silly persiflage covers considerable space regarding his prejudiced feelings toward concerns where females are employed and states for a fact that "no sane, businesslike men employ females in preference to men." Having run out of invectives to describe the business girl, he would have us believe that he addresses the "good, modest home girl," and hastens to inquire if the former is superior to the latter.

In answer to his two direct questions I have this to say: The majority of us, rather than pose in dowdered organdies, awaiting the "first chance," prefer to exercise our right to earn a livelihood, thus relieving fathers and brothers and contributing to the support of others who stay at home, and many unselfish women take pleasure in educating egotistical, opinionated male products of the Thurston type.

Without boasting of our superiority, we admit that with our many advantages we are less fearful of responsibilities and better able to meet reverses. That there are many charming and capable women who perform duties in the home of the most praiseworthy character no one will dispute, but I call Mr. Thurston's attention to the fact that the small army of very young girls to whom he applies such scurrilous names are merely affecting the dress and reflecting the manners of a certain class of female stay-at-homes, and if this class would find a business career perhaps we would read of fewer suicides and embezzlements. A man may accuse himself, as Mr. Thurston has done, but he has no right to arraign the whole of his sex. Men may swear without being offensive; only men with a yellow streak use vulgar and unbecoming language before any one, at home or abroad. "Real men" do not jostle us, and they have the same right to keep their seats as we have to invade the field of industry.

Regarding the broad statement that "no sane, businesslike men employ females in preference to men" (in stenographic and bookkeeping positions), this alone shows how lacking in knowledge is the man who would revolutionize the business world; he would have the young man continue in the rut operating a typewriter or adding columns of dumb figures throughout his entire life, rather than employ a woman who might marry. A high compliment to his sex. However, the young men of this age are far too progressive to indenture themselves out, as it were; like the young women, they are progressive and need no incentive from me.

If Mr. Thurston is a myth and the article to which this is a reply is the work of a precocious office boy, I am bound to acknowledge he has got a rise out of me. M. E. F. West New Brighton, Staten Island, July 22, 1915.

Without Germany's Permission.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I am handicapped by not being a legible writer and also by not being in a position to send you a typewritten letter, but I do not intend, however, to be done out of making a reply to that part of your correspondent's letter, signed "M. Flomenhaft," in today's Tribune, where he says that "those people threw their dice with death, and they lost." They did not do any such thing. They were not violating any rule of traffic in going on the Lusitania, and they were not warned not to go by the United States government, the only government who had any right to warn them, and whose President just now is engaged in maintaining that right, and who, in my opinion, was very slow at the time the German people advertised that warning in not then and there declaring it an act of war, and who is also now, in my same opinion, open to criticism for not going right at it and taking a fall out of Germany, as we will have to, sooner or later, and the sooner the better, as we will then find out who are American and who are Germans, and when it comes to that there will be something doing very quickly by Mr. Flomenhaft and his kind, as they know full well the benefits of living in this great and glorious United States, and it won't take them long to get on the right side.

SAMUEL SAUNDERS. New York, July 17, 1915.

Mexico and Belgium.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The distress and suffering in Mexico, our next door neighbor, are greater than in Belgium, where we have dispatched our relief ships. For this reason the President urged upon us the need and duty of generous contributions to the Red Cross in order to assist the starving foreigners and residents in Mexico.

Yesterday we read: "Brigadier General Devol, general manager of the American Red Cross, returned from the Texas border today with the announcement that attempts to relieve famine and suffering among non-combatants in Mexico were hopeless under present conditions." When we consider the anarchy, raised to the high power under the hands and assassins who have been ruling that unhappy country, and contrast it with the reasonable prosperity and reasonable safety of the Republic two years and eight months ago, when Taft was in power and Henry Wilson our honored ambassador, we can appreciate the blessings which our meddling and muddling have procured for our neighbors.

JUNIUS. New York, July 23, 1915.

The "Insanity" Plea.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: A burglar enters a house to inspect some of the silverware. Meanwhile he is attacked by the man whose property he wanted to test and knocked unconscious. The police are called. They find that a couple of ribs have been broken. The burglar is taken to some hospital, where he receives medical treatment, and upon recovery he is taken before a judge and tried for the crime committed.

This seems to be the rule in every case; that when an offender is mentally unfit to defend himself of the crime committed he first receives medical attention; then, if he recovers, he will be tried for the offense. Look how well it works with Thaw! Insane? Put him in an asylum! Sane? Try him for murder! Not excuse him of murder because "insane" and afterward becomes sane! Oh, legislator, art thou asleep? New York, July 22, 1915. G. MAZZINI.

Appreciation.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Kindly accept from a citizen and an old reader of The Tribune my deep appreciation and admiration for the true, courageous stand you have taken since the beginning of the European war for liberty, justice and safeguarding the people and their interests. Elizabeth N. J., July 22, 1915. P. G.

IT'S A LONG, LONG WAY TO BELGRADE.



MOST WOMEN WILL VOTE

But Comparatively Few of Them Will "Go Into Politics."

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Just what do anti-suffragists mean by the phrase "go into politics"? I know what it means in its ordinary sense, of course, but I quite fail to grasp its meaning when it is used as Mr. Everett P. Wheeler uses it in his letter which you printed this morning. Do the anti-suffragists understand that if the suffrage is granted to women they will all "go into politics" in a body? If they do think that I don't wonder they oppose it. I should myself. But I have always understood that all the majority of suffragists are asking for is the right to vote. Of course the right to vote carries with it the right to hold office, but I hardly think that all women will "go into politics," any more than all men have gone into them.

But I hope that the majority of women will vote if the suffrage is granted to them, and I believe they will. I cannot agree with Mr. Wheeler about the goodness of the women who have the right to vote but do not exercise it. Mr. Wheeler would probably be quite willing to admit that a man who does not vote is a bad citizen. I fail to see why the same rule does not apply to women.

Nor can I see why the stimulating of women's interest in questions of municipal and national affairs by giving them a personal interest in them can possibly have any deteriorating effects on their ability to bring up their children wisely and well. In fact, it seems self-evident that the more they know about the conditions which their children will have to face when they are grown and must in their turn take their places in the outside world the better they will be able to prepare them to do so.

The great trouble to-day is that the outside world has progressed, but the home world has not. In the old days, when our government was instituted, women knew absolutely what their children would have to face, but to-day it is the exceptional woman who has anything but the vaguest sort of ideas about what the world outside of her own narrow orbit is like. This is due to the tremendous changes in our national conditions of life. Women are waking up to this more and more, and this awakening is one of the causes of the suffrage movement. But some stimulus is needed. I have not the space here to go as deeply into this question as I should like to do, but I hope to be able to take it up before very long in an article.

We suffragists also believe in democracy, but we feel that in this country to-day the civil rights of every individual are not as well protected as is possible. We believe that life has become too complex for such protection to be possible under our present system. America has always stood for freedom and everything that is finest not only in government but in her whole national life. We want to see her continue to keep her high place among the nations, and we feel that she cannot do so if she keeps her present system. JAMES R. KEENE TAYLOR. New York, July 23, 1915.

Are We Right?

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I am serving in the National Guard to-day in order that I may be properly prepared and ready to fight for my country if need be. My motto is: "My country may be always right, but my country, right or wrong."

Is our country in the right in her insistence on a discontinuance of the Germans' torpeding British ships? Haven't we enough to do to protect our own shipping? True, the lives of Americans traveling on British ships are endangered, but why don't they use the American Line? They should be patriotic enough to patronize our own merchantmen, and even if they aren't they should at least hold their personal safety above the idea of having perhaps a little more luxury and speed.

Every one I have spoken with about our various notes on the Lusitania seems to hold the same idea—that is, protect our own and let England, who is hampering our shipping far more than Germany, take care of British. If England, who is conducting a blockade against Germany, expects to be al-

GERMAN GUILTY

A Lesson of the War To Be Heeded by Americans.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: When there becomes current a report that wireless plants for German use are being established in America, the report is belittled, ridiculed, for "the nice German people" here are incapable of such acts; they are loyal to their country. Like treatment was accorded warnings against German agents given a long time before the outbreak of the great war by persons of clear vision in England, France and Russia. A great deal of amusement was afforded by the "spy scare" in those countries, not only to America, but also to a large part of the populations of the countries warned, including even those to whom had been intrusted the defence of those countries.

What we need is less notes to Germany on what are essentially England's troubles and more notes to England on our own shipping troubles, which are far greater with England than with Germany. We would then be nearer to free and undisputed use of the seas, and would not be drawing ourselves into a senseless conflict with a nation which is trying to protect itself.

WILLIAM A. LE BEAU. Hoboken, N. J., July 23, 1915.

New York Factories Fail.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The communication in your issue of July 20 from Stewart Browne, president of the United Real Estate Owners' Association, indicates a lamentable failure to diagnose accurately the reason for the exit of factories from New York City. Mr. Browne sees fit to attribute this to the activities of what he designates "social uplift fakery."

Business men, including manufacturers and merchants, realize, however, that the greatest handicap to industry of all sorts in New York City is the high price of land and the enormously heavy taxation of industry. Industry and labor pay three-fifths of the cost of local government and the city's share of the state direct tax. This condition obtains because the city, instead of securing most—or even the major part—of the cost of local government by taxing the only class of property which is benefited by municipal expenditures—land—taxes industry.

Progressive cities of the Canadian Northwest and in Pennsylvania, the two cities of Pittsburgh and Scranton, are gradually untaxing buildings and transferring taxes now levied thereon to land values. With its enormous municipal debt and increasing budget, New York City must adopt the same common sense system of taxation if it is to hold its present position as the leading manufacturing and commercial city. JOHN MOODY. New York, July 20, 1915.

Pacifism.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Will this definition do for the new word to go in the cyclopedica?

Pacifism: A disorder of the mind, erroneously supposed to grow from a weakness of the spine. Comparatively new to the Western world, but always prevalent in China; communicable by the exhalations of persons already afflicted. Notable British sufferers in 1913, Norman Angell, Lord Haldane and Lord Morley. The disease was stamped out of the British Empire in 1914 but persists in the United States to the present time, July 1915, ex-Secretary of State William J. Bryan and Miss Jane Addams being apparently incurable.

The remedy is shock, the unfortunate coming out of what seems to be a trance upon the receipt of astounding or heart-breaking news. Millions of Englishmen were cured simply by reading of the violation of Belgian neutrality and the murder of Belgian non-combatants. Millions of Americans were shocked into their senses by hearing of the crime of the Lusitania. Prior to this event President Wilson was so ill that he imagined American defencelessness to be directly conducive to peace in Europe.

Like measles, pacifism has a German variety. This needs no attention, disappearing sooner without any. J. HOWARD COWPERTHWAIL. New York, July 18, 1915.

The Doubting Thomas.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The disciple of Derenburg, Bernstorff, Ridder and other signing himself "Washington-Collins" is certainly well "fed up" with the German propaganda, and from his note believes not that the German flag has been swept from the seas by the "ex-mistress" and that the German navy is bottled up in the Kiel Canal and afraid to come out and fight the "ex-mistress." He also probably believes all German ships tied up here are British. W. WAGHORN. New York, July 22, 1915.

Train All Girls as Nurses.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: If we adopt the Swiss citizen army training system we should supplement it by compulsory training of the women to act as nurses and to fill vacancies in the lighter occupations during training periods, so that we can automatically run the body politic smoothly. H. D. PARKER. Washington, July 23, 1915.