

New York Tribune

First to Last—The Truth—News—Editorials—Advertisements

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FOREIGN RATES—CANADIAN RATES

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You can purchase merchandise advertised in THE TRIBUNE with absolute safety

Bulgaria's Demands.

Real justice will be done the Bulgarians if the frank statement of the Premier is accepted as a mere proposal to put Bulgarian military resources on the auction block and sell Bulgarian soldiery in a Hessian fashion.

For the loss of the larger part of this fraction of the Bulgarian people Bulgarian statesmanship is responsible. It was the decision of Czar Ferdinand and his advisers to attack Greece and Serbia in 1913 which provoked the second Balkan war and the ruin of Bulgarian hopes.

But the consequences of the attack are now borne by something like a million Bulgarians, who were innocent of all complicity in the crime. To-day Macedonia, the portion of Macedonia which has ever been recognized as Bulgarian in race, language, but above all in the desire of its population, is subject to Greek and Serbian masters.

Go back to the Serbo-Bulgarian treaty which preceded the first Balkan war and it will be recalled that Serbia agreed to recognize Bulgaria's claim to all of Macedonia east and south of a line drawn from Lake Ochrida to the point of contact of Serbia, Bulgaria and the Turkish Vilayet of Kossovo.

But the Serbian agreement was based on the presupposition that Serbia should have Albania north of the Skumbi River. When Austria vetoed this Serbia claimed as "compensation" the portion of Macedonia her armies had conquered, including Monastir, Koprili, Ochrida and Prilep.

While the question was still being debated Bulgaria struck Serbia and Greece, who had made a common cause. But this treacherous attack failed. Bulgarian troops were driven out of Macedonia by the combined Serb and Greek armies.

At Bucharest the victors divided the spoils. Serbia kept all of Macedonia west of the mountains, including Lestip as well as Monastir and Prilep. Greece took Kavala and Drama, pushing her frontier east to the Kara-Su. Turkey retook all of Thrace save a small district between the Egean and the Rhodopians, west of the Maritza. Rumania annexed the region between the Danube and the Black Sea.

By these annexations there was taken from Bulgaria 1,250,000 people, who inhabited regions Bulgarian troops had conquered, or districts which were Bulgarian before the war. In addition, her claim on 500,000 people in Macedonia about Monastir was forfeited to Serbia.

This is the Bulgarian situation. She now asks Serbia to return upward of 500,000 people in Macedonia, a large majority of whom desire to become Bulgarians. Serbia can do this now, because the enemies of Germany are able to restore the old situation and permit Serbia to annex the Albanian regions, which she has reconquered, Austria now being out of the reckoning.

The Greek situation is less simple. The districts of Kavala and Drama are the natural neighbors of Western Bulgaria. But Kavala and its environs are purely Greek, and the Bulgarian population is a clear minority. Greece declines to yield these, although Venizelos once agreed to make this cession if the Allies would guarantee the integrity of Greece and pledge themselves to give her Smyrna and the

west coast of Asia Minor at the close of the war. Rumanian willingness to give back her stealings between the Danube and the Black Sea has been generally accepted. This is a small price to pay for security in the rear, while Rumanian armies are invading Transylvania and Bukovina. As for Adrianople, this can be retaken by Bulgarian armies if they enter the war. Such are the conditions in the present Balkan game.

worth, nearly succeeded in destroying a Zeppelin in the same way. In fact, he actually did contrive to land an incendiary bomb on her from a height of two hundred feet, and it was a miracle that she escaped. It is easy, then, to understand why dark nights are generally chosen for air raids, and another circumstance to be considered is that an air patrol would interfere considerably under such conditions with the operations of the anti-aircraft guns on land.

Favorable as the conditions were, nothing of importance was accomplished, so far as is known. At present, indeed, we have only the British report to judge by, and it is well known that there is a strict censorship over all news concerning air raids. But when the German report comes it is improbable that it will be more enlightening, since the conditions under which these raids are conducted make it impossible for the raiders to judge exactly of the results. The conclusion is that so far the Zeppelin has been a miserable failure, and that unless Germany has a huge air fleet she can do but little damage in this way.

Unfortunately, the Young Republican Club's admonition to the Republican majority in the Constitutional Convention is neither unnecessary nor unfeeling. There is abroad a widespread feeling that the convention has manifested a determination to do little toward thorough modernization of the constitution, and that what may be done is more likely to be bad than good. For this the introduction of numerous reactionary proposals, comparatively few of which have received serious consideration in committee, and the speeches of Mr. Barnes are largely responsible. So far this reactionary spirit has manifested more in talk than in actual progress of various proposals on the convention's calendars. Yet it has been strong enough and expressed vigorously enough by men of no small influence in the party to warrant a reminder that the Republican party will suffer seriously if this convention puts forth a draft constitution which cannot win popular approval.

Popular approval, moreover, is not to be obtained for any milk-and-water, wishy-washy document in this year of grace. Experience with the workings of government under the present constitution has indicated clearly enough the need for certain specific improvements—more power and responsibility for the Governor, a better financial system, a legislative system shorn of certain excrescences and superfluities which now waste time and money, a speeding up of the courts, justice for municipalities, freedom for legislative handling of social and political problems along lines of present day thought. Some of these questions the convention has discussed seriously. None of them has it settled.

It must take definite action on them all, and must take it soon. Too much time has been given to discussion of re-appointments and other highly unimportant subjects which do not concern this body. Too much attention has been given to details; too little to the big questions on which the value of the convention's work will be determined. The convention, under the driving of Mr. Root, at last seems to have settled to its real work. It can give the state good service by hammering out uncompromising provisions for the short ballot, a Governor-made budget system, a Legislature without the ability to dawdle over private bills, special bills, local bills and "pork" bills, thoroughgoing home rule for municipalities, a court system which will not breed litigation, foster delays and afford advantages to rich criminals over poor litigants. The convention has in its membership the brains, the ability, to do this work and do it well, quite in accord with the demands of the public and the needs of the state. It will be a sad thing for the Republican party, which must bear responsibility for the work of the convention, if short-sightedness or the manipulation of discarded machine politicians prevents the production of a sensible, modern scheme of government.

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Suffrage Grows.

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Its beginning was slow. During the first sixty years of the movement only four states were carried for equal suffrage—Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho. Then a landslide toward suffrage began, and in five years eight more states were added. Washington gave women the ballot in 1910, California in 1911, Kansas, Oregon and Arizona in 1912, Illinois and Alaska in 1913 and Montana and Nevada in 1914.

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Lucy Stone was described by her husband as "the gentlest and most heroic of women." In her time it took real heroism to advocate equal rights. How happy she would be, if she were living, to see how greatly the world has changed!

ALICE STONE BLACKWELL. Chilmark, Mass., Aug. 7, 1915.

Let Us Prepare.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: It is quite a relief to read Mr. E. Wheeler Whitmore's letter, "Rally Round Your Colonel!" after reading the audacious Mr. Talcott's article. I am, indeed, in favor of "preparedness," and as a true American one who admires our great and noble citizen Theodore Roosevelt—urge all other true Americans to be prepared, or in other words, to take the "dope" as handed out by Bernhardi, Treitschke and "Our Colonel"—God bless him—Theodore Roosevelt.

JOHN J. GRAPER, Jr. The Bronx, Aug. 8, 1915.

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To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: "Rally around your colonel, boys, and let the worst that is to be come," writes E. Wheeler Whitmore to The Tribune. Presumably, Mr. Whitmore means that if enough of the boys were to rally around the colonel we would be ready to take care of the worst. On the other hand, some of us consider that if enough of us were to rally around the colonel and bring him back the worst would then be with us. In his search for an issue the colonel has seized upon "preparedness" as the most available thing in sight. Maybe he is making some friends thereby, but he is also making some enemies. Would it interest Mr. Whitmore and others to know that there are those who are now watching the colonel to see in what political direction he proposes to jump in order that they may be able to jump in the opposite direction?

This number includes many who were strongly with the colonel three years ago. Perhaps it will be remembered that in 1912 among the colonel's first and strongest supporters were many social workers and others who saw in the Progressive platform some real hope for the working out of their social betterment policies through political channels.

MR. TALCOTT AND THE COLONEL

A Distinction To Be Drawn Between Militarism and Readiness.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I was quite amused to read the lengthy article of your Connecticut correspondent, Norman Talcott. Norman is certainly a bright boy, and writes a very nice letter; the only objection is that he doesn't use any logic.

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Mr. Roosevelt nowhere advocates militarism, merely preparedness, and he does not advocate the German system, but that of Switzerland, which is quite different. And the Swiss "preparedness against war" is the only thing that has saved their country from a fate similar to that of Belgium, and has certainly been worth whatever sacrifice was necessary to maintain such an organization.

Theodore Roosevelt was President for seven years, and during that time we enjoyed great peace and prosperity. Our citizens were not murdered, either in Mexico or on the high seas, or any other place. Compare this with three years of President Wilson's term. We have not had prosperity (except that caused by supplying munitions of war to belligerents), our citizens have not been protected, we have had war with Mexico and may yet have another, our relations with both Japan and Germany have been perilously near the breaking point, and we may yet be drawn into a war with Germany. Also, at England's command, President Wilson had his Congress repeal the "free tolls clause" of the Panama Canal bill.

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What Mr. Osborne Has Done to Improve Conditions.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: My attention has been called to your recent editorial entitled "Warden Osborne Should Go." You state that you are pledged to the cause of prison reform, but that Warden Osborne is bringing disrepute to the movement. Now, it seems to me that your editorial would have much more force if you gave one real reason why Osborne should go.

Osborne has been at Sing Sing since December 1, 1914. It may be too early yet to pass final judgment on his work there. But if it is too early to say that he has been a complete success, it is also too early to say that he has been an utter failure.

As a matter of fact, if we want to estimate Osborne's administration now, the inevitable conclusion we come to is that it has been an undoubted success from every point of view. This is not a matter of personal opinion. It is a matter of plain, incontrovertible fact. The results are in black and white in the official records. Let the skeptical read the recent report of the State Prison Commission, appointed by Governor Whitman to investigate Osborne's administration. Here are a few brief but significant excerpts:

"No one familiar with the physical appearance of prisoners during former years can visit Sing Sing without being impressed with the great change. Buoyancy and self-respect have replaced repression and dejection. The prisoners appear healthier and happier. . . . The Osborne method of treatment applied to all prisoners, irrespective of their previous character or record, is essentially subjective in the development of self-government and self-control.

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This is a report by a commission of impartial and expert investigators, and it highly recommends Osborne's methods. The official prison records show that under the new regime discipline has improved, health has improved and efficiency has improved.

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Sing Sing is now run as a business institution. THE SING SING RECORD

How One Frequently Puts an End to the Other.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: There is a more general admission of the necessity of an adequate national defense to-day than ever before. With our traditional military policy, or lack of it, as a guide, it is plain that our land defense must depend in a large measure upon the maintenance, efficient training and discipline of the national guard. The effectiveness of the guard is greatly developed and strengthened by camp service, which has become recognized as the prime essential in the year's work of the guardsman. It is a patriotic duty on the part of employers, at least, to permit their employes who are members of the guard to take part in these exercises without being discriminated against or suffering the loss of their positions. Many enlightened employers, following the lead of the Chamber of Commerce and other leading associations of business men, do their part in this respect, but a very measurable minority do not.

In the company to which I am attached there are several cases of men who have lost their positions by reason of camp service. To be specific, one man, employed as a clerk by a lumber firm, after arranging to be away during the camp tour, found at his house on his return a letter from his employers. This letter, which I saw, read substantially as follows (I quote from memory):

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Sing Sing is now run as a business institution. THE SING SING RECORD

How One Frequently Puts an End to the Other.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: There is a more general admission of the necessity of an adequate national defense to-day than ever before. With our traditional military policy, or lack of it, as a guide, it is plain that our land defense must depend in a large measure upon the maintenance, efficient training and discipline of the national guard. The effectiveness of the guard is greatly developed and strengthened by camp service, which has become recognized as the prime essential in the year's work of the guardsman. It is a patriotic duty on the part of employers, at least, to permit their employes who are members of the guard to take part in these exercises without being discriminated against or suffering the loss of their positions. Many enlightened employers, following the lead of the Chamber of Commerce and other leading associations of business men, do their part in this respect, but a very measurable minority do not.

MR. TALCOTT AND THE COLONEL

A Distinction To Be Drawn Between Militarism and Readiness.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I was quite amused to read the lengthy article of