

New York Tribune.

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

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The Colonel Tells the Sober Truth Rampageously.

The fact that Colonel Roosevelt spoke at Plattsburg with his habitual disregard for the restraints of conventional language and manner cannot and will not conceal the fact that much of what he said is not only true, but needs to be said.

Let us say at once that The Tribune does not believe that if Roosevelt had been President we should have intervened when Belgium was invaded.

Like every other American newspaper The Tribune has supported Mr. Wilson and will continue to do so precisely as long as it is possible.

But this does not blind The Tribune to the fact that a very large measure of our present international difficulty arises from the fact that the executive department is in the hands of a man who sees in words a force that words never have and in abstract general theories a value which is to be found only in solid fact.

Colonel Roosevelt sees things as they are. He is apt to see them clearly and accurately, when his personal fortunes are not concerned.

When Germany issued her submarine blockade order in February, it is conceivable that Roosevelt, as President, would not have issued a warning, using the words "strict accountability," which meant nothing or else meant *casus belli*.

The strength of Colonel Roosevelt lies in the fact, absolutely beyond praise in foreign affairs, that there are no refinements, philosophical nuances, reserved meanings in what he says.

The weakness of the President, disclosed in the Mexican and in the German incidents alike, is that while his words were plain no one could be sure what they meant to him or that they meant anything.

Take the Mexican incident again. "We are in Mexico to serve mankind—if we can find a way," Mr. Wilson explained.

Now, as has been said, it is exceedingly doubtful whether the Colonel, as President, would have sent troops to Mexico.

Colonel Roosevelt always spoke with a certain amount of extravagance—and the habit has grown on him.

When nations are dealing with a great power, the essential thing for them is to know what the President, or the Foreign Secretary, or the official charged with the maintenance or enunciation of national policy means when he uses words.

And just here the President has broken down. He has again and again used words which were empty unless they were final—words which meant war or were but rhetoric—and neither his own countrymen nor German statesmen have been able to gauge the meaning Woodrow Wilson attached to them.

Here, too, Colonel Roosevelt is strongest. What he says frequently goes beyond the meaning that he or any other sane person would find in his words.

perfect key to what he, the Colonel, effectively means by these same words.

A great many people have been forced to wonder in recent months whether, after all, Colonel Roosevelt's type is not the less dangerous in times of national crisis.

It is easy to censure Colonel Roosevelt for his criticism of the President of the United States just now.

There is then value and pertinence in the Colonel's Plattsburg speech. It was a public service, and however unfriendly the words spoken of Mr. Wilson, no one can listen to them more profitably than the President.

An Anti-Mosquito Campaign Needed.

New York's mosquitoes may not imperil the public health—Dr. Goldwater gives his solemn assurance that they don't—but they certainly are imperiling the public's comfort.

The Health Commissioner declares the city's health department is too busy saving babies' lives to try to exterminate the insect invaders.

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general approval would provide for the election of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and a Controller who should be a state auditor and nothing more.

Croquet in the Prussian Manner.

Croquet seems to-day more utterly mid-Victorian than whist. All its associations are those of the 70's, the age of peace and inertia.

What business, then, has Prince Hartfeld von Trachenberg, of the German Embassy, taking such fiendish delight in it?

It can readily be seen from the description that he and his companions play croquet like Germans.

This is not "jintney golf," as the wags would have it, but one of kultur's minor outrages.

Bethmann-Hollweg Refuted.

Sir Edward Grey has chosen an unusual and surprising way of answering the German Chancellor, but it was expedient that an answer should be made at once.

In a considerable measure Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg has already refuted themself, for no documents, invented or discovered, can ever by any means cancel his own open admission a year ago of the wrong deliberately contemplated in the violation of Belgian neutrality.

The interest of Sir Edward Grey's statement lies chiefly in the promise of some further documents dealing with Anglo-German relations and in a forcible reiteration of the resolve to fight the war to a finish.

Upon viewing the citizen soldiery in their field manoeuvres at Plattsburg, we pray for peace! The swaying seas mount hotter—Swarming the world, the slowly thickening pool.

Life is for service. God, they know—who strangle. Once, 'er Thy name, 'er yet their bodies cool.

Life is for service. Yes, we know—who serve not. Who watch and warn—and weigh the sickening end.

Standing aloof while bitter, blackened ruins leer at the homes we waver to defend.

How have we prayed! Lord, Lord, the quickening anguish. Of our dulled souls has willed our swift release.

Light Thou our aim, then, higher than their comfort—Thou our last hope—so, Lord, we may have peace!

Yet, if they reck not, so the foe be tearup. Armor from justice, children from their play.

Life is for service. We have served in spirit—We pray for peace—O, arm us for the fray!

The short ballot which would command

BEWARE THE LUMBERMEN!

Suspicion of Working of Conservation Amendment to Constitution.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: It is time for all the people of New York to know that there is now before the Constitutional Convention a proposition to extinguish the present Forest, Fish and Game Commission and replace it with a nine-headed commission of unpaid men, who will select a salaried working commissioner, and will have the power to wipe out all our existing game laws and make an entire new code to suit themselves.

I have the highest regard for Dr. Dow, and I believe that he sincerely believes that his measure will be a good thing for the State of New York; but I must say that, as one who has sweated blood in helping to make our game laws what they now are, I am thoroughly alarmed by the possibilities that would be opened by the enactment of the measure into law.

Now, if the English language has not entirely lost its meaning, that means that the hydro-headed commission could wipe out every single one of our present game, bird and fish laws, and substitute therefor anything that they please to write down instead.

Let us not blink this proposition, nor go to sleep on our rights. Do the people of New York wish to put into the hands of nine unknown men the power to nullify all the game and fish acts of our legislatures and destroy the fruits of years of labor?

If they do, then let the press keep silent, let the people sit still, and they will see it done.

We have sacrificed much in helping to make the wild life laws of this state what they are—the best code to be found in any state in our country.

I object to every line of Section 1, No. 773. It is dangerous; it is unnecessary; it is a leap in the dark without any excuse.

It is a good sign that workmen are at last seeing the folly of offering themselves for sacrifice and receiving in return a kick.

The Workers' Reward. To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Kindly accept the thanks of one of your readers for printing the letters of Mr. Norman Telecott and Mr. Sutton.

The second proves that the American laboring man is at last getting some sense into his bone head and refusing to become excited when "patriotism" and "the flag" (neither of which usually has anything to do with the matter) are waved in front of him.

In former days this same laboring man merched obediently off to the slaughter for some one else's profit, and those who were left were permitted to return home and pay the interest on the war debts to the Henry Cleeves and the J. P. Morgans of their day.

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Disturbing a Beautiful World. To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Because a few selfish, unpatriotic Americans have by the insistence on their supposed rights allowed themselves to become shields for belligerent ships and have in consequence suffered at the hands of other belligerents that is no reason why the rest of the American people should have their short lives in this beautiful world made miserable by a disturbance of the peace in their country.

Americans who have so little regard for the welfare of the rest of the American people as to deliberately plan their lives in such a fashion that they endanger the peaceful foreign relations of the nation should be branded as traitors.

Citizens of the United States of America worthy of the name do not walk into the firing line, knowing that protection cannot be given and that their fellow citizens will have to suffer for their acts.

"Bullyragging Germany." To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Now that Thaw is out of jail and Franklynched, that Mexicans consider it a pastime to pot our soldiers (potting ordinary citizens is too commonplace), that England has decided to shut off our commerce to the point where it pleases her, has purchased her factories here and plans to finance her wants in our money markets we can contentedly, with resolutely calm minds and unflinching courage, turn on the German propagandists.

Let Americans understand, once and for all, that Germany's sinking of the Arabic is the final, deliberate, crowning insult.

We won the Spanish war because a giant,

HE CAN STAND IT.



GENERAL WOOD

OUR SHAMEFUL COMPLACENCY

A Result, in Part, of a Gross Misinterpretation of the Plain Facts of Our Military History.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The hour is striking, if it has not already struck, when The Tribune will be looked to as the leader of the thought of American manhood.

Why is it that an American can believe in "movements" to halt even the beginning of military preparedness, to ask men to pledge themselves not to enlist in the army or navy, to teach in the schools that military efficiency and organization mean militarism?

From the Revolution until now our school children have been taught legends and myths about our military history instead of facts.

I wish The Tribune would serve out a few cold facts about our wars, from Bunker Hill to Santiago. At Bunker Hill the Americans committed a great blunder in attempting to hold a veritable rat trap—Charleston Neck.

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This sinister legend was transmitted to succeeding generations. It was our curse in the humiliating land operations of 1812; it was the curse of our failure to attain our object in the Florida Indian wars; it sent Taylor to meet the Mexicans at Palo Alto when they outnumbered him seven to one; it caused our troops to desert Scott at Cerro Gordo because "their enlistments were up"; it made a wretched fizzle and an appalling waste of life during the first two years of the Civil War; and the lesson had to be learned all over again in Cuba in 1898.

The assassin people who dream on about "raising a million men before sundown" are still saying, after all these bitter lessons—of which they are profoundly ignorant—that "the Americans have won all their wars with militia and volunteers." What are the facts? We won the Revolution through the stupidity of British generals, through the nucleus of Washington's trained regulars and, above all, through munitions sent from France, and the victory of De Grasse off Cape Henry prevented Yorktown. We won the War of 1812 on Lake Erie, on Lake Champlain, and by our destruction of British commerce on the high seas.

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slouch as he may, and blunder as he may, cannot help defeating an infant.

Throughout our military history, we have had any amount of bull luck. The fact that Beaumarchais was able with his genius to collect French munitions and send them to the Americans during the Revolution was not "our fault." But it is a stain on our honor that the Americans, having gained their freedom, never paid Beaumarchais for the ruin of his private fortune.

Recall Gerard; give von Bernstorff his passports; then, above all, say nothing. And when one more American citizen is killed on the high seas, when in this killing a German submarine gives no warning and there are no "mitigating circumstances" (God save the mark!), call Congress together as fast as express trains can take it to Washington; summon Congress to declare war!

Humorous General Bernhardt. To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Many thanks for the publication of General von Bernhardt's review of the war in to-day's Tribune. It is most interesting—more, it is decidedly humorous.

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The good general reiterates with great gusto the reports of the enormous losses in killed, wounded and prisoners of the Allies. Not once does he mention German losses. Perhaps he is permeated with the general idea of his countrymen that all Teutons are supermen, and therefore invulnerable against shot and shell.

I have an imaginary mental picture of a change in the present scheme of things—of Germany with England's navy—of England with Germany's strategical coastline—of a ruined British commerce because of a predominant German navy.

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thing we need, a thorough rousing to our danger, a soul-cleansing righteous wrath, a spark of manhood in thousands of the hearts of our misguided pacifists.

There are enough men; there are enough "males left." Rouse them! Strip the film from their eyes and let them see Germany's attitude toward us as it is. Have done with backing and filling; have done with patient that is slowly rotting into cowardice; have done with living in a fool's paradise! Have done with words, words, words, until the very thought of words is enough to make the blood boil.

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