

New York Tribune.

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

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A National Thermopylae.

Time and again in the present struggle the thought must come to those who are watching it that the very nearness of the thing is obscuring the vision.

What we are looking out upon in the Balkans now is not war as modern history knows war. It is not the moderated barbarity of the conflict between armies trained and equipped.

If Serbia falls she does not lose independence merely. She does not lose provinces, economic independence or political liberties.

Such would have been the fate of Greece had the Persians prevailed. Such was the fate of those races which faced and fought Genghis Khan.

Those who invaded Belgium slew the child and ravished the mother, wherever there was a military purpose to be achieved.

No such fate waits for the Serbs if German, Austrian and Bulgarian armies prevail. It is a war to destruction, to the knife—it is the "na noje" of Serb and Bulgar alike.

Oddly enough, too, it is the second time that Serbia has held the gate against the enemy. Five hundred years and more ago there was a civilized Serbia.

Then came the Turk, and to the Serb was allotted the duty of holding back the flow of Asia as the Hellenic states had held it back in other centuries.

Yet Serbia's sacrifice was not in vain. The Ottoman host, although victorious, was halted for a precious year by Serbia's self-immolation.

More than that, thousands of Serbs left their homes and crossed the Save and the Danube to take service with Austrian and Hungarian armies whose duty it became to resist the Turk.

Then it fell out that when the French revolution had stirred Europe and Napoleon's march had begun, Serbia, too, felt the stirrings of the old liberty and struck. A decade, two decades before the Greek revolution, which captured the

imagination of Europe, first flamed up. Serbia raised the old standard and under an Obrenovitch and a Karageorgovitch did for the Serbs what France and England did for Greece.

In a century Serbia has marched far toward the olden glory. Her victories in the two Balkan wars have won back old provinces, retaken the field of Kosovo, and after five centuries a Serbian prince has entered Uskub, the ancient capital of Dushan.

Now, after five centuries and a half, the storm has come again. A new Kosovo, like that for which for half a thousand years the Serb of the Black Mountain has worn a mourning band on his cap, seems impending.

In a time when the rumble of every vehicle of modern civilization breaks on our ears and across our eyes passes in procession all the latest mechanism of the Twentieth Century, there is going on just beyond our horizon, but in plain, garish daylight, a tragedy which recalls that which is most ancient, most memorable in the past of legend and of song.

For liberty, for the right to live and speak their language, worship their own God, follow their own democratic customs, for all that means most to that portion of mankind to whom anything but the trivial and the common matters, a race is making its last fight. It called its men to the front in 1912, it called its boys in 1913. Now in 1915 the women and the children are with their husbands and their fathers.

Is it not possible that when the memories of Hindenburg's Polish victories and Mackensen's Galician triumphs have faded away, when Kaisers and Czars and big ministers and little ministers have been put away in the dust of remorseless centuries, there will still be treasured the glory of the Serbian national Thermopylae, the ultimate and immortal resistance of liberty to tyranny, of right to force, of man to the machine?

Mr. Moss's Responsibility.

Mr. Isaac N. Seligman has conveyed a neat and deserved rebuke to Frank Moss, which must be made all the more bitter by the statement that he intends to vote for District Attorney Perkins.

As Mr. Seligman points out, Mr. Moss's candidacy can only "endanger the election of Mr. Perkins and strengthen the hope of Tammany's success at the polls."

Those who are mentally afflicted, of dealing with them simply as a public menace, is out of date and unenlightened. In a very large proportion of mental cases institutional care is undoubtedly desirable when not absolutely essential.

An Example for English Publicans.

The new no-treating order has been the cause of some perplexity among the barkeepers of London. The desire to retain some semblance of sociability and good fellowship has led occasionally to a modified form of treating by which the bottle of soda split with the two glasses of whiskey is paid for by the treator.

There is obviously nothing illegal in this, provided each drinker pays for his whiskey, since the order applies only to alcoholic beverages, but it led at first to a good deal of head scratching among the taverners, whose natural desire in these strenuous times is to avoid even the appearance of evil.

Greater and more complicated problems will doubtless develop in time. The law makes an exception in the case of drinks served with meals. Every one remembers what that led to under the old Rained law. A sandwich was meal enough if a man chose to eat no more.

There are plenty of devices open to the encouragers of sociability in England if they will condescend to imitate the example of New York under the Rained law.

But perhaps it would hardly be safe to try such experiments under the defence of the realm act.

The Marchers for Suffrage.

It is to be hoped that every woman who believes in equal suffrage will march in the great suffrage parade to-morrow if she is able to do so. It is equally desirable that every man who wants women to vote should, if able, express that view by taking his place in the parade.

Such a showing as can be made if all who can will march will furnish incontrovertible evidence of the earnestness and serious purpose of the women who seek the ballot. There are still many skeptics who need to have their doubts on that subject removed; indeed, the fact that the failure of the women to carry the New Jersey election has been hailed as a "turn of the tide" and a demonstration that the "same" portion of the country will never accept wild Western "isms" proves how far that notion has been carried.

For Early Treatment of Insanity. The State Hospital Commission is said to have secured the support of the Governor in a project for "discovering and treating early cases of insanity before they reach an aggravated stage," and it is promised that "henceforth some of the thousands of the several millions spent yearly on the insane in this state will be expended on prevention."

An amendment to the lunacy law was passed two years ago enabling the superintendents of the several state hospitals to establish out-patient departments and to appoint field agents, but it appears that so far the opportunity has not been turned to full account. At present only half of the hospitals have such departments; only three have field agents, and of the three two employ one agent in common.

Now, there can be very little doubt about the value of out-patient departments. Putting all other considerations aside, this state is not adequately equipped for the care of its insane. The capacity of our state hospitals is nominally sufficient for the housing of 28,000 patients. The actual number of patients is now about 34,000. The number is increasing, and further accommodation is undoubtedly necessary, nor must the out-patient plan be regarded as in any sense a makeshift or an emergency measure intended to meet occasional requirements.

Therefore, though I am not a Republican, but an independent Democrat, I intend to vote for Mr. Bowers as a protest against the continuance of a system by which the Sheriff of this county receives an income almost equal to that of the President of the United States.

Negroes for the Hall of Fame. Sir: Some time ago announcement was made of five new names that were to grace the Hall of Fame. I have watched with interest the announcement of these famous names making up the collection of men and women who have won distinction in letters, art and science.

In celebrating the 500th anniversary of Hohenzollern rule, the Germans show a remarkable capacity to kiss the hand that smites them.

That matrimony tax which Professor Johnson proposes would be like adding insult to injury.

Plainly the Greeks fear the other fellows bearing gifts.

The Slang of the Trenches. Last winter made us familiar with "Jack Johnsons," "Black Marias," and a whole vocabulary of humorous nomenclature for German shells and for the topography of the trenches, from the outer line, or "drawing room," to the inner line, or "reception-room," and the grim "dormitory" in the rear where the dead are buried.

A Call for Figures. Sir: Every now and then The Tribune publishes a single tax letter similar to that of James F. Morton, Jr., in to-day's issue. These letters invariably deal in generalities, and no figures or otherwise are submitted in proof of the oft repeated assertions of "lower rents," etc., which are to be the fruit of single tax.

Should Our Time Come. Sir: Your strong editorial of to-day makes us citizens of British birth—raised in the deluded atmosphere you speak of—squirm.

WM. CADWALADER HUDSON

A Tribute to a Faithful and Well Loved Newspaper Man.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In the recent death of William C. Hudson the press of greater New York has sustained a great loss, for he was one of its ablest and best beloved workers.

Mr. Hudson was a remarkable man in many respects: he was novelist, playwright, political biographer and graceful reminiscencist, as well as one of the most indefatigable of newspaper men. He never penned a line but what he adorned in his own inimitable way. No more picturesque figure moved in newspaper life than he. No stranger ever passed him by without taking a second look at him and asking who he was.

This was William C. Hudson, whose charm of manner was never clearer shown than at a reception given him at "The Eagle" editorial rooms on the occasion of his seventieth birthday. On ending a speech, notable for its gentleness and simplicity, he said: "My ambition is that when the final curtain is rung down on the drama of my life you will feel moved to stop a moment in the pressure of life and 'The Eagle' work to say, perhaps with regret: 'He was a good fellow; he wrote good stuff; he was a faithful servant of the paper.' I crave no better epitaph."

I shall end with the fitting tribute of an admirer who has already passed over: "I choose to remember him not for the brilliancy of his intellect, great though that was, but for the kindness of his heart, for truly it ought to be written of him: 'He was one who loved his fellow men.' He has gone the way we must all travel, but the world to those who knew him will be duller for his absence."

Brooklyn, Oct. 20, 1915.

International Law and Armenia.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Pretending to be what one is not does not appeal to me as a truly American characteristic. Many Americans, no doubt, will differ with me, but comparatively speaking the offences we can be accused of in this direction are limited to certain people and not by any means common to all.

Soaring to giddy heights without a return ticket is truly un-American. A high-sounding phrase never fails to cause a certain suspicion of its originator. To learn that all America—the men, women and children in it—have a great cause, the cause of humanity itself, and that only by preserving international law can humanity be saved seems a startling doctrine to be listening to when 100,000 Armenians, belonging as they do to one of the oldest Christian nations of the world, are being slaughtered, and worse, without excuse or reason.

Have Armenians no greater right to be respected than international law? It seems that Belgium experienced the lack of connection between international law and humanity. Let us cut out this humbug business: the old type of hot air certainly has this more refined modern type beaten to a frazzle.

FROM MISSOURI, Oct. 18, 1915. But an Exile in Nebraska.

Abolish Sheriff's Fees!

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I have read with amazement the statement that the fees paid to the sheriffs of New York County during the last nine years have averaged something like \$50,000 a year. It would seem that such a state of affairs should not be permitted. Surely the salary of the office, \$12,000 a year, is sufficient remuneration for any incumbent. It is small wonder that Tammany Hall would rather elect a Sheriff than any other county officer. For my part, I believe the voters should grasp this opportunity to elect as Sheriff the present Under Sheriff, Mr. Bowers, who is running on the Republican ticket, and who has publicly declared that he favors the abolition of the fee system.

Therefore, though I am not a Republican, but an independent Democrat, I intend to vote for Mr. Bowers as a protest against the continuance of a system by which the Sheriff of this county receives an income almost equal to that of the President of the United States.

New York, Oct. 11, 1915.

Negroes for the Hall of Fame.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Some time ago announcement was made of five new names that were to grace the Hall of Fame. I have watched with interest the announcement of these famous names making up the collection of men and women who have won distinction in letters, art and science.

I would like my race, the negro, to be represented among this select lot, and I want to present the names of some illustrious negroes who have brought undying fame not only to themselves, but to the nation as a whole.

That matrimony tax which Professor Johnson proposes would be like adding insult to injury.

Plainly the Greeks fear the other fellows bearing gifts.

A Call for Figures.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I read in The Tribune this morning with mixed feelings your editorial "The Sham." My feelings were mixed, because it carried me back to my early boyhood days, when on the old homestead in St. Lawrence County my grandmother and myself used to read The Tribune together as it made the light for humanity.



"THE SHAM" W.C. Spirett

An Indictment of the British Government in Which Several Readers See a Clear Warning to Our Own Nation—How the Blindness and Deceit of Politicians and the Delusions of the Pacifists Misdread the Unwary and Thoughtless.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: A week ago I began taking your paper in place of another New York daily, mainly because your views of the great world war, the paramount issue before the civilized world to-day, are more nearly in accord with my own convictions than those of any other New York daily. Permit me therefore to express my heartfelt commendations of your lengthy and very able editorial under the caption of "The Sham" in re British Ministry, and which appears in your issue of to-day.

I have followed the war news and kindred reports of the government administrations of the belligerent nations very closely during the last fourteen months, but must confess that your comprehensive and incisive editorial to-day is a revelation to me. Notwithstanding that I had heard many Britishers and others regretfully express their painful disappointment over the "poor showing" which England has made in the land operations since the battle of the Marne, I have tried to offer various reasonable excuses for her failures so far as these operations are concerned, but had partially failed to comprehend the real cause of England's "futile efforts" against the great German military power and the seriousness of the situation as it now confronts the nation.

One reason for Great Britain not having a large standing army is that as she did not expect to be engaged in a Continental war, it would have been a menace and in direct opposition to her desire and plans to maintain peace, and a potent factor was that a solemn treaty had been made to observe the neutrality of Belgium by the three great powers. It would not enter into the mind of gentlemen British and French statesmen that the signature of the German statesmen was made with mental reservation, not to be observed when it suited the purpose because, as now claimed, necessity and expediency knows no law.

Germany was the aggressor in starting the European war, and her motives for doing so are now also very well understood by us all. But would Germany have been so eager to plunge into this conflict with her alleged enemies if England had been as well prepared on land as she was on the seas? Was it not the "contemptible little army" of England, plus the lack of equipment in the French army and of organization in the Russian army, that tempted the war party in Berlin to strike when its time had come?

Will our pacifist politicians who are clamoring for disarmament and our millionaires who are giving their money to further the peace propaganda stop and think about these facts? Was it not unpreparedness on the side of Britain and her allies rather than the opposite condition that precipitated the present dreadful conflict?

It is the strength, fire and snap of The Tribune editorials of '63. In 1907 I spent many days with some able Prussian officers, a Prussian Cardinal and a Prussian Dominican doctor of divinity in Rome, and I became thoroughly satisfied of the Prussian determination to do what it began to try to do last year. I have many friends in London, some of them prominent, and on my return to that city I told them all what I believed was coming, and what you say this morning is absolutely true. I am reading The Tribune more than I did. I never look at the title on the first page without becoming reminiscent. How I wish for the sake of itself, the American people and my sake it would go back to being for the people and the things people want! If it did, in the tone and manner of your morning's editorial, in a very few years it would be the greatest paper in the United States.

AMASA THORNTON, New York, Oct. 20, 1915.

British Gentlemen and Unsuspecting

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I hold no brief for Great Britain to reply to your editorial of to-day, entitled "The Sham," but as criticism assists in bringing out the truth it might be well to present the facts.

One reason for Great Britain not having a large standing army is that as she did not expect to be engaged in a Continental war, it would have been a menace and in direct opposition to her desire and plans to maintain peace, and a potent factor was that a solemn treaty had been made to observe the neutrality of Belgium by the three great powers. It would not enter into the mind of gentlemen British and French statesmen that the signature of the German statesmen was made with mental reservation, not to be observed when it suited the purpose because, as now claimed, necessity and expediency knows no law.

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To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Hardly a day has passed of late without my wishing to write and tell you of my admiration for the editorials you have printed regarding the war, our duties in international matters and the need for preparedness.

Your editorial "The Sham," in this morning's Tribune, is not only one of the finest editorials I have ever read, but one of the finest expressions of enlightened opinion on a matter the importance of which cannot be exaggerated. The man who produced such a political essay in two weeks' time would have spent his time well, while considered as an example of daily journalism it is a perfect marvel.

The history of the war, the history of America folly during the war, as written by The Tribune is real history, and one can fancy an American historian of fifty or a hundred years hence looking it over, in the light of his country's disaster, and reflecting upon the clear, prophetic vision of the man who was writing editorials for The New York Tribune away back in 1915.

I fear, however, that The Tribune has not only a copyright on its editorials, but that it might almost have one, also, on the sound ideas back of those editorials. Is there any sign to indicate that Americans have really awakened to their danger and their need of preparation? There is much talk, yet when Mr. Garrison comes out with an utterly inadequate military programme there is no great outcry from the people, and when Mr. Daniels comes out with another inadequate programme for the navy there will be none, unless I utterly misjudge public sentiment in the United States. What hope is there? Our history is one of invariable unpreparedness, and of disaster because of it, save where good fortune interposed—which, indeed, it has done repeatedly, in the most extraordinary manner.

Another editorial subject which suggests itself to me is that of naval speed. I understand that Mr. Daniels is just laying down some 30-knot destroyers, and that his new programme will call for a lot of dreadnoughts rather than a lot of battle cruisers. It seems to me that 30 knots for a destroyer in these days is not "adequate," and that almost all naval fighting, and naval runs away, too, in this war, proves that the dreadnought is not the thing. The plans outlined in the enclosed editorial complete the dreadnought fleet, giving 21 ships. Mr. Daniels' plan, as outlined in advance in The Tribune, called for many more of these slow, heavy vessels.

I believe that one great trouble with the American people is that when Daniels says we need this or that they have absolutely no means of knowing whether he is right or wrong. They know nothing of naval or military needs. Why not tell them?

JULIAN STREET, New York, Oct. 20, 1915.

Should Our Time Come.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Your strong editorial of to-day makes us citizens of British birth—raised in the deluded atmosphere you speak of—squirm. We trust that your editorial will affect the politicians of our adopted country that we will have to need to squirm about Uncle Sam's time come. A. GLASVEGAN, Jersey City, Oct. 20, 1915.

A Timely Warning.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Your editorial "The Sham" in this morning's Tribune is a masterpiece. I am English, and if I had the money I would have that editorial printed as an advertisement in all the leading newspapers of Great Britain. And the warning to the American people is very timely and forceful, and it is to be hoped it will be heeded.

G. A. M., New York, Oct. 20, 1915.

Thanks.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: At last! Your masterful editorial "The Sham" has appeared. It is the best thing you have written in a long time. God, but it is great! An article like this one once a week would be a treat to your readers. Thank you. M. E. PEUSO, New York, Oct. 20, 1915.

"Absolutely True."

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I read in The Tribune this morning with mixed feelings your editorial "The Sham." My feelings were mixed, because it carried me back to my early boyhood days, when on the old homestead in St. Lawrence County my grandmother and myself used to read The Tribune together as it made the light for humanity.

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