

New York Tribune

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

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Get Rid of All the Plotters!

The only surprising thing about the President's dismissal of Captain Boy-Ed and Captain von Popen is that it should have been delayed so long. These German attaches had long been persona non grata to the American public. They had over-abused the country's tolerance and exhausted its patience.

It has been obvious for many months that these two diplomatic agents were engaged in activities through which they had forfeited their privileged status. They were deeply involved in German propaganda work here which was in conflict with the unwritten law of diplomacy. They were concerned in agitations which dealt with domestic questions and affected domestic interests.

The two German attaches have tried to exculpate themselves by saying that they were merely executing the orders of their government. Undoubtedly they were acting under instructions from Berlin. They were merely instruments of the arrogant and cynical policy of intimidation which German diplomacy has been pursuing in this country ever since the war began.

German and Austro-Hungarian agents—both diplomatic and non-diplomatic—have been organizing sentiment here for the purpose of swerving our government from a strict programme of neutrality. They have sought to interfere with our legitimate export traffic in war munitions, to cripple munitions plants operating under the protection of our laws, and to destroy vessels lawfully carrying merchandise from our harbors.

This policy of interference with American interests has been based on the notion, exploited even before the war by General von Bernhardt, that the political influence of Americans of German descent would be powerful enough to compel the American government to wink at German aggressions. There was some excuse for this theory, since the German government's experience with an administration which had intimidated both publicly and privately that it was "too proud to fight," and which had let reparation for the Lusitania murders wait for more than seven months, undoubtedly contributed to Berlin's belief that German conspiracies here would not be inquired into with inconvenient diligence.

But at last we have reached the point at which patience has ceased to appeal even to a weak-kneed and phrase-loving administration. It is announced from Washington that the State Department put off asking for the recall of Captains Boy-Ed and von Popen until it learned definitely that Germany did not intend to disavow the Lusitania massacre. So long as the issue was in doubt Germany's sensibilities were not to be ruffled by the expulsion of any of her propagandists in this country. But that last delicate concession was offered in vain. Boy-Ed and von Popen have to go, and their departure, it is to be hoped, presages many other departures.

The administration has gotten nowhere with its policy of flabby conciliation. It could not win a disavowal of the Lusitania crime by ignoring the flagrant offences here of Germany's diplomatic representatives. It has been forced to recognize that Germany is not to be brought to account by polite notes or by still politer blindness to the activities of Teuton plotters against our peace and safety.

It is time that the administration got back on the right track. German determination must be met by American determination. It is essential to make a thorough house-cleaning of the alien conspirators who have been operating here with so free a hand. Let them all go! When Berlin discovers that the United States means business it may begin to think seriously of making atonement for the Lusitania horror.

Insurance Cost and Fire Loss.

Fire Commissioner Adamson announces that the cost of fire insurance in this city is lower than anywhere else in the country, save in the District of Columbia, where the buildings are so largely residential that the rates are abnormally small. This statement is based on a survey made by the Central Mercantile Association, which holds that the low rates prevail because of the slight fire risk, due to the high pressure water system and the prevalence of automatic sprinklers.

It is gratifying, of course, to know that this city is so well off in respect of insurance rates. Yet that does not alter the fact, frequently reported by the Fire Department, that New York City has a tremendously heavy fire loss each year—a loss in proportion far in excess of the loss in most European cities. Carelessness, recklessness, criminal disregard of fire laws, produce this in spite of the efforts

of the Fire Prevention Bureau, with its inspections, campaigns of education and the services of the most efficient department in the world when it comes to extinguishing fires. In some recent litigation the Fire Department obtained a decision that a corporation in whose premises a fire started, the concern having failed to obey certain orders of the Fire Prevention Bureau, must bear the cost of the department's work in fighting that fire. If that can become the regularly recognized city policy, so that the owner or tenant of the premises in which a fire occurs will know he will be held responsible for it, there would be fire insurance rates so low that the business men of the city would save hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, without counting the vast saving in city expenditure and property loss.

War and the Movies.

If the war has had a disastrous effect on the stage in Europe, its influence on the moving picture shows is hardly less apparent. The American film makers have no dangerous rivals to-day. Even before the war began they supplied a large proportion of the most popular films shown in English theatres; moreover, England was said to be a sort of dumping ground for the very poorest produced here, the kind that had nothing at all to recommend them but their cheapness. The French were serious competitors, and the Italians were gaining ground; indeed, it was commonly recognized that in point of excellence the Italians were unrivalled, though commercially they could not compete successfully with the Americans.

The war assured the supremacy of the Americans. French rivalry was overcome, of course, and the English firms, which had never been very enterprising, became less successful than ever in their attempts to drive out their transatlantic competitors. In many of the theatres the Americans monopolized the whole programme, and still continue to do so. But, according to an observer in Manchester, a great change has come over the American films. Detective stories, thrilling melodramas and cowboy plays are becoming rarer and rarer, though "unfortunately," he says, "the humorous American film remains pretty much as before." This is the more regrettable because there is no one to replace the lamented Bunny of facetious memory, and even Charlie Chaplin is growing stale.

Educational films seem to be no more popular with English audiences than with our own, and the war has interfered seriously with travel pictures. To replace the sort of performances that used to be in vogue a year or two ago many firms are now turning to the adaptation of popular novels, and for the moment films of this sort seem to be acceptable. If the present taste of the public endures, the English firms may in the long run prove as successful as our own, but for the present the Americans have a virtual monopoly of the trade.

Lady Eglantine.

Geese who lay golden eggs and between times meddle outrageously in other people's affairs should derive benefit from the example set them by Lady Eglantine. This gentlewoman, of irreproachable White Leghorn ancestry, by attending strictly to business, not only lays eggs that are worth their weight in gold [all fresh eggs belong to this category to-day], but she lays more eggs than ever hen laid before, 314 in 365 days, to be exact. Wherefore, she is valued at \$100,000, she travels in a private car, occupies an expensive hotel suite, and is attended by lackeys and motion picture representatives.

But, above all, she possesses the profound respect of the community, which finds it a distinct relief in these days of hysteria and false gods to turn its attention for the moment to this honest bird, content to perfect herself in the role which God assigned her, to herald her standard product simply with a modest cackling and to leave other matters of domestic and international importance to those better equipped than she to deal with them. An embodiment of calm intelligence, a true member of the aristocracy of achievement, Lady Eglantine presents a better model for mankind than the dove of peace. Just now she seems thrice welcome to the freedom of our city.

Organizing the Farm Business.

It is a tremendous project which the National Conference on Marketing and Farm Credits has fathered—nothing less than the organization of all the farmers of the country into cooperative societies dealing with every farm product. No country in the world to-day has anything just like it in operation. Perhaps the farmers' unions of Germany, with their intricate semi-official organization, come nearest to it. If it is to be worked out, America will have to be the pioneer.

Whether anything remotely approaching the ideal expressed by the conference can be achieved in this generation, the scheme is well worth working at. The benefits realized for the farmers who have formed associations for the cooperative marketing of apples, grapes, citrus fruits and the like in various parts of the country are considerable, and there are also distinct advantages for consumers growing out of such organizations, notably the fact that the organization guarantees the grade of the output and keeps it up to standard. Grain growers in the West and Northwest who have combined to pool their crops have found it vastly to their advantage. It has been estimated that the farmer of this state receives about 40 cents of each dollar paid for the produce he sells; the rest goes to various middlemen and transportation companies. That is unwholesome for him and the community.

Cooperation on the big scale proposed would far outrun the scope or possibilities of any of the local organizations this country is becoming familiar with. Its ad-

vantages might be correspondingly great. There is no business so unsystematized, so lacking in standards, in information, in accurate knowledge, as agriculture, despite the splendid work of agricultural schools and colleges, experiment stations, state and Federal departments. The farmers have trouble in buying supplies, in getting credits, in finding markets. For all this the consumers pay. Fruit rot on the ground fifty miles from New York, while the poor of the city are unable to pay the prices asked for what finds its way into the markets here. In the kind of cooperative societies proposed by the National Conference, transmitting to members information about supply and demand, prices and the like through educational centres, spreading information about the buying of supplies and the shipping of goods, serving as clearing houses for individual farmers, there lies the hope of better and more stable conditions for the men who grow the produce and for the people who eat it.

The country which has seen the steel industry reach its present estate ought to be ashamed that the farms, with their untold present wealth and incalculable possibilities, are, save in individual cases, not greatly beyond the infancy of the business.

Driving Out the Pubs.

Sir Alfred Bower predicts that six more months of drink regulation will close every licensed house in London. If that is so, the outlook for the liquor dealers is unpromising, for the opposition of the trade unions evidently weakens, and the Central Control Board shows no inclination to relent. Only a few days ago the National Union of Railwaymen formally refused to back one of its own members in organizing a protest against the new order, and it is not unlikely that others will follow its example.

Hitherto the trade unions have been the most dangerous opponents of those who would force sobriety on the nation. What they were expected to demand was a revision of the time table in order to meet the requirements of night and early morning workers; for the terms of the order, forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquors except from noon to 2:30 p. m. and from 6:30 to 9:30 p. m., make it impossible for such workers to drink at all. It was conjectured, therefore, that they would at least ask that the public houses be allowed to sell drinks for two hours in the morning—say from 5 to 7 o'clock.

There has been a great outcry, of course, but those who protest most vehemently are apt to fall into self-contradictions. They say the order is a miserable failure; that instead of acting as a deterrent it has only increased the consumption of liquor; that though the sale of beer has fallen, the demand for stronger alcoholic beverages has grown steadily, and so forth. At the same time they complain that the licensed trade has been scandalously treated and that the industry will soon be utterly ruined.

Many reformers will be glad to believe that the latter complaint is the more sincere, as it probably is. And there are many who will not be content till further restrictions of a more drastic sort have been enforced. Thus the Bishop of Oxford and several eminent University residents have lately published an appeal to non-combatants generally to take the pledge as a national duty till the war is over, and now the Bishop of Hereford invites them to give up tobacco as well, on the ground that pipes, cigars and cigarettes "can hardly be counted as necessities of life." It is significant that this recommendation is made in a thoroughly detached spirit, for the Bishop himself is a non-smoker even in time of peace.

Dr. Allen, formerly of the Bureau of Municipal Research, now heads a new enterprise of the same nature, the Institute for Public Service, the third to be established here. Father Knickerbocker is going to be uplifted in spite of himself, if investigations and reports can do the job.

Henry Ford says he never reads history, because that's all past. Most people consider experience, even in the form of history, as a pretty good teacher.

Ballad of the Germans.

In Wetters Hospital, Flanders, the writer saw a little peasant girl dying from the bayonet wounds in her back which the German soldiers had given her.

Cain slew only a brother,
A lad who was fair and strong,
His murder was careless and honest,
A heated and sudden wrong.

And Judas was kindly and pleasant,
As you looked on her mischievous face,
But you've spat on the children,
As they toddled and stumbled and ran.

She heard you sing on the high-road,
She thought you were gallant and gay;
Such men as the peasants of Flanders:
The friends of a child at play.

She saw the sun on your helmets,
The sparkle of glancing light,
She saw your bayonets flashing,
And she laughed at your Prussian might.

Then you gave her death for her laughter,
As you looked on her mischievous face,
You hated the tiny peasant,
With the hate of your famous race.

You were not frenzied and angry;
You were cold and efficient and keen,
Your thrust was as thorough and deadly
As the stroke of a faithful machine.

You stabbed her deep with your rifle;
You had good reason to sing,
As you footed it on through Flanders
Past the broken and quivering thing.

Something impedes your advancing,
A dragging has come on your hosts,
And Paris grows dim now, and dimmer,
Through the blur of your rancorous boasts.

Your singing is sometimes broken
By guttural German groans,
Your ankles are wet with her bleeding,
You pike is blunt from her bones.

The little peasant has tripped you,
She hangs to your bloody stride,
And the dimpled hands are fastened,
Where they fumbled before she died.

ARTHUR H. GLEASON.

CAN THE MEXICANS REGENERATE MEXICO?

An Impartial Consideration of Current Affairs by One Who Has Spent Half a Lifetime There Leads to the Conclusion That Reform from Within is an Impossibility—Fundamental Defects of Character in the Mexican People Render Them at Present Incapable of Self-Government—A General Lack of Patriotism and Public Morality—Little Hope for Reform Except with Outside Aid.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In writing this I might state that I have lived half a lifetime in Mexico, married one of its daughters and that all I have in Mexico; and should I acquire wealth untold, I would always make Mexico my home. I have many and good friends in all stations of life, and write from no sense of injury, much less from malice. And should any of my many good friends take offence, as will, let them remember an apt saying in their own beautiful language: "El que te quiere a hacer llorar."

Very few mortals, even if they recognize inherent defects in themselves, will acknowledge the fact, and still fewer will try to correct those defects. The Japanese, as a nation, were wise enough both to recognize and correct, and the result is a nation that, fifty years ago considered as semi-barbarous, is to-day in the vanguard of material civilization, though still lacking in general morals. No nation, however advanced, can be classed as civilized unless civic and social morals are at a high standard.

After years of the closest intimacy with all classes, over a large section of the country, I am obliged to state that there is no hope for the regeneration of Mexico from within.

There are 15,000,000 inhabitants. Of these about 14,000,000 are semi-savages, or people of pure Indian or mixed blood, ignorant, superstitious, lazy and improvident; mostly immoral and absolutely unmoral. More than 93 per cent of the population exist under these conditions, the other 7 per cent must be more or less affected; and this being the case, what hopes of regeneration from within can be expected if the people of Mexico persist, as they do, in being left to themselves? In this case Mexico for the Mexicans means Mexico for 7 per cent of the population; and although in time outside influence might have some effect, for the country to survive these some would have to be given the submerged 93 per cent, and even then it would take another thousand years to bring the country up to even present standards of civilization. Up to twenty years ago Mexico, outside of the thin veneering of polish among the 7 per cent, in its daily life was 300 years behind the rest of the world; and to-day such is the fact in regard to the 93 per cent of the population.

Lack of Civic Morals.

Civic morals are almost unknown among all classes. Limentour is recognized as the best type of his nation. He belongs to the highest caste, is a man of natural intelligence and ability and is highly educated and very wealthy. Once, while in the City of Mexico, I was told by a man of his own class that he, Limentour, had used his commanding position to have Congress exempt a certain section of the city from certain taxes. Most of the section exempted belonged to Limentour; or perhaps it was that section of Limentour's holdings of real estate were in that section. This indicates the state of development of civic morals in a man of the very highest type the country produces. What can be expected of the people at large?

The Spanish poet and writer Zorrilla, in advising his countrymen about going to Mexico, says, in a little verse:

"The flowers are without scent,
The fruits without taste,
The men without honor,
The women without delicacy (pudor)"

This is rather strong and blunt, but in general is true. In referring to the women by saying, "Las mujeres sin pudor," I take it he means lacking in delicacy, not chastity. For the Mexican woman, even among the lower classes, is chaste. Often she is unmoral, but seldom lewd. In fact, the women are the best part of Mexico, and it is our countrymen who take the care of their boys that they do of their girls, the outlook would be different.

The people at large have no moral stamina. Even among the few of the upper crust there is no home life. There is no genuine companionship between man and wife. I once heard an intelligent man, a good type of the 7 per cent, tell a party of young girls: "Girls, I am going to be frank with you. We love you, but after the honeymoon it is more from pity than sentiment. This is the truth. Now you can marry or not. Suit yourselves." The girls are materially protected, but rarely are they given true protection; but their inherent modesty is great. They are raised obedient to their men, especially to their brothers. The boys are raised without any particular care as to their moral training; they are pampered by their mothers and raised to be selfish and inconsiderate, and as Mr. Whitney aptly says in "The Outlook," "They are polite, emotional, but totally lacking in consideration." Where there is no intimate home life, where the men are raised with self the main motive, there can be no great love for country. There can be no patriotism.

No Homes, No Patriotism.

Eighty per cent of the people are illiterate and 70 per cent are illegitimate. Ninety per cent of the great common people are absolutely ignorant, with the instincts of the savage. They have no ideals, no homes, no morals, no country, no patriotism. They have been exploited, as slaves, for 300 years. The common people are vulgar and unmoral. Nearly the entire people are unrefined, in the sense of the word. The upper class are arrogant, selfish, unprincipled, vain, inconsiderate and believe themselves born to the purple, as far as the great bulk of the common people are concerned. For 300 years they have ruled, and if they cannot rule they are ready to ruin the country, as they have as little real patriotism as has the plebe. They are too vain to accept outside aid or to adopt and adapt outside, sane policies that would mean adapting to the country of course.

Good, every-day, common honesty, and all classes lack moral fibre. Where honesty is lacking there can be no good government; there can be no ideals that make for homes and country. What Mexico needs is a strong centralized government for the people, run by the best elements in its social structure, honestly and efficiently, and the common people educated as rapidly as possible along industrial lines, until they can be admitted into the general government of themselves. This is the means several generations. What Mexico needs is education. General, but particularly along moral lines. Common honesty must be held up to the young ideal as paramount to everything except justice. Home ideals, high civic conditions, patriotism should be held up as the prime duties of the man, in order to become a good citizen, which in turn would tend to produce a great country.

I had the privilege of travelling two days with Señor Carranza, and his Cabinet and staff. I heard a large number of "Discursos" we gain credit of the country (this was before the Carranza-Villa break), upon establishing the courts again, no lawyer must be

appointed as judge. "But, doctor," said an engineer, "if the lawyers are not so intelligent, how can they be the judge?" "It does not take a lawyer to mete out justice. There is not an honest lawyer in Mexico." Licencio Carranza (addressing a prominent lawyer in Carranza's Cabinet) "What percentage of our lawyers are honest? Fifty?" "No," was the answer, after a short pause.

Military Looting.

In a pamphlet written by a man prominent in the revolution in Lower California and a man utterly lacking in civic morals I find the following: "It is well known by the world at large that in the Mexican military career from official [Lieutenant] up, all and each one rob the soldier, rob the government and mutually rob each other." A captain in the regular army, a graduate of Chateaubriand, honestly acknowledged to me that he had refused promotion to a majorship because a major had no show for a majorship. The average Mexican, whatever his station, having no real patriotism, is unfitted for self-government, and cannot "play fair" with the other fellow; and for this cause it makes little difference which side wins in the present revolution or any other, the result will be the same, due to the lack of general civic morals and common honesty. The Mexican appreciates justice, but his general make-up incapacitates him from giving it to the other fellow if it in any way interferes with his own interests. Perhaps this is a general condition. The people are educated up to a high standard of civic and social morals, which means a high sense of responsibility. Your average Mexican of all classes has no sense of responsibility and little regard for public opinion. Their vanity, their self-esteem, is very great; but they are almost lacking, as a nation, in self-respect.

The Diaz Regime.

Diaz had the country under control and could have been a great force for good; but he was no better than his surroundings, and his rule gradually became for the benefit of the 7 per cent, and not for the 93 per cent. Something was done in the line of education, but it was only a beginning. Mexico must learn that a literary education amounts to little if the social and civic moral education is neglected. These last from the home environments that are almost entirely lacking in Mexico. For the "book-learning" man, but for the most vital she is entirely lacking. She is, then, teach herself. Knowing this, as her more intelligent men fully know, will she admit of or seek outside aid? In her ignorance and vanity, under a sense of false patriotism she will not admit of or seek aid from the outside, deeming it beneath her national dignity.

A Governor of a state, one of Diaz's last "appointments," a well educated man, rich, travelled, and the best the country produced, started to found a university, with 50 per cent of the present common honesty is the main factor, and this 90 per cent plus of the inhabitants cannot appreciate; not in public trusts, at least. Justice, for the other fellow, is also hard for the average Mexican to appreciate, hence the people at large are incapable of administering it. Too many generations of the policy of, "the chief commands, cartridges into the gun whether they fight or not," has blunted all national sense of responsibility.

The Upper Classes.

There are three classes: Aristocrats, idealists (mostly young men from the middle ranks who have gotten more or less education) and the plebe. The first class has always ruled and will die hard when what it considers its inherited birthright is attacked. The "Señor Don" or his son, can (and expects to) commit any abuse, unpunished. They are vain (as all classes are) and try to rule the country for their own interests, and not for the people, in its true sense, and, taking into account their greater opportunities, are as irresponsible, in their civic duties as is the plebe in all. Marshal Bazaine says in his "Memoirs," in speaking of the Mexican aristocracy: "I cannot understand how persons of such seemingly high culture can be so false and deceitful. For everything Mexican they have a colossal contempt. They do not resemble the French of the same class, who, with all their faults, adore France." The young idealist would like to do something, but he is usually too venal and too indifferent to even try to do anything effective in the uplifting of his country. His personal interests are usually of more importance than the public weal. The plebe is ignorant and has no aspirations; he has always been exploited and always expects to be, and takes no interest at all in the future.

All have had no moral or civic education and lack civic honesty, as I have said before; hence we have lacking the very factors that constitute the foundation of national life. Therefore, no results can be hoped for from the Mexican himself, in the way of building up a nation—in a reasonable time. Carranza is of the best type of his country, and he tried to remove two duly elected Governors, (Sinclair and Sonora) and has changed articles of the national constitution, by "decree." What hopes can be entertained for a free, untrammelled government for the people? What can be expected of or for the 93 per cent.

Madero's Experiment.

Madero was ahead of his time, but his environment was not modern. However, he would have tried to govern for the people and have started the movement looking to better education, in order to enable the 93 per cent to take a larger part in governing themselves; but the aristocrats (Scientifics) Madero was backed by public opinion, undetermined under De la Barra, before Madero assumed the Presidency. So subtle and crafty had been his work that, had the Cientificos waited, they would have come into power again by right of education; and even when Felix Diaz, with no greater following than 5,000, had practically dominated the country, the Cientificos would have gained the ascendancy had they not committed the blunder and crime of murdering Madero. Madero he could never have succeeded as he did. After his death, although a large part of the 93 per cent (plebe) and a small part of the 7 per cent were in sympathy with the revolutionary movement against the Cientificos under Huerta, still there were never over 125,000 men, all told on both sides, engaged in actual warfare; or a little over 4 per cent of the male population. While I heard a large number of "Discursos" we gain credit of the country (this was before the Carranza-Villa break), upon establishing the courts again, no lawyer must be

rather the backers of the deposed Madero government, did not prosper as it should, and the very men who should have been in the lead, with a few worthy exceptions, had not the courage of their convictions and staid out. The 93 per cent having no aspirations of such a movement, were apathetic. Most of the leaders and sub-officers who took the field first, were actuated only by a spirit for self-gain, and their followers were with them for the sole aim of looting.

It is said the first treasurer of the Carranza movement absconded with several millions. A state treasurer is now in jail [jailed by the other side, by whom he was caught] for appropriating around \$100,000 of public funds. When the Tampico went over to the revolutionists her officers, all men of the best type and highest education, made a booze-shop and brothel, openly, of the vessel when in port. One of the officers, being sent in the United States with revolutionary funds to buy a vessel, "blew in" the money and never returned. Such instances could be followed up to the point of tiring. But these few will show the general lack of self-respect, honesty and sense of responsibility and the total lack of conception of what republicanism stands for.

No Public Confidence.

Many will think that I am exaggerating. Far from it. I am simply presenting facts. After a quarter of a century of intimate, friendly association with the Mexican people, it is a lamentable fact that there is so little common honesty in the average Mexican that he can hardly conceive that the other fellow may be honest, and never gives him credit for having disinterested motives. For this reason there is little commercial association; few large native companies. They do not and can not trust each other. They are so vain that I heard a man high in the ranks of the revolutionary party, when they were nothing but a band of revolutionists, say: "We do not need the recognition of any government."

Although the Roman Church is recognized as the religion of the country, the people at large have no religion. It is simply a cult, there being no social or moral training. The priests, as a rule, are immoral, often being the fathers of several illegitimate children. You may train a wolf to do lamb's tricks, but he remains a wolf. You can hardly make saintly men and teachers, however intelligent they may be, out of boys who have had no moral training whatever, and raised as most Mexican boys are. So, I can scarcely see a reason to expect in a certain state revealed that there was not a man in the state that was considered fit to be Governor, under present aspirations.

Should the present difficulties be terminated and a President be elected, the result will be the same, regardless of who the man may be, if he confines himself to legitimate republican government. He will be unable to reconcile all demands, as he will be unable to find offices or money for every one who will expect emoluments, and those who will be more than the "friends," it will be the same old cry: "Down with him!"

Education the Remedy.

Schools, and industrial schools at that, are the only salvation for Mexico, and these need to be added to the kindergarten up to civic and social morals, tending to produce honest, decent, patriotic citizens. For this she will need to bring in foreign teachers for the first generation, for the blind cannot lead the blind." Let her follow Japan's patriotic example, however humiliating it may seem to her vanity. No one is expected to walk before creeping. Until a generation of more or less educated people comes into being, the government the country needs is one for the people, but by the people. The present government, as it is, is just, honest, efficient government; a patriotic commission, perhaps. There are enough men in the country to bring this about, but it is hardly to be expected that they would be chosen. There is little hope from within, unaided by outside nations.

Mexico has not the men of iron will, unselfish, unseeking patriotism that Japan had; hence she will have to use the foreign models with foreign aid, if she aims to be a civilized nation or classed as such, even within the next fifty years. The reform necessary, the true education needed, cannot be effected short of a generation. For the present generation there is no hope. I do not wish to convey the idea that the country is wholly bad, for it is an aphorism that no man is so bad that there is not some good in him. The country is good—very good, and the native has many good, even lovable, characteristics, and his children can be made the citizens it is desired they should be. The father, in the 93 per cent, has been sinned against and is the result of a neglectful, selfish, vicious government by the 7 per cent. And it is because of this 7 per cent, that should be the saviour—the leaving with which to work out the general reconstruction—will not aid to regenerate the country, not because it cannot, for it is amply proficient, but because its training has tended for 300 years to make it arrogant, greedy, selfish, dishonest and unpatriotic and hence incapable of putting itself in the place of the 93 per cent, in order to work out successfully the future of their country.

Sinaloa, Mexico, Sept. 27, 1915.

From a Plain American.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Your editorial entitled "The Serbian Campaign" is, in my judgment, one of the best productions if not the best of the fertile brain of the editorial writer of your valuable paper I have had the pleasure of reading in a great many years.

The writer of these lines notes with great delight, among other things, the statement: "Diplomatically, on the battlefield and in the combination of military operations, German high command has scored brilliantly." He, too, is of the opinion that, "accepted as a campaign, as an incident in the world war, the Balkan operation is a striking Teutonic success, well conceived, perfectly executed and highly profitable alike in military result and in increased prestige."

The writer has no hesitancy in predicting that the final great battle will be fought in Russia and in the Franco-Belgian fields, but he has yet to be convinced that Wilhelm II, Emperor of Germany, will meet his Waterloo on Russian and Franco-Belgian soil.

The writer of this letter is neither a pro-German, Austro-Hungarian, Bulgarian or Turk, nor an anti-English, French, Russian, Italian or Japanese. He is an American, just a plain American, nothing more and nothing less. He feels as do all men and women of this free democracy, that the men in the trenches, who endure all the hardships of modern war, the tortures of hell, are his brothers; that we are all God's people, children of one Creator, members of the great brotherhood of men. He fervently prays that this world strife will result in a profound peace for the world at large.

Jersey City, N. J., Nov. 24, 1915.

[The United States was not a party to the treaty which guaranteed the permanent independence and neutrality of Belgium. It did sign and ratify a Hague treaty defining the duties and privileges of neutrals and forbidding the latter to allow the passage of belligerent troops across their territory. But this treaty failed to become effective in the present war because it had not been ratified by all the belligerents.—Ed.]

IDIOTIC NAVIGATION LAWS

The La Follette Law Imposes Unnecessary Restrictions on Shipping.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: With all your bully editorials showing President Wilson in his true light, cannot you incorporate something adverse or favorable to the need of this country for a merchant marine—anything which will raise a discussion, set people thinking and arouse public opinion out of its many generations of apathy regarding overseas carriers?

In the papers we are hearing a lot about a merchant marine board. The idea is sound if it can be made as effective as the board governing our currency system. But what use will the board possibly be if the bad features of the La Follette bill will remain, and also the unfair and expensive navigation laws which were in force prior to it? I am willing to admit there are many good features in the La Follette bill, but the stupidity of many of its clauses is absolutely beyond belief.

Take the "baby life preserver" section also the putting of more lifeboats and also the unfair and expensive navigation laws which were in force prior to it? I am willing to admit there are many good features in the La Follette bill, but the stupidity of many of its clauses is absolutely beyond belief.

Isn't it about time practical men took a hand in seeing that whenever a floating village pokes her nose beyond Ambrose Channel most of the village won't be sent to kingdom come because she is so loaded with watertight bulkheads that if there is a collision the water is confined all on one side, and being top-heavy anyway, thanks to the public craving for luxuriousness, the ship can't stand on her own bottom in sinking, thereby giving folks a ghost of a chance of getting clear, but must roll over and carry down thousands with her, drowning them like rats in a tin can?

And think of it, the La Follette bill requires more lifeboats, which consequently would cause the skyscraping levitation to roll over the quicker and drown thousands who in the excitement might get hold of "baby life preservers." R. E. CROPLEY.
New York, Dec. 2, 1915.

"Some One Had Blundered."

To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: I don't think we can justly blame Sir John French, though of course he is held responsible for the errors of his subordinates.

I understand (my son was in the Aubers Ridge muddle and lost his life) that an order from headquarters was misunderstood