

New York Tribune

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

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To Make Safety Laws Work.

Taking as the basis for his action the result of the recent Williamsburg factory fire—twelve dead and many badly injured—Senator Wagner, who was chairman of the Factory Investigating Commission, intends at the coming legislative session to press for a stiffening of the inspection laws.

When this provision was under discussion the Tribune pointed out exactly the effect it would have. Its legislative opponents termed it a joker of the most vicious type, but it went through, along with all the other undigested provisions of the law which consolidated the Labor Department, the Workmen's Compensation Commission and the State Insurance Fund under one management in the State Industrial Commission.

It is obvious that there ought to be some provision to protect the factory owner against unjust, unwise or blackmailing orders. For that purpose the appeal should not be abolished—but there might well be a provision in the law authorizing the commission to close any factory summarily pending the decision of its members.

How Prohibition Prohibits.

There is much encouragement for the prohibitionists in the annual report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and in their endeavor to promote a national agitation in favor of the abolition of alcoholic beverages they will hardly fail to turn his statistics to account.

The falling off in the consumption of intoxicating liquors is undeniable, the decrease in the withdrawals of distilled spirits amounting to almost 15,000,000 gallons in a year. With twelve states under prohibition and seven more about to be controlled in the same way, it is but reasonable to believe that the decrease is attributable in large measure to legislative restrictions.

An interesting and significant passage in the report deals with the so-called bootlegging activities in prohibition states. The problem, we are told, is one of the most difficult that confront the revenue officers. "The business of the moonshiner in whiskey in the Southern States," says the commissioner, "from the number of illicit distilleries reported seized during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1915, appears to be increasing."

This result is not in any way surprising. Wherever prohibition has been forced on a community similar difficulties invariably arise so long as a considerable minority are opposed to it. Alcoholic beverages are easily prepared—even a saturated solution of sugar yields a beverage containing as much as 14 per cent of alcohol—and the opportunities for the illicit

distiller are practically unlimited. There is no doubt that in many of the Southern States there is a reasoned opposition to total prohibition, and as long as that opposition exists so long will total prohibition be impossible. The revenue returns will continue to show excellent results, and, as the commissioner remarks, a gradual reduction in the receipts may safely be predicted. But those who draw conclusions entirely from this source are deceived. Prohibition undoubtedly prohibits traffic in the ordinary way, but it encourages illicit traffic and promotes the consumption of inferior and pernicious beverages.

The Food Shortage in Germany.

Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's assertion that Germany has a sufficient food supply on hand as well as in prospect may be helpfully interpreted in the light of recent information published in the Berlin newspapers. According to an article in the "Morgen Post" of November 13 the government has just undertaken a sweeping regulation of all food sales and prices. Previously its attention had been concentrated on bread, cereals, meats and potatoes. But regulation is now to extend to butter, milk, coffee, tea, cocoa, green vegetables, onions, sauerkraut, fruit and fruit preserves, marmalade, honey, syrup and the fat substitutes.

The government was reluctant to take these measures, since the powerful Agrarian element opposed them. But the urban consumers, for whom the "Morgen Post" speaks, bitterly complain that the policy of regulation all along the line was not adopted last summer. "What an amount of excitement, anger and criticism would have been avoided if what is now decreed had been decreed at the beginning of the second year of the war," says the "Morgen Post."

Germany will not starve. Restraint in eating will be a benefit rather than an injury to most Germans. The suffering from such restraint will be psychological rather than actual. It is a state of psychology rather than a state of actual physical suffering with which Bethmann-Hollweg and his associates have to deal.

Every friend of true sport will applaud the wholesome sentiment expressed in this offer from Mr. Francis Lynde Stetson which the Williams "Record" prints: I shall be happy to make good to the Athletic Council every dollar of support withdrawn by any alumnus who will write a letter to the Athletic Council stating that he has withdrawn his support because the team does not win more games, this offer to continue during the time of every man now in college.

But what a condition of mind this flash of spirit discovers in those it rebukes! Very evidently Williams alumni (only a few, let us trust) have been contributing to the support of Williams athletics in the hope that intercollegiate victories would give them something to boast of among clubmates. And they feel they have not been receiving their money's worth. The poor defrauded creatures!—defrauded from youth with an ignoble and purely pernicious point of view.

It is a point of view, however, which undoubtedly has its devotees among the alumni of practically every institution in the country. And it constitutes a large part of the pressure put upon faculty and student body to turn out championship eleven and nine, whatever else may proceed from the educational mill. The students themselves are never so keen on winning at any cost as this type of alumnus whose vanity cannot brook the taunts of his associates. It is his kind that canvasses preparatory schools for athletic material which may be subsidized. It is his type which contributes most to commercializing and debauching college play. Unfortunately, it is not every college that has an influential and chivalrous son like Mr. Stetson to cry him "Shame!"

Raising Osteopathic Standards.

The osteopaths of the state assembled in this city on Saturday "to consider methods of raising the educational standard in all osteopathic colleges." It is explained that, having won their fight for legal recognition, they are now for strengthening their position and are determined to make their schools more efficient and to be more exacting in future with regard to would-be practitioners.

This good resolution is perhaps a little belated, but considering how successful they have been in establishing themselves in a legal way it is to the credit of the osteopaths that they should now endeavor to rid themselves of a notorious reproach. Too many of the schools were they were supposed to be instructed in the mystery of their trade seem in the past to have been conducted on a purely commercial basis. They were ill equipped, there was no possibility of securing the training that any man ought to have who pretends to practise the art of healing, and, indeed, the advertisements and prospectuses showed that money-making was often the chief bait held out to applicants.

If it is a question of raising the standard of education in such schools the task that confronts the reformers is by no means an impossible one. A more thorough training may indeed spoil one of the charms of osteopathy, for it can hardly be doubted that the ease with which a diploma could be

secured was in the eyes of many the chief advantage of this remarkable system in the early days. A broader education may also threaten the stability of osteopathic dogma, but if it does neither the practitioners nor their patients are likely to suffer.

The Apocryphal Books.

There is nothing unreasonable in Dr. Gates's appeal to the Bible societies. Why, indeed, should modern readers be deprived of the excellent matter that is in the Apocryphal books of the Old Testament? Yet for putting this simple question Dr. Gates has been denounced—if that is the word—as a High Churchman. What his Protestant critic means is not wholly clear, for, as Dr. Gates justly replies, he is only asking for the Bible that the great reformers knew, the Bibles of Luther, of Cranmer, of Coverdale and the rest. Surely Coverdale was the first editor even to segregate the questionable books.

The books of the Apocrypha are occasionally glanced at in the New Testament and passages from them are still read in the Anglican churches; not, indeed, to establish doctrine, but "for example of life and instruction of manners." Hence there is little meaning in the explanation offered by the president of the American Bible Society, that its policy is "in historic accord with the principles of Protestantism." The principle is not obvious, provided it be understood that in point of doctrine the books are not to be held in the same estimation as the canonical Scriptures.

On historic grounds it is likewise impossible to justify the omission, since the books are to be found in the great majority of the older editions of the Bible. It may be observed, however, that the American Bible Society is only following the example of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which ruled out the Apocrypha nearly ninety years ago.

Educational Perils.

Teaching school in New York City should be numbered among the extra-hazardous occupations. Not so long ago as to be forgotten by a sensation-sated public, a young woman teacher was summarily kissed by two overgrown boys who found her appearance attractive. They tore her clothing in their violence and were beaten off with difficulty and the help of other pupils. On Monday two other boys, one acting as "lookout" for his confederate, calmly held up a principal at the point of a revolver.

"Now, promise to let me alone," quoth the young mutineer with the gun, "or I'll shoot you."

What could a poor principal do? One law prevents his trouncing the lawlessness out of his charges, to begin with, and another prevents his carrying weapons with which to meet the eventualities the first invites. Fortunately in this particular instance the principal's surrender lasted only long enough to permit two brave women teachers with the requisite presence of mind to creep up behind the youthful gunman and overpower him. At least, such is the version of the incident which we have chosen from the large assortment offered.

But if this sort of thing continues, it will become necessary to arm our teachers of both sexes like policemen or to set policemen to teaching. The city should either compel its parents to temper their offspring into a semblance of respect for authority or permit its teachers to protect themselves adequately against the untamed product with whom they must be caged each day. Otherwise the danger to the teacher of being either kissed or shot will soon begin to militate against a proper concentration on the legitimate activities of the classroom.

Nominated by acclamation: For secretary to the chairman, "Suspender Jack" Magee.

New Work for Police.

Instead of being merely watchmen to prevent lawlessness let the police study the neighborhood conditions that produce lawlessness. Let them be the eyes and ears of the municipality, qualified from first-hand study to make the city authorities recommendations which would reduce lawlessness and crime. No matter should be too small to come under the scrutiny of the police. The conditions of the streets, sidewalks, street lights, garbage collection, fire hydrants, parks, playgrounds and all matters relating to public health and safety might well be included in their reports.

Every district of the city should be covered thoroughly and systematically by the police every twenty-four hours, and there is hardly a department of the city government they might not aid by their work as investigators. The police should be one of the greatest social agencies any city has. For example, in the single matter of the gangs which infest the tenement districts of most cities, if the police interested themselves in trying to secure proper recreational facilities and inspired children to look upon the "cop" as their best friend instead of their greatest foe, it would go far toward doing away with lawless gangs. There would be no idle policeman, if, instead of aimlessly patrolling his beat waiting for something to turn up so that he might make an arrest, he would all the time be engaged in the intelligent study of the many conditions bearing upon the moral, social and economic welfare of the people in his district.

Civilizing West Africa.

What will the schooners, laden with New England rum for West Africa, bring home? That question may have puzzled many who have noted the strange revival of the rum traffic that used to flourish in the slavery days. It may have been thought that the rum paid for the round voyage. A four-masted schooner, the first to go out, has now returned to Boston with 486,673 feet of mahogany in logs from West Africa, a cargo of no small value. The round voyage has assumed seven months, the loading of the mahogany being a slow process owing to the incidence of West African labor. At the dock was another capacious windjammer ready to sail, with two hundred thousand gallons of rum, fifteen hundred barrels of flour and other things that the natives seem to be in need of. As many as six sailing vessels have entered this trade since last spring.

"DO THEY WANT ROOSEVELT?"

Three Reasons for Preferring Him Before Others.

To the Editor of The Tribune: Sir: I have been a subscriber for and a reader of The Tribune for over forty years and have read your editorials on different subjects in that time.

Once in a while there is one that outranks hundreds of others; such a one was in Saturday's Tribune.

I have been a warm admirer of Colonel Roosevelt ever since he started in public life, and this has increased as event followed event. These are my reasons:

First, I believe that he believes in righteousness.

Second, I believe that he believes that every one should give a square deal to the other fellow, including those of every land.

Third, I believe that he believes that every American citizen should be protected in his rights anywhere in this country, in any other country or on the high seas, even if it takes the last drop of blood or the last dollar.

When Americans were hanging their heads in shame and patriotism seemed to be at a low ebb, because of those who were trying to navigate the Ship of State rudderless and compassless, his speech at Plattsburg sent a thrill of patriotism throughout the country, even touching those in authority who, though venting out their anger and spleen, soon found out that Americanism was demanded.

I am an old militiaman, and a few weeks ago (after the Plattsburg speech) we formed an organization of those honorably discharged, the purpose of which was to instill patriotism in our young men and give encouragement to those not giving their services to the state and nation.

Some more outspoken editorials of the same class as the one referred to will certainly be productive of good.

ALBERT MAUTERSTOCK, Kingston, N. Y., Dec. 14, 1915.

The Man of the Hour.

To the Editor of The Tribune: Sir: I feel grateful to The Tribune for the stand it has taken on this European war question and for the splendid support it has given to the principles on which liberty and freedom rest. Wilson is an excellent writer on abstract principles, but Roosevelt is the man to apply them, and the country needs him for the present emergency.

One of your correspondents asks the question, "Why not stop fighting?" May I ask the question, "Why did they begin fighting?" Has the object sought been attained? Certainly not. If they stop now they are bound to resume it later on.

The chance of peace among the warring nations depends absolutely on Germany. She might be willing to withdraw from conquered territory and restore former boundaries—if her place in the sun could be assured! It has been suggested that a broad belt across Africa might answer the purpose. This plan would not require Britain to forego a cherished policy, nor would it furnish Germany with satisfactory territory for settlement.

Since that historic naval incident occurred at Manila Bay between Dewey and the German admiral has it not been self-evident that the Monroe Doctrine has been worth less than a scrap of paper without the support of the British fleet? And yet this fact is not recognized, nor does the Wilson administration realize it.

Suppose Britain should offer Germany, in exchange for her African interests, the whole of South and Central America, with Mexico thrown in, engaging to observe a strict neutrality in thought and deed with her fleet?

An alliance between Germany and Japan is more than possible, with the British fleet neutral.

The country is drifting to the rocks. Roosevelt represents the principles that should guide our ship of state, and he is the best man to take the wheel.

G. W. Brooklyn, Dec. 13, 1915.

A Presidential Necessity.

To the Editor of The Tribune: Sir: It is very seldom that I break into public print, but the exception that proves the rule is caused by what I consider your most masterly editorial of the last two or three years, the leading one in your edition of Saturday, the 11th. The impression I gather is that The New York Tribune believes in Theodore Roosevelt as a Presidential necessity and is willing, in fact, eager, to back him in 1916.

Mr. Editor, I metaphorically take my hat off to you. It takes courage to write such an editorial after your series of 1912, and it does more to convince me of your endeavor to adhere to your motto of "First to last the truth" than anything you have yet done.

I have always been a T. R. rooster, because in my opinion he is the most virile, manly and courageous type of American manhood in the country. He is a man, every inch of him. He calls a crime a crime, and not an oversight on the part of the captain of a submarine. I attended a dinner of about seventy young men on Saturday night, and in one of the toasts the name of Theodore Roosevelt was mentioned, and it was the signal for prolonged applause, and among my friends those that were most rabidly opposed to Mr. Roosevelt in 1912 are strongest for him now.

I admit his propensities for basking in the limelight, but who is not? It is the same way; no one thing is true of Mr. Roosevelt that cannot be said of most public men of this day and generation—whenever he says a thing he almost always makes good.

I sincerely trust you will take up the fight as you have begun it. Talk T. R. and sound his praises; not as a Republican nor as a Bull Moose; not as a Progressive nor as a Reactionary, but as a man with whose stature and virile Americanism no person in the whole United States can measure.

EDGAR W. CURTIS, Brooklyn, Dec. 13, 1915.

Who Else Is There?

To the Editor of The Tribune: Sir: I read with interest and approval your lively editorial headed "Do They Want Roosevelt?" in the issue of December 11. I agree with you thoroughly that our country now needs a strong leader with a definite policy firm enough to lead us back to the place we have occupied in history, but which our present foreign policy has lost us.

As you say, "Who else is there but Theodore Roosevelt?"

WILL THE WATERS PART AGAIN?



NO TIME FOR PEACE

Satisfactory Settlement Can Come Only with Hohenzollern Downfall.

To the Editor of The Tribune: Sir: As a Canadian, a national of a belligerent country, with relatives, friends and neighbors in the army and the bodies of many who were friends and neighbors filling unknown Belgian graves, I crave space for reply to Frank M. Franklin's query, "Why not stop the war?"

To stop the war now would be a crime against humanity. All must die, whether we go to war or not. The age at which we die or the manner of our decease are matters of detail and of little consequence. The one question of importance is whether our lives have been used for the good of humanity or given to that cowardice which urges the self-gratification of clinging to a few more days of existence in violation of the highest instincts of our being.

The hen partridge when alone is the most timid of creatures, but when mothering her flock will fluster under the huntsman's feet in assumed lameness and practically offer her own life in exchange for her chicks' salvation.

Across the inner consciousness of every living creature is written the eternal unchanging mandate: "The individual life should be spent in promoting the welfare of the species." If through dread of the present effusion of blood and the other horrors of modern strife we were to agree to an indecisive peace we would be doing what a partridge would be ashamed to do, viz.—saving our own lives by giving the childhood of our nation over to future slaughter. It would be shifting a hard and uncomfortable duty from our own shoulders to the backs of the growing generation, with a very good assurance that the burden would grow much heavier and in all possibilities crash our children.

Stopping the war now would not mean peace—it simply would be a truce, to last until the Hohenzollern had repaired his war machine so that he felt confident of his ability to overwhelm in slaughter the people of the nations now at war with him, and the next time he would make the miscalculation which, fortunately for the world, characterized his present action.

Since the days of the Mad William the Hohenzollerns have no sooner terminated one war than they have begun to prepare for another. The Hohenzollern lust of conquest is like a wolf's lust for blood. As the death of the wolf is the only guarantee of the lamb's safety, so the final and permanent dethroning of the Hohenzollern dynasty is the only adequate guarantee of the continuance of our present civilization.

Against the Germans as a race there is no fault except in their early yielding to the Hohenzollern will. If they would cease that family from their midst, bag and baggage, peace could be made in a day. But present indications are, unfortunately for the world, that the German people are obsessed with the Hohenzollern fever for world power and so will need to have that spirit well beaten out of them, which undoubtedly will take considerable time.

Mr. Franklin is in error in concluding that one side cannot eventually overmatch the other. Russia is just beginning to make her weight in men felt. The British Empire, in comparison to her potential military strength, has merely a scouting party in the field. Next spring the vanguard of her army will begin to appear at the front, and in about a year from that date her main army will be coming up to the battle line.

In two or three years the grand army of the British Empire would probably be out in force. With her population of five hundred millions of people she could readily place thirty or forty millions of men in the field and keep her army at that strength for an unlimited time. If the Central Powers have not yet reached their maximum strength in men they will eventually do so, and when that time arrives, be it sooner or later, Russia and the British Empire will still possess uncounted reserves of men to draw from. When that time comes and the Central Powers no longer have men with which to replace the casualties the beginning of the end will be at hand.

It was comparatively easy for the German war barons to try their military machine by bringing on the present war, for which they are guilty and must pay the price before a secure and lasting peace can be had.

P. J. GUERRY, Elizabeth, N. J., Dec. 13, 1915.

HONOR SYSTEM AT STEVENS

Testimony of Its Success from One Who Has Experienced It.

To the Editor of The Tribune: Sir: Replying to Miss Noll's article, "The Honor System Work?" in this morning's Tribune, I can advise that the honor system has proved most successful at Stevens Institute of Technology, it having been in operation there some six years, I believe.

Every bit of work is done under it, and examinations professors and instructors are not in the rooms a good part of the time, and students are at liberty to leave and take a stroll outside for a breath of air, and this privilege I found was not abused. Indeed, it would seem very odd to me to go back to the old scheme of having professors spy over the whole room. This strikes me as being in a way an encouragement to cheating, for fellows have told me that they "cribbed" just for the fun of matching wits against the professor and trying to "put one over on him."

At Stevens the classroom recitations, laboratory reports and all home work are also covered by the honor system, which, it seems, can take in these branches as effectively as it does the examination periods.

Each freshman on being admitted to college signs a declaration that he will uphold the honor system at Stevens.

The student self-government board, which is the jury for trying all cases of infringement of rules, is composed of three men from each of the four classes, each class selecting its delegates, and the senior receiving the most votes becoming chairman of the board. At trials the board calls the defendant and witnesses and then debates on the innocence or guilt of those concerned. It also decides upon the punishment to be inflicted. Some of these include private reprimand, public reprimand, suspension and expulsion.

From my experience of four years and one I should say that honor systems at colleges are entirely feasible, provided a practical set of rules and regulations is made the basis of the system.

D. M. HILL, Brooklyn, Dec. 13, 1915.

Wesleyan's System.

To the Editor of The Tribune: Sir: I note in your columns this morning a letter from Miss Anna Noll requesting information as to the form and practical operation of honor systems in colleges. I am an alumnus of Wesleyan, of the class of '88.

The honor system, as applied to examinations of all kinds, was in operation there during my time, and, I believe, is still. I think I may say without fear of contradiction that it is one of our most cherished institutions.

As for infringements I never heard of any before I entered college, and have not heard of any since. During my junior year two freshmen were accused of taking advantage of it. A committee was appointed, the men were examined and other evidence heard; they were found guilty and the committee recommended to the faculty that they be expelled from college. This was done. So far as I know this is the only case on record. In general the honor system works beautifully. I know we would not have given it up for a good deal, and I am sure the boys feel the same way about it to-day.

EDWARD B. GRAY, East Orange, N. J., Dec. 13, 1915.

What the Aquarium Costs.

To the Editor of The Tribune: Sir: In The Tribune of December 13 there appears a statement by a school teacher who wants more salary, that "\$200,000 was voted last year for the upkeep of the Aquarium."

The appropriation for the Aquarium is about \$47,000 a year, and has never exceeded \$48,500.

The Aquarium has more visitors to entertain than any other museum in the city, and could make profitable use of a larger attendance, but \$200,000 would be positively embarrassing.

It isn't desirable to let the taxpayers think it costs that much to keep the aquatic collections in the ancient ruin where they are now installed. That would be paying the highest kind of rent for the poorest kind of quarters.

C. H. TOWNSEND, The Aquarium, New York, Dec. 12, 1915.