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Courting Disaster.

Last Saturday The Tribune appealed to the Administration in Washington to reinforce the border army. On that day General Pershing's little expedition had penetrated only a short distance into Mexico.

We pointed out last week that General Pershing's line of communications, stretching south from Columbus, N. M., across a desert country, could be maintained only by the employment of a force considerably larger than the force actually in pursuit of Villa.

There was always the risk, as we showed, of collisions with the civil population of Western Chihuahua, which would stir into flame the passions of a jealous and bigoted patriotism.

There were not enough American troops on the border last Saturday to secure beyond peradventure the communications of the "punitive expedition."

There is only one reserve force in sight to draw upon, and that is the state militia. If the state guards are ordered out, they can patrol the boundary line, protect railroads and bridges and do other second line duty.

Merely discussing protocols with the Carranza government will not help the imperilled American forces which have gone into Mexico. They need military support—sufficient support to guarantee their safe retirement in case Carranza's guarantees are cancelled by hostile commanders beyond Carranza's control.

American honor, are calling for reinforcements, Washington seems bent on playing out to the bitter end the comedy of unpreparedness.

You cannot get real preparedness simply by making a noise like preparedness. You cannot defend the Mexican border by keeping the national guard at home and depending on an undersized mobile army to perform both first line and second line work.

Our Horse Cars Seem Doomed.

There is no other city which can better afford than New York to preserve a line or two of horse cars purely for sentimental reasons. We are honeycombed with subways and roofed in with elevated lines.

Who indeed, except a cynical transit company which purposes within a fortnight to take the last remaining horse car away from us. Here is a fine pickle. Accustomed to a generation to the exclusive patronage of these ancient vehicles.

Sometimes the Middle West surprises us. Due, perhaps, to the timidity of its representatives in Congress, we in the East had come to regard it as the home of pro-Germanism, or at least of a rock ribbed neutrality which defied assault, submarine or other.

A Sensitive Berlin.

Accurate statistics are not at hand, but it seems perfectly safe to say that a handsome majority of our forty-eight states contain each a Berlin. The Atlantic seaboard, predominantly pro-Ally, is peppered with Berlins.

But if Berlin, Kan., succeeds in changing its name, won't some of our other Berlins follow suit? Here is a problem for the Kaiser's agents. Isn't there some way in which they can frighten or bribe travelling salesmen into abandoning their criminal conspiracy to make this name anathema?

An Opportunity for the Conscientious.

Compulsory service in Great Britain has brought with it a measure of comfort for the preachers of peace at all costs. The conscience clause enables those who are irrevocably opposed to war in any cause to claim exemption on that score alone.

OUR NATURAL ALLIES

Let Us Tie Ourselves to Great Britain and France.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: A suggestion by one of your recent contributors to the effect that the United States should form an alliance with Great Britain seems to me pertinent.

But why not include France in the proposed alliance? She is the one great republic in Europe, and is today showing matchless devotion to the same principles and ideals which we cherish.

This plan involves a radical departure from the counsels of Washington and the tradition of the Republic. But since world conditions are now utterly unlike those which existed in Washington's time, there would seem to be no more reason why this country should adhere to the policy marked out by him than that China should forever continue the worship of Confucius.

How to Deal with Mexico.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: It is to be feared that the action has been poorly begun. To invade Mexico from the north, without having previously established an effective blockade of her seaports.

Our small force, operating in a strange and hostile country against enormous odds, and far removed from their supply base, will undoubtedly be defeated by the sniping and guerrilla methods of the savage Mexicans.

But the men with moral scruples are the skillful dodgers of all, and their number is astonishing. Not even the exemption clauses in the compulsory vaccination act have brought forth a firm demonstration of the prevalence of tender consciences.

Mayor Smith's Family.

If Mayor Smith chooses to surround himself with an official family which is recruited from his private family and the wider circle of his friends there is no law to prevent him.

So far four men personally attached to the Mayor have received positions of trust and honor from him. His brother, Joseph C., is his private secretary, and in that post of confidence unquestionably gives satisfaction.

Marching for Villa!

Bring the good old bugle, boys (provided it will too). Bring it with a spirit that will make the Greasers scot; Bring it as we've got to bring it, down Chihuahua route.

Ireland's Betrayers.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: If the Irish "Patriots" are accomplishing anything by reason of their frenzied diatribes against England and their inability to see anything except conditions that no longer exist, that accomplishment is surely the vindication of England in large part for her attitude in the past toward this people!

The Wrong Signature.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Recently you published a letter in your paper which apparently was dated at North Haven, Conn., on March 10, 1916, and signed by R. Eaton. My name is Robert O. Eaton and I am the only R. Eaton in North Haven, so you will pardon me for being a little embarrassed in being held up before my fellows as the author of such a letter.

GERMANY'S AMERICAN PLANS

Subtle Means by Which Germany Prepares to Gain a Footing on This Continent—How the Corruption of the German-American Press Was Compromised—Exchange Professors and Their Part in the Great Scheme—German Societies Here and in South America.

Merely for the purpose of befriending the Fatherland, and in order to secure a splendid physical training school, enable the German boys to become strong, healthy, alert and order-loving citizens.

The German Kaiser, by his majestic and royally entertained visits to Germany, fraternized with German editors in Germany, man in turn paid visits to the German press in the United States.

When the present German Emperor ascended his throne there were millions of people of German descent or birth living in the United States. Together with the German newspapers they were considered and rightly so—as loyal to the United States, as hostile to Prussian militarism and autocracy.

PEACE WITH HONOR

Preparedness and a Republican President Are Essential.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In the list of names suggested for the Republican nomination for President—Hughes, Root, Roosevelt—why is not Taft also included? He has ability, experience and backbone equal to any, and more than most of those mentioned.

Merriman on the Prussian Mind.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The Teutonic mind cannot grasp certain motives which depend solely upon a sense of honor or find birth in a scrupulous uprightness.

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To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The New York Tribune has been my chosen daily for the fifty-two years of my public life. I cannot see how it is possible for any person to think of Theodore Roosevelt as the standard bearer of the Republican party.

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