

New York Tribune

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1916.

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You can purchase merchandise advertised in THE TRIBUNE with absolute safety—for if dissatisfaction results in any case THE TRIBUNE guarantees to pay your money back upon request.

Americanism the Only Issue.

Senator Warren G. Harding, of Ohio, the Republican National Committee's choice for temporary chairman of the Republican National Convention, said in a speech in Chicago the other day that the "principal issue" of the campaign of 1916 "will be the tariff, closely intertwined with preparedness and its problems."

Get Acquainted!

The suffragists are to be congratulated on having put their constitutional amendment through the Legislature the first time. It is not to be assumed that it will encounter greater difficulties on its second trip than it had to face this year, so there is good reason for the elation of the women workers.

Jail for Factory Smokers.

However safe their construction, however spacious their exits, factories and loft buildings are always at the mercy of the worker who "smokes a smoke" in defiance of the law.

New Yorkers for New York.

The Merchants' Association is an organization which, serving the interests of its members, a group of representative business men of this city, also gives excellent service to the community.

Hot Heads and Cold Feet.

Monday night a riot started in Haverhill. The Haverhill police simultaneously lost their nerve and their heads, and prevailed upon the Mayor to call out a company of militia.

Statues and the City Hall.

To the Editor of the Tribune: The Commissioner of Parks for the boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx, recently declining permission for the transference of the Greeley statue to City Hall Park, took the ground, which many citizens will endorse, that this park should be reserved for memorials of men who have been identified conspicuously with the city government.

are not nationalized in the sense in which the French, the Germans and the British are nationalized. Sectional quarrels occupied the greater part of our first century of existence. Only recently a distinguished Southern Senator described himself in debate on the floor of the Senate as a provincial first and an American afterward.

In addition, we have the hyphenated elements to contend with. They are still un-melted in the melting pot. What we are to accomplish as a nation must depend largely on our success in assimilating these half-finished Americans.

About Attics.

Any attic is a collector of forgotten relics as thickly enveloped in associations as in dust. But in the attic of the normal household there is very little that is grewsome and much that is tender, and even humorous, in these associations.

Raids in the Dark.

In attempting to estimate the damage done by the recent series of air raids on Great Britain it is plainly impossible to reconcile the official reports from London and Berlin.

Winged Words.

To the Editor of the Tribune: In your editorial concerning "Winged Words" it seems to me you have overlooked some of the most important ones in our own history.

Irish Sentiment in the War.

To the Editor of the Tribune: Sir: T. J. Hurley's sarcasm directed at Jephson Norreys O'Connor seems to me to be entirely wasted, and the use of a few bromide Latin phrases may display Mr. Hurley's knowledge of that extinct language, but it will hardly serve to convince us of German sympathy on the part of real Irishmen.

Play Streets.

To the Editor of the Tribune: Sir: Your editorial of April 7 in regard to play streets gives the impression that the People's Institute is alone responsible for the street play system in this city.

A Lesson in Neutrality.

To the Editor of the Tribune: Sir: Your leading editorial of the 7th inst. upon the German Chancellor's speech to the Reichstag seems hardly a fair statement of the case.

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What the Parks and Playgrounds Association Has Done.

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service of facts about New York to newspapers all over the world. Its industrial bureau would complete a survey of the city, with the purpose of improving conditions in industry here, where possible, and of attracting new businesses.

Yet, after all, the chief point in this campaign for greater membership is that its success will mean a bigger body of the picked men of New York pulling together for New York. Such co-operation of the city needs and always will be the better for.

ARMED DINOSAURS

Anti-Preparedness Arguments a Fine Example of Loose Thinking. To the Editor of the Tribune: Sir: The anti-preparedness campaigners have wheeled through the streets a model of a dinosaur bearing the inscription: "This is Jingo, the armored dinosaur—all armor plate and no brains. This animal believed in huge armaments. He is now extinct."

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ARMED DINOSAURS. Anti-Preparedness Arguments a Fine Example of Loose Thinking. To the Editor of the Tribune: Sir: The anti-preparedness campaigners have wheeled through the streets a model of a dinosaur bearing the inscription: "This is Jingo, the armored dinosaur—all armor plate and no brains. This animal believed in huge armaments. He is now extinct."

Americans relish wit and will even go far in condoning the travesty of a serious matter or perversion of fact by implication or partial statement if only a good laugh can be had. The dinosaur is a cute conception and might even pass for "clever." It serves at the same time the most excellent illustration of loose thinking, the kind of loose thinking to which our anti-preparedness friends seem addicted. They erect the dinosaur as the type, and from their exalted outlook they tell us with supreme assurance that this dinosaur has now become extinct.

We are practically told we have misread the public press and the current cables that have now for nearly two years set forth the story from day to day of the Prussian Frankenstein, his blood and iron, his "schrecklichkeit," his killing of women and children and old men, his violation of sacred pledges, his challenge to the rule of reason embodied in law against the rule of force, his atavistic reversion to the age of the brute, his "I" and "mine" that could neither brook nor know any "thee" or "thine" in thought or thing or desire, in faith or taste; whose audacious egoism would invoke high heaven in its insane marauding.

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A LESSON IN NEUTRALITY

Precedent the Great Guide—Plenty of It for Objecting to British Orders in Council; Hence We May Justly Protest—Lustania Massacre Unprecedented; Hence Our Right to Object Is Doubtful.

To the Editor of the Tribune: Sir: Your leading editorial of the 7th inst. upon the German Chancellor's speech to the Reichstag seems hardly a fair statement of the case.

The suggestion, emanating from German sources, that Germany was willing to consider peace terms which did not include the retention of Belgium was made months ago. Suggested peace terms can apply only to the conditions at the time the suggestion is made.

Turning to Poland, would you seriously contend that humanity or civilization generally would prefer handing Poland back to Russia, rather than have her either subject to or protected by Germany? One of these alternatives will occur.

Bethmann-Hollweg said in substance that the only reply received to tentative suggestions of peace terms on the part of Germany was that the German establishment for military protection of the empire must be crushed. We all know that this is true.

Great Britain freely declared that peace terms would not be considered until German "militarism" is destroyed. Can any one wonder that the German people are willing to fight to the last ditch, and, if necessary, die in that ditch, rather than submit to such a condition?

Will either Europe or civilization be the gainer if for German militarism Russian militarism or French militarism is substituted and England's absolute and arrogant control of the high seas continued?

The closing paragraphs of your editorial refer to the relations of Germany with this country at present, and the new columns of the papers of even date with your editorial carried statements to the effect that pieces of metal had been taken from the Sussex which had been identified as having formed a part of a German torpedo, and although the evidence comes from citizens of foreign nations, some of which are now at war with Germany, your paper and some others contend that this evidence is being seriously considered by the Administration at Washington as sufficient to justify the United States in breaking diplomatic relations with Germany.

I am not attempting to make a case for Germany. I believe that if William's absolutism and England's arrogance could be eliminated from the situation peace could be concluded upon terms which would insure Europe against a repetition of the experience of the last two years. What I do claim is that each of the nations at war is entitled to the same even-handed treatment by the United States, and they are not getting it.

While both Germany and England have been offenders against the laws of nations, no one country, not even the United States, powerful as she is potentially, can be the policeman of the world. We cannot, in other words, dictate to other nations how they shall conduct their wars with each other, but it is our solemn duty to see that no one of the nations at war infringes upon the rights of neutrals, and in protesting against such infringement we should use the same force and the same language against one nation which offends as against another.

But, you will say, the degree of the offence should fix the language of the protest. To some extent this is true, and upon that point bear in mind that the right of neutrals to travel upon vessels of a belligerent nation is settled only theoretically. The rule has not received that practical sanction which can be accomplished only by its having been heretofore generally recognized and used. In all the controversy upon that subject there has been not a single authoritative citation of a precedent for the demanding of reparation as a matter of legal right for the death of a citizen of a neutral nation while on board of either a war or a merchant vessel of a nation at war, that vessel having been sunk or destroyed by an enemy vessel.

On the other hand, however, there is ample authority in precedent and practice for the claim of the United States that traffic between neutral nations should not be interrupted by nations which happen to be at war with each other, excepting by visit and search for contraband of war, and until the

PLAY STREETS

What the Parks and Playgrounds Association Has Done.

To the Editor of the Tribune: Sir: Your editorial of April 7 in regard to play streets gives the impression that the People's Institute is alone responsible for the street play system in this city.

While the People's Institute, the Educational Alliance and many of the settlements have been interested in and taken active part in this experiment, the fact that organized street play is now being conducted here with the official sanction of the city is due primarily to the efforts of the Parks and Playgrounds Association. In March, 1909, after trying in vain to persuade the authorities to set apart certain streets where children could play without danger from traffic, the association decided to accomplish its end by a practical demonstration of the value of street play.

Accordingly, it organized the Guild of Play, the objects of which were to teach standard games to the children in the street, foster the spirit of fair play and correct the demoralized street games of the time. Experienced play leaders were sent to the most congested parts of town, where they gathered groups of from twenty to fifty children, gave them membership badges and met them regularly several times a week for dances, games, athletics, handwork and story telling. Sometimes backyards and basements were used and often leaders would move their centers into the nearest park or to blocks where traffic was normally slight.

These play groups proved so successful that in 1910 the association secured signatures from residents in nine blocks to a petition asking that traffic be suspended for police purposes for a few hours each week. Police Commissioner Bingham, to whom it was presented, declared himself in hearty sympathy with the plan, but declined to act on it until he received an opinion from the Corporation Counsel. The latter decided that the Commissioner had no legal right to close the streets for such purposes, and as Bingham was dismissed shortly after this the matter was dropped for a while. His successors Crosby and Waldo refused to issue the project, so from 1910 to 1914 the guild conducted from eighteen to twenty play streets without protection from traffic.

Finally, in the summer of 1914 Commissioner Woods agreed to close certain streets to traffic and provide police protection for three hours each day. Twenty-four officially closed street playgrounds were conducted that year in Manhattan and Brooklyn—twelve by the Parks and Playgrounds Association, eleven by various settlements and neighborhood agencies and one by the People's Institute. Last fall and this winter the association operated from six to ten play centers in Manhattan. I have endeavored to ascertain from the People's Institute Committee on Play Streets the extent of its activity this year, so far as has been possible to obtain any information from this source.

I hope you will see fit to give in your column the credit which is due the Parks and Playgrounds Association for its years of effort in behalf of the street play movement.

ELEANORE VON ELTZ.

New York, April 9, 1916.

A Taft Man for Roosevelt.

To the Editor of the Tribune: Sir: Replying to C. Elliot Mingo's question, "Do you suppose that those who could not follow the credit which is due the Roosevelt label suit I changed my mind. Mr. Roosevelt is accredited by the whole world as sincere and honest, also is generally acclaimed patriotic and of sound judgment."

This, the most important epoch of American history, calls for the man possessing good judgment, unflinching firmness and long experience in governmental function. I wish to thank Mr. Conway, the Englishman, for his generous views of the eminent fitness of Mr. Roosevelt, and to add that I, for one, concur in his views.

DR. R. S. HARNDEX.

Waverly, N. Y., April 4, 1916.

A Newspaper with Courage.

To the Editor of the Tribune: Sir: Please accept my thanks for the publication in to-day's Tribune of my protest against M. Galski's statements.

I am glad that your paper has the courage to print opinions, whether or not they may in some indirect way offend the advertisers. Incidentally may I express my appreciation of your stories exposing bargain sales? I think they are a much needed step in the right direction and will be of inestimable value to the public.

E. R. K.

New York, April 5, 1916.

Statues and the City Hall.

To the Editor of the Tribune: Sir: The Commissioner of Parks for the boroughs of Manhattan and The Bronx, recently declining permission for the transference of the Greeley statue to City Hall Park, took the ground, which many citizens will endorse, that this park should be reserved for memorials of men who have been identified conspicuously with the city government.

There is now standing on the mutilated fountain in the park a model for something—possibly the Angelina Crane fountain—of such large dimensions that to a person standing on the Mail Street sidewalk the City Hall is quite dwarfed by the statue. If this fabulous figure is constructed as indicated, it will set the seal for any other statue that may hereafter be set up in the park. Doubtless we have had and shall have citizens identified with the city government entitled to statues as big as this model, but if they are ever erected what will become of our beautiful two story and attic Italian Renaissance City Hall by comparison? H.

New York, April 6, 1916.