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The Whole Truth.
No one will wish to pass judgment at
this time upon the truth or falsity of the
grave charges which Mayor Mitchell has
brought against the enemies of the chari-
ties investigation. The machinery of the
criminal law will take its course, and this
community is willing to wait just as long
as there is no effort to use the machinery
to hide rather than to disclose.

The Path to Glory.
Fame always awaits the Senator who is
courageous enough to lead a successful
filibuster against a river and harbor ap-
propriation bill. Thomas H. Carter, of
Montana, gained renown when he talked a
"pork barrel measure" to death about ten
years ago. He had been a useful and in-
fluential Senator, but this particular feat
served to close his political career in a
 blaze of glory.

Art for All.
Every well regulated American family
has heirlooms—such as they are. And
there is this astonishing feature about
them: If they are the proud acquisitions
of your immediate ancestors, they are al-
most certainly bad, very bad. On the
other hand, if they date from your Revolu-
tionary great-grandparents they are things
of beauty and a joy forever. That may
not be universally true, but it is true
enough to set any fair-minded American
heir to scratching his head. Why did a
perfectly good family, with every mark of
artistic taste, suddenly go color blind and
shape blind somewhere in the first half
of the nineteenth century? Why was excel-
lent mahogany furniture sent to the garret
to be replaced by black walnut frightful-
ness? Why did gingerbread become an
architectural passion? Why, finally, was
the Queen Anne cottage set loose upon an
innocent and unprotected land?

British Mercantile Tonnage To-day.
The latest returns issued by Lloyd's
Register of Shipping show that the total
war losses of the United Kingdom in 1915
exceeded the total new construction by
thirteen vessels and 35,912 tons, the actual
number lost being 451. Since the begin-
ning of the war, according to Lord Beres-
ford's estimate, 860 vessels have been de-
stroyed in action or by mines or subma-
rines, and of these 400 were in the carry-
ing trade.

Old Age Creeping On.
The idea that a man is as old as he feels
may have a good deal in it. But old age
has an unpleasant way of thrusting itself
upon one's attention regardless of feelings.
Let us assume a cheerful old codger of
thirty-six winters, for example. Excel-
lently preserved, well able to stagger about
a tennis court and still quite free with the
lobster salad, he considers himself in the
prime of life so far as signify muscles,
organs and intellectual parts. Then one
unfortunate day he chances upon an ad-
vertisement offering a job exactly fitting
his demands. He is reaching for his hat
to start in pursuit when the final words
catch his eye: "No one over thirty-five
need apply." Back he slumps in his chair,
the merest shadow of his former self. It
is unbelievable, but true. He has crossed
the deadline into old age.

IMAGINATION IN POLITICS
The Rooseveltian Vision vs. a Handsome
Passion for Pretty Phrases.
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The whole art and mystery of imagina-
tion consists in seeing. For the dullard
nothing exists that does not lie close before his
eyes. The vision of him who has imagination
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IS AMERICA A NATION?
The Opportunity for Republicans at Chicago—Integrating Our Country Is the Task That Must Be Faced by the
Parties This Year—Disaster Certain if a Man Is Nominated Who Gives the Lie to a Platform
of Nationalism—Even Congress Is Waking Up.
L. W. NIEMAN.
In The Milwaukee Journal.
Washington, May 20.—In this a nation?
This is what the men and women of the country
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political schemers and tricksters. Surely
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of reaching the heights. There were in the
60's. Opportunity so often reveals them!

Elastic Leadership.
President Wilson was elected on a Panama
tolls platform; he made a right-about-
face turn. He decreed secret diplomacy;
he became a secret diplomat. He talked
against intervention in Mexico; he intervened
twice. President Wilson was elected on a
single-term platform; he seeks another term.
He opposed a tariff commission; he proposes
a tariff commission. He stood for free sugar
and free trade in general; he stands for a tax
on sugar and advocates protection from dump-
ing after the war. He decries preparedness
and says we are already well enough armed;
he stamps the country for a big armament
programme and calls for the greatest fleet in
the world.

They.
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Of measured words and plain.
To him be given it to teach
The sadness of Lorraine.
She asked but sun and rain to bless
Her blue enfolding hills.
And time, to heal the old distress
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The fields, the vineyards and the lathes,
The river, loved so well—
O sunset pools and lads that bathe
Along the green Moselle.

Not Anti-British.
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Where you obtained your information
that descendants of the Revolutionary fathers
were anti-British you do not say, but from
the writer's contact with the members of the
Sons of the American Revolution all over the
country he is at a loss to understand how
you could have been so seriously misled. As
you have in your editorial invited those who
disagree with you to express their views, I
have taken the opportunity to do so.
JOHN H. BURROUGHS.
New York, May 22, 1916.

Horses and Slippery Streets.
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: About two weeks ago on Thirty-sev-
enth Street, at 2 p. m. (about), between Fifth
Avenue and Broadway, the street had been
lightly sprinkled and four teams of truck
horses, drawing lumber, were struggling for
a foothold and falling every few feet. I
watched for ten minutes and then consulted
an officer. He said the property owners in-
sisted upon the sprinkling and the truckers
would not go one block around.
It is a criminal abuse of the animals, and
there should be a way to stop it. Won't you
let us have one of your articles with a
punch on the subject?
HELEN COOLICAN.
New York, May 18, 1916.

Not a Personal Matter.
The President has been attacked personally
and it has been charged again and again that
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the period we are now passing through.
What the next administration does will af-
fect this nation for generations to come. We
need the best brains and the greatest ex-
perience in public life that we can command.
It will be a time of building, and even as to
our interests we are not to have full say, as
in the past. We must come in contact with
the best minds of the world, and great will

training taste, modern invention and large
scale production have made accessible
means of disseminating beautiful things
that never before existed. Talking ma-
chines, for instance, can democratize music,
are-to-day disseminating musical apprecia-
tion at a bewildering rate. Pots, pans,
wallpapers, automobiles, petticoats—every
item of purchase is manufactured in quan-
tity to-day and, granted a beginning of will
to admire in producer and consumer, the
possibility of turning out a better and bet-
ter artistic achievement by the million is
obvious. It is a very different form of ar-
tistic growth from the old artisan system
that made and taught beauty slowly, labo-
riously, both inside and outside the home.
The progress suggested has a superficial
look and comes too easily to seem solid, by
comparison. There stands a point that
time alone can settle. We can be thank-
ful, however, that avenues of hope do exist
and that the American nation is flocking
along them. If sheer quantity of artistic
stimulus can make up for old-fashioned,
five-finger labor, democracy may yet turn
out the most artistic of peoples.

When Colonel Roosevelt announced that
his countrymen could not draft him for the
campaign unless they were in heroic mood he
was only asking them to let fall the scales
from their eyes. There never were any sim-
pler issues than those which have confronted
the American people during the last two
years. The war in Europe, the Mexican and
Philippine questions, the Lusitania, hyphen-
ation, preparedness—these things have re-
quired in the citizen no interminable balanc-
ing of pro and con, no esoteric illumination.
The moral points involved in them have sure-
ly been as plain as the proverbial pluckstaff.
But each and every one of them has been en-
veloped by President Wilson in a cloud of
words. And such words! Future antholog-
ists will make much of his "too proud to
fight," but it is to be hoped that they will
not overlook that other gem liberated in his
recent speech at Charlotte: "At the outset
there was at the heart of the men who led
the movement for independence a very high
and handsome passion for human liberty and
free institutions." The italics are ours. Hand-
some, forsooth!

Here are facts, clearly recognized and
faced, and here is meaning, the power to
size the spiritual meaning of facts, to reckon
with their ultimate consequences. It is
for the voter to realize his own opportunity.
All the heroism necessary for him is the hero-
ism of seeing clearly, of distinguishing be-
tween the true and the false, the strong and
the weak, the insensate fact and its living
implication. It does not need the seventh
year of a seventh son, born with a caul and
dowered with the soft hind foot of a rabbit,
to ferret out the difference between Ameri-
canism and Fordism, between preparedness
in thought and word and deed.
The American voter is in some sort put
to a test in this matter. We have been called
a "smart" people, and few of us really resent
the epithet. We like to believe that we know
what we are about, that we can't be fooled,
that anybody who wants to deceive us must
get up very early in the morning. Well, are
we going to pin a medal on Mr. Barnes as the
champion of our right? Are we going to sit
still while the hyphenates roll their poison
gas over us? Are we, indeed, too proud to
fight—which is to say, too unimaginative to
see? Germany is losing the war through a
variety of causes, but chiefly through an im-
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on which the operations of her imagination
were suspended and she planned a conquest
as senseless as it was wicked. The facts of
Europe were the same for all men of country,
but Germany could not see them. The facts
of America are to-day absolutely naked to the
eye. To ignore them is not only unpatriotic
but stupid.

What the German diplomats failed to per-
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burning beneath surface conditions in Eng-
land and France. President Wilson's failure
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this day, as his Charlotte speech so pathet-
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making her strong, and this because they are
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