

New York Tribune

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorial—Advertisements. SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1916.

Owned and published daily by The Tribune Association, 4 New York corporation. Office: 100 N. York St., New York, N. Y.

Subscription Rates: By Mail, Postage Paid, outside of Greater New York. Daily & Sunday, 1 mo. \$1.75; 3 mos. \$5.00; 6 mos. \$9.00; 1 year, \$16.00.

Foreign Rates: Daily & Sunday, 1 mo. \$3.00; 3 mos. \$8.00; 6 mos. \$13.00; 1 year, \$24.00.

Entered at the Postoffice at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

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Verdun Again.

It would be easy to exaggerate the value of recent French progress about Verdun. So far they have taken nothing which materially changes the situation about the town, and they have lost a considerable portion of the ground retaken in their latest action.

When the German people looked west again the German army was beginning a new drive; it was setting out for Calais. Again the objective was not attained. Calais held; the British and French and Belgian lines along the Yser and about Ypres held.

Verdun was never after April 9 a battle in the ordinary sense of the word. It became a contest for moral values, and there remained only moral values to be won by a local German success there.

Officially—and the official statement is accepted as the law and the gospel in Germany—there has been no German failure in anything since the war began.

Verdun was advertised from one end of the world to another as the final blow for France. It was asserted boldly and believed widely that all French resources as well as French courage were exhausted along the Meuse, and if Verdun did not fall immediately it was soon to fall and leave France without men or will to go forward.

Then a great Allied offensive breaks out in the West, and French troops win a considerable area of German trenches and take many guns and prisoners. At the same time British armies break out and win local successes and, worse than this, make great demands on German resources in reserves just at the moment when Austria is clamoring for aid.

Now, all of this will make little impression in the Allied nations, because there the truth has long been recognized. But the effect in neutral nations will be considerable and in Germany still more impressive.

The chief thing the protocol represented was the interdependence of manufacturer and worker in the garment trade and their mutual duty to the public—an idea which still needs emphasizing, as events

As it opens the German people discover that Russia was not put out of the war last summer, but is instead now advancing after great successes, equipped, munitioned and using vast multitudes of men.

If the German Government had told its people the truth at the beginning it would have small cause to fear now. But it didn't. It carried them from victory to victory, while the fact was that no victory had been won of a decisive nature and that at the Marne, in Flanders, in Russia and finally at Verdun defeats were suffered which were either absolute, as in the case of Verdun and the Marne, or relative, as in the case of Russia, where vast territories were conquered but Russian armies escaped.

Perhaps Germany can again snatch the offensive from the Allies, perhaps she can win another local success like Tannenberg and cover up the facts for more weeks and months. It seems unlikely but is far from impossible. But this will only postpone the confession that has to be made and seems now to be actually in the process of making.

How will this impress the German, not hungry, but somewhat inconvenienced by food shortage, how will this picture of victory impress him? No man can answer this question because none but a German can understand the German mind.

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There is nothing that will be more interesting in the next year of the war than the history of the decline and fall of the German illusion of victory. The neutral belief in German victory is about gone. The recession of faith in Germany can be detected in every market place of a neutral nation.

Settlement of the garment workers' strike under the amended agreement will bring to the workers distinct advantages over the working conditions prevailing at the time of the general lockout.

These things, desirable as they are in improving the lot of an army of employees of one of the city's most important industries, are far less important, in the long run, than the fact that the cloak and suit trade stands to-day, as it stood six years ago, without a protocol or peace agreement.

The manufacturers are now bound by no promise not to lock out their workers whenever they feel such a course would be advantageous; the employees in turn will be free to call a strike at any time they think they have their employers at sufficient disadvantage so a strike could be won.

To the Tribune this loss outweighs anything gained in the strike. It represents a victory for a certain group of unionists and their leaders, extremists who believe in revolution rather than in orderly progress. It tends to capitalize and elevate class antagonism in a business the conditions of which make the fostering of any tendencies toward class hatred and violence a carrying of coals to Newcastle.

The chief thing the protocol represented was the interdependence of manufacturer and worker in the garment trade and their mutual duty to the public—an idea which still needs emphasizing, as events

have proved. The strength of the strikers' position in the fourteen weeks of battle was not any detail of wages or working conditions, but the fact that they had been willing to arbitrate their case, whereas the manufacturers chose to resort to brute force, abandoning their peace agreement and their duty under it to the public.

That is a long step backward, which every sensible person who saw real social progress and genuine advancement in the protocol scheme is bound to regret.

The Vicious Dog and His Master.

The little five-year-old girl who lies torn and mutilated in a hospital, the victim of two vicious bulldogs, cries a warning to every owner of a dog. The race of dogs cannot be blamed. There are vicious dogs just as there are vicious men—and just as there are careless, selfish owners of dangerous dogs.

Most every community possesses one of these heedless human beings. The breed of the dog has nothing to do with the case. It may be a snapping fox terrier or an ill-tempered Airedale or an old, irritable collie.

In deciding not to reassemble the national convention to choose a new candidate for President the Progressives did a sensible thing, even if they did it with gnashing of teeth and clenched fists because stern necessity drove them to such a course.

Whatever grievances the streetcar men have, whatever justification they may find for planning a city-wide strike, of one thing they may be certain: If they wish to retain the degree of public sympathy they now possess there must be no further violence.

It behooves the strikers and their leaders to consider the example of the striking garment workers. For weeks this strike ran along. There was only one outbreak of violence, fortunately not extensive, which was stopped promptly, and was deeply deplored by the leaders and sensible members of the union.

It seems hardly fair to the public that the lives of sick children should be entrusted to students while graduated physicians are turned away because they are women.

Rebecca Teichman, M. D. New York, Aug. 3, 1916.

What We Have Escaped—August, 1914-1916.

Deep hush that veils our Tomb of State, But this is better. Let him sleep Where sleep the men who made us free, For England's heart is in the deep, And England's glory is the sea.

One only vow above his bier, One only oath beside his bed; We swear our flag shall shield him here Until the sea gives up its dead!

ONE-SIDED UPLIFTERS

As Biased on Practical Business as Union Men or Employers.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In several of your editorials on the garment workers' strike you have referred to arbitration and social uplifters as though you thought the method and the men so designated capable of clarifying the situation.

I have also lived close to social uplifters, and why do you call them impartial? They are as radically one-sided as any union man, for before that point they are not termed uplifters, or at least are not accepted as such by the union.

I am very far from a friend of the clothing manufacturer, but as long as he has so much more of the common sense principle to back him up than those who are trying to force arbitration at the hands of theorists upon him, he has a great advantage.

Keep Fire Escapes Empty.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Keeping fire escapes free from obstruction is one of the most difficult problems which the Tenement House Department faces.

The trouble has grown to such proportions that a strong stand must be taken. As an experiment, in a section of the Borough of Manhattan, intensive treatment is to be applied. Persons who persistently violate this provision of the statute will be brought to court and fined.

Inquiry is sometimes made of the department as to whether plants may not be kept upon the fire escapes. The department appreciates the desirability of having plants, but must insist that the law require fire escapes to be cleared of all obstructions whatsoever.

Rejected Because a Woman.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: About three weeks ago there was a call for doctors and nurses to aid in the fight against infantile paralysis.

Innocent Submariners.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: If I may so far trespass upon your space in continuation of the U-boat controversy I should like to point out the fact that imagination has small place in legal matters.

Estimate.



THE AMERICAN IDEAL

Able Expressed by Mr. Hughes, Who Will Be Chosen to Put It Into Deeds.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Our next President, Charles Evans Hughes, in accepting the Republican nomination, expressed himself in a phrase that will reach through the coming ages as the expression of the real American ideal.

A party united will assuredly win, and if any one doubts the success of the Republican party this year those doubts should be dispelled not alone by the "America First, America Efficient" speech of the Republican candidate, but by the fact that associated with him and standing by him on his platform and in his campaign was seen the substantial form of the head of the Progressive party, a Republican always, but one who committed a human error when he destroyed the Republican party four years ago by leading a majority of the Republicans in opposition to the regular candidate.

Mistakes were undoubtedly made by Theodore Roosevelt, but one thing must be admitted: he carried with him the loving regard and the honest support of a great gathering. He will bring back with him every Progressive Republican who left the Republican party four years ago.

It will be a crowning victory for stable government, a jolly victory for Brother Hughes, for Roosevelt and for every Republican leader, and for the rank and file of Republicanism, who will work from now on until the eve of Election Day for the principles of the party and for the betterment of the country.

The Converted Hyphenate.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Having read your article, "The Converted Hyphenate," I want "K. L. F." to let his one-time "pro-German" friend know his conversion is not altogether admirable.

Congratulations.

A WOODEN SEA HORSE?

Suspicious of the Deutschland Refuse To Be Downed.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The writer is surprised at the complacency of the American public and of the press in regard to the visit of the Deutschland. Her character is assumed to be peaceful, but some of us remember our Virgil and the story of the wooden horse.

Administration Difficulties.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The recent publishing of a blacklist of firms by the British government has aroused a storm of protest from certain quarters, whose identity is not hard to conjecture.

Miracles at the Border.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Should more credence be given to the Secretary of War's communication of July 30 to "The New York Times" than to the residue of misinformation concerning the border which Mr. Wilson has consistently fed to the public?

CONGRATULATIONS.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Permit me to congratulate you upon your new financial page, which is a great improvement not only upon the former financial department, but surpasses in make-up and contents any other printed in this city.

CONGRATULATIONS.