New York Tribune

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

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 1916.

Owned and published daily by The Tribune Association, a New York corporation. Ogden Reid, President; G. Vernor Rogers, Vice-President; Richard H. Waldo, Secretary; F. A. Suter, Treasurer. Address, Tribune Building, 154 Nassau Street, New York. Telephone, Beekman 3400.

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Daily & Sunday, 1 mo.	$ .75	Daily only, 1 month	$ .50
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The Tribune Will Not Support Governor Whitman.

We have received the following:

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Do you not think that it is about time that you told your readers where you stand in the matter of Governor Whitman? If he is renominated at the Republican primary will The Tribune support him? READER.

New York City, Aug. 24, 1916.

The Tribune can not and will not support Governor Whitman if he is renominated. It finds in its own comments upon his record, as it was being made, a complete and satisfactory reason for this decision. Having criticised Mr. Whitman's course, having pointed out to its readers the injury done this city by his financial policy, having again and again disclosed its disapproval of his administration, it cannot now change its ground.

Had Mr. Justice Seabury's political record been one-half as appealing as the record he has made on the bench this newspaper would gladly support him. But it finds in his progress from economic heresy to economic heresy, with the apparent desire to enlist a political following of a sort, an obstacle to indorsing him which it cannot at present negotiate.

As far as the state campaign is concerned The Tribune purposes to preserve complete freedom of action, criticising or approving as the case may seem to it to warrant. This newspaper remains what it has been, with brief exception, through its whole history—a Republican journal; but it does not believe that any loyalty to party can justify its eating its own words at the moment of a campaign, after having spoken them freely and frankly over all the months that have intervened since the last election.

Infanticide by Blockade.

The benevolent Dr. von Mach is deserving of our compassion. It is true that his whimpering pleas on behalf of starving German children were founded entirely on fanciful statistics and that after a great deal of fruitless dodging and quibbling he was finally silenced with a severe and humiliating rebuke from his own government at Berlin. But it was not altogether his fault that he did not know he was playing the wrong game.

The attitude of the German government toward the British blockade alternates with bewildering suddenness between whining and blustering, and there was formerly a great deal of whining in Berlin about the scarcity of condensed milk. That is his justification. He could not be supposed to know instinctively when to turn about; and it unfortunately happened, as it has often happened before, that the official attitude changed over night. And so it came to pass that after Berlin had begun to brag about the decreased rate of infant mortality Dr. von Mach was still distributing piteous stories of the thousands, and perhaps millions, of German babies doomed to die.

It was necessary, of course, to stop his untimely babbling, yet those who know how industriously and with what genuine humility Dr. von Mach has striven to serve his Imperial Master cannot but be sorry for him in his present predicament. There is nothing that pains him more than enforced silence, and though he is still at liberty to chirrup about art as he used to do so prettily in the days before the war, yet it must be confessed that the entertainment of young ladies with a taste for culture is a poor and unsatisfying occupation for one who had fallen into the habit of regarding himself as the unofficial representative among barbarians of a great and powerful empire.

It is but just therefore to recognize that in all essentials Dr. von Mach was right. He went wrong in saying that the brutal English were killing the children of the Fatherland, but if he did it was not that he overrated their brutality. He simply mistook the object. What he ought to have said was that the blockade was directed against *our* children—the children of the United States. The truth is out now, for one of Dr. von Mach's most sturdy champions, the "New-Yorker Staats-Zeitung," has made the great discovery that the current plague of poliomyelitis is kept alive by the blockade and the blacklist, and thus "innocent American children fall a sacrifice to Albion's greed." This has been established on the authority of an unhappy victim of the blacklist who, it seems, used to deal freely in suprarenal extract and hexamethylenetetramine. These "indispensable remedies" are now so scarce, according to the "Staats-Zeitung," that "the city is absolutely reduced to serum-therapy."

So Dr. von Mach is justified in all that he said. If his facts were wrong his instincts were right, and the "Staats-Zeitung" has reëstablished his veracity by pronouncing Britain's blockade "downright infanticide." Happily, however, we were assured a few days ago on the same authority that since the Deutschland made her trip across the Atlantic the blockade had ceased to exist. But, while we are thus freed from any anxiety on our own account, it is only right and proper to acknowledge the instinctive truthfulness of Germany's famous lecturer on art and condensed milk.

He Has the Qualifications.

Mr. Bacon's campaign for the nomination for Senator presents a clean-cut issue to the Republican voters of the state. Speaking at Jamestown on Saturday night, he declared his belief that there were two vital questions before the public now—adequate preparedness and the conduct of the country's foreign policy. As to both, he insisted, the Wilson Administration had failed; it had failed to bring about a state of adequate military preparedness by delay and the fostering of half way measures; it had failed lamentably to discharge its international obligations in not upholding the most sacred principles of international law.

On these matters Mr. Bacon speaks with the authority of honorable public service as Secretary of State and Ambassador to France. His experience has peculiarly fitted him to help solve the problems which this country is meeting and will continue to meet long after the European war is ended. By every standard of personal integrity and intellectual ability he is well qualified to take his place among the nation's lawmakers.

New York State needs in the Senate a representative possessing such training, such experience, such a point of view as Mr. Bacon's. The country needs in Congress men who know international affairs at first hand and are capable of shaping the country's policies from knowledge rather than theory and hearsay. It is no disparagement to Mr. Bacon's rival for the nomination to say that every dictate of efficiency, every dictate of patriotism, demands that Mr. Bacon be chosen as the party's candidate for Senator, because he possesses the qualifications needed now in Washington.

The "Carrier" Problem.

The Health Department announces that more typhoid carriers have been found here in the last six months than ever before since the Bureau of Preventable Diseases was first established. In 1915 five cases were detected, but in the first half of this year the number of new cases was no less than twenty-two. It is to be hoped that they may all prove amenable to treatment, for the chronic carrier is a problem as yet unsolved.

Mary Mallon, better known as Typhoid Mary, was the most notorious of these unhappy sufferers. It cannot be pretended that the way in which her case was dealt with was satisfactory. She was a cook, and it was obviously undesirable that she should be at liberty to practise her calling. Accordingly she was placed under observation, and for three years she continued a prisoner. She did not improve under treatment, and so at last she was released, on the understanding, however, that she would give up cooking. Whether driven by necessity or obstinacy, she soon returned to her old occupation and by adopting a false name succeeded in securing a job in the kitchen of a maternity hospital. After a while her identity was established and she was again placed in confinement. She is probably still under observation and may remain a prisoner for the rest of her days.

It is clear that in such a case as this restraint of some sort is unavoidable. The result of Typhoid Mary's excursion was disastrous. It is said that after her release twenty-five cases of typhoid fever, two of which proved fatal, were traced directly to her activities as a cook. There was evidently nothing to do but to shut her up and keep her out of mischief. Yet it is hard that there should be no better fate for people who, while they continue a constant menace to others, may themselves be in perfect health. If incurable carriers of disease prove to be comparatively common, some provision will have to be made for them sooner or later.

The Great Stone Face.

The Old Man of the Mountains, who has been looking down Franconia Notch so long that the Sphinx is an upstart by comparison, is in a bad way. His forehead has weathered until it threatens to crash down into the valley, carrying nose and chin in its wake. Governor Spaulding is considering methods of prevention, and if iron braces can help The Profile may yet be saved and New Hampshire breathe again.

Like all the rest of the White Mountains, the Great Stone Face is one of our oldest possessions, speaking socially, not geologically. When Anthony Trollope visited America in 1862, he wrote:

> "Now, I would ask any of my readers who are candid enough to expose their own ignorance, whether they ever heard, or at any rate whether they know anything of the White Mountains. As regards myself, I confess that the name had reached my ears; that I had an indefinite idea that they formed an intermediate stage between the Rocky Mountains and the Alleghanies, and that they were inhabited either by Mormons, Indians or simply black bears. That there was a district of New England containing mountain scenery superior to much that is yearly crowded by tourists in Europe, that this is to be reached with ease by railways and stage coaches, and that it is dotted with huge hotels, almost as thickly as they lie in Switzerland, I had no idea."

That is something the way they impress the average American visiting them for the first time. We have plenty of historic spots where great events have happened; we expect them to look venerable, and they mostly do. But our historic playground brings back the past far more intimately; it shows the imprint of bygone thousands of children and lovers, and this and that great man who carved his initials here or wrote a sonnet there. Americans are accustomed to regard their nation as a recent upstart. The shock of their lives awaits them in the White Mountains.

It was in 1805 that The Profile was discovered—by Francis Whitcomb and Luke Brooks, working on the Notch road. "It's Jefferson!" was their exclamation, perhaps because they had voted that way, certainly not because of any resemblance. The Old Man of the Mountains is a true Yankee mountaineer, long and gaunt, not a thing of beauty, yet by no means to be ignored. If the breed is disappearing by emigration and before the invaders from Canada and the amateur farmers, The Profile ought by all means to be preserved. Some day he may have to serve as the Last of the Yankees.

A Desperate Expedient.

Manifestly President Wilson's endeavor to obtain a Congressional guarantee of his recent promises to the railroad presidents is a last moment expedient to stave off a general railroad strike. It may prove his desire to make good his assurances of an order from the Interstate Commerce Commission permitting the jacking up of freight rates to meet the increased pay schedules caused by the "basic eight-hour day" which he approved. But a desire to make good and making good are different.

There can be at this time no possible assurance that Congress will act favorably on the measures which the President has proposed to Senator Kern and Senator Newlands. Moreover, if Congress were to act favorably it would mean merely that the whole question of wages, hours of labor and freight rates had become a political matter, to be settled not by judicial processes, but to be thrust out of sight somehow, to be settled as best it might be, to clear it up before the campaign. Favorable action on these measures at this time would be merely a sop to the railroad executives to compensate them for giving to the President the appearance of having won a victory in forcing the acceptance by them of his "basic eight-hour day."

For that reason there seems to be no more hope of right and proper settlement of the controversy in the President's latest move than there was in his original acceptance of the gist of the men's demands without having heard the railroads' side of the case. It still ignores the desirability, the justice, of investigation before action in this particular case. It says in effect: "Give the men what they demand and all official powers will be put to work to make up to you the extra cost out of the pockets of the public." It makes no provision whatever for attempt to prove the justice of granting the men's demands in this case.

There is no disguising the fact that the country is nearer a strike now than ever before. The President has delayed it, perhaps, but nothing he has done so far has made settlement more possible than it was the day the unions completed polling their strike vote. He took the side of the men and tried to swing the big stick on the railroads. That having failed because the attitude was so manifestly unfair that the country showed it wouldn't stand behind him, he is now trying, so far as official power can do it, to get enough money out of the public's pockets to give to the railroads so they may be willing to accept his settlement scheme. And this method of dealing with the railroads is not one whit fairer to the public than his original plan. It bears, therefore, a heavy handicap.

If this last moment expedient fails there is little likelihood that anything else the President's mind can devise will prevent a strike. If that disaster comes, the public truly will "assess the responsibility." That responsibility will lie on the President, because when he had the opportunity to bring about arbitration he refused to do so by becoming a partisan.

Cleansing the Oyster.

(From The Medical Record.)

It has long been known that there is a tendency to the self-purification of oysters when transferred to pure water. The self-purification is complete within from a few hours to two days. The modus operandi is evident when one realizes that the passage of water through the oyster is very large and very rapid. As much as 20 to 50 gallons of water pass through in a day. The passage of food particles through the intestinal tract is quite as rapid. In France basins of filtered water have long been used to effect this purification, but the cost of this process compared with the sale price of the oyster renders the method quite impracticable. And indeed, if it is fairly clean, unfiltered sea water is better for purification purposes, because the food particles in unfiltered water stimulate passage through the intestinal tract and help to carry through and to discharge the contained colon bacilli.

Instead of filtered water, therefore, the usual methods of the chemical purification of water were utilized in these experiments to render the oysters free from colon infection. In carrying out these experiments oysters were inoculated with both free cultures of colon bacilli and attached colon bacilli—that is, with the bacilli in finely divided agar suspension. The water was then disinfected with a 10 per cent calcium hypochlorite solution. A considerable purification of the oysters contained therein occurred within six hours, and a remarkable purification within twenty-four hours. The results were below the conditional amount permitted by the Rhode Island Fish Commission, although the amount of the artificial infection was much greater than it would be in natural infections in polluted oyster beds. Usually two doses of hypochlorite were given, the second after six hours, in order to reach such infection still within the oyster and not discharged because of the possible closure of the shell during the first period, and because of the rapid decomposition of the hypochlorite. This treatment was found not to have a bad effect upon the flavor of the oyster or upon its well-being. In the case of an element of food so widely used any method that will insure the safety of the consumer while preserving the flavor of the oyster is deserving of consideration.

EDUCATE THE PUBLIC

It Should Learn What Compliance with the Railroad Unions' Demands Would Mean.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: This country is facing a crisis, due to the demands of the railroad unions and the inability of the railroads to withstand those demands, because the railroads get no support from politicians, who fear the union vote, or from the public, which is lacking in information upon the subject. To-day these brotherhood men are by far the highest paid in the world in proportion to their effort and training.

There are not 2 per cent of the passenger crews in this country working eight hours a day. They are all supplied with passes for themselves and their families to any part of the country.

My father was a railroad worker nearly all his life, until May of 1914, and now draws a pension from the railroad company. My brothers have been railroad men. Some of my most intimate friends are in the train service of the Eastern railroads. I know whereof I speak when I speak of working conditions among this class of men.

At present these organizations, constituting four-tenths of 1 per cent of the people of our country, are in position to terrorize the land with the threat of strike. There is not one man in twenty who has to earn his daily bread in this country whose tasks are as light or whose surroundings are as pleasant as those of conductors and engineers, some of whom draw over $2,500 a year and now ask for more pay and shorter hours. There is just as little reason for complaint from the trainmen and firemen. Surely men who learn to perform their work in three days are not highly skilled men, and yet these men's annual earnings are far above the average income of any skilled labor in the country.

Further, every well informed man knows that, regardless of what concessions the railroads make, they will have to face bigger demands next year. It has been so in the past and will be so again.

I am a travelling salesman, and am several hundred miles from home, but I am willing to bear my part of the hardships which a strike would bring on the country in order to help the railroads stand for justice and a great public cause.

I ask for the sake of the workingmen of this country and for the sake of equal rights and freedom that the press take up the case of the public as opposed to these organizations and help make a stand with the railroads, or, if the present demands are met, that an educational campaign be begun at once to meet the conditions which will surely arise when the annual threat strike comes next year. H. E. CRAFT, Jr.

Clearfield, Penn., Aug. 24, 1916.

Motor Cars and Speed Regulation.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: There are more reasons for than against a law requiring all persons to be licensed who desire to run an automobile. There is also urgent need for an insistence everywhere that all speed regulations and road rules generally should be rigidly enforced and officials of all grades of rank and authority should in some way be held to account for misuse or abuse of authority in condoning infractions of the laws, etc., imposed penalties that make the object of the laws a farce and any other illegal or stupid act or interpretation of duty which only add to the dangers to which the public is exposed by careless, reckless and often criminal disregard of the laws of the road. We had a trial in this village (Mount Kisco) last night. A chauffeur of one of the wealthy summer residents of the vicinity was arrested for speeding at the rate sworn to by the officer who made the arrest—exceeding thirty miles an hour within the village limits. The trial took place before a local country judge ignorant of the law, whose other profession is that of paperhanger. In defence of the culprit several respectable witnesses, in purposed condonation of the offence of speeding, testified that they, too, usually rode to the village station at a rate exceeding twenty miles an hour, though the legal limit was fifteen. The judge had an excellent opportunity of vindicating the law by fining on their own confessions several otherwise very excellent citizens, but he lacked perspicacity and probably courage as well to add a substantial sum in fines to our depleted village treasury. He, however, unexpectedly sustained the officer and fined the chauffeur $5. What we greatly need in Westchester County is a state, or at least a county, constabulary free from the control and influence of the politicians. I hope we can get it this winter.

JOHN Y. COLYER.

Mount Kisco, N. Y., Aug. 25, 1916.

The Law Wrong, Not the Principle.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: As an independent Republican, I do not agree with your editorial about direct primaries. However, the so-called direct primary law on the statute books of this state is a fraud and an imposition on the enrolled voters.

When Mr. Sulzer was put out of office the bosses, to break the force of the indignation of the people, threw them the sop of a bastard direct primary law, and that is what we are laboring under now. It is the defects in this law which you should point out and remedy, and not the principle.

I expect to vote for Mr. Hughes and Mr. Whitman, not because they stand for the reforms I hope to see brought about, but because I believe, taking all things into consideration, that it is better to have the Republicans in power under the boss system than the Democrats in power under the boss system.

But, mark well what I tell you; the day is not far distant when the people will get together and beat the boss system by defeating both old parties. They wanted to do it in 1912. They would have done it this year if they had the opportunity. They will get the opportunity sooner or later.

GEORGE W. KINNEY.

New York, Aug. 25, 1916.

Perceive Jupiter!

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: At this present time the planet Jupiter rises about a quarter past 9 p. m., rising earlier and earlier every evening. Thus we are able to see him before midnight, a bright, golden-hued firmamental body, shining with a clear, untwinkling light. As we know very well, Jupiter is the largest of the eight greater planets—Mercury, Venus, earth, etc.—and next to our sun he is the largest body in our solar system. Indeed, he is about 1,309 times as large as our world, his mean or average diameter being some 86,500 miles to the terrestrial mean diameter 7,918 miles.

But the great planet Jupiter is not as dense or solid as our earth, having only about one-quarter of our own planet's density. As a result of this lesser solidity Jupiter, despite his vast size, attracts bodies to his surface with only two and sixty-five one-hundredth times as much power as our earth attracts them. But this greater attraction or gravity of Jupiter would cause a 100-pound weight here on earth to weigh 265 pounds upon the surface of Jupiter, such a weight weighing 2,765 pounds at the surface of our sun.

CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES.

Newton, Mass., Aug. 19, 1916.

"SOCIETY APPROVES YOUR DEMANDS."

"PUT YOURSELF IN HIS PLACE"

Explorations Into the Mind and Moving Springs of Our President.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The true explanation of the futile taking and subsequent evacuation of Vera Cruz is to be found not in the logic of events—the events were in the main illogical—but in explorations into the mind, the antecedents, the moving springs of action, of Mr. Woodrow Wilson.

This method of solving mysteries was convincingly set forth in a long since forgotten novel written by Charles Reade, entitled, "Put Yourself in His Place," the principal character of which is a physician whose plan and theory were to detach himself from his own personality and reason out the problem along the lines of the mentality, the environment, the hopes, fears, motives, aspirations of the party under investigation.

Applying this method to the case of Wilson and Vera Cruz—and the same will apply to the Pershing invasion and withdrawal—the first illuminating fact we strike is that Mr. Wilson is not really a Democrat, at least not one "to the manner born." His active political career began by his turning his back on all his previous teaching. When he wrote that he would like to see William Jennings Bryan "knocked into a cocked hat" he undoubtedly wrote what he fully believed at the time. As a convert, somewhat late in life, to a new faith, he is never quite sure of himself. His theory of democracy is to learn what "the people" want done, then do it. He does not feel democracy; he experiments, makes tests, throws up feathers to see which way the wind is blowing. Every once in a while he blurts out, in one form or another, with charming naïveté, that he does not know what "the people" are thinking about. He is lonesome, aloof, anxious to serve humanity if he can find the way, but familiar with the common heart through the midnight oil of the student rather than through personal contact.

His sending of the Swede, Mr. Lind, to Mexico as his personal representative, to find out what the Mexicans were really and truly thinking, shows Mr. Wilson at his best and at his worst. Mr. Wilson reasoned that in order to have an impartial investigator of conditions he must have a man who had no interests there, so he sends a man who knows nothing of the country and does not speak the language; in other words, a man who could not by any possibility find out anything for himself at first hand.

Things had begun to happen in Mexico about the time Mr. Wilson took office. In fact, they had begun prior to that time. Complaints in regard to outrages on American lives and property in Mexico were accumulating and were more and more persistent. It was evident that something must be done, something to satisfy and mollify the growing exasperation of the Americans in Mexico, their friends in this country, and other Americans who feel mortified and humiliated at continued unredressed and unheeded assaults on their countrymen anywhere, whether friends or strangers. So what does Mr. Wilson do?

Mr. Wilson decides, after one of his lonesome, golf-walking, self-communing talks with himself, that at the very first opportunity, at the next slightest pretext, he would make a demonstration against Mexico. He makes no confidants and no especial preparation is made for the anticipated explosion of patriotic wrath. It was planned to be spontaneous, by "the people." Then along came the insult to the flag, not much of an incident in itself as compared with many preceding atrocities, but enough.

To Mr. Wilson, brooding, watching and waiting, looking for an opening for a quarrel, it was the "last straw." It did not occur to Mr. Wilson that no one else would regard the incident as anything out of the ordinary in the matter of straws. Wilson expected confidently an outburst of patriotic rage such as followed the blowing up of the Maine.

Instead of that the very people he had relied upon to keep matters at fever heat were mildly wondering why such a fuss was made over so little a thing; what had occasioned his sudden blaze of anger. They had become accustomed to being chloroformed and wet-blanketed and were too torpid to rise to the occasion. Emotional fervor flares up at the time things happen. It may be warmed over a little, perhaps, by reason and argument long afterward, but not made red hot.

That is where Mr. Wilson fails to understand the common man. He strikes when the iron is cold—and no sparks fly. Mr. Wilson was much disappointed at "the people's" lukewarm response to his clarion call of "On to Vera Cruz!" He was no sooner in than he began to devise ways and means and excuses for getting out again.

History is now repeating itself in the matter of the punitive expedition to capture and destroy General Villa. "The people" have lost interest. And Mr. Wilson follows "the people"; he does not lead.

GEORGE HARRISON M'ADAM.

New York, Aug. 25, 1916.

How Long?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: When, in June, this country was on the verge of war with Mexico hundreds of patriotic citizens eagerly and willingly enlisted in the New York National Guard, glad to be able to help uphold their country's honor.

They left their wives and mothers, in many cases lacking means of support. They left their positions, only obtained in many instances after years of hard work, beginning in a lowly capacity and raising themselves solely on their merits. When the Federal muster was made all these men, excepting a very few, signed their enlistment papers for a period of three years' active service and three years on reserve in the United States army, doing all this to show their willingness to serve their country. Entrained, these embryo soldiers were rushed to the border, making up for their lack of military training by their enthusiastic patriotism. Eventually detrained in various parts of the Southwest, in a section and climate to which they were totally unused, they were put to work making camp. Men, mostly from desks, were set digging ditches and drains, clearing out large tracts of land covered with cactus and other thorn bearing plants, and made to do the hardest kind of manual labor, labor to which they were totally unaccustomed. Unflinchingly and ungrudgingly they did this, and all in their anxiety to make good in the eyes of the nation.

Finally the situation which made war between the United States and Mexico seem inevitable was adjusted and the war cloud passed over. The possibility of any trouble between the two governments was reduced to a minimum, and there was no longer any necessity for a large armed force to be maintained on the border.

The troops expected to be sent to their homes after the danger passed, but such was not the case. Without any plausible reason they are being held in service. The authorities will not even inform the men for how long they will be held. There they are, their ardor dampened, day after day receiving letters from home informing them of starving wives and mothers and of positions lost, positions for which they worked so hard.

How long are these men to be held up? Quickly they responded to the nation's call, and just as quickly, now the danger is over, should they be returned to their homes, to their families and to their individual callings. WILLIAM J. ROTH.

New York, Aug. 19, 1916.

The Live Coward vs. the Dead Hero.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The forceful peace "argument"—so-called by Mr. H. P. Salpeter in his letter to The Tribune—is no argument at all. The statement that "I'd rather be a live coward than a dead hero" is merely a statement of personal taste. Questions of morality, questions of national welfare, have no relation to such statements of individual taste. They are above them. I might say with perfect truth and sincerity that "I'd rather be a drunk debauchee than a sober business man," but this would be no argument for the morality of drunkenness or for the advantages to the national welfare of drinking.

It is a pity we have the skulking coward among us. He is an evil, but he has little effect on the community. The brazen coward, however, is a far greater menace in that his very effrontery sways the opinions of those who cannot reason properly. It is high time this kind of "frankness," which unfortunately you meet with so often nowadays, were exploded. No weight should be given to an argument bearing on national or moral questions which is based solely on personal preference. A. W. LAHEE.

New York, Aug. 24, 1916.

UNION GRATITUDE IN VOTES

Might Be Expected by the President for $100,000,000 Assessed on the Public.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Those who consider the headlines over reports of the strike negotiations in Washington are interested in the direct effects upon each person at his own particular angle, and are blind to the more permanent effects that will be visited upon him by the precedents now set up.

The Democratic party has always preached against the tendency toward centralization in our system of government, but what are we now seeing accomplished by a Democratic President? A body of 400,000 men, said to be some 20 per cent of the total of railroad workers, are threatening a strike involving a great part of the railway mileage of the country, affecting 700,000 individual investors and the greater part of 100,000,000 of the public. That their claims have right or the semblance of right is not the issue, although it is alluded to as a fact. The issue is that they have the power and intend to exercise it. This social violence is quite in the same category as physical violence, which places the issue on superior strength and temporary advantage alone.

The whole theory of a social order is that it is orderly, and that the social stresses that are operative all the time shall be discussed, rated, and the issues arbitrated in full public light. This is a process of lively public discussion, resulting in final effect of legislative enactment or commission or judicial ruling. I am among the number who believe that our present industrial system is full of crass injustice to the worker at many points. It is in many respects the relic of an accidental order which will be broken down stage by stage and replaced with a more constructive system for the production and distribution of wealth. I recognize that the process grows by illogical and sometimes violent stages, resulting in temporary injustice and dislocation, which are more or less inevitable. I look eagerly forward to the time when no worker will labor more than eight hours a day and when he will be well paid for his labor, but I am not prepared for such violence as that threatened in the present instance, when the whole business life of the country is put in sudden peril under a threat, unless a debatable programme is instantly put into effect without discussion or investigation of any kind. It is not adequate that the President of the United States should have attached his fiat to it and give it standing. He has neither warrant in constitutional right, nor in superiority of information, to make any such pronouncement.

Back of this maladroit exercise of power, which has never been formally conferred, is the sinister fact that the President is one of two candidates in the field for election to the Presidency. The railroad workers are a compactly organized body, and it is too much to ask of human nature that if they get what they ask for in this matter they will ignore the giver when the time comes to cast their votes in the November election. Is it pressing the implication too far to see in the proposed wage increase of $50,000,000 to $100,000,000 the greatest campaign contribution ever made in American history, and that, too, assessed upon the public at large, without their consent or the determination of any of the factors in the case?

Americans as a whole sleep upon their rights too much. The threat now to do away with arbitration is setting up a precedent that must at some day return to plague the workers. J. SHIRLEY EATON.

New York, Aug. 25, 1916.

No Contradiction.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Is there not a contradiction between the title of your leading editorial of August 25, namely, "The Failure of the Direct Primary," and the first sentence in the second paragraph of the editorial, which reads as follows:

> "Every one knows that if the Republican candidate for Governor were to be nominated at a convention of party leaders and delegates this year Governor Whitman would not be named"?

In other words, does not your editorial itself really maintain that the direct primary is going to force the nomination, and, if so, how can you logically call the direct primary a failure? LESTER L. CALLAN.

New York, Aug. 25, 1916.