

New York Tribune
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1916.
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issue the better will those who are working for Republican success be pleased.
Albert L. Mills.
The army has lost one of its most gallant, energetic and distinguished officers through the death of Major General Albert L. Mills.

Hardly anything could have been more discouraging to a real soldier than to have to labor against public and official indifference to improve conditions such as have existed for many years past in our military establishment.
The army was a toy organization; the military system outworn and deadening.

The Republican party will welcome a clear-cut fight on the Administration's abandonment of the principle of arbitration in railroad wage disputes and Congress's panic-stricken purchase of peace with the railroad unions at their own price.
The citizens' committee which has been endeavoring to help Mayor Mitchel and Chairman Straus of the Public Service Commission settle the traction strike has reported "no progress—a day wasted."

Neither the President nor Congress was qualified to pass upon the merits of this demand for higher pay. The Federal government has assumed absolute control of the railroads, so far as the regulation of their earning power is concerned.
If the strike leaders actually want to extract full benefit from the mediation of the Mayor and his colleagues, let them abandon the threat of the general strike, in their own interest as well as that of the public.

In declining either to confirm or deny "a well defined report" that Mr. Bertrand Russell has been chosen to succeed the late Josiah Royce at Harvard President Lowell says: "The present moment hardly seems to me suitable for such an announcement."
This observation may be interpreted in several ways, but is sufficiently significant if considered only in relation to the present plight of that accomplished but unlucky scholar, Mr. Russell's troubles began some months ago, when a bookseller was prosecuted under the defence of the realm act for publishing an anonymous pamphlet opposing compulsory service in the army.

Such tactics cannot be allowed to prevail. We do not believe that any amount of irrelevant argument about the desirability of an eight-hour day (a question which was not before the President and Congress) will confuse the real situation.
In the public interest fuller national control of the railroads is imperative. The rule that railroad wage disputes must be submitted to government arbitration must be established, and now is the time to establish it.

The greater the prominence given to this safe by the statement of the War Office only to find on his return that his lodgings had been ransacked by detectives on the chance of finding some further evidence of his disloyalty.

They Remain So Even When Taken for Duty on the Border.
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: The judge advocate general of the army, in his memorandum to the Secretary of War on the status of the Guard in Texas, says, paragraph 8: "Much of the misconception that has arisen regarding the status of the National Guard in service under the call of June 18, 1916, appears to rest on the assumption that it is the effect of the new oath and enlistment contract, and the call of that date, to make the National Guard available for any service for which the regular army may be used during the period of service under the call."

It has already been shown that, despite reports to the contrary, there is no evidence of weakening in this form of warfare; that, in fact, the destruction of shipping in August was apparently greater than ever.
This month, however, even more damage seems to have been done, and if it continues at the present rate September will probably prove to be the most disastrous month of the year—always presuming that the figures given out are correct.

The Federal census of 1910 shows 2,156,561 males of military age in New York State. About 15,000 men "resided in Texas."
Will not the men who "sat at home at ease" see justice in doing their brothers who went to the front in June "pro patria" and got a political swindle at less than day laborer's wages to cut cactus, dig roads, ditches, sinks, bury dead horses and carry kitchen slops and refuse, but of military training worth of their courage, sacrifices, mentality and brains not a bit?
M'COCKRY BUTT.
New York, Sept. 16, 1916.

The Standard Dictionary struggles feebly and gives this definition of the pretzel: "A biscuit made from wheat flour by twisting a rolled piece of dough into a knot-like form, dipping it in boiling lye made from straw ashes, sprinkling it with salt and baking it crisp."
But go ask Litzitz, who is the heart, head, body and soul of pretzeldom, and you will find that the pretzel is the joy of youth, the mainstay of mature manhood and the staff of old age.

It is generally acknowledged that society has failed in its handling of the problem of the chronic alcoholic. Arrest does not cure drunkenness; the habitual drunkard is unimproved by the cycle of imprisonment, release, fresh debauch, arrest and reimprisonment through which he passes again and again.
Dr. V. V. Anderson, in a study of 100 "repeaters" (total number of arrests for the group, 1,775), emphasizes the cause of this failure, namely, disregard for the fact that 10 per cent of these alcoholics were steadily employed; 49 per cent were not self-supporting when at large. All of them were, of course, a charge on society for the expenses of their arrest, conviction and maintenance while serving their sentences. That society pays a high price for the luxury of maintaining these chronic inebriates is obvious.

The will of the late Governor Pennypacker of Pennsylvania has been made public in the form of a "lucky coin." To his daughter Josephine was left "the silver dollar given me by my grandmother, which has been in my pocket wherever I have been and wherever I have gone during the last fifty-five years."
This coin was further described by the testator as "the one concrete thing most closely associated with me personally."

Mr. Langdon C. Stewardson deserves thanks for his splendid letter reciting the consequences to American self-respect of Mr. Wilson's policy of surrender. Particular thanks are due him for commenting on the manner in which the Deutschland exploit was received, in which respect, sad to say, some of the press of this country were chief offenders. Some of the laudatory cartoons that were printed in that instance by certain papers must have surprised readers in the warring nations. Strange that a nation in which "Remember the Maine" was once a popular slogan should now forget things infinitely worse.

What an Inquiring Rookie Discovered in Regard to the Tone, Purpose, Educational Value and Military Utility of Training Camp Life—A Tribute to an Experiment That Has "Made Good"—Its Results in Producing Mental and Physical Recuperation.
Things other ways are not "just as good" when they come to apply their intelligence to the subject they find that the way that has been selected is the most expeditious and the most effective, and that results are obtained by a subordination to intelligent direction and by prompt coordination in execution that could be obtained in no other manner.

Naturally, such statements are not the subject of sweeping denial by any individual on the basis of his own limited experience. But I should be greatly astonished if a canvass of the 3,000 men who attended the September camp would develop a handful who would not testify that the conduct of the regular officers was uniformly exemplary, who would not ridicule the statement that the officers were in the habit of cursing the men or that their conduct was in any way lacking in courtesy and efficiency of the regular officers an inspiring example.
This would be my testimony and that of every man who expressed himself in his hearing while I was there.

The reason for this is not far to seek. It lies in the intensive character of the training. The life led at Plattsburg is not such as would ordinarily be led by men in an army in times of peace, with many hours of leisure and much surplus vitality to be worked off in those leisure hours, but approximately the life of a command at a front where activity is constant and where there is neither time nor energy for much else than the military business in hand.
Hence, the regimen of the men approximates more nearly that of a body of untrained men into a military unit capable of rendering the slightest service, and that any attempt to employ reviews in a real military emergency could result in nothing but the prompt and full annihilation of the men of whom they were composed.

By Answering Them He Would Satisfy a Natural Curiosity.
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: Since Democratic politicians and editors are so persistent in asking questions and seeking much needed advice from Candidate Hughes, why not claim an equal privilege and attempt to get a little enlightenment regarding certain matters which have been so puzzling to us by submitting a few questions to Candidate Wilson?
Here are some that I would suggest:
1. What did you mean when you informed Germany that she would be held "strictly responsible"? If you intended to enforce the attitude, why did you not do so when the time came? If you had held Germany "strictly responsible," how did you expect to keep us "out of the war"? If you did not intend to enforce it, what was the use of saying it?

Every man who dared him to say it again? Was it a diplomatic scheme to keep us "out of war," or did you simply intend to convey an impression that we are proud to fight?
6. What is your understanding of the difference between a "condition" and a "principle"? When are we to apply one, and when the other? All through the Mexican pass you have said you are making a stand on a "principle," to which admitted "conditions," no matter how bad, must be made subordinate. Yet when the railroad "principle" was at stake, you were fighting for what you acknowledged to be a correct "principle" of supreme importance you informed them that they were confronted with a "condition" and the question of "principle" could not be considered.

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THE "EIGHT-HOUR" LAW
It is Held to Impair the Right of Contract and Therefore To Be Void.
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: A contract is "an agreement upon which consideration is to be or not to be done a particular thing," says Blackstone; and the agreement must be by and between two or more parties able and willing to contract.

But the most essential element of a contract is its obligation, which is inherent in every valid contract. And this does not mean a merely moral obligation, but an actionable or legally enforceable obligation. Furthermore, no transaction is a contract without a mutuality of obligation. It is of the very essence of a contract that its obligations shall be mutual. In other words, the obligations must be enforceable by law against not only one of the parties but against both or all of the parties.

But it seems, at least at first blush, that the law schools, the judiciary and legal fraternity must now attach but little importance to this branch of the law. If the views of President Wilson and Congress are to obtain, and are not repugnant to the Constitution of the United States.

German Reconstruction in Belgium.
To the Editor of The Tribune.
Sir: As a further development of the German plans for the "reconstruction" of the Belgian industries, I read in this morning's "Chicago Tribune" (page 3), on the authority of the Belgian Minister of Finance, M. Alois von de Vyver, that the Germans are robbing the Belgian banks by means of a forced loan for \$200,000,000.

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