

New York Tribune

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

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Defeated Germany.

As we approach the end of the third campaigning period of the Great War one fact stands out clear beyond all cavil. There is no longer any question in the minds of any but the most pronounced of Germany's sympathizers as to the ultimate outcome of the conflict.

If one goes back over the history of the tremendous struggle it now becomes perfectly clear that we have lived through two distinct and completed phases, that we are living in the midst of a third, which is marked by very clear and unmistakable circumstances.

The first phase of the war was the supreme effort of a nation of 65,000,000 of people, having as an ally another nation of 50,000,000, to destroy the military establishments of three nations with a combined population of 215,000,000 in Europe alone, and with almost unlimited resources outside, before these nations could prepare as Germany was prepared.

This first German conception was wrecked at the Marne, where the French won the decisive battle of the whole conflict. After the Marne the Germans were unable to resume their advance to Paris. They were decisively beaten in Flanders and were compelled to turn all their attention to the East to deal with Russia, which was on the point of destroying Austria.

The failure of the first conception led directly to the deadlock in the West. But behind the trench lines France and Britain were able to reorganize their military establishments. Two years ago, when Germany struck France, Britain had rather less than 150,000 available for service on the Continent.

Having failed in the West and having been long handicapped in the East by Austrian failure, Germany slowly evolved her second conception, which was to attack Russia, while holding back France and Britain in the West.

Meantime Germany, having failed to put Russia out, was obliged to go to the aid of her Turkish ally, threatened with destruction by the Allied attack at the Dardanelles. This was a surprisingly successful venture and enlisted Bulgaria, but it necessitated a further delay in the West, and it was not until February, 1916, that Germany could again turn her attention to the West.

Verdun sealed the fate of this conception and ended the second phase of the

war. At Verdun Germany lost nearly 600,000 men and failed to cripple France, break the French spirit, or even to take the worthless area marked upon the map by the name of the Verdun fortress.

Effectively, Germany came now to the position of a man striving to row ashore in a leaky boat and against a strong current. After every stroke of the oars he must pause to bail out his boat.

The Russian attack in June was the first move in the third phase of the war, followed by the Anglo-French drive on the Somme, the Italian victory at Gorizia, the Allied activity in the Balkans and the enlistment of Rumania.

But in looking at the war to-day it must be borne in mind that the decisive element is the spirit of the nations that are fighting. The victories of the recent months have convinced France, Britain, Russia, Italy that ultimate triumph is inevitable.

Bear in mind that Germany, with one relatively weak ally, set out to conquer Europe with the full comprehension that she was outnumbered and hopelessly inferior in wealth. She expected to conquer because her smaller resources in men and money were immediately available and enabled her to put greater forces into the first conflicts than all of her enemies combined.

Finally, when she still believed there was superiority left to her in men and guns she attacked Verdun. But here her failure was instant. She was stopped within sight of her starting place and more than half a million casualties could not advance her lines.

Now let any one who would understand the conflict say to himself that Germany failed when she had all the chances with her, she failed when she had more men on the battlefield, bigger guns, an infinite variety of advantages. She failed to do exactly that which all her soldiers and writers proclaimed, not alone that she would do, but that she must do, if she did not expect eventual defeat, when all her enemies were prepared and in the field together.

The situation of Germany now is the situation of Napoleon in 1813, of the Confederacy in 1864. Numbers, wealth, control of the sea and, above all, expectation of complete victory are with her enemies, and in three months Germany has been able to do nothing to shake the hope that has come with the victories of the summer.

No one should be deceived by the present status of the battle lines. These represent in France and Belgium exactly the profit to Germany of her superior preparedness and her disregard for the obligations of international faith. But it was not to get

these positions that Germany went to war. These are the measure not of success, but of failure, because they are all that Germany could get when she had every chance with her, and now her sole claim is that she can hold these lines indefinitely.

When Germany outnumbered her foes on the Western front she was beaten. After she had given these foes more than a year to prepare she tried again and was beaten still more decisively; she could not gain ten miles in five months.

To-day the French, the Italians, the Russians, the British are all dividing the casualties in the campaign against the Central Powers. France has lost heavily and Britain relatively lightly so far. Therefore Britain is making the heavy losses now, with great reserves to draw on.

The situation is perfectly simple. Germany has had her chance and she has not won. She did not succeed in crushing unprepared enemies possessing inferior numbers of trained troops when she chose to strike.

No one expects to see a material change in the situation before the campaign of next summer. Few people now expect peace before 1918, but the summer campaign now coming to an end has abolished all doubt in London, Paris, Rome, Petrograd.

Trajan's Wall.

The great war thrusts its tongues of flame into scenes that mark the beginnings of human history and the foundations of religions and empires. In this moving picture our attention has been called to the traditional site of the Garden of Eden, to rivers that are supposed to have watered the earthly paradise, to Mount Ararat, Mount Sinai and Mount Lebanon, to relics of the Assyrian, Babylonian, Egyptian, Parthian and Roman empires, and to places that are closely connected with the rise of Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Mohammedanism.

It was in the year 101 that Trajan led his legions forth from Rome to conquer the Dacians, whose country comprised the provinces of Moldavia, Wallachia and Transylvania, which the Rumanians are now endeavoring to reunite under one sovereignty. Dacia's warrior king, Decebalus, defended his land so well that Trajan had to start a second campaign four years later before Dacia would acknowledge Roman rule.

The Lacemaker of Ypres. Most of the houses in the Grande Place are in ruins. The town is uninhabited. Only the dead are left. But the enemy keeps on bombarding—apparently to pass the time.

To pass the hours, Since her last scream was choked in dust, Shot and shrapnel spend their lust.

NOT STRICTLY NEUTRAL

A Reader Thinks The Tribune's Editorials Show a Pro-Ally Bias.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: For generations back my forefathers have lived on American soil, and therefore I presume to a position of Americanism and strict neutrality in as far as the present war in Europe is concerned.

While it may be perfectly permissible for an individual or publication to have its preferences with regard to the antagonists in Europe, your editorial is misleading in nearly every detail to such an extent that the question arises in my mind, and probably the minds of other fair-minded readers, as to what you hope to gain by such statements and theories.

Your constant references to the Lusitania incident merely revive the question as to whether or not this ship was carrying ammunition, in which event it should not have been permitted to carry passengers and was legal prey for the German submarine.

Personally I can see no reason why Germany should be prevented diplomatically by this country from using her strongest weapon, the submarine, while we write futile and ineffectual notes to Great Britain, with no idea of enforcing our rights with regard to her illegal "blockade" and interference with our mails to neutral countries.

It seems to me that no greater opportunity was ever presented than the present for a big newspaper to take the lead with impartial views as to this war. The public really wants the facts, not biased editorials.

I am certainly disappointed to see this position on the part of The Tribune. I believe that the American to-day is learning to view the issues in this war in a much more impartial way than at its beginning, and a big paper like yours surely should have its own first-hand facilities for learning that a policy such as shown in this editorial will result in the loss of many friends who have no interest in the war from any angle except from a standpoint of fairness in viewing the issues discussed.

J. EARLY WOOD, JR. New York, Sept. 23, 1916.

England's Sins.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The editor of "The London Morning Post" is pleased to quote excerpts from an article which appeared in The New York Tribune. Both articles are filled with the passions and intense hatreds always engendered by war.

Every Briton who condemns and accuses others should at least "come into court with clean hands." Many shameful pages have been written into the history of this world war by English deeds and hands.

Does Britain honor the law of nations when brutally throttling the rights of American trade with neutral countries? Has she not violated our mails and is engaged in stealing our commerce at the present time? Have not her ships entered our own waters on unlawful missions and searched American vessels bound from one American port to another?

It was indefensible for the President to advise Americans in Mexico to seek safety under the shadow of the United States gunboats at Tampico, and then order the gunboats away and leave three thousand Americans, men, women and children, who had followed his advice, surrounded by Mexican mobs, only to be rescued from their peril by the captain of a German gunboat, after futile appeals to our government through the American consul and others for immediate protection.

South Orange, N. J., Sept. 21, 1916.

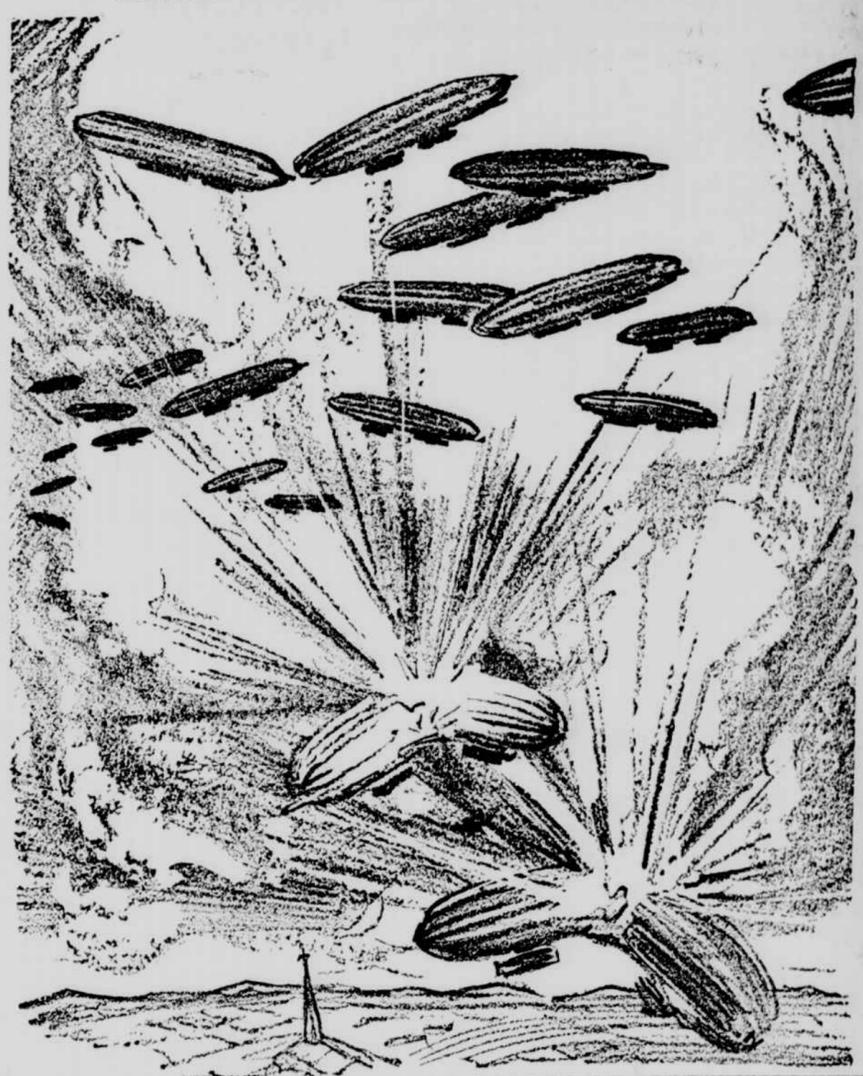
Evils of War and Peace.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: It is the idea of one of your correspondents that America must learn the lesson now being learned by the nations in the trenches, that character is better than money—that to serve our country is more honorable than to serve ourselves," etc., etc.

It is hard to see how idealism can be developed by a competition in slaughtering young, vigorous men by machine guns and bombs, however much individual suffering may develop character. And, as a matter of fact, the suffering, hardship and brutality of war are far more likely to degrade the individual than they are to ennoble him.

NEW YORK, SEPT. 19, 1916.

BIRDS THAT DO NOT COME BACK.



A TEXAS VIEW OF THE MEXICAN PROBLEM

Judge Noah Allen, of San Antonio, Dissects the Administration's Policy and Declares It to Have Been a Series of Egregious Blunders—It Has Failed Utterly to Protect American Rights and Has Made More Desperate than Ever the Plight of the Mexican People.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The Mexican situation should be considered from two viewpoints; first, the rights of more than fifty thousand American citizens, who went into Mexico many years ago under guarantees of protection by treaty and other obligation of the United States and Mexico, which involves the fundamental principle of protection to Americans and American rights in any foreign land.

The Mexican problem is as far from solution to-day as it was three years ago. For more than three years Mexico has been a seething, smoldering anarchic hell. For more than three years there has been no continuous series of egregious blunders leading this nation into the Mexican mire deeper and deeper every day.

It was a huge diplomatic joke for the President of the United States to deny Huerta's authority to speak for Mexico in one breath and in the next breath to try to compel him to salute the American flag for Mexico. It was the acme of absurdity for the United States to go to war against Mexico, take possession of Vera Cruz and sacrifice the lives of Americans, because one alleged outlaw, whom the President refused to recognize, would not salute our flag, and then withdraw our army from Mexico at the dictation of Carranza, another Mexican usurper, with no more authority than Huerta, who was committing greater outrages on American citizens. It was pernicious activity in Mexican politics and an evidence of weakness and inefficiency on the part of our government calculated to encourage Mexican contempt for American rights and defiance of the authority of the United States.

It was indefensible for the President to advise Americans in Mexico to seek safety under the shadow of the United States gunboats at Tampico, and then order the gunboats away and leave three thousand Americans, men, women and children, who had followed his advice, surrounded by Mexican mobs, only to be rescued from their peril by the captain of a German gunboat, after futile appeals to our government through the American consul and others for immediate protection.

From the day of the withdrawal of our troops from Vera Cruz, to appease Carranza, up to the present moment, our people have been subjected to the gravest indignities and outrages at the hands of Carranza and his followers, and other Mexican outlaws, both in Mexico and on this side of the border.

Conditions have been growing worse instead of better since President Wilson began meddling in Mexican affairs and vacillating from one position to another. They are one hundred per cent worse now than they were when the President began dividing his own hand between Carranza, the First Chief of the bandits, and Villa, the first bandit of the chiefs. The unprovoked, inhuman conditions in Mexico are one hundredfold worse than they were in Cuba when McKinley felt the imperative necessity for this nation to perform its duty under

the Monroe Doctrine and in the interests of humanity to go into Cuba and establish a stable government, restore peace and put an end to the inhuman outrages being perpetrated upon the common people of that strife-ridden country.

As the Pershing troops were making their futile entry into the interior of Mexico the peons and other non-combatants, men, women and children, flocked around their camps and shouted "vivo Americanos!" as they gathered the crumbs from their tables to prevent starvation.

Thousands of pleading, outraged, starving and dying Mexicans, men, women and children, are appealing to the great American heart and government of the United States for relief from the lawlessness of their own people and for the termination of their pitiable condition. Even Carranza, the idol of the President's affections, is trying to force American property owners in Mexico to return and operate their properties and furnish work and food for the starving Mexicans, while President Wilson and his followers are telling the American public that these same people are mining for Mexicans, land pirates and exploiters from him.

Mr. Wilson Prolongs Strife. President Wilson seems to express more interest in the welfare of the citizens of Mexico than he does in those of his own country, but his actions do not accord with his professions, even in that respect. His misguided action and non-action, embargo and non-embargo, interference and non-interference, and his sugar-coated diplomatic dealing with Carranza have done more to prolong barbaric strife, destitution and distress and increase the burdens of the Mexican people than all other influences combined.

Peace in Mexico can only be restored by the establishment of a stable constitutional government for Mexico, and this will never be accomplished by the outlaws of Mexico, nor while the United States recognizes and encourages an irresponsible dictator, who claims no constitutional authority, but assumes to exercise all of the functions of government, entirely independent of and in utter violation of the constitution.

During these years that our President has been shifting from one position to another while chasing another with the United States army, barbarities, starvation and want have been on the increase in Mexico. Approximately two hundred thousand men, women and children have been brutally killed or have died through sickness, want and starvation as a result of the prolonged anarchy and strife which we have made no intelligent effort to stop.

Worse Instead of Better. Conditions have been growing worse instead of better since President Wilson began meddling in Mexican affairs and vacillating from one position to another. They are one hundred per cent worse now than they were when the President began dividing his own hand between Carranza, the First Chief of the bandits, and Villa, the first bandit of the chiefs. The unprovoked, inhuman conditions in Mexico are one hundredfold worse than they were in Cuba when McKinley felt the imperative necessity for this nation to perform its duty under

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We have been in a state of nambypamby with Mexico ever since the army went into Vera Cruz. The Mexicans have been doing the shooting and killing, while we have been note-writing, parleying, deigning and playing politics.

No Relief for Mexico. We cannot meet and solve the problem of the rights of Americans or the rights of all humanity by saying we are at peace with all the world; if true (which it is not), it gives no relief to the downtrodden people of Mexico. If the statement be true, it is cowardly, shameful peace when we shrink from the performance of a plain duty to our own citizens and the helpless, starved and dying citizens of our neighbor republic.

United States aid to put down anarchy and establish a constitutional government for Mexico with United States capital to aid in opening and operating the mines, factories and other industries and furnish employment and food for the idle and starving people of Mexico, will do more in three months to restore peace, prosperity and plenty in Mexico than our wretched, wiggling policy has done in three years, or will do in three years to come, if continued. Our three years of watchful waiting, hypocritical phrase-making platitudes about the rights of the people have been to their people the same as three years of war, pestilence and famine. A continuation of the same policy means a continuation of aggravation of these conditions.

Rebellion. To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The fundamental concept of government is the denial of the right of the private settlement of disputes by force. Or, as it is often put, "the taking of the law into one's own hands." No government can allow the invasion of this governmental right in any case or by any class without weakening its own authority and standing. Therefore, it has provided ample legal machinery to enforce its rights and to force disputes into its established tribunals if the executives could be found sufficiently conscientious, impartial and direct to enforce the only true and logical governmental principle. This is so basic as to be axiomatic and is honest, impartial administration it would need no argument or protagonists. All invasions of this principle are simply rebellions against constituted authority and should be rigorously treated as such.

UNCOMMON SENSE. New York, Sept. 13, 1916.