

New York Tribune

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1916.

Owned and published daily by The Tribune Association, a New York corporation...

SUBSCRIPTION RATES—By Mail, Postage Paid, outside of Greater New York.

FOREIGN RATES—DAILY AND SUNDAY. DAILY AND SUNDAY. SUNDAY ONLY.

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

You can purchase merchandise advertised in THE TRIBUNE with absolute safety—for if dissatisfaction results in any case THE TRIBUNE guarantees to pay your money back upon request.

Germany's Peace Terms

In permitting the publication of the speech of a German Socialist member of the Reichstag, the German censor has deliberately contributed to befog the situation so far as Berlin's peace terms are concerned.

But there is not the slightest official evidence to warrant any such assumption. There does not exist one shred of evidence to prove that Germany would consent to evacuate Belgium and restore the conditions that existed before the invasion.

In point of fact, there is not one official utterance on the German side to show that Germany is willing to evacuate Belgium. We have had and we continue to have declarations of the members of the political parties that really rule Germany that Belgium must not be unconditionally surrendered.

The question of whether the French people, for example, would consent to make peace without Alsace-Lorraine does not enter into any controversy or discussion in which there is no tangible proposition before the French people.

We are going to have a great many German moves like the present to confuse the situation in the mind of the outside world. We are going to have a desperate effort made by German politicians and publicists to convince their own and the neutral public that Germany is not responsible for the continued conflict.

The German politicians believe that the French people are so weary of the war that they are prepared to make peace on almost any reasonable basis. They believe that they can create unrest in France by unofficial assertions that France could have peace without loss of territory held before the present war.

The time has not come for any discussion of peace or war to the end. It has not come because those who control in Germany are still determined to harvest some profit from the early conquests. If they are not able to show some gain to counterbalance the enormous sacrifices they will have a difficult time in the future when the hour of settlement with their own people comes.

A definite offer on the part of the German government, either to the enemy directly or through some neutral medium, to consent to the restoration of Belgium, France and also Serbia to the territorial condition of 1914 will mark a new phase in the European situation.

There is a peace party in Germany. It favors peace on terms that will leave Germany intact. It is growing stronger all the time. But there is not yet any considerable peace party, if there be any at all, which desires peace predicated upon

the surrender of territory taken from France in 1871. It is extremely useful to the Germans to set afloat the impression that Germany has offered or is willing to make peace on terms which the peace party believes are fair and that the enemies of Germany will not accept such terms.

But the peace party is a minority party, and it is therefore necessary for the German government to keep its hold upon the majority, which still demands that Germany derive some profit in territory and influence for the losses of the long war.

Thus the German government is compelled to ride two horses—to appear to one fact to be willing to make peace on its terms and to make no actual proposal which would lead the other faction to withdraw its support.

Within a short time we shall hear it generally asserted in this country that Germany has offered to make peace on terms which are described in this Socialist utterance. This is of course absurd. Germany has offered to make peace on the basis of the map of Europe as it existed a few months ago, when Bethmann-Hollweg made his celebrated speech.

Germany is moving toward a recognition that she has been beaten and cannot hope to bring home any profit from her great efforts. But she has not yet reached the point of confessing this in any proposal for peace embodying the suggestion of a return to 1914.

Germany is moving toward a recognition that she has been beaten and cannot hope to bring home any profit from her great efforts. But she has not yet reached the point of confessing this in any proposal for peace embodying the suggestion of a return to 1914.

Thus the consumer will have to pay for the strike, and he will have to pay without any knowledge whether the increased prices are just and warranted. There is a provision in the agreement between the farmers and distributors for a committee to investigate the cost of production and distribution. Farmers and distributors will be represented on that body, but there will be no representative of the public.

The Wicks legislative committee has investigated several phases of the milk business, but whatever knowledge it may have accumulated was not at the disposal of the public. It is to make its report to the next Legislature, which may or may not find material in that report to warrant remedial action of some sort.

It is entirely possible that the farmers deserve all they will get by this settlement and that the public ought to be made to pay the increases. Yet there has been so much loose talk, so many loose figures produced, that the consumer here has become mighty suspicious. He would like to have some unbiased, impartial official, with no profit coming out of the milk business and no political concern whether farmers or distributors were affected by the truth, authorized to go into the cost of milk from the angle of the man who has to pay for it.

The supporters chosen by Lord Astor for his coat-of-arms, an Indian and a fur trapper, have aroused some comment among English heralds-at-arms and heraldists. In their science, which is an ancient and conservative one, there are no Indians and trappers. There is an occasional savage with lion skin and club, or a blackmoor with turban and scimitar, figures familiar to the world in the days when heraldry was being standardized (if the word be permissible in connection with so patrician a subject), but Indians and trappers are of the New World; therefore, as in the case of the farmer gazing upon his first hippopotamus—"there ain't no such supporters."

There were griffins and lions and bears and eagles to select from—all the heraldic menagerie which looks so utterly unlike any animal that ever was shown in a zoological garden. "That is no lion," declared a heraldist when he saw one in the zoo. "I know, for I have drawn them all my life."

What will be the future of heraldry after the war, when, we are assured, a truer democracy will rule the world? It has managed to survive the Declaration of Independence and the French Revolution. It has even thriven upon a democratic atmosphere, which removed the restrictions placed upon its uses. Its abuses, indeed, are far older than is generally known. St. Simon already spoke of them in his "Memoirs," of the unchecked assumption of armorial bearings by people not entitled to them, without authorization from the fountain-head of all honors, the Sun King.

It is worth noting, however, that the war has produced thus far only one nobleman—not in Germany or Austria-Hungary, as one would expect, but in England. Viscount French will no doubt announce the supporters of his choice in due time, and may receive an augmentation of his armorial bearings as well. Such augmentations are usually artistically and heraldically atrocious, as witness the Iron Cross and the date 1870 imposed by imperial decree upon the simple arms of the Mollath. What King Charles's head was to Mr. Dick the war is to editorial writers nowadays. Still, there is food for speculation in the fact that neither Hindenburg nor Mackensen has received an earldom, at least, ere now.

Heraldry will survive, even when shown of its aristocratic connotations, because it is so gorgeously decorative. But to retain that quality it must be treated respectfully; the rules must be obeyed. We could wish that some of our younger states would revise their coats-of-arms, which are as atrocious artistically as they are heraldically incorrect. But what an air does a coat-of-arms give to the panels of a carriage, a crest to the horses' shining harness! What a brave show does the cockade make on the hats of coachman and footman and tiger! Here, again, the rule has been disregarded, but for the sake of a fine appearance. "Why," explained the London lady, "papa is connected with the Army and Navy stores."

But carriages and coachmen and footmen and tigers are fast disappearing. And—more food for reflection, and a sign of rare instinctive good taste—we do not, with few regrettable exceptions, put armorial bearings on our automobiles. Teddy bears took their place at one time; miniature traffic policemen frantically waving their arms, at another. Democracy occasionally looks itself in the face, and knows what's what.

The retired Scotch snuff manufacturer knew, indeed, how to combine democracy and heraldry. Grown rich, he gave in to his wife's and daughters' aspirations. They would have a coat-of-arms—he got it, and designed it himself, a none, natural, on a silver shield, with the proud device, "Who would have thought it?"

Nebraska's Fiftieth Birthday

The State of Nebraska is fifty years old, as we are reminded by the account of the visit of President Wilson on his "non-partisan" stumping tour into the West, which brought a celebration of some days to a pleasing climax. This is not the half-century year of the admission of the state to the sisterhood, however; that did not occur until 1867.

Nebraska had a hard time getting admitted. The enabling act of Congress was passed in 1854 and her constitution was adopted in 1866—the event now celebrated—but not until two admission bills had failed to receive President Johnson's approval did Congress insist on letting Nebraska in over a veto.

The early story of Nebraska is an exciting chapter in our national history, covering the tense ante-bellum days. Such memorable expressions as the Kansas-Nebraska act, "squatter sovereignty," Missouri Compromise, Lincoln-Douglas debates, the Dred Scott case, are associated with her name. Originally a part of the spreading Louisiana Purchase, then of Missouri Territory, finally reduced to present proportions by cutting off what are now the Dakotas, Wyoming, Idaho and part of Colorado, the creation of the Nebraska Territory brought to a head the irreconcilable conflict between slave power and free soil. Slavery had reached the limits of its occupancy under the Missouri Compromise, the legislation which "forever" prohibited it north of 36° 30'. Then it was that Stephen A. Douglas, Northern Democrat, set up the helpful theory of "squatter sovereignty"—Congress should no more be bothered with slavery, but the territories, as they were carved out, should be slave or free as their inhabitants chose. It was a glittering idea, plausibly presented as it did the root theory of home rule. But one Abraham Lincoln, till then unknown nationally, demolished it in the course of the forensic "battle of the giants."

Young England in the Streets

While the men of London are distinguishing themselves in trench warfare, the boys they left behind them are undesirably in evidence before the police magistrates. The boy who behaves himself is able to command a high price for his services. He fills a man's shoes and receives a man's wages. Instead of being threatened and upbraided, he is courted and wheedled. He can bring home more than he earned in the antebellum days and still put a tidy sum for himself or spend it at the coffee shop.

Then there is the contrary melancholy picture of the bad boy rampant in the darkened streets, fishing parcels from the delivery vans and making believe, in the midst of his misdemeanor, that he is valorously intercepting German convoys with supplies. He finds an outlet for his excess of animal spirits in a wholly misdirected exuberance. It has been shown that for the enlisted Boy Scouts there is abundant occupation as errand boys, messengers, guides and sentries. Industrial employment of all sorts, in all directions, clamors for the utilization of the energies now dissipated in outmaneuvering the police. These boys, brought into the courts in a never ending line for larceny, require from some disciplinary and at the same time persuasive source a great awakening to their duty and their opportunity. It is a real tragedy to behold so much first rate human material going to waste, like sewage in the gutter, when it might be saved to virtuous, useful sources.

The Date of Thanksgiving

A movement is on foot to persuade President Wilson to proclaim Thursday, November 23, instead of Thursday, the 30th, as Thanksgiving Day.

The initiative comes from merchants who think that if the later date is chosen the Christmas shopping season will be too short. On the other hand, it is suggested that so many persons wait till late in December, anyway, to do their holiday purchasing that it does not make much difference when Thanksgiving comes. Another suggestion has been made in the past—that Thanksgiving be appointed for Monday instead of Thursday, so as to give us a long week-end holiday instead of making an inconvenient break in the middle of the week. There is something to be said for this proposal. If Monday, November 27, were selected by the President it would please a large proportion of his fellow citizens. However, Mr. Wilson may not feel like proclaiming any Thanksgiving Day this year—unless he gets it done and over with before the fateful 7th.

THE NEW VERSE

Sunday in a Certain City Suburb

Four men whose lives are the beginning of sun-silenced afternoons, And whose orange and red scarfs are the sole flowers of the washed-out afternoons, Sit, shifting dominoes.

Napoleon shifted Restless in the old sarcophagus And murmured to a watchguard: "Who goes there?"

Just as my fingers on these keys Make music, so the self-arms sound On my spirit make a music, too.

The Rear Porches of an Apartment Building A sky that has never known sun, moon or stars.

Cinquains NOVEMBER NIGHT Listen With faint dry sound, Like steps of passing ghosts,

Significant Landscapes I. An old man sits In the shadow of a pine tree In China.

Bowl Was this bowl of earth designed? Here are more things Than on any bowl of the Sun's.

From "Others, an Anthology of the New Verse," edited by Alfred Kreymborg, copyrighted, 1916, by Alfred A. Knopf.

THE ADVANCE ON THE SOMME



The Old Frenchman: "Our guns come nearer" Louis Raemaekers, in "Land and Water"

MIRMAN AND "MES ENFANTS"

By ARTHUR GLEASON

When I went across to France there was no man whom I wished to meet. It was the Prefect of Meurthe-et-Moselle. I wanted to meet him because he is in charge of the region where German frightfulness reached its climax. Leon Mirman has maintained a high morale in that section of France which has suffered most, and which has cause for despair.

Leon Mirman is the Prefect of all this region. He was Director of Public Charities in Paris, but when war broke out he asked to be sent to the post of danger. So he was sent to the city of Nancy to rule the Department of Meurthe-et-Moselle. The Prefect of a department in France is the same as the Governor of a state in America.

Statement to The Tribune of Leon Mirman, Prefect of Meurthe-et-Moselle. "I wish you to understand in what spirit we began the war in France, and especially in this district. It was our intention to follow the rules of what you call in English 'Fair Play'.

Mention is often made of these two townships where the inhabitants suffered the most severely from the invasion of the enemy, but in many other townships, a long list, the Germans acted in the same way. They burned the streets, they killed men, women and children without cause. Always they gave the pretext, to excuse themselves, that the civilian population had fired on them.

"Another incident: In the first days of August, 1914, the Germans entering Badonviller, exasperated perhaps by the resistance which our soldiers of the rear guard gave them, or simply wishing to terrorize the population, burned part of the village and fired on the inhabitants as if they were rabbits.

"I wish to say to you, and I beg you to make it known to your noble nation: it is not with serenity that we see our French soldiers do that work. It is with profound sadness that we resign ourselves to these reprisals. Those methods of defence are imposed upon us. Since all considerations of humanity are to-day alien to the German soul, we are reduced for the protection of our wives and our children to the policy of reprisals and to the assassination in our turn of the children and the women in Germany.

because he had respected the law under trying conditions, I asked that this Mayor should be decorated, and the French government decreed for him the cross of the Legion of Honor. He was rewarded in this way, not for having carried out criminal violence according to the German method, but, on the contrary, for preventing, by coolness and force of will, reprisals made against enemy prisoners.

"By these examples, and I could cite many others, you will be able to estimate the ideas with which the French began the war. "The French in more than one instance have run against not armies, but veritable bands organized for crime. I say 'organized' and that is the significant fact. In a war when individual accidental excesses are committed tragic situations, to be sure, arise, but we ought not to conclude that we have found ourselves face to face with a general organization of cruelty and destruction.

"I thank you for having come here. You will look about you, you will ask questions, you will easily see the truth. That truth you will make known to your great and free nation. We shall await with confidence the judgment of its conscience."