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tain some portion of the territory which she has conquered and now holds.  
 As for Bethmann's proposal to Russia, it, too, consists of words rather than anything else. He does not accept the Russian formula of no annexation. He does not, for example, precisely resign the German claim to Lithuania. He does not open the Polish question. He does not say anything about the evacuation of the districts west of the Pinsk Marshes. He only suggests that there shall be no annexation which would be a permanent cause for enmity between the two nations, by which one might conjecture that he meant that no Slavonic portion of Russia's population would be annexed by Germany or by Austria, but that he still maintained the German claim to Lithuania and the Austro-German demand to control resurrected Poland.

**Bethmann Waits**

The most interesting and important incident in the Reichstag on Tuesday was not the speech of Bethmann-Hollweg. Faced with a situation in which he had to make a speech, the German Chancellor, with great adroitness, said nothing. The really significant occurrence was the greeting that the Reichstag gave to the assertion of the Socialist Scheidemann that if the Allies announced a programme of peace without annexation there would be a revolution in Germany.

What was the verdict of the Reichstag on this? There is no mistaking it. Scheidemann's statement was so generally challenged and hooted that he had finally to qualify it by saying that the time had not yet come when he said would happen could happen. In other words, Scheidemann confessed and the Reichstag demonstrated that Germany is not yet prepared to discuss peace on the basis of no annexation and no indemnity as a result of her attack upon Europe.

Now, if Germany is still in this state of mind there is nothing more unsound than to talk about a German collapse or to predict an immediate infiltration of Russia's revolution into the German masses. If a Socialist can speak of peace without annexation only as a future possibility, the sooner the rest of the world recognizes that the business in hand is war and not peace the better for all concerned.

Turning now to Bethmann's address, it should be viewed in the light of its difficulties. We know some of them. There is a very considerable Socialistic element in Germany which believes that the time has come to end the war on the basis of *status quo ante-bellum*. It is not a majority of the Socialist party even, but it is a growing factor in the German situation. Conversely, there is a very large element belonging to the ruling parties which believes that Germany should not make peace save as a conqueror, and that her annexations should include Belgium, a portion of France and Russian Lithuania, and that there should be in addition a joint Austro-German protectorate over Poland and a guaranteed Austro-German hegemony in the Balkans. It is interesting to note that Bethmann did not feel himself strong enough at this time to declare himself openly a partisan of the annexationists' plan. We may gather from this that there is a strong demand in Germany for peace with honor, but not with conquest. This is a hopeful sign. But, on the other hand, we have Bethmann's own words and the Scheidemann incident to prove that there is not sufficient vitality or force in the demand for peace in Germany yet to compel the renunciation of all projects of annexation.

Now, actually, what is the German point of view? One can only conjecture. But yet it would seem very clear that the collapse of Russia has been interpreted by a large section of the German people as opening a new horizon of hope for German arms in the war. Arthur Brisbane, in "The Evening Journal" the other night, very shrewdly advised Americans to study the history of Frederick the Great. After Frederick had seized Silesia by a piece of brutality fully comparable to that of the recent invasion of Belgium, he was saved at the point of ruin by a change of Russian policy following a change of Russian rulers. In consequence, Prussia emerged from the war still possessing that Silesia which she had stolen from Austria and maintained against united Europe.

Were it possible for Russia this year to attack as Brusiloff attacked last year, while the French and the British are attacking on the West, there is overwhelming evidence that German man-power would not be adequate to meet the strain; but Russia is not able and will not be able to attack in any time now to be computed. With Russia out of the war actually, with the possibility of a separate peace with Russia apparent, with the remotest possibility of a separate peace between Italy and Austria, there is no present reason save the question of food that we know of why Germany should not expect to re-

**Censuring Joffre**

The appeal for American troops in France made by the new French commander in chief, General Pétain, serves to set at rest any misapprehension as to what Marshal Joffre said in Washington two weeks ago. The deliberate and systematic effort to suppress the words of the French soldier stands transparently exposed now that his successor speaks.

In another place on this page The Tribune prints an account of how the censoring operated in the case of Joffre. No one reading this statement can mistake the fact that a deliberate effort was made by the General Staff of our own army to suppress the words of the French marshal because they advocated a policy of which the General Staff did not approve.

**Dress for the Part**

All women employed in shops and factories will be wearing overalls before the year's end, according to the president of the Garment Manufacturers' Association. Employers favor the change, ten large factories have already supplied their girl workers with overalls, and what can a few old-fashioned prejudices do before such a national wave of common sense!

Something, but not much, we predict. Large, bumpy women, of the type that Peter Paul Rubens loved to paint, whose figures refuse to be gracefully contained in any two-legged garment, will write anti-suffrage letters to the newspapers, resign their jobs and die in their skirts rather than yield. And quite properly, every one will agree. Time and revolution can effect sweeping changes, but they cannot get ahead of the facts. The circumferential measurements of a given figure are facts not to be lightly altered, as any number of caters who did not grow thin can swear.

**National Manners and Education**

The old controversy on the comparative merits of classical and scientific education is up again in England, colored this time with all sorts of strange notions about what the Germans believe in. The great aim is evidently to avoid a system of teaching that might possibly reduce the nation to the same state of spiritual degradation as BocheLand.

The belief that the Germans are enemies of the humanities and that the Treitschkes and Nietzsches represent the fine flower of modern science is, of course, entirely delusional. "The Manchester Guardian" remarks, by the way, that it was a local German of some note "who used to appoint all his future heads of departments (and he died worth nearly a million) on their ability to satisfy him in Latin verse," and, indeed, no one who knows anything about German schools could imagine that the classics were counted among the proper objects of Germany's boasted powers of hatred.

**"Roosevelt Is Coming!"**

What the Words Would Mean to France and to America  
 To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: The great drama seems to be approaching a climax. England is threatened with starvation. Russia is wavering. Italy is quiescent. France is bleeding to death. It is our entrance cue.

**Three Sample Pretexts**

PRETEXT No. 1. We have no means of transporting and munitioning these men. Answer: Quite true; but equally true of all the other recruits we are nevertheless strenuously enlisting from Maine to California, pending the solving of the great problem of transportation and munitions.

PRETEXT No. 2. Colonel Roosevelt preaches conscription. Why does he practice volunteering? Answer: For the same reason that the government is doing so.

PRETEXT No. 3. Colonel Roosevelt is not fitted by knowledge or experience to command, especially under the conditions of modern warfare. Answer: Either he is fit or he is not. If fit, put him in command. If not fit, put him in a subordinate position, as he himself has suggested—call his bluff, if it be so regarded.

**For the Patriotic Pretext**

Now, it is quite easy to hold either of the following opinions, a mere matter of personal predilection:  
 (1) That Mr. Roosevelt's real motive is to return home a hero and adventure a Presidential candidature.  
 (2) That the real motive for the opposition is due to a panicky political fear, based upon historical analogy, that he might succeed.

As it is difficult to usurp the functions of an omniscient Deity and thus prove the falsity of either of these opinions, for the sake of argument let us assume the truth of both of them.  
 The question then arises, Which on the whole is better, not for the political future, but for the patriotic present; which is better for our country and for the crisis now confronting our allies?  
 (1) Shall we make use of this former President and the quarter million men who will follow him, even though he run the risk of being either killed or else reincarnated as a popular hero?  
 (2) Shall we waste him and them in order that certain other Americans who in any case will stay at home may feel more secure in their own political plans for the future?  
 In such a crisis as now confronts our nation and our allies, and, as we believe, the cause of democracy, the nation has a use for all of us. We have that on the highest authority. It is difficult to see why an exception should be made in the case of a former President simply because the Home Defence League for Political Safety First does not want him to be used.

**Enthusiasm Discouraged**

But it is not merely against this unpatriotic waste of potential usefulness that I would protest. I would protest against the disastrous bungle of discouraging the people throughout the country at large by such an example at such a time. The nation is confronted by a stupendous task, to which they are sorely committed. There is no turning back now. "Enlist! Your country needs you!" is the cry that should be heard. Recruiting officers are sprinkled along our thoroughfares. And now a whole army of volunteers, gathered from all over the country in obedience to that patriotic impulse, is greeted with "No, thanks; we don't want you. We don't like your recruiting officer, so go home and shut up!"

Here we were as nearly a united people as ever within the memory of those living; willing to forget the past, eager to be loyal to the powers that be, glad to spend our lives and treasure. How long shall we stay united in patriotic partisanship, allowed to control our nation's conduct? How long shall we stay glad if patriotism is to be rebuffed?  
 This is a time when we must all make sacrifices. Some of us are risking our lives. Others have assumed the less welcome duty of sending our sons. Is it really too much to ask that those in control of our government should perform the heroic, the supreme sacrifice of risking, if need be, even their own precious party security?  
 If so, then their short-sighted selfishness may only prove a boomerang and produce directly the opposite of the desired effect. It would be dangerously ironic, indeed, if the only result of all these many months of labor, energy and enthusiasm were to make Colonel Roosevelt and those who wish to fight with him adopt the well remembered slogan from a dim but not distant past: "He kept us out of war!"  
 JESSE LYNCH WILLIAMS  
 New York, May 15, 1917.

**The Censuring of Joffre**

Who censured Joffre is still one of the Washington mysteries, but it is not a very deep one, and although the answer—the truthful answer—has been covered up by many technical admissions and official denials, it is possible by a mere narrative of the incident to present a solution satisfactory to reasonable minds.

Marshal Joffre, he it remembered, addressing the American people through the Washington newspaper correspondents on April 29 last, ventured, after expressing the fervent hope that the American flag soon would be seen on the battle line in France, to advise that American troops be started quickly, that they be sent in small units, and that no time be wasted in intensive training on this side. He urged that they be sent in small units because the methods of fighting this most remarkable of all ways change so rapidly that there is only one way to make troops ready to fight. That way is to learn warfare straight from the men who by hard and bitter experience, abandoning many previous theories of the school of war, have found out how to meet and break the attack of the greatest war machine in the world, and how to attack successfully themselves.

When Joffre, speaking in French and reading from a prepared manuscript, first mentioned an American division the men in his audience who understood French picked up their ears. A French Canadian standing next to me, who, by the way, made a shorthand note of this part of Joffre's address, whispered: "That sounds as if he wanted T. R." When the marshal, with marked emphasis and emotion, pleaded for small units quickly, just roughly trained—for the only way to train them to fight is "within sound of the guns"—there was a stir of excitement in the group and marked signs of uneasiness on the part of an American army officer, Colonel Spencer Cosby, standing at Joffre's left.

**The True Version**

When the marshal finished reading from the French MS. his military aid read a rough translation, which also had been prepared in advance. M. Hovelague, of the mission, smilingly apologized for the roughness of the translation, but, as a matter of fact, it was not so very rough, and the men who understood both languages had no doubts as to its accuracy, rough or smooth.

**Wasteful Management**

Services of Former Officers and Soldiers Not Utilized  
 To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: I read your editorial of May 9 with regard to the war policy of our national government with a great deal of interest; I might say with pleasure if conditions were not so serious. The papers this morning state that the recruits for the new army will not be called until September. This will mean that the best part of the year for drilling men in this country north of Mason and Dixon's line will be wasted. Instead of taking these men at once and instructing them with the aid of the thousands of former officers and soldiers of the regular army, volunteers and National Guard who have served their time, but who would gladly volunteer in this emergency, these recruits will be left to waste their time doing nothing of real value to the country.

**Objections**

The General Staff's Reasons for Not Sending Troops Answered  
 To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: It surely must by this time be thoroughly understood that, however guarded he may have been in his deliveries, it is the opinion of Marshal Joffre that men from this country for the firing line are needed, and are needed now. It has been stated, whether correctly or not I do not know, that he believes that if we sent over an organization which was a few degrees above a mob it could be drilled, disciplined and instructed in France far more quickly than here. It is known that at least 50,000 men are ready to go at once if the President, as soon as the pending act is passed, is willing to accept them as volunteers—that is, the equivalent of four French divisions. Now as to the stated objections:  
 1. Arms and ammunition. When we send our new army we will naturally send them with our own supplies. Our allies have the arms and ammunition for these four divisions of an expeditionary force as they would have if they were drawn from the surviving manhood of France.  
 2. Artillery. None is needed for this expedition; they will constitute infantry divisions; France will supply the artillery support.  
 3. Transportation. They can go over in dribbles, 100 to 1,000 on each ship that is going to France or England. Within six weeks after they were ready to start surely one division at least would be in training camps in France.  
 4. Officers to train and lead them. That is the latest objection, attributed to our General Staff. We need, it is said, all officer material here to train our new army; it would be too large a draft on our scanty supply of such material to detach the number required for the expeditionary force. But we do not need to supply such force with a full complement of officers. A temporary captain or lieutenant, a temporary colonel or major, having much still to learn, could shepherd a company or a regiment across the seas and by rail to training camp. Once there all needs of that sort can be at once supplied. From the thousands of our men already serving in the armies of our allies they would detach a sufficient number to fill up the skeleton outfit of officers. Surely every one who leaves with the expeditionary force holding rank would gladly go down a grade or two to make room for those who, realizing before the rest of us did what this war meant, that it was not a mere struggle of madmen, fighting for they knew not what, have been for months or years in that blazing hell, which has made them ideal trainers and leaders.

**American Troops to Turkey**

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: Why not send a picked force to Asiatic Turkey; in fact, why not take over that part of the fighting? It is a country and a kind of fighting which the Americans from the Great Basin and the other desert states of the West could take over and in which they would get results almost at once. The Turks may be more numerous, but more treacherous, more tricky or more desperate than the renegade Indians, Mexicans and bad men of these plains.  
 The long distance to be travelled, the fact that men and supplies are needed on the West front and the purely technical argument that we are not at war with Turkey—that at first to militate against this. Compared to getting immediate results that cheer every American and Ally, to freeing Armenia, to fighting side by side at once with Russia and stiffening its armies, to freeing the Holy Land and Palestine from the unspokeable Turk, the difficulties appear small.  
 CHARLES R. PIERCE  
 New York, May 14, 1917.

**Music for Navy Recruiting**

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: Navy recruiting in New York and in other large cities lags. The department seemingly neglects to use one of the vividst breeders of enthusiasm—navy band music.

What are the bands doing? Are they all aboard ship these days, playing dag up and down and the evening concerts? Well, a few men detailed from each band would be very much missed. Why not organize from these details—bands for parade duty in the large cities? And why not detachments of bluejackets to parade through the streets behind the band?  
 Think of it, ye old navy men, how we swung joyously behind the band through the streets of Honolulu, Hong Kong, Stockholm, even old Tangier, and the next day small swarms of natives came aboard to ship with us, their hearts stolen away from their native land by our flagship band.

Start a band each day from Fourteenth Square, or from Cooper Union, or Fourteenth Street and Eighth Avenue, and let the drum major carry them up Fifth Avenue, or Third Avenue, or Eighth Avenue for a couple of miles, with the detachment of bluejackets behind, and mark the effect at the recruiting stations.  
 Listen to the tunes—"Nancy Lee," "Jack Is Every Inch a Sailor," "A Life on the Ocean Wave," "Jolly Commodore!" Hear that thrilling rollicker lead to the hearts of our British allies, "Ten Thousand Miles Away" (which American landmen know as "The Wallowing Window Blind"). See how the sidewalk pedestrians keep exact step to the quick march music of that splendid old gangway chorus chanty, "In Amsterdam There Dwell a Maid!"  
 Strike up the band! Come on, ye sailors!  
 PHILIP R. DILLON.  
 New York, May 7, 1917.

**Will There Be Another Chance?**

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: Captain Cosby in his letter in today's Tribune states for the information of all rejected candidates that he expects there will be another camp in August. The point I desire to raise is this: What do Captain Cosby expect the young and patriotic Americans who have been rejected from the camp and who do not desire the moral disgrace of being conscripted in the army to do? Are they to sit and wait for three months till they get the information that there will be another camp and then be rejected again, or are they to wait for three months only to find out that there will not be another camp and that they are liable to be conscripted as regular soldiers?  
 For my own part, I am seriously thinking of volunteering in a National Guard regiment as a private in the near future, although I confess that I should like to have an opportunity of becoming an officer if there is still a chance to do so.

**Against the Present Blouse**

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: I am a lieutenant in the Officers' Reserve Corps, and would like to say a few words about the present field service blouse of our army. Our present officers' blouse is probably the most uncomfortable, and certainly the worst-looking, of all those that I have seen. The main trouble is with the collar, which buttons up high and clear around the neck. It can't be kept clean; it chafes the neck and in any sort of real campaigning would be unbearable.

In the next few months thousands of new officers are going to be getting the thing changed, now is the time to do it. The present blouse is an outrage—nobody would wear it unless somebody does a little something about it they will never bother to have it changed. Will you be kind enough to send a hand and see if you can bring a little publicity to bear on it?  
 I realize that any change would be a hardship to the present army and militia, who will already have the old-style coat, but they will be only a small percentage of the total when the new army is formed.  
 TENNY N. J., May 14, 1917.

**Blunders of Haste**

To the Editor of The Tribune.  
 Sir: In connection with the discussion in your columns as to the "Military Value of A. B.," permit me to say a few words on behalf of those who assisted in passing on applicants for the Plattsburg camp.  
 After passing a medical examination, the candidates presented themselves before an officer of the army, who from a necessarily hasty glance at the applicant and his papers graded him as either desirable or doubtful. Those appearing satisfactory at once certified for camp and the application papers of the others were held for such further examination as the time and circumstances permitted.  
 Right here let me say that the application form furnished to candidates was correctly called a "blank." It was apparently prepared with the view of concealing as much as possible. Spaces were left for the insertion of the candidate's education, business and military experience, but no opportunity was presented for explanations, nor was there time to make inquiries.  
 For example, from the blank it was impossible to tell whether a man who had attended Yale for a year left because of unfortunate family circumstances or for the good of the university; or whether another who had served one year in the Missouri militia severed his connection with that body because of a disability or through court martial proceedings.  
 Nor did the letters accompanying the application set much light on the subject. As a rule they were confined to a statement that the applicant was neither a criminal nor drunkard, and that in the writer's opinion he was qualified to fill the position of reserve officer. The latter statement, by the way, has a good deal of "back spin" on it; while obviously intended to be vaguely complimentary, it is possible of a contrary interpretation.  
 In view of this hastily devised system, the limited time for inquiry or examination, and the fact that the desirable age limits were shifted by the military authorities, it is a small wonder that mistakes occurred. Certainly many men qualified in every way to try for commissions were left out. The latter group should not consider their failure to pass a reflection on their character or ability. They failed only because there were no means by which they could make their qualifications known and no time to devise means. Their failure was due to no fault of their own, but to the fortunes of war.  
 C. N.  
 New York, May 15, 1917.

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