

New York Tribune

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

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The German Crisis

Ever since the outbreak of the war there has been an obvious tendency to attach undue importance to Cabinet crises in belligerent nations. Three changes in British cabinets, an equal number of changes in the French ministry, have been interpreted in Berlin as evidences of weakness in France and in Great Britain and as promises of German victory.

We know now that in every case the change in France and in Great Britain has been a change growing out of a conviction that the war was being mismanaged and not out of a desire to see peace arranged without further fighting.

It is equally true that the revolution in Russia was immediately hailed by Allied nations and press as proof positive of a Russian uprising against pro-German tendencies in the imperial government.

We shall therefore do well to avoid extreme interpretations in the present German crisis. It is conceivable that present events may portend a complete change in the German policy with reference to the war and foreshadow a German surrender produced by a revolt in German sentiment against the war and a general recognition that not only is a victory impossible, but that defeat is inevitable. This is possible, but it is extremely unlikely.

The fact is that we are too far removed from Germany to understand much of the currents that are now running. We do know that certain German policies, accepted by Bethmann-Hollweg, have not resulted in profit or victory immediately.

Too Easily Satisfied
If Attorney General Gregory is pleased, as he says he is, with the enemy alien situation in this city, then he is very easily pleased. The enemy alien situation here is chaotic. The President issued a proclamation many weeks ago forbidding German subjects to enter certain zones in which forts, arsenals or other military centers are situated or in which military activities are being carried on.

There are various explanations given. It is declared that President Butler and the trustees would gladly open the doors of the school to women, but that Dean Stone and sundry other professors object. For the higher authorities, and Mr. Butler in particular, it must be said that Columbia has shown a consistently enlightened attitude toward the education of women, and that the present exception goes contrary to an old and settled tendency. If the prejudices of the Law School faculty do centre about this change, it is of scant avail to argue, and it is slow work waiting for the present generation to retire and a new personnel to arrive.

Washington in Tarrytown
There is a field in Tarrytown where June runs high with daisies when the year is full. And there are seven daisies there to pull, and there are seven robins all in tune; and sometimes when there comes a haunted moon.

Who Is Sinister?
The deduction made by your Washington correspondent, Mr. Gilbert, that it is the whiskey men who are delaying the food control bill is a somewhat peculiar one. In view of the fact that it is the various prohibition amendments that have been holding up the bill, it is permissible to think it is the other way about. And it does look as if there was a sinister combination between the prohibitionists and the food pirates.

Undersea Cargoes
The Editor of The Tribune. Sir: What has become of the idea of submarines suitable for transporting troops and merchandise? F. H. LANGWORTHY, Warren, Penn., July 8, 1917.

genuine, it can only mean that the Clerical party is acting in cooperation with Austria, since the same influences which dominate the Clerical party control in the Austrian government and emanate from Rome. It is not necessary to point out that if Austria desires peace to the extent of being prepared to accept the formula of no indemnities and no annexations—the formula of the Russian Revolution and of a large element of the German Socialist party—and that to the German Socialist is added the strong Roman Catholic Centre, then we shall have a crisis in Germany of very great meaning.

But it must not be supposed that this crisis will lead or can lead to a German acceptance of the terms of peace of France or Great Britain. It is inconceivable that the Clerical party of Germany would even consider the surrender of Alsace-Lorraine, just as it is unlikely that the Austrian Crown would contemplate the cession of Trieste to Italy.

A real step toward peace may be made if the result of the present German crisis is the adoption by Germany of the Russian formula of peace without annexation. To such a formula Austria would necessarily agree. A continued failure of the Allies in the field to win a decisive victory would unquestionably generate a certain sentiment in France and in England for a peace by negotiation rather than a further persistence in seeking a military decision.

It is not in the least likely that the present German crisis means a revolution in Germany or means a disorganization of German power comparable with what has happened in Russia. It is far more likely that it is to be compared with one of the various Cabinet crises which have taken place either in France or in Great Britain since the war began. If it ends in the adoption of a programme of conquest and indemnity, it will necessarily strengthen the Allied governments with their people and it must ultimately weaken the German government in the eyes of its own people, who are frankly war weary.

It is a great crisis, fraught with incalculable possibilities, but it is not necessarily or probably the beginning of the collapse of Germany, and it may easily result in the strengthening of the German government in the eyes of its own people if it brings the German government to adopt a moderate programme which will be joyfully accepted by Germany's allies and will place a new burden upon the governments of the Allied nations. Meantime, what is most interesting must be not the course of the Socialists or the Radicals, but of the Clerical Centre. Unless it supports Bethmann he will ultimately have to go, and if it insists upon an adoption of the peace without annexation formula it will in the end prevail. Meantime, it is a great deal too early to interpret as a victory for democracy and a promise of peace what may not be more than a question of domestic politics.

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Men of Vision
The Need of Races, Black or White, the World Over
To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Colonel Roosevelt has been very much criticised by a certain section of the white press for denouncing Mr. Gompers at the Carnegie Hall meeting on the pretext that he was ungentlemanly and rude to have acted as he did and on such an occasion. I am no apologist for Mr. Roosevelt, but as a negro I respect and admire the gallant Colonel. I think him the greatest leader of the white race in America.

A Novelist on Air Raids
Among the many and conflicting opinions of public men and popular writers on the recent air raids on London Mr. Hall Caine is the least intelligible. In the account he gives in "The New York Times" of the latest raid he does his best in every way to belittle the work of the raiders. He "could see no damage that might not be remedied by the mason, the paver and the glazier within six days."

Columbia's Last Trench
Women have been graciously permitted to study in many of Columbia's post-graduate schools for a number of years now. They went their way into the medical school, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, last year. Now even international law is added to the list. This leaves practically isolated and the last trench of the die-hards the Law School proper, which still insists that justice, whatever the sculptors say, must, at Columbia, be clad in trousers.

The Rites of Patriotism
To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Do we understand, then, that in singling beer out for exemption from the ban on liquor the government of the United States makes official proclamation that beer is the national beverage? Will our citizens be called upon now to exhibit their patriotic devotion to American institutions by absorbing it? Is the ardor of one's patriotism to be measured by the difference between a "small shell" and a "schoner"? And will he who balks even at the "small shell" be liable to be shot for "treason"?

More Wool for Knitters
To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Apropos of the inquiry from the ladies who wanted to knit for the sailors and soldiers but could not afford to buy their own material, I would say for your information and for theirs through your paper that the Navy League, at 509 Fifth Avenue, New York City, Miss Caroline Morgan, secretary, or Mrs. Harriet Miller Whelan, the Corey Hill Hospital, Brookline, Mass., are the people to whom letters or inquiries should be addressed. The league is glad to give out work and needles to those who care to do work and will give any information regarding this to any one who cares to ask.

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Responsibility for Riots
By Erving Winslow
Council of Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates fresh from the bloody trenches and the busy mills, men who have bled and sweated in a war which was not of their own will or their making, these men are demanding an early, general and democratic peace. Urge our government to state concretely (1) upon what terms it is willing to make peace. The first session of the People's Council of America will be held August 4, on the anniversary of the commencement of this bloody, futile war.

Obstacles to Free Speech
An aggravating responsibility for resentment, verbal and actual, would be taken by those who should follow Mr. Bertrand Russell's demand, which he was permitted to make in the current "Atlantic," to challenge the position of the loyal people who deny that "no obstacle should be placed in the way of thought and its expression"—in wartime an unseasonable and unreasonable proposition. The only exceptions of war are proofs of the general rule. Its reaction is the inevitable overthrow, for the moment, of the general principles of democracy; the War Lord's wicked will has performed awaited the Kaiser better than the successful preaching throughout the world of those doctrines which would cause the overthrow of government by the nations and the resultant inchoate, helpless condition. Naked, like the crab that has cast his shell, the one hungry, gaping man is ready to gobble every fear, moral, German's hope, the world's fear, courage, the noblest of defenses, unresisting opinion in which the People's Peace Council and its propaganda would place us. Democracy as we are, the nation's spirit has been so developed that it will not only futile, but an occasion of resentment.

Treason to an Ally
Alas! to-day among those who have the ear of Irish-Americans are many, including one great prelate of the Roman Catholic Church at least, who are responsible, by their indiscreet speech, for disaffection among its members, the manifestation of which, in the endeavor to check sympathy for an ally, will be an aggravating influence for vigorous rebuttal. Absurd and untimely as it is, agitation for the immediate establishment of an Irish "republic" is thus fostered. The dismemberment of the British Empire in wartime is, of course, unthinkable; its suggestion is a kind of treason to our confederate. It is a purely pro-German move, a stab in the back to our common cause, monstrously absurd since the "liberation" of Ireland, progressing so wonderfully for half a century, has of late proceeded by leaps and bounds.

The People's Council
Responsibility for any and every kind of protest is assumed by the call to a meeting of the People's Council of America, to which it is regrettable to see attached the good name of David Starr Jordan, whose silence since the declaration of war has been noted with respect as an indication that he had "laid down his arms" for the cause of peace as the paramount duty of good citizenship to-day. The prospectus of the People's Council contains these words: "Mothers of America! We need your help and you need ours. Your boy, brother, sweetheart (or his wife), husband, may soon be added to the seven million dead lying in unmarked graves on the bloody fields of Europe. It will be too late to bring your loved ones back if you neglect this call for immediate action. Your money, a little here, a little there, must be combined to spread the programme of the People's Council of America for an early, general and democratic peace. In Russia the workers are leading the way. The Russian

Our German Newspapers
To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The communication of the City of New York there are at present sixty-one hundred pronounced anemic cases. The total of anemic, underfed and tubercular children in our schools is twenty thousand. The majority of these children remain in classes for indefinite terms. So far no effort has been made by the City of New York to remedy the conditions of these anemic and underfed children. I introduced a resolution in the Board of Aldermen, which is now before the finance committee, requesting the Board of Education to include in its budget for the year 1918 an appropriation for the establishment of summer camps in the State Reserve parks for anemic, underfed and undeveloped children of our public schools.

Saving Children
To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In the public schools of the City of New York there are at present sixty-one hundred pronounced anemic cases. The total of anemic, underfed and tubercular children in our schools is twenty thousand. The majority of these children remain in classes for indefinite terms. So far no effort has been made by the City of New York to remedy the conditions of these anemic and underfed children. I introduced a resolution in the Board of Aldermen, which is now before the finance committee, requesting the Board of Education to include in its budget for the year 1918 an appropriation for the establishment of summer camps in the State Reserve parks for anemic, underfed and undeveloped children of our public schools.

Prohibition and Revenue
To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: "Bone-Dry Economist" asserts that a large majority of the failures of young men to pass physical examination for military work is caused by the use of alcohol. What proof has of this statement? If there are any official records that support his assertion, I will be indebted to him if he will advise me as to where they can be found. The same writer refers to the "several million dollars" that will be lost by national prohibition, and claims that many times that number of millions would be annually saved by the adoption of that scheme for making men temperate by law. Instead of "several million dollars," the loss in revenue would be at least \$400,000,000, under the proposed increase in liquor taxes. Will he explain how "many times over" this amount will be saved by forcing the substitution of moonshine and bootleg liquor for alcoholic beverages made and sold under strict government regulation? MODERATE, New York, July 9, 1917.

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Singing Soldiers
How to Make Americans Wild with the Sword of the Spirit
To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Major General Bell, who made an urgent request for singing by the soldiers in his Plattsburg speech, has given his consent to the publication of the enclosed letter written after my experience in this work at the Plattsburg camp. ARTHUR FARWELL, New York, July 9, 1917.

Major General J. Franklin Bell, Commanding Eastern Division United States Army, Governor's Island, N. Y. Dear Sir: I made a visit to the Officers' Reserve training camp at Plattsburg on June 11-21, inclusive, of the present year, and tried a few experiments in mass singing among the men at the recently built amphitheatre. The results were of the sort always to be expected when such an attempt is made without a course of preparatory activity and without procuring very particular conditions.

Wasted Vocal Ammunition
As to the conditions of singing at Plattsburg, the spirit of song is everywhere throughout the camp. The men are singing magnificently; they want to sing, and sing. But all is disconnected and sporadic. Snatches of hearty song are heard at every turn, but only a few men in a company will sing through even a single whole stanza. In the mass response to a given song, which is enthusiastic, will come only from isolated groups. No one song is known to more than a few. The idea, the joy of singing together, the power and vision of it, has never come to these splendid and noble hearts. They cannot sing, and definite conditions under which alone mass singing can become successful. The condition described arises from a fundamental deficiency in American life, a deficiency now both revealed and challenged by this great need of the army. Americans have never sung in the mass nor learned how to do so and what the requisite conditions are. Unlike Europeans they have had few folk songs, near to the hearts of all, to prompt them to such a custom. They do not know the words even of the folk songs they have, such as "Dixie" or "My Old Kentucky Home." They hire bands and orchestras to play these tunes for them; they whistle and applaud, but they do not sing. This is why so many of the Plattsburg men whistle on the march instead of singing. Not twenty-five men in a thousand can repeat two stanzas of "The Star Spangled Banner." Our popular songs are sung chiefly for dancing, not for singing. They are sung on the stage and by small groups about a piano, but they have never been made the basis of mass singing. In short, we have in America no large group mass singing as a national custom, or at least not until the issue as a whole was met recently by the rapidly growing "company song" movement. Now, then, shall we find itself suddenly and spontaneously capable of doing that which elsewhere has been made possible only through the presence of inspired leaders, whose vision has penetrated the cause of the disease, and through supreme effort have worked out the beginning of the cure?

Successful Mass Singing
To sing successfully in anything above a small group about a piano certain preconditions are demanded, at least until a custom is established and the songs known. Among these conditions are they apply to the army: A good song leader, the having of the printed words in hand by every man; wholly satisfactory lighting, a band absolutely and necessarily under the direction of the song leader (i. e., during song musical for the band in the proper key; men's voices, the right music and a regular periodic exercise in singing under these conditions. It is a very widespread fallacy that all a crowd of people need do to sing is to get up and sing. Every experienced song leader knows that this cannot be done. Company singing is a different matter from mass singing, but that is especially that could easily be worked out, especially if mass singing were made an established custom. But before the above described conditions can have any value whatsoever, it even become possible, it is necessary to have the full sympathy of the military authorities in this up-hill pioneer work of their aid in all movements, such as the work of the War Department, Committee on Training Camp Activities, looking to this end. There is no singing to get up and sing. Every man must have an enthusiastic cooperation when they can clearly understand the nature of the situation.

Throw Out the Spies
To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: If there are spies in the United States government service, they should of course be ferreted out at once. Why not combine the secret service departments of the government into one supreme department headed by a secret service bureau of the post-war period that might be utilized for such a purpose? How about employes in the Federal Reserve or state or city government who are kept or are in sympathy with Germany? Should they not be separated from the payroll of Uncle Sam, or the state or city service? They are not active spies, many of them are potential spies, and give the nation a voice in the government. Every person should be investigated in order that this war may be won as soon as possible, and no upholder of the Kaiser or critic of the United States should be given a chance to play the traitor at the expense of the government. JOHN Q. CHANCE, JR., Newark, N. J., July 6, 1917.

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