

New York Tribune

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

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 1917

Owned and published daily by The Tribune Association, a New York Corporation. Office: 410 N. York St., New York City.

Subscription Rates: By Mail, Postage Paid, outside of Greater New York. Daily and Sunday, 1 mo. \$1.25; 3 mos. \$3.50; 6 mos. \$6.50; 1 year, \$12.00.

Foreign Rates: Daily and Sunday, 1 mo. \$2.00; 3 mos. \$5.50; 6 mos. \$10.00; 1 year, \$18.00.

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

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Aliens and the Draft

General Crowder's ruling has cut a few strands of the knotty problem of alien eligibility to military service. Until that ruling was made no registration board knew exactly what to do with the non-enemy aliens whom the selective draft law had compelled to register.

General Crowder has tactfully suggested to the boards that they permit "friendly" alien registrants to volunteer. What "friendly" means is not entirely clear.

Congress and the Administration have been slow in meeting the situation raised by the inclusion of all aliens in the conscription lists. A bill is pending which directs the State Department to conclude agreements with the other Entente governments.

To adopt Mr. Harwood's phrase, the Mayor may have used the American flag, but any scandals in this case were not on his side of it.

Reorganizing the British Admiralty. Sudden and sweeping changes at Whitehall were foretold with great confidence when Sir Eric Geddes was appointed First Lord of the Admiralty, and after three weeks of eager expectation we are informed that the Permanent Secretary has been removed and that Sir Rosslyn Wemyss succeeds Sir Cecil Burney as Second Sea Lord.

It is not a sound argument. The war must be fought out on the economic side as well as on the military side. Labor at home is needed to win it, as well as armies in the field. The non-enemy aliens here constitute a labor reserve which any other belligerent would be glad to have at its command.

This city is charged with a padded quota, representing a population at least 1,100,000 in excess of our real population. The results of the state military census, just announced, indicate a population for New York City, according to the census takers, of 5,462,277.

Admission to the conscript army of friendly aliens who are willing to waive automatic exemption may help a little. But Congress ought to go further. It ought to

exclude, for quota fixing purposes, all aliens who are to be excluded from service. It ought also to compel the Census Bureau to revise its eccentric apportionment.

Where the Scandal Lay

Though the anti-Mitchel campaign lacks, as yet, a candidate deemed fit to challenge the Mayor, there has been no lack of hot-weather attacks on the administration. One of the silliest of these issued the other day from Mr. Charles Harwood, chairman of the publicity committee of Tammany's annex, the Democratic Fusion Committee.

This is an ingeniously perverted version of that affair, which fortunately is not so old that the public has forgotten the facts. The "retraction" then made by the Mayor could be put into the eyes of his opponents without obscuring their vision any more than it now seems to be obscured.

The net result of Senator Wagner's interference has been a delay in the building of Federal fortifications to protect the City of New York and a tremendous and unnecessary appropriation of public funds to get land for those fortifications.

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exclude, for quota fixing purposes, all aliens who are to be excluded from service. It ought also to compel the Census Bureau to revise its eccentric apportionment. There is time to iron out all these troubles before the second army of 500,000 is called out. Why not begin that necessary work now?

it supposed "he had already, as Controller of the Admiralty, sufficient scope." But then "The Manchester Guardian's" pet genius for solving the problem of the sea was the discarded and neglected Lord Fisher.

Having made due allowance for the motives of extreme reformers, there is no cause for disappointment in the changes announced. There are probably more to come, but readjustments of this kind are necessarily slow and we must not expect miracles, whatever the warmest admirers of Sir Eric Geddes may think.

So far we cannot tell exactly what to expect. The public is dissatisfied, and naturally so, with the success of the submarines, and no doubt impatience is inevitable. We must not wonder if the changes made so far are not drastic enough to satisfy everybody, considering the extravagant expectations aroused.

Russia's Amazons

The female of the Russian species becomes daily more deadly than the male, if we can believe what we read. One turns from news of the rout in Galicia to the epic of the Legion of Death with a lifting of spirits almost dizzying.

It would be a good thing for the whole nation if he did become a candidate for Mayor, for a decisive defeat might enlighten him as to how well the people see through his tactics, and shut him up for a while.

Another girl in the company, described as its most popular member (in the language of a high school commencement), ran into a shell on the battlefield and was blown to fragments before the eyes of her undismayed comrades.

Five of the latter were of their own sex, they say—five peasant girls, embryos of that type of patient, docile German hausfrau whom in another era we have associated with the milk of human kindness—indistinguishable in uniform, equipment or deportment from the men.

Oh, the man who could have been President by the mere expedient of being straight has many worries on his mind of late. It is really unkind of Mr. Howe to seek to increase them.

"The Mental Habits of Democracy" To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Your editorial "The Mental Habits of Democracy" is a classic, and I only wish that it might be copied by the leading newspapers in every city in America.

There was some justification, then, for the exaggerated hopes of impatient critics who could find nothing worth preserving in what Sir Edward Carson left behind him.

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A Menace to the Country

Hearst as Dangerous as German Secret Service Agents

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Your front page cartoon this morning was one to which every true American has been looking forward for a long time. I have often been told that Hearst is too powerful an individual to attempt to "cross," and for this reason newspapers have been very mild in their attacks on him.

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Accidents to Airmen

Suggestions Which Throw Light on Conditions in Air Corps and Training Schools

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In view of the recent accidents at Mineola, Great South Bay and West Virginia with airplanes in which novices were receiving instruction I should like to make a few suggestions which I believe will throw some light on the causes of the same and the untoward conditions in our air corps and its training schools in general.

There is a grewsome suggestion of the electric chair to the average man when he is bound hard and fast behind a droning motor, a whirling propeller with thundering exhausts at each side, that spoils his "nerve" if he has any. There are men who are callous to any such feeling, but they are few.

I am personally acquainted with the editor of several fashionable New York periodicals who was thoroughly cured of "aeronitis" by such an accident on Staten Island. He was strapped in, and the terror of a seemingly hopeless fall, from which he finally escaped uninjured, has never left him.

To gain confidence all the observer has to do is brace his feet hard in the "leg-room" behind the motor of most tractors. Then he can also clutch anything within handy reach with his arms, if he is nervous.

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A Nation-Wide Newspaper

Press of the Country Should Unite Against German Propaganda

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Figuratively speaking, New Jersey should rise up in arms against its United States Senator, Joseph E. Frelinghuysen.

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Misplaced Magnanimity

A Warning Against Underhand Attempts to Help Germany

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Perhaps Mr. Hearst is seeking a title from "Bloody William," the "criminal monarch." I am sure Bloody Mary was an infant in crime compared with this "War Lord."

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Quebec and the Church

Some Circumstances Accounting for the Anti-Conscription Agitation

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I was very much amused at Mr. A. J. Laliberte's article "The Truth About Quebec" in your issue of Tuesday, July 24.

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Matthew Arnold on Germany

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Mr. John Kerr refers in to-day's Tribune to E. P. Roe's study of a German baron in "Barriers Burned Away," and implies that almost all American and British authors failed, before the war, to show a clear conception of certain German traits which have since come into general notice.

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New York, Aug. 4, 1917.

Brooklyn, Aug. 6, 1917.

Norfolk, Conn., Aug. 4, 1917.