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First to Last—The Truth—News—Editorials—Advertisements

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The Line of the Piave

At the present moment the situation in Italy presents a very definite problem. The Italians have succeeded in reaching the line of the Piave.

The question now remains whether or not the Italians have elected to make their final stand along the line of the Piave, and if so what the prospects of success or failure of such a stand are.

The present circumstances, however, are quite clear. By retiring behind the Piave the Italians have shortened their line by 200 miles.

The German explosive vessels are apparently not controlled by Herzian waves, as it was at first reported.

On the military side the chances seem to indicate that the Italians will retire once more, this time to the Adige, and take their stand behind this river from the Lago di Garda, near Verona, to the Gulf of Venice.

At the present time the point to be watched is the Asiago Plateau, south of Borgo, in the Val Sugana. Here there are two valuable railroads available for the Germans and the Austrians to munition their artillery and reinforce their armies.

It is essential to recognize that the Italians have not been defeated in many battles since the first action along the Upper Isonzo. What has happened since that time has all flowed from the initial defeat.

ian strategy has been twofold; to fight a delaying engagement along the various river lines while their main forces were regrouped and reconstructed on the front to which they were retiring and on which they hoped to make their final resistance.

Consequently the Italians are likely to go behind the Adige before they risk a decisive engagement, just as the French were bound to retire behind the Marne before they resumed the offensive in the first Western campaign.

A retirement to the Adige is therefore the thing that military judgment would seem to foreshadow so far as the Italian campaign is concerned.

The work that the Y. M. C. A. huts are already doing in France is familiar to Tribune readers in the writings of Mrs. Helen Hayes Gleason on this page.

The latest descriptions of the "electrically controlled motor boat" referred to in a report of some recent operations of the Belgian coast dispose of the belief that the Germans have sprung a new surprise at sea.

The German explosive vessels are apparently not controlled by Herzian waves, as it was at first reported. They are steered electrically from the shore, but by means of cables released from drums on board the vessels.

The British Admiralty points out that experiments with a similar vessel were made in England more than thirty years ago, and that the only novelty in the much-advertised "creweless ships" of the Germans is the use of modern petrol engines.

The actual beginning of the razing of the Sing Sing cell block, the "bastille," as it was called, was a simple enough matter, but it deserved the ceremonies in which Governor Whitman, various judges, legislators, well known prison reformers and representatives of the prisoners themselves took part.

All that is now ended, as the miserable old bulk of graystone soon will be. There has been much question about the wisdom of the new prison site at Wingdale, selected by the Commission on New Prisons. The preliminary budget for the construction of the prison which is to replace Sing Sing was ridiculous in its allowances, but judicious pruning has been found possible.

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so obviously necessary, was delayed so long. Now that it is coming about, it is to be hoped that every official instrument in carrying it out will take advantage of the opportunity to make the new enterprise a credit to the state, a representation of the modern liberal, humanitarian attitude toward the unfortunates whom society finds it necessary to discipline.

Help the Y. M. C. A.

We are called a hospitable race in America and we can justify our title. There is no nation where home means more and where its shelter and warmth and happiness are more generously shared.

It involves a feat of the imagination in the first place. It means that each of us must picture war as it is, in training camp as in trench, as not only a thing of heroic moments, but of long, dull routine and suspense.

The Zeppelin has been the result of costly experiment for many years preceding the present war. These experiments were not undertaken by the German government until the inventor had expended a large private fortune and the proceeds of a large public subscription in the endeavor to make a commercial success of the airship.

The smoke screen was used by Charles XII of Sweden in his campaigns against the Russians. In its modern form, as employed by destroyers, it was devised long before the present war and is said to be an American invention.

As America has turned her attention to war only at the last minute and must now arm herself in haste, "our boys" will have to be provided with the means of escape, and "American ingenuity" so long asleep, can only hope to be more forthcoming next time.

Mr. Moffett's Position To the Editor of the Tribune. Sir: Allow me to point out several mistakes in your article to-day on the Jeremiah O'Leary disorder at the Brooklyn Forum last night.

It is not true that I ever consented to a debate on the subject of "Irish Freedom" with Jeremiah O'Leary. I would not discuss that or any other question with a man who is notoriously disloyal to the United States.

The important question at the moment is not how exquisitely adjusted is the Pittsburgh intellectual poise, but how heavy is the Pittsburgh punch. The poise can be resumed later. It is now or never with the punch.

The government of Russia seems to depend upon the control of the telegraph office. To the Editor of the Tribune. Sir: I am writing to give you some faint idea of the appreciation with which I have read your review of the war, which the Tribune was good enough to send me some time ago.

"No Time for Novelties"

An Answer to Hasty Fault-Finding by Disappointed Inventors

To the Editor of the Tribune. Sir: In the Tribune of November 10 appears a letter under the caption, "No Time for Novelties." This letter is typical of much criticism of the government, and may tend to provoke in the unthinking an unjustified dissatisfaction with the very effective work which the Aircraft Production Board and other governmental agencies are doing.

The writer of the letter in question, who prefers to withhold his name, complains at the outset that the design of the Liberty motor was restricted to features of construction which have been tried out. I wonder if the writer has read any of the published information as to the purpose of the Liberty motor and the history of its production.

If "Patriot and Inventor" had had any experience in manufacturing such structures as gasoline engines, he would know that the introduction of any novel and untried feature in the design would be almost certain to block the development of the motor for an indefinite and probably serious length of time, and that, even so, the chances would be that in the end the new feature would have to be abandoned, but few are chosen." Indeed, any other rule than that announced by Secretary Baker would have been grotesquely misguided and would have brought joy to the hearts of the intensely practical German engineers.

In an endeavor to show superior receptiveness to new ideas on the part of our governments the writer cites a number of devices, most of which are at least an unfortunate, if not a disaster, for his purpose. Poison gases, to which he refers, are a device of unknown antiquity, exemplified previously in the "stink pots" of the Chinese. Flame throwers, though novel in form, are but a revival of the Greek fire of antiquity.

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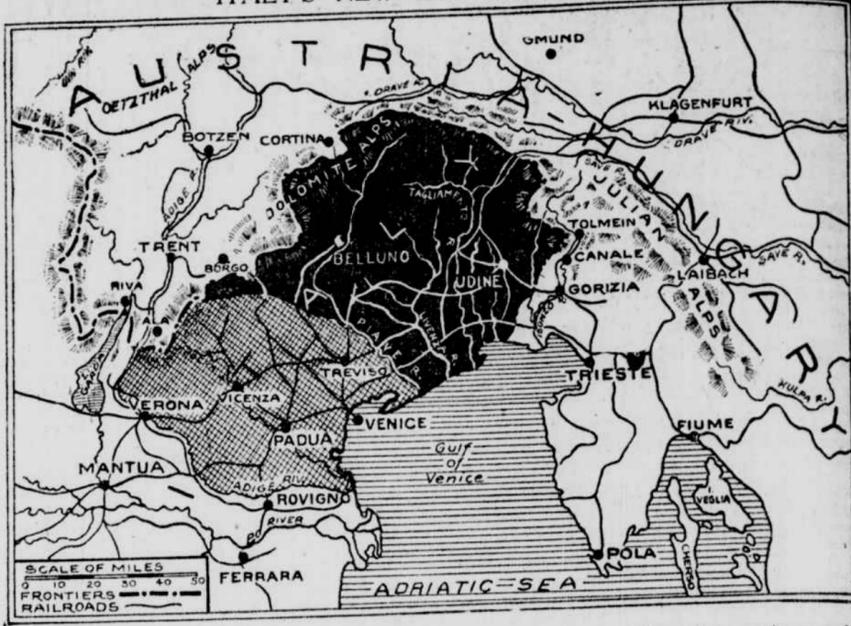
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Solid black shows territory evacuated prior to November 13. Shaded indicates territory that must be surrendered if Italy retreats behind the Adige.

Farmers Need Autocratic Control in War

By Louis B. Magid President of the Appalachian Corporation of Georgia

As a food producer—a farmer—I would like to say a few words relative to recent renewed agitation by David Lubin, delegate of the United States to the International Institute of Agriculture, of his "plan" for the "democratic organization" of American farm-ers.

There are other dangers of national activity under autocratic rule, owing to the needs of war—transportation, shipbuilding, steel production, coal. It is patent to the subject which Mr. Lubin discusses to ask why there has been relatively small objection to autocratic rule by the interests representative of these other activities, while the producers of food have, on the whole, evinced opposition and distrust?

It is to be observed that it is corporate business which has sprung to the aid of the government and the country, while unorganized industry has been in vital respects a slacker. And it is worth while to consider whether there is something in corporate organization over any other kind of organization which makes for such intelligent loyalty in a period of necessarily autocratic rule that not only is cooperation made effective, but that no anxiety is felt—

There are certain elements of autocracy which are harmonious with democracy, at any time; indeed, are necessary to it. One of these is what may be termed the autocracy of the corporate organization of business. Stockholders elect directors, and these in turn elect executives, but once elected the latter must become dictators in management, otherwise the business would likely fail.

The great advantages of corporate organization are recognized and utilized by government as well as in business. Centralization of control is the chief advantage. Over this stands the autocracy of the law in the form of government supervision. Yet it is this combination of centralized authority and government supervision which makes for stable enterprise and permanent business, and these give the country an organized power readily coordinated for effective action in a time of national emergency.

They are already inside. It is suicidal, then, to advise the women of other parties to remain outside party lines as a group of balancing dilettants. Political parties are not bands of ravaging wolves. They are made up of average human beings. It would be well for women to join the party of their predilection because one can only learn to swim by getting into the water, and because in their battle for enfranchisement women have had too long a schooling in separation from men and cannot too quickly learn the value of standing politically shoulder to shoulder with them.

There is war, there is starvation threatening vast areas, civilization is in danger. These who are in favor of the war can centre their strength on winning it; those who cannot see what the battle of food, sanitation, education, health—all those things, in short, which will husband the race.

Milk for Children

A Social Service in Our Own Town Not To Be Forgotten

To the Editor of the Tribune. Sir: The New York public has been so infinitely generous during the last three years that one hesitates before asking for anything more; but the cost of living increases so rapidly that people who used to make both ends meet find it more and more difficult simply to exist.

That part of The Bronx which lies about Fordham Hospital has grown so rapidly that it has not been possible for the various relief societies of the city to enlarge the scope of their work to correspond with the increase of the population.

These are some of the cases which we want to help, to tide them over until they can better adjust themselves to their new environment, for everybody now realizes the poor community policy of allowing any of its children to struggle up without proper nourishment.

All the agitation about food centres at the farmer and housewife and has grown tiresome; one would think all the farmer had to do was to put seeds in the ground and harvest a crop, selling it at enormous profits.

It is wicked for a farmer to make money, but all right for business men. When a remedy is proposed by Commissioner Dillon or any other person to help the farmers and also the consumers every paper in the state, with few exceptions, fights it. To the ordinary person it seems about time most of the nonsense written was stopped.

We are told that notwithstanding our loan to Russia of \$325,000,000 we are now preparing to send her 1,500 locomotives and 30,000 cars. Germany is probably in need of these articles to replace her worn-out ones, and there is a great likelihood that she would, in case of any peace agreement with Russia—commandeer them for her own use.

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Elections Won't Win War

Therefore Mrs. Blatch Urges Women to Fall To and Work

To the Editor of the Tribune. Sir: My name appears in connection with the suffrage meeting held last night at one of the public schools. I was not at the meeting and had no association whatsoever with the committee of one thousand which organized the meeting.

To judge by the hue and cry that is going on about non-essentials, one might suppose that America is at peace, the world at peace, starvation non-existent and civilization progressing normally.

Throwing Good Money After Bad

To the Editor of the Tribune.

Sir: Your editorial of this date is certainly timely and should be acted on at once. It is evident that the Russian people are incapable of recognizing the gravity of the present situation.

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