

New York Tribune

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

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The Invisible Weapon

The enemy is resorting again to his invisible weapon.

A peace offensive is taking place. Its extent and technique are not yet fully disclosed.

At Washington it is said that President Wilson is about to appeal again to the liberal sentiment of the world...

That is to say, we are now about to go to the "defensive against a German gas attack."

The President, it is rumored, will put a quietus upon peace talk.

It is devoutly to be hoped that he will. We had written "that he can and will,"

but his power over human emotion is infallible. With a word he can lead the people out of the fog...

Thought of peace by diplomacy is a fantasy full of disaster. Its implications are sinister.

Mark you this: If we were sure of gaining a military victory over Germany this year, or next, or at all without an enormous sacrifice...

Peace by diplomacy is peace by negotiation.

Any peace by negotiation that you can possibly imagine at this time would obviously and conspicuously be a German peace.

Therefore, the thought of peace by diplomacy is in effect a thought of defeat.

Only Germany can afford to think of peace by diplomacy. Yet it is a thought that has been loudly discussed among us, and supported for a great variety of reasons...

"The New Republic's" reasons, of course, are radically intellectual. "All over Europe," it says, "the people are war weary..."

"The New Republic" is thinking not of war or peace but of politics, which is to it a cold and scientific passion.

For it says, in effect, that the first hopes and fears and passions with which the world undertook its defence against Germany are no longer valid...

It adds that the people of the Allied European countries "will never be persuaded to undergo the additional sacrifices and sufferings which will be needed to defeat German aggression by an exclusive programme of military victory."

But suppose they are not persuaded—what then?

Germany is ready to arrange a Brest-Litovsk conference with the representatives of any people who can be no longer persuaded to "undergo the additional sacrifices and sufferings."

That is the answer.

Rip Van Winkle

The almost hopeless unwillingness of a governmental body for quick action has a new example.

Last June the railroads filed anew their application for an increase of rates, which the Commerce Commission had denied them.

The whole United States knew that the roads were being called upon to carry a volume of freight of unexampled proportions.

The whole country knew that the cost of supplies and operation was going up with all the rest of our aeroplane prices.

The whole country knew that the railroads were losing their best men to the munitions shops and elsewhere because they could not pay the wages that war industries could...

Everybody knew, save the Rip Van Winkles who had absolute power over rates. Now, after nearly nine months, they allow a 15 per cent advance.

It was a vitally needed war measure. Yet this lumbering body could not act. The railroads and the rate-making power had to be taken out of their hands to get even this belated raise out of it.

Words in War Time

Most successful writers get great store by the trick of understatement, but curiously enough this effective literary device has been practically discarded by both sides in the war.

"We have no quarrel with the German people," no spokesman of either side has sought to gain an advantage by conscious underemphasis.

quantities than the concrete. This is the claim made for it.

The cast steel ship asks for no ship steel, for no such skilled labor as the riveted ship. And yet, so far as the public knows, the Shipping Board has not spent a dollar nor let a single contract to test out this new plan.

We devoutly hope that the President is not correctly reported in the Washington dispatch to "The Times" of yesterday where he is being represented as "expressing satisfaction" with the present outlook.

The "present outlook" is that we shall not complete in the next twelve months one-half nor probably one-third as many ships as we ought to have and as we direfully need.

If the President's interest in the concrete ship has at last been aroused, may we not hope that interest may also be found for the welded steel ship, a proposal which we believe has been for some time urged by one of the President's own Cabinet?

We Vote for it

The Hon. Nelson N. Lampert, of Chicago and Baseball, demands governmental control of sport. He has written to Secretary Baker, but the Secretary is away.

The matter should be brought to the attention of the President. A Secretary of Athletics would be a distinct addition to the Cabinet. We are for it. And we propose the Hon. Ban Johnson for the job.

Or, failing him, the Hon. Jess Willard.

It is clear that with the present high resolve to extend the sheltering arm and soothing hand of the government over everything from pork packers to potato peelers our one great national joy should not be neglected.

We are for the governmental regulation of sport with a whoop; and if Ban or Jess has no spare time for the job we are sure Secretary McAdoo has.

The War Ferret in Congress

War means destruction. It also means reconstruction. Habit and precedent lose their authority when they are challenged by the experience which nations acquire when they go on a war basis.

We Americans have been ultra-conservative in our respect for established governmental methods. Now we are being startled out of our complacency. The very citadel of governmental standpatism—Congress itself—is being invaded.

The presentation of the bills which Representative McCormick has just introduced for the creation of a budget system would have been considered a piece of sardonic humor only a few years ago.

Congress wanted then to go on doing business in the old way—the way of the grandfathers. It leathed the idea of a budget system, and it was quick to stamp the life out of the modest innovation in responsible accounting for which President Taft asked a trial.

But what is happening now? The McCormick measures are starkly revolutionary. They lay hold of the two pillars of the old order in the House—the Ways and Means Committee and the Appropriations Committee—and smash one to flinders upon the other.

Both committees are to be abolished, and in their stead there is to be a budget committee, which shall have power to increase estimates or initiate appropriations only by a two-thirds vote.

Our present system reverses the natural order of responsibility for and control of national expenditure. The McCormick bills seek to cure that inversion. They seek to make the executive branch accountable, as it should be, for the appropriations used in running the government, and to make Congress responsible, as it should be, for the auditing of expenditures.

To the friends of the present system this represents a change in comparison with which a change from Caesarism to Bolshevism seems mild. They will gag with horror at it. But they will have to consider it and, eventually, yield to it, for it means a return from unreason to reason, from chaos to scientific order.

That will be one of the good works of the war, which is already making even a routine-ridden Congress receptive to new thoughts, to ideas of efficiency in government which it formerly ostracized.

"And Undoubtedly Will Cause Inflation?"

We are interested to find in "The Journal of Commerce" the following: "As the demands of war increase new industrial undertakings incident to this war activity spring up. These new undertakings must be financed, and permitting them to go into the open markets to bid for capital causes interest rates to advance. The War Finance Corporation may, and undoubtedly will, cause inflation, but it is considered the lesser of all the other evils which might come upon the country should the government not take a hand in the matter. It is a radical departure. This is conceded not only by members of Congress but also by financial authorities in the Administration."

"The Journal of Commerce," as our readers are aware, has taken upon itself to defend the government against the "poisonous doctrine" that credit expansion has anything to do with the soaring cost of living. Possibly it will explain, then, how the War Finance Corporation bill "may, and undoubtedly will, cause inflation."

If not prices, what will it inflate?

The refusal of the Allies to take part in the Brest-Litovsk conference was their second mistake. It was almost fatal.

George Sylvester Viereck, March 6, in "The American Weekly."

Why is the Department of Justice so tender with this scurrilous enemy?

What Shall the Harvest Be?

(From The Atlanta Constitution)

Shut out the poems to the spring garden and turn on the hoses!

Toad Eaters

By Herr Professor Diogenes Teufelsdröckh

THE TRIBUNE confesses to considerable satisfaction at the discovery in New York—at a great age, it is true, but still intellectually active—of the distinguished German thinker whose masterpieces, "Die Kleider, ihr Werden und Wirken," Thomas Carlyle analyzed in his "Sartor Resartus."

Frankly, it gives me the greatest pleasure to comply with the Tribune's request for light on the meeting of Messrs. Hearst and Hyland and the toad and jellyfish at Palm Beach. Impartial pacifist though I have been since September 6, 1918, the date of my arrival in America, I cannot repress a sincere satisfaction over this opportunity of demonstrating to America the methods of scientific research of a kind that once stood in loco parentis to me.

Again I say, I am impartial. Mr. Hearst is one of my intimate friends. I have bowed eleven times to Mayor Hyland—five times while sitting by my window as the Broadway express went by and six times from the curbstone as I dodged the mud from an unfastidious automobilist. I have kept horned toads as pets, and I have known seventeen jellyfish, not wisely, but too well.

It was therefore with little surprise that I read the following statement from the Mayor during his sojourn in Florida: "We were on the beach yesterday, and a jellyfish had closed about a little toad. Hearst flicked it away with the end of his cane and said, 'Why let the toad bite the toad suffer?' I think that trifles what I like in hearing."

To impress the reader with the strength of purpose which underlies the Tribune's, I must confess that the mellow vein of humor present in every German heart and head very nearly led me astray. For a time I found to my horror that I was contemplating the compilation of a Nonsense Cookery Book on the model of Edward Lear's. Fortunately, I had only just begun upon the relation of B. R. T. Jams to jellyfish when the wickedness of my folly struck home and I turned remorsefully to the best procedures of German research.

Only once again did the fatal mellowness of our racial nature assail me. When I had put the weakness from me I found on my note pad these lines of an uncompleted poem:

The Mayor and the Publisher
Were walking hand in hand,
They went like anything to see
A drama on the sand.
"Why should it suffer?" William said.
Said Hyland, "Ain't he grand?"

"The time has come," the Mayor said,
"To talk of many things—
Of B. R. T. and P. S. C.,
Of Brooklyn, Queens and Kings;
Of whether to eat or to avoid
And whether Hearst has wings."

Seeking Wisdom From the Poets

Once safely embarked on serious research, I followed the true Hebraic bent, and went first to the poets for guidance. There I encountered an amazing lack of interest in the marine portion of my subject; seemingly the jellyfish had never before inspired the bosom of man. But under the heading "Toads" in "Familiar Quotations: A Collection of Passages, Phrases and Proverbs Traced to their Sources in Ancient and Modern Literature," by John Bartlett, I found two passages that amply rewarded me. The first seemed positively written for the occasion it is now destined to commemorate:

Sweet are the uses of adversity,
Which like the toad, ugly and venomous,
And thus a precious jewel in his head;
And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.

The other, taken from Douglas Jerrold's "A Charitable Man," bears wholly and exclusively, I take it, on the journalistic hero of our pretty little tale:

He was so good he would pour rose-water on a toad.

Before I take up the two chief problems involved in the affairs-jellyfish, may I not dwell for a moment on the strain of true lifting poetry carried over into the drier reaches of science by the writer on these marine animals in Funk & Wagnall's Standard Encyclopedia? There is something genuinely Keatsian in the line—I can only call it by that term of prosody—describing the adorning of the tentacles of the jellyfish:

Beset with myriads of stinging cells,
Beside this bit of vers libre, I must confess that such dicta as the International Encyclopedia furnished on the "medusa," was tame indeed: "While the term medusa is now generally applied to the adult stage of any hydroid, it is particularly applicable to our common North Atlantic Aurelia flavida, of the class scyphozoa (the group commonly called discophora); another general name is scyphid."

While respecting such scholarship as a basis for progress, I went forward rapidly to the true purpose of my investigation, which was twofold. To determine:

1. Whether jellyfishes eat toads, and

2. What motive Mr. Hearst had in separating the combats.

I must confess that my authorities upon the first point were hardly conclusive. Professor Edward Alfred Minchin, M. A., F. Z. S., and author of the article on medusae in the Encyclopedia Britannica, I found authority for the statement that the jellyfish "eats small organisms of various kinds, especially crustacea." The writer on jellyfish in the International Encyclopedia opened room for the consumption of toads by the broadminded statement: "Besides small animals of various classes, the larger jellyfishes kill by means of netting organs small cuttlefish and true fishes."

So much for the jellyfish side of our argument. I take it that if one of these beasts of prey could come upon a toad—spray it could easily extinguish the spark of life, however successful or unsuccessful it might be in disposing of the ill-gotten gain, via the medusan digestive system.

But could a toad put itself in the way of a jellyfish? That is the crux of the matter. And there also the authorities were far from clear. Funk & Wagnall's Standard Encyclopedia spoke of the toad—again with that strain of word music—as "a shy, nocturnal animal, hiding during the day in dark, damp places." No mention of water, ponds or seashore.

The International, however, stated categorically that the Bufonidae, or toads, "include terrestrial, burrowing, thoroughly aquatic and arboreal types."

Obviously, the only solution was to put the problem, in all its complexity, to New York's men of science. The first approached, R. W. Miner, A. B., associate curator of the department of invertebrate zoology of the American Museum of Natural History, exhibited the guarded conservatism one associates with youth. "I can't say definitely," he replied to my query, "since I do not know the precise circumstances, but it is safe to say that while a jellyfish could not attack a toad—it feeds blindly, you know—it might, of course, seize one with which it came in contact and convey the prey to its mouth. But as to the probability of a jellyfish being left by the tide in such a position on the shore as to seize a live toad, I am unable to say anything. I should have to know the actual circumstances more fully."

Mr. Miner's superior, the director of the Museum of Natural History, Mr. F. A. Lucas, Sc. D., F. A. O. U., M. R. Z. S., frankly branded the Palm Beach episode as "pure story." "Somebody got it up just for fun," said Dr. Lucas. "The toad breeds near fresh ponds and rivers in the spring, but he hates salt water as the devil hates holy water. And a jellyfish on land is worse off than a toad in the ocean. It sounds like a fish story."

Another marine authority, Dr. C. H. Townsend, Director of the New York Aquarium, M. A., F. S., F. N. Y. A. S., was, to my disappointment, even more emphatic. "All rubbish," said Dr. Townsend. "Iocous poeusi! A toad has no business on the beach, and neither has a jellyfish, unless it is dead. As for the depositing a live jellyfish on top of a live toad, it is a wild impossibility. The only way that I can imagine the two things could get mixed up like that is that somebody may have pitched down a toad from the woods along the shore and then thrown a dead jellyfish on top of him."

"You have no such trouble with the Medusae and Bufonidae at the Aquarium?" I asked.

"Certainly not," he replied. "We don't keep toads, and jellyfish are too delicate to live in our tanks."

Obviously, the only solution of this involved and depressing problem lay along the lines of the second task I had set myself to determine—granted that there was a jellyfish "closed about" or at least lying upon, a toad on that Florida shore—what was Mr. Hearst's motive in regarding the toad as a sufficient explanation of Mr. Hearst's violence, it would be necessary to know what costume Mr. Hearst and the Mayor were wearing. Of course, the cane would seem to settle it, but in scientific research the utmost accuracy is essential. For similar reasons of lack of information, it cannot be supposed that Mr. Hearst was protecting Palm Beach from the inroads of one of the giant scorpions or scalyhps, of which Professor Louis Agassiz reported a specimen on the New England coast measuring seven feet across and possessing tentacles 120 feet in length.

We reach an impasse.

The Psychological Link

Mr. Hearst's devotion to the toad may, of course, be accounted for by a desire to try the rose-water pose prescribed by Douglas Jerrold as a test of the charitable man. It may also lie in a subtle allusion to Mr. Hearst's magazine activities contained in the statement of the International Encyclopedia that the 120 species of the toad are "greatly cosmopolitan." But I am regretfully driven to admit that even though I have made an excellent case for Mr. Hearst's loyalty to the toad, any action of violence against a jellyfish must stand convicted of gross brutality in the face of the idyllic, almost Dickensian portrait of the jellyfish and his habits drawn by the International: "Small fishes, such as the butterfish, swim under the umbrella of the larger jellyfishes for shelter and protection."

In the black night of confusions surrounding this problem of the appetite of the medusa, with what longing my heart goes out once more to that peaceful Kultur "greatly cosmopolitan." But I am quarterly borne witness. If I had my own library, by my side I should turn to Professor Ernst Haeckel's great work, "Das System der Medusen," and these mists of doubt would be dissipated.

As it is, I can only offer yet another quotation from the fields of literature. But it may provide some reader with a hint of the motive of Mr. Hearst in salvaging the little victim and perhaps settle an even more important question—untouched in the news dispatches—what will become of the toad?

In "The Reader's Handbook of Allusion, Reference, Plots and Stories," with two appendices, by the Rev. E. B. Cebham, H. D., it is recorded that in "David Simple" (1741) Sarah Fielding speaks of "toad enter" as "a metaphor taken from a mountebank's boy eating toads in order to show his master's skill in expelling poison," and "built on a supposition that people who are in a state of dependence are forced to do the most nauseous things to please and humor their patrons."

FORGET THE SIDESHOWS AND GET IN THE BIG TENT

THE EIGHTY PER CENT OF THE PEOPLE WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE PEACE OF THE WORLD ARE NOT INTERESTED IN THE PEACE OF THE WORLD.

TAKE IN THE PEACE BY NEGOTIATION TRICK.

DON'T MISS THE AUSTRO-GERMAN SPLIT.

WATCH THE BEAR COME TO LIFE.

FROM THE BALTIMORE AMERICAN

Faith in Japan

By P. W. WILSON (Of The London Daily News)

WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST and his newspapers give one the impression that President Wilson is pursuing a policy which is hostile to Japan.

Obviously it must be so. If Japan were antagonistic to the United States, it would remain armed to the teeth. This would mean that Canada, the United States, the South American republics, New Zealand and Australia—mentioned these communities in geographical order—would have to adjust that very balance of power in the New World which Mr. Wilson denounces in the Old World. The Pacific Ocean would cease to be pacific and there could be no real league of nations. Justice to Japan is therefore a keystone of American policy, and anti-Japanese propaganda, based on racial prejudice, is a crime against the future.

Japan Loyal to Britain

Fifteen years ago Great Britain did the right thing by Japan. We recognized that she was a first-class power. We welcomed her ambassador. We made with her an alliance. From that day to this Japan has behaved with absolute correctness so far as Great Britain is concerned. In August, 1914, she entered the war with us. She adhered to the Pact of London. She cleared the Pacific of German pirates. She offered troops for service in Europe. Not one German island in the South Seas has she retained. She holds Tsingtau, as we hold Mesopotamia, subject to ultimate international sanction. She has made munitions. She has helped to finance British credits in New York.

So far as I know, her record is absolutely clear. Critics of her may declare that she is only honest because it is the best policy. But they cannot deny that the honesty is there. And Japan has lost nothing by it. She is richer to-day than ever before in all that makes for true national wealth.

The one question to be adjusted is Japan's aims in Asia. A year or two ago she made claims on China which were obviously meant to be the first offer in a bargain. American diplomacy modified those demands and America remained Japan's true friend. To-day Japan is interested in Siberia. While that vast territory continues to be Russian she does not desire to interfere. But she will not tolerate its absorption by Germany and German prisoners of war have been demonstrated. Japan insists on her right of intervention, whether approved by others or not. At the same time, for every reason, economic as well as political, Japan hesitates to take any action on which the United States would look coldly.

Jingoes in Japan

America genuinely believes in Russian democracy. In this war Russia has made sacrifices in flesh and blood which compare with those of France, Italy and Britain combined and far exceed the sacrifices of Japan, which country has obviously profited by her semi-independent status. Japan is to-day far richer than any previous date in her history. To compensate Japan at Russia's expense is therefore a hard proposition, and I am glad to believe that it has never been made. In Japan, as in Britain, there are extreme jingoes, as we call them, who only dream of imperial expansion, but the government at Tokio is more sagacious and looks to the latter end of which overrules such chauvinism.

Military accumulations at Vladivostok must be protected as a matter of course, but further penetration into Russian soil, if any soil remains Russian in these chaotic days, should be limited to an agreed cadre on behalf of Russian freedom against Russia's enemies in Central Europe. In other words, if Japan enters at all it must be on the same terms as those observed by America and Britain in France. Japan's war is for good as her own, and she promises these conditions her promise will be kept.

In sincerity, I must add one more word. The intense patriotism of the Japanese, their acceptance of divine right in their illustrious sovereign, their ancient feudal aristocracy consecrated to arms, and their national ambition have suggested parallels with the better Germany of forty or fifty years ago. At that time, as in Japan to-day, there was a real liberal movement in Germany. But Bismarckian concepts of the state crushed this broadening tendency. Japan can see for herself what a Nemesis has overtaken the powerful nation in light of Europe which turned its back to the light. Japan's future will be entirely assured if her rulers are wise enough to allow free course to American—and may I add British—ideas of constitutional liberty, even though an admixture of socialism be one element in the upward progress.

With Europe in turmoil, Japan's students are visiting America in considerable numbers. Let them be welcomed. The other day I saw a film which somewhat luridly suggested that young Japanese citizens abuse your hospitality. That is, I believe, a gross slander on guests whose behavior is strictly honorable, and it should be the object of all "publicity" to help forward good relations between neighbors. Let us for all time live together in peace.

Japanese home life, scenery afford opportunities for the camera which have often been recognized by those who cater for your picture palaces. On the other hand, if Japan is made welcome by Americans she must, on her side, cherish a tendency among her own reactionaries who deny a similar welcome to Americans who visit her delightful country. Interchange of populations is one most valuable assistance to peace.

The Voyagers

Beyond those dark trees, under the stars, Opens a gulf of twilight mystery On which the ships of night are setting forth. Whither none knoweth, never to return. Unlighted, ebon black from prow to stern. They pierce the purple distance, swallowed up.

At birds among the mountain thicket clouds That veil the wondrous glory of the sun. No signal flare, no word of last farewell. Troubles the silence; glad are they to go Into the ocean of forgetfulness. That rounds our life with endless ecstasy. And we who watch them, with our heavy load

Of memory that saddens all our days, Shall once embark, shall sail beyond all shadow Unto the land of love's eternal way.

E. E. SPENCER

"Loyal Loggers"

(From Printers' Ink)

THE spruce production division of the United States War Department is engaged in an interesting campaign in the Pacific Northwest, in which legitimate advertising methods are being used extensively to "sell" the idea of loyal and patriotic effort in war work to laboring men in that section.

The piece de resistance in this campaign is a poster in several colors, measuring 12 1/2 by 21 inches, and printed on paraffined jute tag board (in order to withstand the torrential rains of the region). This poster has been distributed by thousands throughout the great forests of the Pacific Northwest, in logging camps, at sawmills, etc. "Our Country First," it says at the top, and there follows a picture of the flag upheld by the brawny arm of labor. "If Spruce Will Win the War, the Kaiser's Licked," is its cheerful promise, followed immediately by the challenge, "It's Up to You." Then, in a circle below, are shown an airplane, a steamboat and several logs on the shore, the meaning of the picture being explained by the slogan, "Spruce for the air—fir for the water." At the bottom is in line which furnishes the clue to the whole advertising activity of the War Department in the Pacific Northwest, "Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen," and the statement in big red letters, "Authorized by the Secretary of War."

The Loyal Legion of Loggers and Lumbermen is the government's answer to the I. W. O. U. and to the forces which in the Northwest have employed, covertly or openly, the practices of sabotage (though very few genuine cases of this have been reported), and the equally damaging "scientific withdrawal of efficiency." The Legion was formed last December, under the inspiration of Colonel Bruce P. Disque, and the actual details of organization have been worked out by Lieutenant M. E. Crumpler. Through the distribution of the poster and by other methods which we will describe, it has grown in less than three months to a membership of more than 300,000 men, all engaged in the vitally necessary work of getting out the timber needed to meet the government's programme in regard to shipbuilding, and in particular for aviation purposes. The new monthly magazine of "house organs" for the Legion, and which will go free to all members, starts with a circulation of 60,000 copies.

The Remedy for Spies

Nothing which was said by Dr. Henry van Dyke in his splendid address on the war brought greater applause from the audience which packed the Garden Theatre than his vigorous protest against the present kick-glove methods of dealing with spies and enemy agents by other methods which we will describe. Dr. van Dyke's hearers were that the time had come when the United States government should shoot or hang convicted German agents instead of sending them to comfortable internment camps in North Carolina, where they can play tennis and otherwise enjoy themselves. At almost the same time that Dr. van Dyke was expressing that opinion here Senator Harding, more than that in justice to the 100,000,000 American people there is but one place for the man with the bomb and the torch; that place is against the wall.

There is no mistaking the temper of the people regarding this matter. They desire that the spies and the enemy agents shall get what they deserve. The people desire this not because the American people are bloodthirsty; they desire it because they know what they owe to their own sons and brothers who are offering their lives that this country may live.

Down to the Minute

Age cannot wither nor custom stale the infinite variety of Mother Goose. It seems but yesterday she wrote: "Rub-a-dub-dub, Three men in a tub— And how do you think they got there? The Daniels, the Baker, The ordinance maker— They all jumped out of a Democrat— 'Twas enough to make a man starve."

Correctly Defined

(From The Philadelphia Record)

"Give me a synonyme for a painful silence," said the novelist, looking up from dentist's chair with a rubber dam in her mouth, comes pretty close to it," suggested the helpful friend.