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

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Fomenting Discord

Five months ago happy people, in a delirium of joy, were celebrating the return of peace. The incomparable bravery of the soldiers of civilization, supported by the firm resolution of civilian population, had won a victory for right. The future was bright.

Now anxiety is in countless hearts. Uneasiness and apprehension are abroad and men fear new commotion. International conditions are not good, and the domestic conditions in many lands are bad.

The cause of this change is no mystery. Discord reigns where harmony prevailed. Malevolent forces have distilled subtle poisons. The nations which won the war by acting together have been artfully pushed apart.

The battle of the Marne showed the German leaders that their chance of a clear-cut victory was slight. Germany's chief hope thereafter lay in the political field. Could she break up the coalition which had her in its grip and which some day would succeed in mobilizing its superior power?

Russia was detached from an alliance which in the first instance had been in her defence and that of her Slavic kinsmen of Serbia. The czar was surrounded by men corrupted by Germany. And when in a final spasm for saving of Russia's honor the czar was dethroned, German money fomented a counter revolution in the German interest.

Bolshevism came, and its first act was a separate peace in violation of Russia's pledge and in betrayal of the general interest of the world.

Russia's defection was offset by the entry of the United States, and after a few frenzied months Germany was beaten. Then Germany and her allies, including Bolshevik Russia in this undertaking, went to work to divide the Allies at the peace table.

Latent jealousies and suspicions have been fanned. The insidious propaganda has never flagged. The livery of heaven has been worn to conceal a hellish purpose. The business has gone on and is still going on wherever floats a flag of the Allies.

The consequences are too grave to waste time in determining what nations or what men are chiefly to blame. The supreme question is whether from this time forth a common front can be restored. If it is not, if a halt is not called, the so-called peace will be of little if any value.

The worst disservice a Frenchman can do to France is to point the finger of doubt at America, and the worst disservice an American can do to America is to point a finger of doubt at France. So as to Britons, Italians and the rest. No nation is so superior in its idealism as to warrant reproach of another for failure to measure up. What must an Italian think who sees America strongly demanding recognition of its Monroe Doctrine while opposing Italy's Adriatic claims? What must go through the mind of a polite Japanese as he beholds great anxiety for economic equality but little for race equality? It behooves no delegation at Paris to vaunt its special virtues.

Suppress the trouble breeders within our own gates. They have been permitted to pursue their maleficent activities long enough. It is of no consequence what their motives may be. The effect of their labors is what counts.

An end was brought to a bad military situation last spring by unity of military command, and diplomatic unity can be achieved only by applying the same principle. This cannot be applied unless there is a willingness to sink differences and to support our friends.

The Atlantic Fleet

It was North River weather yesterday, clear and blue and a whipping wind, and if ever that historic ditch of water saw a prouder sight than our Atlantic fleet as it swung upstream to anchor among the shades of Hendrik Hudson and Robert Fulton rise to damn us. New York has grown used to pageantry on this spot. There never was a better stage setting or better accommodations for spectators. And yesterday the show surpassed our best. Fleets of war we have had before, even ships fresh from fighting overseas. But never the weight of metal, the numbers, the variety, the whole fighting force of our country at sea summed up as here. Airplanes, destroyers, dreadnoughts—not even our own 27th Division on Fifth Avenue gave a more vivid sense of invincible battle power.

To our 20,000 guests we need not

proffer the freedom of the city, for they know that it is theirs. A long trick our sailors have done, a bad task well performed, largely under cover, with little chance for public honor or applause. New York appreciates their service none the less. We owe our navy men every honor. We give them our heartfelt thanks and gratitude. We wish them welcome and the best of shore leaves.

The Victory Loan

The terms of the \$4,500,000,000 Victory Loan are very attractive. The rate of interest is satisfactory. The provision for interconvertibility of taxable and tax exempt issues is excellent. That will not only keep the prices of the two issues together; it will keep them up. But in any case the new notes could not possibly go to the discount of the present Liberty Loan bonds. They mature in three years, and are then payable at 100 per cent.

Most important of all, the amount is unexpectedly low. The \$4,500,000,000 required by Secretary Glass compares with expectations of five or six billions. It compares with almost \$7,000,000,000 subscribed to the last Liberty Loan, offered at only 4 1/2 per cent. This is the last great war loan. The terms of payment, reaching over six months, are easier than those of any previous issue. It is now the duty of the people to lend the government this \$4,500,000,000 in order that it may pay off the banks, from which it has been borrowing heavily, so that the banks will be free to attend to their primary function of financing industry.

"Safeguarded"

After holding that there was no need of "safeguarding" the Monroe Doctrine in the society of nations covenant the American delegation in Paris now announces that the doctrine has been "safeguarded."

The text of the reservation, as telegraphed from Paris, reads:

"The covenant does not affect the validity of international engagements, such as treaties of arbitration or regional understandings like the Monroe Doctrine, for securing the maintenance of peace."

This reservation is clumsy and maladroit. The Monroe Doctrine is not "an international engagement"—either for the securing of peace or for any other purpose. It has no international status. It rests solely on the fiat of the United States. It is a statement of the policy of a single nation, supported by the military and moral power of that nation. Neither is it accurate to describe it as a "regional understanding." Pan-Americanism might be classed a regional understanding, but the Monroe Doctrine is a nationalistic dogma, pure and simple.

If the Monroe Doctrine is to be safeguarded why not use language which says clearly what it is supposed to mean? The American delegates to the second Hague conference drew up a declaration, before signing the convention for the settlement of international disputes, which really safeguarded the Monroe Doctrine. The second clause of that declaration read: "Nor shall anything contained in the said convention be construed to imply a relinquishment by the United States of its traditional attitude toward purely American questions."

The United States Senate ratified the second Hague convention with a proviso which reproduced this language. The Monroe Doctrine amendment to the covenant recently submitted by Mr. Root was based on the Senate's reservation of April 2, 1908. After reciting the circumstances which induced the United States to accede to the wish of the European states that it should join its power to theirs for the preservation of peace it said:

"The representatives of the United States of America sign this convention with the understanding that nothing therein contained shall be construed to imply a relinquishment by the United States of America of its traditional attitude toward purely American questions, or to require the submission of its policy regarding such questions (including therein the admission of immigrants) to the decision or recommendation of other powers."

Here is a clear, explicit, unconfused declaration of American policy. Why was it sacrificed for the awkward and inaccurate phraseology of the Paris amendment? Are clarity and definiteness offensive to the framers of the covenant? If the conference is going to indorse the Monroe Doctrine the indorsement ought to be at least workmanlike and unequivocal.

The Railway Wage Increase

In 1910 the average annual wages of railway employes was \$673; in 1919 the average is \$1,460. The increase has been 117 per cent. The wages of the organized employes (train crews, which are about 20 per cent of the total) have gone up from \$993 to \$2,020, an increase of 104 per cent. The wages of unorganized employes have gone up from \$609 to \$1,325, an increase of 121 per cent.

It has been assumed that the railway brotherhoods greatly profited from their strong organizations, but relatively the unorganized have done better. This supports the view that organized labor, when it gains advances, pulls up the level of compensation for those outside its ranks, or the view that organization has little effect on the wage scale.

Various estimates have been made of the decline that occurred in the purchasing power of the dollar. Probably as accurate a one as any is that of the New York Labor Bureau. It puts the general advance in prices between June, 1914, and October, 1918 (the changes between 1910 and 1914 were slight), at about 55 per cent. In food the advance was 71 per cent, but in other items less.

On this basis the average railway em-

ploye has gained approximately \$250 a year in actual wages. Living on his former scale he has this sum for saving.

The railway administration assumes the continuance of the cheap dollar, something that they will contribute in no small degree to making permanent. But if railway employment long gets more than its share of the new distribution men and women will be attracted to it, which means in the end a reestablishment of conditions. But a silent revolution has occurred. The per cent of fixed income has suffered a loss equivalent to 40 per cent, and his losses accrue to the masses.

Guarantees of Peace

II. A Powerful Rumania

Poland has been designated by nature and political circumstances to be the main northern outpost of Western democracy in Eastern Europe. Similarly Rumania has been designated to be the main southern outpost. These two states constitute the end links and anchor posts of that sanitary barricade stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea and separating the Teuton powers from Russia which it is one of the chief tasks of the peace conference to erect.

Rumania is especially fitted for her rôle as a sentry and quarantining agent. Her people are of Latin stock and have maintained their Latin traditions, although they were encircled for centuries by non-Latin races—Slav, Turk and Magyar. Geographical and dynastic considerations made Rumania for a time a satellite of the Triple Alliance. The vagaries of international politics also threw Italy for a while into association with Austria-Hungary and Germany. But these relationships were unnatural. Italy and Rumania both belong by sympathy and racial affiliation to the Western European group.

A strong Rumania would contribute in every way to preserving the status quo which is to be established by the peace conference. Following the principle of the self-determination of peoples, her area of 53,000 square miles before the war would be about doubled by a rectification of her boundaries. She lost Bessarabia to Russia through the Treaty of Berlin, following the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-'78. The Germans gave Bessarabia back to her last year through the Treaty of Bucharest. The province is now Rumanian. It should remain so.

Transylvania is preponderantly Rumanian in population. So is the Banat of Temesvar, except in its westernmost sector. Bukovina is a land of mixed races. Yet no violence would be done to self-determination by including it in Greater Rumania, with which its people are more closely allied than they are with either Austria or Hungary. The enlarged kingdom would have a population of about 14,500,000—greater than that of Austria, Hungary, Czecho-Slovakia or Jugo-Slavia. It would become the chief Balkan power and as such would tend to bring Balkan policy completely into line with that of the Western democracies, whether these latter work together through an old-fashioned concert or use the mechanism of a Society of Nations.

The Allied nations are under great obligations to Rumania. She entered the war in 1916, trusting to their promises and conforming her military policy to theirs. In accordance with the military convention which she signed, Rumania undertook the luckless invasion of Transylvania, leaving her Bulgarian border poorly protected. Russia gave her all the assistance stipulated in the treaty. But France, Great Britain and Italy failed to make good their assurances of support. The Sarraill offensive out of Salonica, which was to keep Bulgaria occupied, was a fiasco. Rumania was speedily attacked on three sides by Mackensen and Falkenhayn, and within a few months had suffered the fate of Belgium and Serbia.

The Allies have therefore a long score to pay to the Rumanians. It would be foolish for the peace conference to be stamped by the sulkeness of Hungary, which has now staged an imitation of Bolshevik irresponsibility as a protest against a repatriation of her subject populations. Hungary has had her day as an oppressor of the Danube valley peoples. To strengthen Rumania should be an important object of Allied policy. For the peace of Europe can be guaranteed only by the creation in the troubled Vistula and Danube basins of dependable and virile pro-Allied states, able to withstand Teuton intrigue and Bolshevik infiltration.

Did Germany Blunder After All? To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: From the way in which the "reparation terms" are reported in this morning's papers it would seem that their statement is officially authorized. Germany is to pay \$5,000,000,000 for the first two years and \$5,000,000,000 for the next two years (or twenty-eight) years thereafter. Surely, it requires a robust faith in the power of words to believe that Germany will continue to make those yearly payments beyond the time when she thinks it will be to her interest to cease doing so. There seems to have come to pass what some of us forecast and published early in 1917, namely, that Germany would force us into the war because she supposed that distance and unpreparedness would make our weight in the scales militarily negligible, but believed that in this way she would insure the presence at the peace conference of a power which would vote to treat her tenderly. She miscalculated the weight, but apparently this time made no psychological mistake. E. HENRY LACOMBE. New York, April 10, 1919.

Signs of the Times (From The Minneapolis Journal.) The first robin wears a button reading: "No worms no song."

The Conning Tower

The New York Daylight Savings Association, at its luncheon to-day, will consider a suggestion to ask the President to incorporate in the L. of N. the Daylight Saving Law. We are deliberating the sending of a cable asking that the Rising of Theatre Curtains on Time also be incorporated, and a codicil added about the curtailment of intermissions. And the Association for Widening the Boston Post Road surely will ask that its platform be included in the L. of N.

Mr. David Wallace is authority for the statement that the "East is West" curtain rises at the advertised time of 8:30 p. m.

"Thanks for the Ad. Jack," Says Briggs (From "Saint's Progress" by John Galsworthy, in Cosmopolitan) "Wonder what a baby thinks about?" "A baby doesn't think of anything except when it wants something." "That's a grave thought."

A typical human being is one who feels no thrill of virtuous elation when he lets a probably worthless man, who he knows won't pay it back, \$100 without interest; but who fairly exudes goodness when he buys a Victory Liberty bond, for which he gets 4 1/2%.

According to Howard, the tune Nero jazzed must have been "Keep the Home Fires Burning." Or the Rome fires, possibly.

Subsolar Novelties The Liberty Bonds you gave to your wife in 1917 and 1918. Always thought of in multiples of \$50, and considered only as an investment for the children. Then when you are wondering how much you can invest in the new Loan, your wife takes them out of the little black box and you discover that they have grown into little coupon-bearing fruit trees, and the total crop will pay 10% down on a respectable sum of Victory Notes. ARTHUR.

Tobacco, a weekly paper, defies the anti to produce a great author actively hostile to tobacco. There is none we know of. We hope, by the way, that Tobacco's proofreader doesn't smoke; a hope shared by that w. k. p. r. eluder Barton Brayley.

Under its new editorship the Bookman is full of typographical errors. But C. W. notes that it still speaks of the "Bigelow Papers."

TO JEAN, A SKEPTICAL AMERICAN Ah, Jean, you flatter me, And when women flatter me— Well, that's another story. If I had imagination I'd write scenarios for the movies Or street car ads. (Lord knows the baby needs some shoes). I can but chronicle the passing pageant From the chance glimpse I get Between the heads of those who stand in front. But, Jean, if you will take my hand, I'll lead you through that Wonderland: I'll show to you the school she built, It has her name above the door, And I'll point out to you the unknown things— Little dwellings, red with rambler roses, Set in plots of clean, green grass, And rows of zinnias, bells of asters, Salvia, pinks, geraniums, Cornflowers—all the old beloved blooms; These dwellings are called "homes," And in them dwell a curious sect Who do good unconsciously. A most strange folk called Christians; Among them many who have lived full lives Never tasting of the juice that July dooms: Some of them are teachers, too, Respected, loved—and paid. (Of course, they don't spend all they make On spearmint and "de movies.") But, Jean, if you've no faith in Mad Hatters, Then form a Soviet. I'll be your first member— The other day I wished to plant some seed In a tiny window box: So I went out to get some soil, And I paid for it— Forty-five cents for a peck of dirt! P.S.

We who once were whiskey-swiggers used to resent the term "rum." Non-drinkers used to refer to all kickful drinks as "rum." But we who now blot up our frosted chocolate, our lemonade, and our sweet elder—we fountain fans object to the idea, prevalent among the ironic members of the younger Martini set, that our only tipple is the Nut Sundaes.

If Mr. Taft said what the advertisements say he said about "A Little Journey," we, for one, see no reason why his remarks should not be blazoned forth. What perplexes us is why his statement should be accompanied on the billboard with a picture of the late John Lawrence Sullivan.

human bloodhounds, whom, he had certain reasons to believe, would be unleashed on his trail.—Henry Leverage, in the May Cosmopolitan. "Whom are you?" said Cyril.

Theda Bare in "Salome."—Baltimore Sun headline. "Ste!" cries the proofroom.

"But When It Comes to Slaughter" Sir: A prominent prohibitionist remarks that the American soldiers were prohibition-trained, and adds that "they went over and licked the beer guzzling Germans." Giving the Imperial German Government a Dry Cleaning, as 'twere. But considerable credit for the complete crash of the Hunzollern plans must be given to the rum swigging British, the beer bibbling Belgians, the wine tipping French, and the Chianti gargling Italians. D. A. S.

As forewoman of the jury that is to try the ex-Kaiser, H. M. nominates the German woman who gave nine sons and received the "Kaiser's" signed photograph in exchange.

Not "very" these days, is M. L. P.'s contention. The thing now is "more than," as in "more than glad," more than grateful. It is, truly, a rasping locution.

Although our manifestations of what Prof. Thorstein Veblen calls Conspicuous Waste do not include the wearing of embroidered initials on the arm of a shirt, there are some exhibitions that we do make use of.

A last line, for example. Could anything be more Conspicuously Wasteful? E. P. A.

The Government Has Added Another \$65,000,000 to the Trainmen's Payroll

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The Unhappy Mexican German

Von Eckhardt, the Deported Minister, is Reported to Have Skinned His Countrymen By L. J. de Bekker

MEXICO CITY (By mail).—For the time being it is "Deutschland unter Alles" in Mexico, as in Cuba. How long this state of subjection will continue is a matter for better guessers than I am, still I fancy that recovery would be quicker here but for the conduct of the late German minister, Señor H. von Eckhardt, who skinned his fellow Germans in the interest of Gott und Kaiser in the most ingenious manner.

The story, as it comes to me from three different sources, is too good not to tell, especially as its variations agree in most details. It is, therefore, a composite, in which I have taken \$10,000,000 as a compromise in financial estimates by striking an average.

The German prospered here during the war. There is no doubt of that. He knew in advance here, as well as in New York, just about when the United States would get in, and prepared, as he well knew how, by laying in large supplies of American goods, converting whatever accounts were held against Americans into metallic currency, and arranging for a series of "cloak" consignees to whom shipments of American goods could be sent, even after the declaration of war; or, if necessary, transferring nominal control of his affairs to some apparently loyal ally or neutral.

More than a month ago a deputation of representative German citizens called at the American Embassy, where they explained to Mr. Fletcher that, now the war is over, it was the duty of the United States to destroy its blacklists and thus to permit them to resume the agencies for American goods.

The American colony in Mexico City was aghast at this impudence, but took no action. Even the report that the Germans went to their club after calling on Mr. Fletcher, toasted the Kaiser and sang their dear old songs about "Mutterlieb" and the "Vaterland," failed to excite them. By this time some—not all—of the American colony here knew the Germans pretty well.

In the last few weeks, anticipating that Mr. Fletcher must be favorably impressed and that Washington would immediately lift the restrictions of the trading-with-the-enemy act, German business men have been advising their Mexican clients to defer any purchases for a short time, when they would have a fresh stock of American goods and would give them better terms than could be obtained from the Americans themselves.

As a matter of fact, by one means or another, most of the German business houses have managed to maintain full lines of American goods up to this time and to sell on long credits at advancing prices. What more they expect is not clear, but they expect something.

It must not be supposed that while Americans here have taken no protective

measures, they are unaware of what is going on. At the last meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in this city one member suggested that a letter be drawn up to be issued in circular form to American manufacturers urging them not to give their agencies to Germans for several years, unless it was found impossible to obtain an agent of Allied nationality.

Opposition developed. A group of Americans in the chamber were of the opinion that if German agents could sell American goods better than Americans it was to the advantage of the United States to let them do so. The possibility of substituting German goods the moment they could be brought in, although that is beyond question part of the German scheme here, never seems to have occurred to these gentlemen.

No Competition The proposed letter was referred, therefore, to a committee, with instructions to report at a meeting to be held the latter part of this month. Whether German aid is necessary to the sale of American goods at a time when no German goods can reach this market may be decided by the manufacturers of the United States, but it will be interesting to know how the Americans here feel about it. For the present, at least, the American manufacturer need fear no competition from Germany, and he may, even with his reluctance to adopt the system of credits worked out with equal results here by the British and French, manage to hold his own for two years more.

After that? Well, after that, he will probably find the market in which he has every natural advantage closed to him through failure on his part to utilize the finest opportunity for expansion ever presented to a manufacturing and trading people.

If American business men really wish to retain their present position their liking for "cash with order" transactions must be overcome.

What Is Beer? To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Referring to the interesting line of citations set forth in your to-day's editorial, "When Is Beer Intoxicating?" will you allow me to contribute an expert opinion received some years ago from an employee of a Western brewery, who held that quantity, not quality, was the governing factor?

When asked how much beer would be required to make a man drunk he said he did not know, explaining that he himself had never been drunk on beer. In reply to the further question as to how many glasses a day he drank, he said: "Well, on de cetera, I guess a hundred—hundred and fifty—mebbe two hundred glasses."

"Course," he added, "if a man wants to make a tam hog of himself, dot's different again." GEORGE WESTERVELT. New York, March 21, 1919.

Civilization Without Quailms (From The Louisville Courier-Journal) It was said long ago that to hold Calais is to have a dagger at the heart of England. To internationalize the Kiel Canal is to shove a butcher's knife through the viscera of Germany's recent conduct, to which civilization does not demur.

Plainly Stated (From The Indianapolis News) That league of nations scheme seems to have got around to the question of what to do to the bleach-erite who throws a pop bottle at the umpire.

Have American Goods As a matter of fact, by one means or another, most of the German business houses have managed to maintain full lines of American goods up to this time and to sell on long credits at advancing prices. What more they expect is not clear, but they expect something.

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