# New York Tribune

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

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## The Situation in Russia

According to information from Paris Admiral Kolchak's recent operations on the Volga front are part of a carefully planned offensive. The admiral's plans, it is said, were communicated to the Allied military experts in France and received their approval. Munitions are to be supplied to Kolchak, and there is now talk of giving his regime the same sort of recognition as was given by the Allied governments last year to the Czecho-Slovaks and the South Slavs.

Kolchak is fighting on a front where the Bolshevist armies have found it exceedingly difficult to make any progress. The Red Guards of the first period of the Soviet dictatorship could not hold the Trans-Siberian Railroad. They lost all Siberia to the Czecho-Slovak ex-prisoners of war, and were then driven west of the Ural as far as the general line of the Volga. There they have stood on the defensive for the last ten months, occasionally making slight territorial gains and then losing them. Siberia and Southeastern Russia seem to be firmly anti-Bolshevist and to be fully equal to dealing with Lenine's eastern armies.

In recent months the Moscow government has found it much easier to gain ground on the northern, southern and eastern fronts. The main reason for this has been the shift in Allied policy at the peace conference. The Allied expeditions in Northern Russia and in the Ukraine were left without support, moral or military. The white feather was first shown in the proposal for the Prinkipo parley and in the announcement that Allied troops would be withdrawn from the Archangel district as soon as the White Sea was open. Thereupon Lenine began a winter campaign in the north which pushed back the Allied lines more than one hundred miles.

In the south, too, conditions had been favorable up to the time the peace conference began to dally with the idea of recognizing and placating Lenine. French, Greek, Serbian and Rumanian forces held the Crimea and occupied Odessa. Since then the Bolshevists have cleared the Crimea up to the outskirts of Sebastopol and have forced the Allies back from Odessa to the Bessarabian border. The only efficient anti-Bolshevist force left in this region is the Ukrainian peasant army under Petlura in Northern Ukrainia, which is now reported to have defeated and captured the Bolshevist First Army.

Trotzky at one time last winter seemed to have almost reconquered the Baltic provinces. These states were weakly organized and faced grave internal troubles. Poland claimed Vilna, but could not defend it because she was busy fighting the Germans in Posen, the Czecho-Slovaks in Silesia and the Ruthenians and Ukrainians in Eastern Galicia. When General Haller's Polish troops arrive from France Poland will be in a position to drive the Bolsheviki out of the department of Vilna. Possibly after the dispute over the possession of Lemberg and Eastern Galicia is settled at Paris the Ukrainians will also give all their attention to expelling the Bolshevist invaders.

The Soviet dictatorship in Moscow is to-day the greatest single menace to the peace of Europe. Instead of helping to sustain it by sending food to the population under its control, the Allies ought to send military supplies to the governments in Russia which are willing to fight it. These governments must be depended on to do the work which the conference is not willing to do. They may relieve the Allied nations of an obligation which they have dodged. In this certainly they should have every assistance short of that military reinforcement which we deny them. If hopes of stabilization of Russia, once centring in the Paris conference, now centre in Kolchak, Petlura and Paderewski, these leaders should be assured of political, moral and economic support. And nothing can be gained meanwhile by trying to beg off or buy off Lenine with shipments of foodstuffs into Bolshevist Russia.

## The Seventy-seventh's Parade

President Wilson has cut the red tape which tied up the 77th Division's parade. New Yorkers will have an opportunity about May 1 to pay this home division the same sort of honor it paid the 27th.

Where there's a will there's a way. The emotion of a real homecoming is worth while. It uplifts the returning soldiers as much as it uplifts those who turn out with full hearts to greet them. Why sacrifice the thrilling sensations and memories of such an occasion to the demands of the everyday routine of demobilization?

The President has done well to give New York another memorial day in spite of humdrum hesitations in Washington.

## Not Yet Bossed

In the rapid about-face at Paris concerning the Monroe Doctrine *The Villager* finds assurance that public opinion, despite the hindrances that clog its expression, still functions in this country.

The demonstration that the spirit of democracy yet lives surely was a striking one. A variety of circumstances had made it seem prudent, even necessary, during the war to suspend private judgment and to invest the President with almost dictatorial power. He went abroad still clothed with that power. But it soon appeared that "support of the President" did not mean subservience. The plan to force the covenant through came quickly to grief. Nothing in the nature of an explosion occurred, but there was firm insistence that an instrument binding the country must be brought to the bar of public opinion for candid examination. The Senatorial round robin was thus more significant in its implications than in its direct statements. It was notice that the American people had not divested themselves of supreme and determining authority. The Monroe Doctrine amendment, as The Tribune has pointed out, is of doubtful value, but it is highly important to have it made clear where mastery resides.

A strange after effect of a war fought for democracy has been a weakening of democracy among professional liberals. In many countries there is now open denial of majority rule. It is said, not by adherents of the old school of divine right but by the new school of radicalism, that a self-selected group knows better what is good for the people than a majority. This is one of the foundations of Leninism, and men holding university degrees and professing to be enlightened have applauded it. The heresy, although dressed in new clothes, is an ancient one—is as old as tyranny—but our people have not only the will to reject it, but the wit, which is of greater consequence.

## The New Revenue Law

Peering anxiously in their bankbooks, examining loose change rattling in their pockets, the denuded citizens of New York hear of the new revenue law with trepidation. The worst feared has apparently come to pass.

First, there is income tax to gather up the gleanings left by Uncle Sam. Do you have an income in excess of $1,000? Prepare to give up $10 per until $10,000 is reached, then $20 on from $10,000 to $50,000, and then $30 on income above the last named figure. The money is to be divided between the state and the cities and counties to fill the waterless fountain left by the jejune excise law.

The corporations have a flat increase of 50 per cent in the taxes on net profits, being called on to pay 4½ per cent before declaring dividends. At some point it will no longer pay to carry on business through a corporation form rather than as an individual or a partnership. It may be surmised that the new levy comes close to reaching it. If this limit has been passed great injury will have been done the state, for the corporation is essential if small capital contributions are to be mobilized. The corporation is not popular, but try to get on without it!

For other new sources of revenue the Legislature seems to have made a careful search, and the worst will not be known until there is time to study the new law.

An interest which gets off without loss is the real estate one. The levy is reduced from the anticipated 2½ per cent to 2¼ per cent. As the realty assessment of this city is $8,000,000,000 this means realty owners will pay something like $20,000,000 a year less than anticipated. Considering what has happened to others, the realty owners have little reason for complaint.

## Italy's Righteous Claims

The correspondents at Paris, either through ignorance or design, have been at great pains to confuse the public mind with respect to the Adriatic question.

It is assumed that the Fourteen Points are decisive and that they are contrary to Italy's claims. Here is double error. In the first place, there is no agreement to which Italy is a party which applies the Fourteen Points to the relations of Italy and Austria-Hungary. The language of the reply of the Allied governments was as follows: "They declare their willingness to make peace with the government of Germany on the terms of peace laid down in the President's address to Congress of January, 1918, and the principles of settlement enunciated in his subsequent addresses." It was with Germany alone that the Fourteen Points agreement was made. When Austria-Hungary sought to adhere President Wilson rebuffed her, referring her to Italy. If technicalities are to be placed against Italy this fact of the record should be remembered.

In the second place, nothing in the Fourteen Points forbids Italy asking protection for her future. Fiume is an Italian city. Is it to be put back under the rule of those who plainly show their hatred of Italy? The rule of no annexations is to be reasonably applied. It is not proposed that the wards in Constantinople inhabited by Turks are to be treated differently than the wards which are mixed or Greek. Nor is the rule of nationality pursued to minute subdivisions, with a new frontier at every league. If the Fourteen Points were construed in this forced manner it would be necessary for us to abandon the Panama Canal strip and Porto Rico.

Nor is the so-called secret Treaty of London (secret about two weeks, to give the Italian armies time to get ready) controlling with respect to the equities of the Adriatic question. If no such treaty had been signed Italy would ask all she asks. Her case primarily rests on exactly the same ground that has led us to seek the recognition of the Monroe Doctrine, a measure of nationalistic self-defence.

But there is a broader reason why Italy should be supported. She has shown herself a good and faithful ally. She is to be trusted. Doubts are to be resolved in her favor. On the other hand, the populations who oppose her have shown themselves grossly untrustworthy. They now profess to be good, but who can say the mood will last? For many years Italy was compelled to be the ally of Germany and Austria-Hungary to disarm their enmity. We must not put her back under similar pressure. Is she to be left doubtful as to whether it is safe for her to follow her democratic impulses? The assistance of the brave Bersaglieri may again be needed.

## Rolling Their Own

We have heard various theories to explain the latest eccentricity of our ever variable fashions, whereby the loveliest creatures now roll their hair into an exact imitation of Deerfoot Farm sausages and then plaster the same tightly over their ears.

One is that of modesty. This might seem a fantastic suggestion in view of other features of our current styles. But, as every anthropologist knows, modesty is not a thing to reason about.

Our friend the sociologist works out a quite different explanation by what may be termed the historical method. The bobbed hair of Mrs. Irene Castle was very jolly to look at, but it required much courage to go to a barber's and come home with one's hair in a newspaper. Greenwich Village had the courage. But not Fifth Avenue, or any avenue bourgeois or aristocratic and not radical. Hence originated the ingenious system of simulating bobbed hair by rolling the hair under at the ears and so on round about—to use layman's language rather than words of art. The present rolls are conceived to be survivals of this era of imitation, as useless in their present form as the buttons on a man's cuff, but of equally purposeful origin. So argues the Expert Observer.

There has also been suggested the theory that these charming creatures were shocked of the times and sought by this device to shelter their ears from frank and daring remarks. But observing that the percentage of ears thus clad is highest at the movies and noting the frank and daring character of many movies, we reject this out of hand. We prefer to apply the movies theory in another fashion. It is not necessary to have one's ears at a movie. Eyes and a dime are ample equipment. We forget what percentage of a girl's time is now spent at the movies, but it is high. Therefore, the ears of our young things are being covered up quite obviously for the simple reason that they are no longer needed. Presently they will no doubt disappear altogether, and the old observation that man was given two ears and but one tongue will no longer be true—of woman.

## Bela Kun's Overthrow

Reports about the overthrow of this mid-European government or the other must be taken with reserve for the first twenty-four hours or so, but the dispatches indicating the fall of the soviet régime at Budapest are both more specific and vested with a greater intrinsic probability than the average report launched from neutral clearing houses of news.

Hungary is so desperate that while it is easy to gain power, it is difficult to keep it. Bela Kun and his following promised to solve problems by the sheer magic of words, and in their desolate situation the Magyar people, always given to emotionalism in politics, accepted the quack. Of course, it was clear from the first that without prompt and substantial Russian aid the Magyar Soviet Republic did not have half a chance. This Russian aid—the principal bait held out by Kun and his associates—did not materialize.

The reported return to power of Sigismund Kunfi, the Moderate Socialist leader, would indicate that Magyar public opinion is rapidly swinging back to the realization that, after all, the only quarter wherefrom Hungary may expect its salvation is, under the present circumstances, the good will of the Entente. Kunfi belongs with those intellectual radicals, bourgeois rather than proletarian, who, like the former President, Karolyi, were throughout the war protesting their sympathy for the Allies.

## Time's Up for Mr. Burleson

*(From The Springfield Republican)*

To the Editor of "The Republican":

As a loyal supporter of Wilson and most all of his Cabinet, I think the time has come for a general demand for Burleson's withdrawal. His handling of the mail, telegraph and now the telephone service is nothing short of an outrage. May I ask you to make a clear-cut demand for his resignation at once? H. C. BARTON.

South Amherst, April 16, 1919.

To President Wilson: The sentiment expressed by our correspondent is wellnigh universal in this part of the country. Mr. Burleson has outlived his usefulness as Postmaster General. His retirement should not be delayed—certainly not beyond the time of the President's return from the peace conference.

## The Conning Tower

"The Gipsily Inclined"

". . . It is an evil age for the gipsily inclined among men."—*An Inland Voyage.*

When the gipsy vans went trailing by,
The knot in the store peered out to see,
And the probate justice slapped his thigh:
"A vagabond crew," said he.

But Ed, the clerk, was of other mind.
"I've often thought," he said, with a smile,
"I should like to leave this job behind,
And just wander the earth for a while."

The justice still to any who lingered,
Dealt out his preachment with dismal scorn;
He knew gipsy folk are all light-fingered,
And they lie from the day they are born.

But Ed that night, when his work was done,
From the silent village stole to where
He saw how cheerly the camp fire shone
On groups in the soft spring air;

Then dreamt, in his four walls' narrow space,
That he roamed far ways through hills of green—
A foot-free youth of Romany race,
And beloved of a Romany queen.

G. S. B.

The war has changed many things, or such at any rate is the popular conjecture, but something tells us that many paragraphs to-day will be written saying wholly as follows: "Play Ball!"

Mr. J. Franklin Baker's opinion is that a ten per cent war tax should be added to his batting average this year.

Sings Jugo-Slavia:

In that case unprecedented
And Fiume you deny,
We shall have to be contented
With your heartfelt sympathy.

Sings Italy:

In that case unprecedented
And we lose Fiume, why
We refuse to be contented
With your heartfelt sympathy.

Fiume is Premier Orlando's story and he's going to stick to it.

**Subsolar Novelties**

The plain, unassuming woman at a musicale, who quietly stands, and suddenly becomes an angel with a golden voice. LOUISE.

The ten dollar bill which you carefully placed in your wallet at breakfast time and which had remained there undisturbed all the day, and which suddenly changes into a one-spot just as you are about to settle your dinner check this evening. HOWARD.

The vanishing tennis ball. It was in your alley when you saw it last, but when you go to pick it up, you find the west wind has carried it three courts south. FRECKLES.

The Henry James revival, said to be expected shortly, recalls how greatly is that author indebted for his fame to the humble newspaper paragrapher. Most of us can remember when a Henry James joke was the standby, the refuge, of every humorist; it was as much a part of his jest-kit as the mother-in-law joke and a man's getting in late at night. Whenever a paragrapher ran out of material all he had to do was to ring in something about Henry James and it was sure to go. Thousands of newspaper readers the country over who in all probability might never have heard of the American master novelist were made familiar with him in this way. No deliberately planned and paid for advertising scheme could have accomplished so much nor so subtly. A Henry James revival might not be possible had it not been for those unsuspecting paragraphers who, building better than they knew, first launched the propaganda that made him widely known.—J. B., in the Evening Post.

In 1907 the Paragraphers' Union declared the Henry James wheeze contraband, although what it objected to most was the rubber-stamp comment on Henry James's style by the paragrapher who never had read a word of it. Such a paragraph was an unearned paragraph; its writer had no conviction. And the Paragraphers' Union did much to annihilate the second-hand comment.

Mention of the Paragraphers' Union recalls the brave days of George M. Bailey's red-headed widows of Heavenly Houston, Henry Sydnor Harrison's star-eyed blondes of Royal Richmond, and the vermilion-lipped lasses of Marvellous Manhattan.

**The Poseur Galahads**

Sir: In what classified group are we to place the healthy, robust male specimen who takes apparent pride in remarking with an "Am-I-not-different-from-the-rest?" air: "I never eat a thing for breakfast. Just a bit of toast and a cup of good strong coffee and I am satisfied"? To be sure, in nearly every instance, the group known as "Affected Liars" would cover the case neatly. There must be, however, a subgroup, which would more aptly apply.

AMBROSE GLUTZ.

The Perfect Simile, offered by S. M. C.: "As dull as the books in a guest room." But we hold it far from perfect, for there are hosts in whose guest rooms any book would seem dull; and hosts in whose guest rooms no book would seem dull.

In 1913 he made a flight of 3,500 miles from Paris to Cairo. It took him five hours to make the journey.—The Times.

Even in those days that was speedy.

". . . whom did he imagine had conceived the offensive song?—From "The Dead Command," translated by Frances Douglas.

Well, whom did?

In accordance with an old and annual custom, this department prints, for the benefit of those who wish to taunt us next October with our propheteering, the order in which the National League clubs will finish the season:

| | |
|---|---|
| Chicago | Philadelphia |
| Boston | St. Louis |
| New York | Cincinnati |
| Pittsburgh | Brooklyn |

And the American League will close in this order:

| | |
|---|---|
| New York | Detroit |
| Chicago | St. Louis |
| Boston | Washington |
| Cleveland | Philadelphia |

No. We never gamble on certainties.

F. P. A.

# Back to Truth

By Mark Sullivan

*(From Collier's)*

SUCH news of the conference as gets out at all is acquired by such ingenuity and diligence as a reporter may possess. He gets a clew from an Italian delegate whom he may happen to know, adds a hint from a Frenchman, puts the combined rumor up to an American for verification, and makes deductions from the manner of the one who denies or confirms it. This method, and whatever other resourcefulness and insight he may have, are a reporter's sole reliance.

That is the whole story of "open covenants openly arrived at." It was betrayed by President Wilson and flagrantly flouted by the conference. So far as any fight was made for it, that fight was made by the American reporters.

Throughout all this there was, of course, a good deal of indignation about the throwing overboard of the first of the fourteen points, most of which was directed against President Wilson personally as the one most called upon to defend open diplomacy. One was forced to conclude that President Wilson frequently uses phrases like this because they sound well, without calculating in advance just what their precise interpretation may call for. Later, when demand is made for the action that the phrase calls for and that action turns out to be inexpedient, or impossible at the time he is called upon to make good Mr. Wilson feels hurt and sullen, as if the world had done him an ill turn.

### *In Which Century?*

When you observed some of the things done at the conference, some of the expressions of the point of view of the official mind about the agencies of public information, you just threw up your hands and wondered if you were living in the twentieth century or whether you had gone back to Louis XIV. For example, one day the Paris correspondent of The New York Tribune sent his usual daily cablegram to his paper. The cablegram on that day, which was partly for publication and partly for the editorial guidance of The Tribune, included an allusion in these words: "Among the many sensational rumors habitually afloat in the Chamber of Deputies there has been one to the effect that President Wilson has threatened to withdraw American troops from France if certain of his ideas are not followed by the peace conference."

I say the Paris correspondent of The Tribune "sent" this cablegram to his paper. What I mean, of course, is that he did the best that any of us could do. He went through the motions of sending it. That is to say, he wrote it and took it down to the French cable office and gave it to the clerk and trusted to luck and the censorship. What actually followed I shall now narrate:

### *"An Abominable Lie"*

The next day Premier Clemenceau called around to see Mr. Wilson. The Premier had The Tribune correspondent's cablegram in his pocket, the original of it. M. Clemenceau showed it to Mr. Wilson. Mr. Wilson read it and they discussed the rumor which the cablegram alluded to. Mr. Wilson assured M. Clemenceau that the rumor was "an abominable lie." Thereupon the official American propagandist organization in France, Mr. Creel's Committee on Public Information, was called in. It sent out the following official message to the American press: "President Wilson categorically denies making the statement attributed to him in the telegram in The New York Tribune that he had threatened to withdraw American troops from France unless the conference agreed with his views."

Mark the words "in The New York Tribune."

At the same time M. Clemenceau, from the French end, went around to the Chamber of Deputies and made a speech. He still had The Tribune's cablegram. During his speech he took it from his pocket and read it to the Chamber, and in the course of a rather lengthy discussion quoted Mr. Wilson's denial. This public discussion in the Chamber was, of course, news, and as news all the American correspondents in Paris transmitted it to their home papers. The next day the American newspapers had considerable accounts of the whole episode.

### *M. Clemenceau's Pocket*

At this juncture—and this is the illuminating point of the whole story—the much mystified editors of The Tribune in New York sent the following cablegram to their Paris correspondent:

"New York papers contain accounts of cablegram about rumors of Wilson withdrawing American troops from France alleged to have appeared in The Tribune. We have printed no such cablegram and have received no such cablegram. Can you enlighten us?"

Of course this cablegram from the puzzled Tribune editors, like all others, came under the French official surveillance. When they saw the inquiry from The Tribune they realized that they were in what might be considered, even for them, an embarrassing position. They realized that the international teamwork of the American and French censorship organizations had been bad. Then, and not till then, after The Tribune's cablegram had been carried around in M. Clemenceau's pocket for nearly a week, did they put it on the wires and transmit it to the addressee.

### *Mr. Wilson's Threat*

In the story just recited of The Tribune's cablegram there is, besides the main issue of the principle of the censorship, a minor issue of fact as to the rumor alluded to. As to the word "army" and as to that particular date Mr. Wilson's denial must be accepted as accurate. But that the President did threaten at another time to take the peace conference away from Paris there is no doubt whatever. He made the threat, made it violently, and got the American correspondents to cable home that such a threat had been made. And at the President's inspiration the correspondents sent it, well knowing as they did so that it was a bluff, designed more to "throw a scare" into the French officials than to contribute accurate information to the American public.

On February 11 the news which readers of American newspapers had of the peace conference dealt principally with a threat that the peace conference was going to leave Paris and to go to a neutral country. That was the particular item of news that was most prominently displayed by the papers. It well might be, for it was sensational. "The New York Times" had two headlines which ran all the way across the front page, "Threat to Take Peace Conference Out of France." "The New York World" also had a seven-column headline, "Peace Conference, Obstructed, May Leave France." All the newspapers in America that day had similar headlines and carried stories in the spirit of the headlines.

### *"Boys, Here's a Story"*

That was the news which America had of what went on in Paris the day before, and, so far as it went, the news and the sensational headlines did, in a way, reflect what had happened. And yet I fancy the American public would have had a different reaction if they could have had a simple narrative of what preceded and what followed. Such a narrative of what actually took place would read about as follows:

Late in the afternoon, when most of the American correspondents were in the pressroom of the headquarters of the American delegates to the peace conference, there entered the pressroom a member of President Wilson's official family, the one who in Paris fills some of the functions which in Washington are filled by Mr. Tumulty, among others that of liaison between the President and the reporters. This official spoke to the correspondents about as follows: "Boys, here's a story for you. The President is very much irritated about some of these stories that are appearing in the Paris papers, and unless it stops the peace conference is going to be taken away from Paris to some neutral country. You can put it on the wires."

### *Mr. Balfour's Denial*

The American correspondents did put it on the wires. Later in the afternoon the English newspaper men heard of the dispatches that had been sent to America and became interested. They came around to the American correspondents to find out the basis for the dispatches, and were told all that the Americans knew. Then they went to their own statesmen to learn if there was any verification to be had, and quickly found that so far as the British were concerned there was no basis whatever. Mr. Balfour declared he had never heard of such a proposal. He went further and said with a good deal of emphasis that so far as the dispatches to America referred to "the other powers" they were seriously misrepresenting the British. Mr. Balfour called up Colonel House, and Colonel House, it was believed, called up Mr. Wilson and tried to prevail on him to take some action to prevent the dispatches which he had inspired from being sent. If Colonel House did make such an effort it was unavailing. The dispatches were sent and were printed, and in the American papers of that day they were the most conspicuous of the news from the peace conference. The British authorities, of course, prevented the dispatches from being published in England, and it goes without saying that the French censors promptly suppressed any effort on the part of the French press to allude to the episode.

## Mr. Hearst's Aliens

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I am not attempting to defend those whom Mr. Hearst attacks, but I do say that before he can be in a position to condemn others, he must purge himself of the criticism that is justly due him by reason of the stand he has taken in reference to the preservation of American principles.

He has, through his newspaper, been endeavoring to impress the public with the idea that he is a thorough-going American, deeply interested in upholding American principles, but when we read between the lines of his newspaper, we find that the class of people to whom he is catering is a class that is doing all in its power to destroy American principles.

In the columns of his paper we find arguments in defence of individuals who have actually been convicted of obstructing our government in its fight for democracy.

Mr. Hearst is a member of the Soldiers' Welcome Home Committee, and has offered free advertisements to the soldiers seeking employment, while he publishes in the same paper an article by a Socialist agitator, belittling the doughboy and all other fighting men, and holding that labor won the war because of its aid in supplying the fighters with ammunition.

He even goes further and casts in the faces of American soldiers the statement that labor could easily have prevented the success of our country in the late war by calling a world-wide strike—a fine statement to be printed in the newspaper of a patriotic American. While this article was not written by Mr. Hearst, nevertheless he stands sponsor for it, as well as for its author. He finds room for three columns of this character of anti-American reading matter, while he cannot afford space for a few lines of facts in defence of the American doughboy.

The trouble is Mr. Hearst is in favor of too much leniency toward the aliens here. He seems to forget that these scoundrels are the ones who poisoned our reservoirs, blew up our munition plants, instigated strikes, plotted against our government, gave information and advice to the enemy and placed bombs in our vessels. They are traitors and the fact that they never became citizens of our country is proof that they intend to maintain allegiance to the land of their birth. They have never stopped plotting against us, and their silent work is going on. Time will show that alien enemy money is behind all the Bolshevik disturbances here, and that all the organizations that have been fighting organized government here, are financed principally by alien enemy money.

It is about time that one hundred per cent Americans woke up and stripped the camouflage from a few of these so-called defenders of American principles and viewed them in their true garb.

CHARLES J. MEADE.

New York, April 14, 1919.

## English Politics Through English Eyes

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The fight between Lloyd George, Prime Minister, and Lord Northcliffe, newspaper proprietor, which is predicted by your special correspondent in London, deserves to be watched by all who are interested in the peculiarly dirty game of politics and live in the hope of seeing cleaner hands on the reins of parliamentary and congressional governments and the end of newspaper blackmail by the syndicate press. When Lloyd George gave vent the other day to his delicious diatribe in the House of Commons and held the Napoleon of the halfpenny newspaper up to the ridicule of the whole world he gave an illustration of a worm turning which can never be surpassed.

Created Prime Minister in the early period of the war because of his magic tongue and his genius for smashing precedent and tradition, Lloyd George has been obliged to eat out of Northcliffe's hand, pander to his vanity, hand him jobs which would permit him to walk through obsequious mobs, and take up the cudgels in his defence whenever he put a clumsy foot bang through the middle of things, which he never failed to do. With the Northcliffe press pointed at his head like a loaded gun, Lloyd George has walked on eggs through all the difficult and dangerous years of war, knowing too well that at any moment it might suit the unscrupulous newspaper proprietor to swing to some other man whose ambition could be used to better purpose, and who could be made to pay for power and leadership to a further extent than Lloyd George might dare to do. His henchman, Max Aitken, to the utter amazement of Canada, had already stepped from a baronetcy to a peerage, and in all probability the master of them both desired a dukedom. Never in the checkered history of politics has press blackmail been so shamelessly and openly conducted or have the life and efforts of a prime minister been so terrorized and made use of as in this flagrant case. The evil power of this press blackmail has long been watched by all who cherish the desire for clean politics with growing concern and uneasiness; it has its counterpart nearer home as well.

The sudden and unexpected getaway recently performed by Lloyd George is, therefore, of epoch-making importance and international interest, and the fight which must certainly take place between the chief of a great government and the head of a great newspaper syndicate must crush one man or the other. It is, indeed, to be hoped that, to the future honor and honesty of parliamentary politics, it will be the newspaper man who will be unseated from his throne and sent into the limbo of unscrupulous and selfish causes with all his dangerous news sheets, and that his utter rout will be followed quickly by that of his brother Napoleon in our United States. Then, and not until then, shall we all be able to put our houses in order and apply the bitter and bloody lessons of the war to the reconstruction that is so full of menace to the world.

ONLOOKER.

New York, April 20, 1919.

## For a Few Nights Only!

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The brightest of the planets and the brightest of the suns of night are now on exhibition, for a few more evenings, commencing about 8:45 p. m. Of course, Venus and Sirius are on firmamental exhibition before this time, but it is better to wait until twilight has wholly faded. Both Venus and Sirius are rather low in the starry heavens, the former being in the southwest and the latter in the west. Even an inexperienced star gazer will be able to find them, since Venus shines so brightly and Sirius sparkles so brilliantly. Of course, Venus is more conspicuous than Sirius, but nevertheless each is spectacular. The planet is millions of miles distant, the sun trillions of miles. One should look for them as soon as the twilight has faded, because Sirius and Venus are rather low in the sky and are constantly descending lower. CHARLES NEVERS HOLMES.

Newton, Mass., April 19, 1919.

## An American Monument

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Referring to the article in your March 16, 1919, issue, entitled, "Mexico Ready to Meet Fair Deal From United States," which contains the statement that the Vera Cruz line (Mexican railway between Vera Cruz and the city of Mexico), now operated by the Mexican government, is a splendid monument to British engineering skill, this is an error, as the original exploration, survey, location and a greater part of the construction was made by Captain Andrew Talcott, a renowned American civil engineer and a former member of the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, during the years 1858-'67.

EMILE LOW.

Buffalo, N. Y., April 17, 1919.

## War on the Rhine

*(From The Manchester Guardian)*

Bonn and Cologne spend a good deal of their time quarrelling, and the British occupying Cologne are amused to [illegible] that the quarrels go on, though Germany should burn. The truth is that the two big towns are too close together, and that Bonn, which is a sort of Oxford, considers that Cologne, which is, say, a sort of Manchester, gives herself airs and apes her betters.

Recently Prussia gave Cologne the right to found a university. Bonn was up in arms at once, pointing out that it had already too many competitors, and that anybody in Cologne who wished to learn had only to run over to Bonn to do so. But worse was to follow—worse, at least, in these days. Cologne has not only stuck firmly to her rights as regards a university, but she has been getting preference over Bonn with the Allies in the way of food. Both Cologne and Aix-la-Chapelle have, it appears, been allowed special privileges in getting food through Holland. Bonn, which in January was at pains to prove how distinct was the old university town from Cologne, is now using all her learning and science to prove that economically she is so bound up with Cologne that she ought to have the same privileges.

## Birds Hereabout Are Renters

*(From The Detroit Journal)*

All the robins we have interviewed this spring are enthusiastic over the own-a-home movement.