

New York Tribune

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The Naval Program

In presenting his three-option naval program to the House Naval Committee, Secretary Daniels modestly remarked: "I have learned a lot during the war, I hope."

His acquired wisdom boils down to this: The size and character of the fleet depend on three contingencies. If the United States joins the league of nations it can dispense with building major vessels—super-dreadnaughts and battle-cruisers.

These recommendations can hardly help confusing the committee. Even if the Senate is prevented from ratifying the German treaty by the President's opposition to reservations and the question of ratification goes to the country next fall in "a great and solemn referendum," there is little prospect that the United States can be kept out of the league after March 4, 1921.

From Mr. Daniels' point of view the "incomparably greatest navy in the world" theory can hardly apply under existing circumstances. And if our membership in the league can be postponed at most only twelve months, the intermediate program also seems hardly practical.

Putting considerations of world politics aside, what have the lessons of the war actually taught with respect to future naval construction? That is a question which Mr. Daniels didn't meet clearly in his exposition.

This is a problem with which all navies will have to deal, independently of the league and its possible success in reducing the scale of naval armament. With or without a league, the United States must seek to maintain a navy adapted to radically changed conditions of sea fighting.

Saving Mothers and Babies

It seems as if only a knowledge of the facts were needed to gain the Maternity Center Association the support, lavish and willing, that it needs. We Americans are too easily proud of our country and civilization.

This fact is only typical of the whole situation—here in New York, as elsewhere in the country. In

1918 12,657 babies under one year and 5,818 babies under one month died in New York City, and 6,798 still-births were reported. One out of three of these babies could be saved by care given before the baby's birth.

It works through zones, with a maternity center in each of ten zones in Manhattan, for example. The organization began with eight nurses in January, 1919. It now has thirty-three. It needs 150. The offices of the Maternity Center Association are at 13 West Thirty-fourth Street.

Unbacking the Government

On leaving office Secretary Lane drew up a powerful indictment of red-tape government as it is practiced in Washington. "Washington," he said, "is a combination of political caucus, drawing room and civil service bureau. It is rich in brains and character. But it is poorly organized for the task that belongs to it."

At present twenty-seven separate agencies are employed in the construction of public buildings. Sixteen are building roads and nineteen are engaged in hydraulic or river and harbor work.

The Interior Department was created in 1849 and took over various bureaus, like the General Land Office, the Penalties Bureau, the Bureau of Patents and the Office of Indian Affairs, which were previously independent.

Here is a rational scheme of consolidation, which will bring about unified management and ought to lead to greater administrative efficiency. It will stop many leaks from the Treasury. And there are similar consolidations which any experienced Washington bureau chief could suggest, but which have not been suggested so far, because, as Mr. Lane truly says, initiative has been benumbed, and those who know what is the matter with the government have been mistaught to avoid responsibility and innovation and to see the prudence of always "playing safe."

Sweden and the Extraditions

Noteworthy comment on the Allied demand for the surrender of the German war criminals comes from Sweden. Press opinion on the subject shows a cleavage there, which is in itself illuminating, as to the merit of some of the arguments offered by British and American "liberals" against putting the Teutonic offenders against law and humanity on trial.

Thus Hjalmar Branting, regarded as the leading figure of Continental Social Democracy, publishes in his organ a very strong article demanding the punishment of the perpetrators of the Lille atrocities and other crimes, and is attacked by the Conservative *Stockholms Dagblad* for advocating a policy of vengeance.

"Nothing can be done wrong than to regard the demands for the Kaiser's

trial as only the expression of the arrogance of people intoxicated with victory. . . . The Allied people's demand for the punishment of Kaiser Wilhelm and certain other Germans dates from the earliest stage of the war, and was never stronger than when victory seemed to the Allies most remote. . . . The demand for retribution sprang like a cry of distress from the breast of innocent victims of the German war of aggression."

Anderson

The Anti-Saloon League Head from Two Angles

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Are you sure of your bearings when you line up with the enemies of the superintendent of the Anti-Saloon League? In charging Mr. Anderson with being a "boss and a dictator" you are quite within the bounds of an open question, but scarcely so when you call him "a rowdy and a blatant vulgarian."

Did Daniels Have a Plan? To-day the Senate Naval Committee is to begin its investigation. On the one side will be the naval technicians, under the leadership of Admiral Sims, and on the other the navy's political controllers, under the leadership of Secretary Daniels.

The supreme duty of the navy is to be ready instantly to make it impossible for any power or combination of powers to impose its will on the United States. Until the whole world shall have abandoned injustice and force our navy will remain the shield which will permit us to live our national life as we see the right.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I desire to congratulate you upon the editorial contained in to-day's Tribune, entitled "Anderson." I thoroughly agree with the sentiments therein contained, and believe that it is time that more publicity of this sort be given to Anderson.

Solving the Subway To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The letter of Herbert Barry published in this morning's issue of The Tribune suggests a remedy for present subway congestion: "Remove the point of congestion from the door of the car to a gate some distance from it."

Our str. are in a bad way. —Herb Swope was ill last wk. —Come on spring is how we feel these days. —News are none too plentiful at this writing. —Income tax reporting is the order of the day.

Perfectly Natural To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The letter from a Hamburg man to a pre-war business associate in New York, published in The Tribune of March 4, expresses a perfectly natural outburst of friendly feeling for this country. His sentiments were bred and fostered by the tone of the American papers.

The Long Distance Optimist To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The people of these United States are congratulating themselves on the obvious fact that a year from now they will have sanity instead of vanity in the White House.

There are, perhaps, persons un-malicious enough to be sorry that their landlords are paying over part of their proletrating spoils to the government. Expert Testimony Sir: I wonder whether the lyric critics of The Tower know that there are several reasons why 1920 librettists are not equaling the output of one W. S. Gilbert? There are several, and here are ten of them: 1. The same reason why no composer is beating the stuff turned out by one E. Wagner—to wit, "there ain't no such animal."

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The Conning Tower

TRIOLET The days are dark and drear; My muse is dumb. The streets are far from clear, The days are dark and drear. Come, gentle Spring! Ether-Eal Mildness! Come! The days are dark and drear— My muse is dumb.

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Books By Heywood Brown We are inclined this afternoon to regard our rectitude without enthusiasm. The Heavenly Home; What It Is, Where It Is and Who Will Be in It, by Dr. John Roach Straton, makes us wish we had led the more evil life. "The first fact about heaven," he writes, "which will make it familiar to us is that it will be a city."

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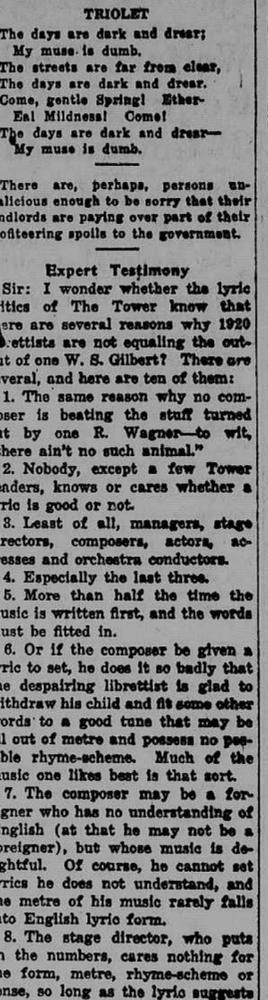
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GIVING UP HIS LEASE

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Courage of the Poor

An Appeal in Their Behalf Addressed to Us All

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: The Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor has appealed to the New York public for \$975,000. To me it seems one of the saddest things in life that so great a number of our citizens are unable to see and know more of the lives of their very near neighbors.

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