

New York Tribune

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

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A Wilson Inheritance

A correspondent of The Tribune asks who and what are behind the hidden and determined opposition to any sort of recognition of General Wood by the new Administration.

For these high services General Wood was first rusticated in Charleston; next a health board was named to invade him.

A fairly good guess was made as to the Wilson Administration's motives. It was half crazed with fear that if General Wood distinguished himself abroad, he was likely to do, he might be an unbeatable candidate for the Presidency.

One can understand, as remarked, the motive of the Wilson Administration. Perception of it was one of the reasons for the Administration's unpopularity.

Professional politicians, of course, do not like General Wood. He was guilty of going to the people with his candidacy. But the largest group of militant Republicans that the party contains will be irritated if General Wood is excluded.

Senator Harding is to be acquitted of complicity in this splotchy scheming. When he said he would choose a Cabinet of big and representative men he meant it.

A Change of Heart

The defeat of the Siegel reapportionment bill reveals a startling change of spirit in the House of Representatives. For the first time in many years that body, very clanish in its instincts, has trodden hard on the toes of many of its members on an issue outside partisan politics.

Twenty years ago the present situation was reversed. The House leaders knew that it was unwise to go on increasing the roll merely in order to soothe the sensibilities of the slow-growing states or to relieve members going home to face redistrictings which might unseat them.

methods by which you-stand-by-me-and-I'll-stand-by-you solidarity is created. They worked up enough sympathy to beat the committee.

What has come over the average Congressman? The hard struggle for retrenchment, in which he has had to clinch with a spendthrift Administration, has quickened his sense of responsibility to the mass, as against the interested special group.

Now the theory of devotion to something larger—to the country, to the welfare of the whole—is making converts. The House balked at the notion of adding from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 to its annual expenditure in order to accommodate a small fraction of its present membership.

Hunt the Rascals Down

Everything that Mr. Whitman says about rascality in the Police Department supports The Tribune's contention that a legislative investigation is an immediate necessity.

After less than two weeks of service with the grand jury Mr. Whitman has discovered that business men have been systematically held up for tribute and that protection is bought and paid for.

These statements, coming from a man who knows the inside of the Police Department as well as any other man outside of it, ought to remove any doubts that may still exist among legislators as to the importance of a searching inquiry.

It is time for the Legislature to act. Already valuable time has been lost. The crime wave is still menacing the city. Business men are still paying tribute to grafters.

Masaryk vs. Lenine

To the long list of British, French, German, Italian and other witnesses who, while themselves socialists or sympathetic toward socialism, have seen Bolshevism in its native land and found it rotten, now must be added the name of a man than whom no one in western Europe is entitled to speak with more authority of things Russian.

Plainly, Mr. Ferguson would, if he could, stop all activities on Sunday except churchgoing. His conception of the day is as of one in which the world stops revolving and every one sits home and reads devout literature when not listening to sermons.

All the greater is the weight, therefore, that attaches to his indictment of Bolshevist theory published in the Brd'n Socialist newspaper Lidove Noviny. He attacks Leninism from the point of view of the Marxian socialist, and says: "The Bolsheviks have no right to expropriate Marx and Engels, who, in the scientific and socialist period of their development, have given up the idea of revolutionism. Marx and Engels considered armed revolt merely as an auxiliary measure or

makeshift, and expected a decisive change of the social order through the educational improvement of the workers. The attitude of Marx and Engels was scientific and evolutionary, whereas the attitude of the Russian Bolsheviks is absolutistic and unscientific. Marx and Engels hoped for the advent of a new order through and by the evolution of a new culture; Lenine hopes for a collapse of capitalism all over the world. In this he is bound to be disappointed."

These are the words of a philosopher and a statesman—Masaryk has proved himself to be among the foremost of both callings. He has approached politics—the science of regulating human lives and relations—from the angle of both the psychologist-historian and the practical manipulator, and he found that political dogmatism is an enemy of the true interest of man, whether it is painted black or red.

The Borah Holiday

The modified Borah resolution, which the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has approved, omits any reference to specific reductions in the naval building program of the United States, Great Britain and Japan.

A triangular compact to slow down naval building would be of advantage to all three nations. They have the world's three first-class navies. There are no other serious competitors.

The Borah proposition, therefore, doesn't look toward the sort of disarmament which would bring all nations down to the same level of unpreparedness and defenselessness. The peace of the world cannot be guaranteed in that way.

Some exchange of views on naval retrenchment is highly desirable. Each country will consider its needs and protect its interests in any program which may be adopted.

There has been no provision made, in the inaugural plans, for music; but somebody should write the Song of Marlon's men.

Blueness Not Wanted

The drive at Albany for blue laws is just a little one, its backers declare. No extreme restrictions are in mind, according to the Rev. John Ferguson, secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance. Kissing is unassailable, and so is automobile riding.

But the Rev. Mr. Ferguson reveals the ideal toward which he is working even while denying any present intention of asking laws to bring it to pass. One of his ambitions, he admits, is to have Sunday papers printed on Saturday afternoon, though just how the world is to be speeded up so as to get Saturday's news in this sheet he fails to explain.

Only five of the twenty-four Reds shipped to Lenine the other day were mindful to take soap with them, though there is a soap famine in Russia. This is too bad. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, and twenty-four Communists, all armed with soap, might have been sufficient to overthrow soapless Sovietism.

A Deadly Weapon

Only five of the twenty-four Reds shipped to Lenine the other day were mindful to take soap with them, though there is a soap famine in Russia. This is too bad. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump, and twenty-four Communists, all armed with soap, might have been sufficient to overthrow soapless Sovietism.

a Sunday and enjoy his gloom to his heart's content. He has no business forcing his habits upon the rest of the world, and the sooner he realizes the fact the better.

Wouldn't Be Missed

Report comes that the society of reckless coughers is specially active at concerts this year. Likewise the guild of whisperers, and the restless brotherhood whose members regard aisles as parade places, and the late comers who climb over half a row of victims.

Maybe there is something, after all, in the plan to establish a local branch of the Ku-Klux Klan.

Jews and the Flag

The Record of Their Consistent Aid in the Making of America To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: You have spoken well in your editorial "Anti-Semitism." The vast majority of Jews have always sought in their wanderings to become citizens of the country wherein they have settled. It was partly due to this trait that the Dutch government of Manhattan was swayed to grant citizenship to the shipload of Portuguese Jews (the first Jews to come to Manhattan) whom you mention in your editorial.

Our candidate for Postmaster-General is Mr. Will H. Hays. Mr. Hays, he tells us, was a Wabash College classmate of Ted Robinson's, the Cleveland Plain Dealer's gifted but erudite columnist; and with Mr. Hays in office a law might be put through giving the freedom of the mails to colyum contribus.

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The KURSE OF THE KEY

Ten years ago last June it was— Facilis magisterium Haled me upon the cocoa mat And made me kneel before 'em.

They tied a riband on my coat And uttered cabalistic Lingo, and hung upon my front This key, and chirped this distich:

"Don, this should make you verra happy— For you are now Phi Beta Kappa."

It hung awhile upon my chest, I thought it looked oddly dapp; But when I sought a job, I got A shrug—"Phi Beta Kappa!"

Ten years! And still it's adumbrate Why I should be, now, happy— I've found no lock this key will fit. Who'll buy—Phi Beta Kappa?

January, 1784.

During every American war Jews have offered their all for our flag. In peace times Jews have aided America to prosper. This is history, notwithstanding anti-Semites to the contrary.

Why, it was only last night that I heard young Levantine boys and girls from the Settlement house (managed by the Sisterhood of the Spanish and Portuguese Congregation, Shearith Israel) proclaim their highest ideal was to become good American citizens in every sense of the word.

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The Conning Tower

AN ECHO OF THE WAR

I purchased scores of Liberty 4s when the Hun was at the gate, and I bought cigars at war bazars, and I paid a dollar straight.

I'm not the kind to keep in mind the wrongs of a bygone day. I can take a bath in the grapes of wrath and emerge debonair and gay.

My bonds are low, but I let that go—I never was one to bawl. Though the things I thought were what I fought for weren't the things at all.

When liquor quite disappeared from sight I raised no protesting voice, and if Sundays blue should be our due, I'll dutifully rejoice;

According to the blue law lobby, only motion pictures and professional baseball are aimed at in the annihilatory attack. But some motion pictures, it seems to us, should be retained.

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THANK HEAVENS, MOTHER IS GETTING BACK SOONER THAN EXPECTED!



General Wood in the Cabinet

More Tribune Readers Express Widespread Demand for His Appointment as Secretary of War

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I thank you so much for your splendid editorial last Sunday about General Wood. I am only one of hundreds of New York women (there are three of them in my family) who long to make their voices heard in time to register for General Wood as our next Secretary of War.

Can you not give the people an opportunity to sign a form printed in The Tribune, and mail you their signatures, which would reach enormous numbers within the next month? New York, the Empire City, should lead the East in a stop, look and listen call to Mr. Harding. Let us make ourselves articulate in time.

The street crowd which attended the dedication of Roosevelt House on January 6 surely included, women equal in wit with men, what the people think and whom they want. It was like the roar of the pack when Wood came after all the other speakers—"eye-opener" as to what is going on in the minds and hearts of the multitude.

For purely selfish reasons, Americans don't want General Wood eternally cheated of official power and dignity. They want him where he can protect the country at every point—not as a resident Governor of the Philippines or any other "out-of-the-way" politician's island.

There are very many who feel most earnestly and intensely on this matter. Can you not give them the chance to sign their names to a great list and get word to Mr. Harding in time? We would bless The Tribune even more than we always do for its noble sentiments.

FLORENCE B. HENGLER, New York, Jan. 19, 1921.

[We suggest that our correspondent, and every one who wishes to express the same view, write a personal letter to Mr. Harding.—Ed.]

The Plattsburg Idea

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: As a Tribune reader I wish to congratulate you upon your vigorous support of General Leonard Wood for a seat in Mr. Harding's Cabinet.

General Wood is the essence of the Plattsburg idea, and that is, preparedness. Those who attended the officers' training camps in 1917 heard numerous candidates say that the one thing that impressed them most was the efficiency and leadership of the regular army officers. This was due to a great extent to their West Point training and army traditions.

Contemplation of a whole column, blank and unfilled, gives one, even after thousands of days of it, a daily sensation of vertigo. Yesterday's dizziness was dispelled by regarding the work of Benjamin Franklin, better known to the colyumfians of his day as Poor Richard.

In July, 1914. But was do not run according to schedule. We do not know just when a fighting army, prepared for war, is going to be vitally necessary. And as wars come along unannounced, it is a mighty sensible thing to get ready for them and keep ready for them. This work is General Wood's specialty.

If Mr. Harding intends to give us the best Secretary of War available, a man who has had not only years of practical and successful experience, but who also enjoys the absolute confidence of the people, he should select Major General Leonard Wood. HENRY W. MORRISON, Rutherford, N. J., Jan. 19, 1921.

His Expert Qualifications.

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: When one is sick the physician is called; when legal advice is needed the lawyer is consulted; for financial information one goes to his banker. Along the same line of argument, when a proper defense for our country is needed the officers of the army and navy are the men whose voices should be heeded.

It does appear that it would be wise to have as Secretary of War a man who is thoroughly familiar with the needs of our country for its proper defense. Many feel that the selection of General Leonard Wood to fill this important position would be most fortunate. Well known as a man of tried courage and ability, the nation would feel assured that under his guidance it would have a proper army, thoroughly trained and equipped in all of its branches.

One feels also that his varied experiences would make him a wise counselor in the Cabinet. It will be very pleasant to get out of hearing of the many "voices in the air" that have been for the last few years so confusing and expensive, to put our feet firmly on terra firma again and to feel that we have real sensible men to govern our country. W. C. JONES, Jackson Springs, N. C., Jan. 16, 1921.

Root, Wood and Hoover

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: Thank you for "Why Hoover Is Wanted" and particularly for "Root, Wood and Hoover"—each representative of a large body of public opinion and each a specialist.

The immediate situation is irritating because the unqualified statements of many newspapers are that the President-elect will nominate Harry Daugherty, Will Hays and Toby Herts to important Cabinet positions for services, regardless of their superior fitness to occupy them to the advantage of the United States. Such nominations are not more reputable or decent than the nomination of "Cupid" Grayson to be an admiral of the United States Navy, and may well be unfounded upon fact. Indeed, after Harding's virtuous pronouncements, they seem like a libel upon his integrity and his good judgment.

The situation is irritating because no one knows what he should do. If he patiently waits till the nominations are actually made he will be too late to do anything, no matter how bad they might be. On the other hand, if he addresses a vigorous protest against any "spoils" nominations before Harding has actually made such might he not find him-

self in the position of having offered a gratuitous insult to the President-elect JOHN D. ELWELL, New York, Jan. 19, 1921.

A Letter to Mr. Harding

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: In view of your constant and staunch support of Major General Leonard Wood for appointment as Secretary of War, I am quite sure that the enclosed letter, which I sent to President-elect Harding, will interest you and your readers. O. E. CHANEY, New York, Jan. 19, 1921.

The Honorable Warren G. Harding, President-Elect, Marion, Ohio.

My dear Mr. Harding—I realize that in the voluminous mail with which you are besieged every day, probably very few, and only the most important, letters ever reach your own hand, but I hope that your secretary may make an exception of this and present it to you.

I inclose herewith an editorial from The New York Tribune of to-day, which expresses not only my own sentiments, but probably those of a majority of the red-blooded Americans who elected you. I venture to say that, if it were possible for you to make a canvass of the United States, you would find that nine out of every ten Americans consulted would endorse, with heart and soul, the appointment of Major General Leonard Wood as Secretary of War.

It has always struck me as a fallacy of political reaction and selfishness that neither a military man nor a navy man should head the War and Navy departments. It is tantamount to saying that a man totally ignorant of banking and finance should be placed at the head of the Treasury Department or that a man knowing nothing at all of the law should be made Attorney General.

It has been the belief and the hope of all 100 per cent Americans that you, Mr. President-elect, would be impervious to the blandishments and self-interested urgings of mere politicians in their clamor for participation in your Cabinet—men who have no qualifications except their capability in political intrigue. I believe you know that what enemies General Wood may have been acquired through his absolute and utter fearlessness to stand upon his two feet and tell the truth regardless of the consequences to him personally. It is this one great quality in General Wood which has endeared him to millions of his countrymen, and your selection of him as one of your advisers would prove to your countrymen that you agree with them in their estimate of General Wood.

Very respectfully, (Signed) O. E. CHANEY.

History Repeats?

To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: "It is reported on excellent authority that General Wood will be asked to assume the Governorship of the Philippines." History (United States) repeats itself. If there is a man in the offering remarkable only for honesty and efficiency, by all means let us remove him as far as possible from Washington. M. E. WOOD, Geneva, N. Y., Jan. 15, 1921.