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Dishonest: The fatal objection to the German reparation offer is that it is visibly and palpably dishonest.

Germany names \$12,000,000,000 present value. But the payment is to be in "stage" money, the Allies subscribing for the bonds whose proceeds they are to get if Germany fails like meeting the obligation.

The interest rate is to be 4 per cent. This would mean the bonds would be worth 50 cents on the dollar.

Moreover, Germany under the plan is to recover former German-owned property. How much this deduction would call for is not stated, but it would be large.

Finally, there is no machinery for enforcing payment. The reparation safeguards of the Versailles Treaty are to be annulled.

After the March parley Lloyd George remarked that if the German delegation had stayed a week longer it doubtless would have appeared that Great Britain owed Germany money.

Why does Germany mention 50,000,000,000 marks gold in her first sentence? To suggest that she has raised her bid. She counts on no close reading of the fine print of her conditions.

The Allies have no recourse but to order another advance, as the Versailles Treaty provides for. Perhaps when Germany's chief industrial region has passed from her possession she will cease maneuvering and get ready to pay.

And if America really wishes to make common cause in the interest of a peace of justice and permanence our troops should form a part of the posse as the international sheriff levies on the property of the defaulting debtor.

The "Penny" Dividend: Yesterday was not a happy one for the 135,445 stockholders who own the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Thousands of wives and mothers not only have had to suffer the loss of husband or son but have also been impoverished because during the months between discharge and death premium payments on their insurance had lapsed.

In Massachusetts the disabled and sick soldiers were housed in hospitals in conditions under which "a self-respecting community would not tolerate its incapacitated criminals to live."

National and state laws and regulations, culminating in the rules and orders of McAdoo days, have confiscated railroad property. Let us not be afraid to use the blunt word.

The Reformation Commission, fulfilling its duty under the treaty, has fixed the amount due from Germany at 132,000,000,000 gold marks, or \$33,000,000,000 on a current value basis.

The Allies agreed at Paris on January 29 last to let Germany off with \$21,000,000,000 or \$22,000,000,000 on reparation account, plus a 12 1/2 per cent yearly tax on German exports.

The proposed Roosevelt 2 1/2-cent piece would not only be a fit memorial, but would meet an economic need. For years such a coin has been demanded.

The present obviously is not the time for the consideration of the resolution to withdraw our troops from Germany, introduced by Congressman Hamilton Fish jr.

These proposals are unacceptable to France and Great Britain. They are impudent and derisive. If Germany should say "We made a war of conquest and were beaten; we ought to pay and will pay; we think we can pay so much, but we leave it to you to fix the total and the conditions," then the Allies and the neutral world as well would listen with some respect and sympathy.

The Teuton mind bows only to force. Germany has invited action by the Reparation Commission in accordance with the treaty. The sensible thing to do is to allow her the strict execution of the treaty, which her policy has made inevitable.

Less technical grammar—all of it omitted below the grade of 7-A—is among the recommendations of the New York Principals' Association submitted to the Board of Superintendents. Instead, it is stated, the children should be habituated to correct structure and grammatical forms.

This means, we hope, not less but greater emphasis on grammar in the curriculum of what have been known so long as "grammar schools." For grammar, despite all protests of the untutored, is the basic study. It is more important that it be mastered than that the student learn to figure correctly.

There are two reasons why grammar should be given greater attention in the elementary schools than any other study—its paramount importance and its superficial appearance of unimportance. Before a man needs to know how to count money, to define an archipelago or the Mississippi watershed, to repeat the context of the Magna Charta and the Declaration of Independence, to hum a tune, it is essential that he be able to converse correctly with his fellows, since he cannot communicate the facts of his hunger or his unemployment readily without the equipment of a common language.

Probably a large percentage of parents do not see the prime value of grammar, and purposely or unconsciously they discourage their children in mastering its principles of proper pronunciation, spelling, word inflection and syntax, this latter including what the educators describe as technical emphasis. But parents unite in emphasis on mathematics. A "good head for figures" is supposed to forecast a

these same soldiers were received with open arms. The best was scarcely good enough for them. Today they must fend for themselves.

Such ingratitude is abominable.

The Roosevelt Half Nickel: There is no better memorial for a great national figure than a coin. Passed from hand to hand, treasured or spent according to taste or necessity, it bears constant testimony.

We have the Lincoln penny. How often have people paused to look at the well known features and have thought a little of his devotion to duty.

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good business man. Yet every child is born with a passion for acquisitiveness that sooner or later will interest him in figures. Railway maps will drive into his head a sketchy geography of his own country. Newspapers will reecho the important facts of the history of his country.

If by "technical grammar" is meant the picturing of sentences, the diagramming of sentences, this has doubtless been overdone in grammar teaching in the past. New methods involving the development of right habits might well replace part of this analytical drill. But there should be no lessening of the general effort toward the common goal of equipping our children with the knowledge and habit of correct English, on their tongues and at their typewriters.

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The Conning Tower: First Lines From the Golden Treasury. My heart leaps up when I behold A sweet disorder in the dress. When as in silks my Julia goes. (The lovely lass of Inverness!)

She dwelt among the untrodden ways. She was a phantom of delight; She is not fair to outward view; She walks in beauty, like the night. Fair daffodils, we weep to see That which her slender waist con- fined.

O lover's eyes are sharp to see— Tell me not, sweet, I am unkind! VAUGHN HANNINGTON.

"Well," a man says, "I think I'll take a walk," or "I think I'll get shaved." Some of us do these things without expressing our intentions; but others of us, as though anybody else cared, never have an unexpressed thought. It is a large category, the second one, and its only interesting member, in the periphery of our experience, is Mr. H. G. Wells. We doubt whether he ever has a thought he doesn't transcribe; and we doubt whether he ever zines any of his transcriptions.

Probably Mr. Wells is the only person who could make us listen through the second sentence of a reply to the query, "Well, old kid, how do you feel?"

The Passionate Contrib to Her Colymist (Being closing lines from the Poems of E. P. A.) You've made an awful splash with me. And that's no Barnum lie; There's nothing like you in the West— Which nobody can deny. A. A. L.

No heights were reached by us in some verses, printed herein a year or so ago, beginning "She gazes across at the Palisades"; and for the life of us we can't see why the Champaign, Ill., Daily Illini should consider them worthy of stealing.

Blue Laws for Blue Points (From a bill adopted Tuesday by the Connecticut Senate) Providing that oysters with the bone of the nose broken or mutilated may be taken if they measure at least three and one-eighth inches at the shortest distance from the back of the top of the opening in the shell through which the eye protrudes to the center of the rear end of the body shell.

"Dr. Mott," says the palpably anti-legal Yale News, "had intended to take up the study of law; but his Y. M. C. A. work, while a student at Cornell, influenced him to follow Christian pursuits."

The Complete Letter Writer (Received by a London cinema corporation) Dear Sir, Herewith are 2 recent photos of myself, taken within a minute of each other. One is my natural self; the other shows what I can instantly do with my face even without the help of make-up. Whoever sees it goes into uncontrollable fits of laughter. Is an ability to do this sort of thing, and to keep it up for any time, required in "character-acting," likely to be of any use to you? If it always causes instant mirth among my own acquaintances, (no matter how melancholy they may have been feeling) possibly it might be worth while introducing to the wider circle of the "public." But may I be allowed, from the beginning, (if such should be my fortune) to bar having blanc-mange thrown at it, or myself being dropped in the mud or rolled downstairs, as I am not a gymnast in any form. Seriously a "face" like this might be just such as you require for some quiet and quaint really-humorous character study.

Also is the Lardnerian influence manifest in these excerpts from The Underwood Mystery: "A man like he, with his wealth..." "The time was long enough for Bentley and I to recognize him."

Mr. Salsena's Loss (From The Times) LOST—Half gentleman's heavy gold cuff link, Amsterdam Theatre, Saturday night, or taxi to 2 East 56th; reward; no questions. Plaza 2100.

It's just possible that Venus might've gotten that golden apple from Adonis.—Evening Telegram. It's highly probable.

CATULUS: CARMEN XIII "Cecilia bene, mi Fabullus, erud me!"— All at home you will dine. On that is fine. If you bring a good dinner along; And Falernian wine To reinforce mine, And a maiden to give us a song.

That I ask you to bring Stuff that's fit for a king, May sound odd from a man such as I. If the truth must be told, I am lacking in gold, And my throat's mighty dusty and dry.

In return for such fare, I shall give you a rare Bit of ointment, as sweet as a rose. When you smell it, you'll pray Without further delay That the gods kindly make you all rose. LATINUS Y.

France's rejection of the German proposals implies lack of everything, including literary merit.

Tennis Hymns of Hate A man I loathe Is Lemuel Bett; He always calls A "let" a "net."

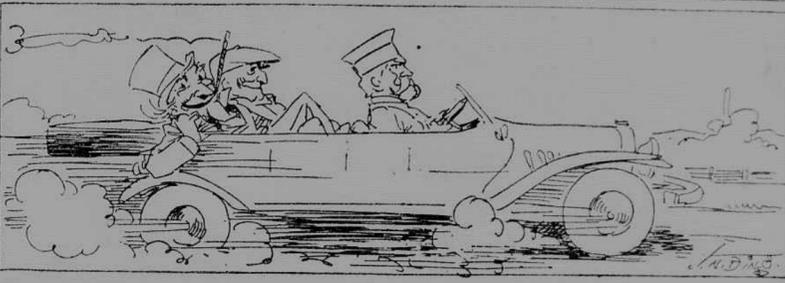
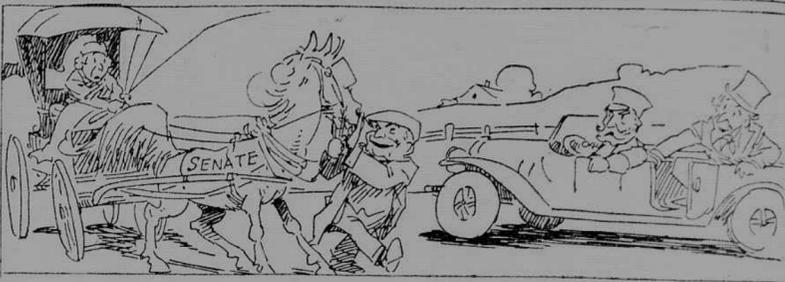
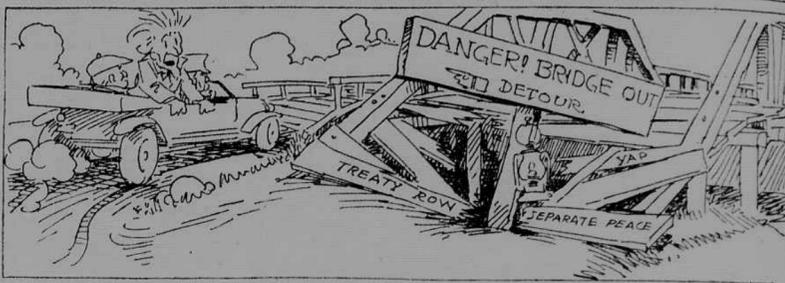
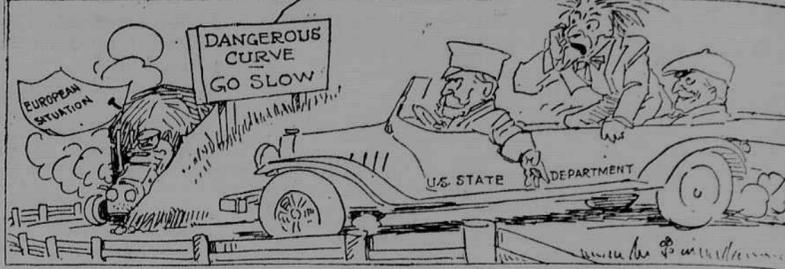
Another tramp Is Philip Leach; When you pass him, he Yells "OUT"—of reach. TACK.

"There should be," said the Athletic Young Man, "no diminution in the reparation remunerations."

Germany, it occurs to us, ought to ask, in addition to guaranteed cash values at the end of the third year, that after the first payment the policy be made inconvertible.

Known in insurance circles as the Suicide Clause. F. P. A.

IT'S GETTING SO WE CAN BEGIN TO SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SCENERY WITH OUR NEW DRIVER



A Civil Service Question

Should Postmasterships Be Among the Spoils of Office? To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The criticisms which Henry Lane Wilson, speaking before the National Civil Service Reform League, passed upon the policy of the late Administration with respect to the diplomatic service might well be extended to apply to other branches of the government service. Of course, the country had never been tried by an administrative so facile in lip service to every progressive ideal while at the same time so inexorable in practicing the spoils system wherever it would benefit "deserving Democrats."

There wasn't a measure passed, I believe, during the eight Wilsonian years providing for new jobs which was not accompanied by provisions exempting said jobs from civil service requirements. But the high point of achievement in camouflaged assault upon the civil service was reached by Postmaster General Burleson when he induced President Wilson, by successive executive orders, to cover 63,000 Democratic postmasterships under the protection of what they hoped would be life tenure, at the same time persuading the public that a great service was being done the cause of civil service.

Now, look at the facts. The 63,000 Democrats were put in the postoffice of the land by purely political appointments. When they were safely in an executive order issued protecting them, regardless of the expiration of their commissions, until they died or resigned. By subtle publicity methods the public was led to believe that a civil service status was thus given them.

This would have been bad enough if true—if men appointed without civil service examinations had been subsequently by a wave of the hand transferred into civil service incumbents. But this was beyond the power of the President, and the official publication of the Civil Service Commission explicitly states that these postmasters have no civil service status; but, in fact, the President's order puts them beyond the reach of the civil service.

This being so, is it not time that the trick, which every one recognized as a trick, which attempted to perpetuate the grip of the Democratic party on the postal service, regardless of the mandate of the people, should be undone? To paraphrase, "A breath can unmake them, as a breath has made."

President Wilson issued a mere Presidential fiat appointing these "deserving Democrats" for life. President Harding has only to issue another Presidential fiat depriving them of life tenure. Then the positions can be put actually on a civil service basis, or the old course can be pursued of filling vacancies, as they occur, with members of the party which has been intrusted with the running of the country.

Properly carried out, with regard to fitness, the latter system, in my mind, is not only proper, but is in accord with the institutions of our political system. The people of the country very decisively registered their demand that the whole Federal Administration be turned over to the Republican party.

I believe that mandate covers the postal system, because nothing in the Wilson régime was more thoroughly resented by the people than the combination of monarchical tyranny and socialist inefficiency which characterized the Burleson rule in the Postoffice Department. It doesn't seem to me to be carrying out the rather emphatic mandate of the people at the polls to allow 83,000 Democratic postmasterships to hang on till they die, protected by a fraud.

Of course, on the score of efficiency it may not mean so much in many small places. But in the big cities—where for eight years postal service has stood still or even greatly deteriorated, so that Postmaster Patten of our own long-suffering metropolis recently confessed to the joint Congressional committee that millions of dollars a day are lost to the business community by the administration he gives—and in the big cities, surely, relief cannot be denied.

New York had the best postal administration in the world until Edward M. Morgan was removed. If memory serves correctly, Mr. Morgan actually had and has a civil service status entitling him to reappointment. Probably the same is true in other cities with respect to former efficient postmasters summarily removed. When will the Administration cut the noose of Burlesonism, which is still strangling business in the great cities where business centers and where it is entitled to have its mail properly and promptly forwarded? EDWARD P. PARKER. New York, April 26, 1921.

"Britons" Over Here To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: William Howard Gardiner in his letter in to-day's Tribune submits census figures showing that for each Irishman in the United States there are virtually two "Britons," and further states that his figures should prove interesting to Irish and American politicians. Let me ask Mr. Gardiner: "But do the Irish politicians fear the 'Britons' in this country, or are the American politicians concerned about the 'Briton' vote?" And again, "How many 'Britons' ever become citizens?"

The first thought of the Irish immigrant after disembarking from the Ellis Island ferry is his naturalization papers. Perhaps Mr. Gardiner can aid us further by showing how many of the 1,133,967 "Britons" are citizens as compared with the citizens among the 1,036,680 Irish.

Also, Mr. Gardiner mentions \$22,634 as coming from Canada and other British dominions and assumes that they are all "Britons." The writer wonders how many of them are Irish or of Irish extraction.

Mr. Gardiner is rather care free in his use of the word "Briton." Aren't the real Britons the Celts, the Scotch, Welsh, Irish, Manxmen and natives of Brittany in France? ARTHUR J. MURPHY. Brooklyn, April 27, 1921.

An Abused World (From The Cincinnati Enquirer) A Chicago professor says some thoughts are not thoughts at all. We agree with him. Some of the alleged thoughts wished off on the public are merely brainstorms.

They Never Would Be Missed (From The DeKalb, Ill., Chronicle) Russia is in urgent need of all things used in railroading. We can spare but a few controversies that show little signs of wear.

Helping Sinn Fein

Drive for Relief Funds Not Unrelated to Political Activities An Open Letter to the American Committee for Relief in Ireland

Sirs: I observed in the newspapers not long ago your advertisement, addressed to the American public. Mr. I, as a non-Irish and otherwise unhyphenated American, reply thereto.

You state that your executive committee have read with astonishment the statements credited to the British Embassy in Washington and refer to these statements as "misrepresentations" and as being inaccurate and unfounded. The gist and crux of the contention of the British Embassy, as read it, is that "every case of distress and destitution is directly due to the effect of the Sinn Féin rebellion—a fact which every fair-minded and unprejudiced American must recognize and know to be true.

Your statement that there was no Sinn Féin rebellion in Ulster is an evasion, for there were active Sinn Féiners in Belfast and elsewhere in Ulster. You state that the work of your committee is of a purely humanitarian and non-political character. The same element in this country, who were so active in selling Irish republican "bonds" and in forming branches of the Friends of Irish Freedom, and later, owing to the inevitable disagreements between themselves, of the Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic, are precisely the people who are to-day working for your committee and its objects.

It is impossible to associate their former political activities from their present charitable efforts. It may not be the intent of your committee to use the present drive for funds as a means of fomenting further political agitation in favor of the Sinn Féin rebellion, but it is producing that result none the less.

There are millions of Americans, of whom the writer is one, who feel that they cannot be in deep sympathy with your appeal and we can find no analogy between the misery of the people of war-invaded Belgium and Poland and the largely self-inflicted sufferings of the Sinn Féin Irish. We think at least that if succor must be sent it should be contributed by those who have subscribed to Irish "bonds," and who have otherwise done so much to create the distressing conditions that exist in Ireland. Had it not been for the persistent encouragement they have received from the Irish in this country, the Sinn Féin leaders would never have been emboldened to take the utterly untenable position they have assumed and which has resulted in the bloodshed and murder in Ireland to-day.

We deplore the interference of a country that they or their forebears have abandoned, and we resent their efforts to enroll us in a difficulty with Great Britain—our valiant ally in the late war—in the interest of a revolutionary party in Ireland which aided and abetted our enemies in that great and victorious struggle. GEORGE RANDOLPH. New York.