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Plenary Authority

With respect to the debts owed to the United States by foreign nations these facts seem clear:

1. That it is impossible for the debtor countries to meet their obligations now.
2. That the restrictions surrounding the issue of Liberty bonds do not give the Treasury Department power to refund.
3. That the exact course or even the general policy to be followed depends on the result of financial negotiations with many nations which have not even been begun.

In view of these considerations the delegation of authority to the Treasury Department must be broad. To narrow it might preclude the very settlement most desirable and practical. And as Congress at this time may not wisely attempt to lay down principles to be followed, so the Treasury Department may not now be asked to say in any specific way what it intends to do. It does not now know, nor can it. Possibly a provision requiring approval by Congress of the plan recommended can be justified, but otherwise Secretary Mellon's plea for plenary authority seems unanswerable. The spirit of opposition reported as rising in Congress is to be deprecated. Refunding in some form is indispensable. It is nonsense to expect an early payment of \$10,000,000,000. And if the debts are kept in an open account, at the rate of interest they now bear, it is equally impossible to relieve our Treasury by selling at anything near any kind of certificates of participation. The only way out is by some refunding process, with the new securities made salable. But how this is to be done must, from the nature of the problem, be left to the discretion of the President and his financial advisers. Not to do this is to keep taxes up.

Confidence

Confidence is something almost as difficult to define as it is to summon at will. We know in a general way that it proceeds from character, yet there is more to it than this. The man you sit next to, who is driving the car, may have character, yet you unconsciously stiffen your knees when he goes around corners. When you have confidence you are relaxed and a double result is achieved: he does well and you let him do well. And is not this the difference between this Administration and the last one? We were curious about Mr. Hughes, but in quite a different manner than about Mr. Bryan. Our curiosity about Mr. Bryan soon wore off. Think of the difference between Bryan and Hughes! Think of the difference between Burleson and Baker and Daniels and others it is not necessary to recall, on the one side, and Mellon and Hoover and Hughes and Hayes on the other side. And Daves! Consider Daves and his ways.

Discriminatory Tariff Duties

The Fordney tariff bill drops that subdivision of Section 4 of the Underwood tariff law which allowed a rebate of 5 per cent of the duties on goods imported in American vessels. This section had been practically annulled by Treasury and court decisions. Probably it was never really meant to be enforced, for the rebate paragraph was modified by the proviso that it should not "be so construed as to abrogate or in any manner impair or affect the provisions of any treaty concluded between the United States and any foreign nation."

Arms and the Mail Men

In arming railway postal employees against bandits Postmaster General Hays shows a good Western spirit. But the clerks complain of the weapons supplied. They are .45-caliber United States army revolvers, too cumbersome and protrusive, with their large holsters, to carry when throwing mail. The holsters, moreover, are left-handed. The Colorado correspondent of the Railway Postoffice writes:

"One might make a stagger at doing something with a .32-caliber gun, say, an automatic, if worn in a right-hand holster, or, for that matter, with these cannons, if one were permitted to keep it lying on the table where it would be readily accessible. The best argument against a left-hand holster is that no right-hand bandit, yeg-man, robber, highwayman or cowboy wears it that way, and it may be said without fear of contradiction that no soldier would do so voluntarily."

Exorbitant Sub-Leasing

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: Allow me to call attention to a matter of vital concern to many people who are in need of apartments. There is a class of semi-landlords who, by getting hold of apartments and fitting them up with second-hand furniture, boost the prices beyond reason. It seems to me that no one should be allowed to use apartments for money-making purposes solely when so many people are in actual need of homes.

Megaphonomania

This is a noisy world, and to attract attention in it it is necessary to speak above a whisper. He who really wants his neighbor to pass the butter does well to yell for it. Even the man of letters, nominally dedicated to "the still air of delightful studies," is quick to adopt the new vocal scale. Athwart that air the publisher of a rising young novelist the other day let loose this:

"X. Y. Z. is the greatest writer living. This is the opinion of the foremost English and American authors and critics—Arnold Bennett, May Sinclair, W. L. George, Sherwood Anderson, Amy Lowell, John Macy and many others. In this age of great writers and revival of letters since Elizabethan times an author who holds the topmost position is a literary phenomenon that occurs only once in several centuries. For the contemporaries of X. Y. Z. to remain ignorant of his writings is like having lived in the age of Shakespeare and remaining ignorant of his plays."

It is only in a Shakespearean line that comment can fitly be made—"Bless thee, Bottom! Bless thee! Thou art translated." The bystander, indeed, nursing his split eardrums as X. Y. Z., goes careening by on his flat wheels, is hardly inclined to bless, but neither is he moved to ban. He is sorry for the poor wight and for the numerous others who are in like case. After all, the reader may easily change the initials in the foregoing puff to suit himself. The greatest writer living is all over the place. And he is not so much an intentional offender against the public ear as he is the victim of a disease.

Megaphonomania came in when Hamlet took to writing, as the witty Max said, at the top of his voice. It is to be distinguished from sensationalism. That dates as far back as Gautier, with his passion for making the bourgeoisie sit up. No, the megaphonomania is the one who is shrill, strident, raucous, the purveyor of sound and fury, the tub thumper who makes his presence felt by roosting in mankind's aural cavity. Sometimes he is a skillful player upon his instrument. Witness the dazzling roudades of the eminent G. B. S. or the pontifical organ notes of Mr. Wells. They send some mighty luring sounds through the megaphone. "The wind

blows through long years of practical experience, habits of endurance and hard work. He grows in repute. His sincerity shines through everything he does. We know he is not a superman. Let us not regret the fact."

Crossing the Big River

At last all the differences between New York and New Jersey concerning the vehicular tunnel under the North River seem adjusted, the bonds for New Jersey's share of the work have been heavily oversubscribed, and bids for the first part of the New Jersey work are about to be advertised for. At the New York end work was actually begun some time ago.

Now let the great and sorely needed highway be constructed without another day's unnecessary delay. Every day long lines of vehicles may be seen, often several blocks in length, waiting their turns to get aboard the ferriesboats. It is not unusual for a vehicle to be compelled to wait until several boats have crossed and recrossed the river. Every morning and evening there is congestion, and on holidays the conditions are often worse.

Before the Brooklyn Bridge was opened many predicted it would never carry much vehicular traffic. But for years it has been overcrowded, and three other still more capacious bridges are also thronged. The population immediately at the west of the Hudson is rapidly approximating in numbers to that at the east of the East River, while the tributary regions and the possibilities of motor transit are almost limitless. This big tunnel will be overcrowded as soon as it is opened. We need all the means of transit that are ever likely to be provided across—under and over—the North River. This is a big city, and industrially and residentially a big part of it is to the west.

Pulling Up Social Tares

Dr. John J. Tigert, the new Commissioner of Education, believes that at this period, more than ever before in our history, young people are curious to know the truth about property rights, religion, sex and socialism. So speakers who know something about these subjects are to be sent throughout the United States, especially to schools, to assist the new generation to get its facts straight.

Dr. Tigert is a good man, the son of a bishop, and was born in Tennessee. He is a Rhodes scholar, has an excellent war record, and principles dear to true Americans are safe in his hands. That these principles are in need of representation is a matter of common observation. Our public schools and colleges for the last few years have been victims of a disintegrating propaganda, much of it delivered by men, who, under the guise of so-called intellectualism, have done harm. It has become fashionable to be radical and the immature are caught by the superficiality and humanitarian pretenses of the sinister philosophy of distinction. Seasoned truth has been given scant hearing, partly because the sensible did not deem it worth while to answer what seemed to them to be silliness and partly because of a decoy of seriousness. Dr. Tigert, before he is able to harvest a good crop of grain, will discover it necessary to pull up many tares. But with zeal and a good cause he should be able to effect much.

Attacks on Discipline

A few examples will illustrate the pernicious effect of politics under the Daniels regime. Seven midshipmen were found guilty of cheating, and recommended for dismissal by the superintendent. The Navy Department admitted their guilt and directed their dismissal. Political forces intervened. Senators, Congressmen and politicians protested. Another court was called. Important testimony and confessions were ruled out on technicalities. The court was hampered. Five of the seven guilty midshipmen escaped. It was a gross miscarriage of justice. The standards of honor and discipline at the Naval Academy were shattered.

Protest of Class of '81

It is fortunate for the navy that the class of '81, of which Secretary of War John W. Weeks and Senator Weller, of Maryland, are members, should have taken a determined and patriotic stand in defense of the Naval Academy at their recent reunion by addressing the following letter to the superintendent of the Naval Academy:

Training Naval Officers

Naval Academy Menaced by Politics—War College Training By Quarterdeck

Politics, unrestrained, will ruin the navy and wreck the Naval Academy. Political forces reached the summit of power and accomplished the maximum of damage under the administration of Josephus Daniels. The Naval Academy was menaced as never before. Its military character and its scholastic and disciplinary standards were assailed. It was proposed to appoint a civilian as superintendent. Civilian influences were promoted. The Academy was to be "civilianized." "Democratization" was the cry. But demoralization was the result.

Attacks on Discipline

The Democratic chairman of an important committee in the Senate demanded a re-examination for one of his constituents who was deficient in all branches of study. The superintendent informed the Senator that this could not be done—that it was contrary to regulations and would be a case of favoritism for a midshipman having political influence. But the Senator recognized no such principle of justice. He abused and insulted the superintendent for not yielding to his demands.

The superintendent dismissed a midshipman for attempting to bribe a civilian employee to steal an examination paper. The Democratic chairman of an important committee in the House of Representatives made a determined attempt to have this young man reinstated. Although it was plainly contrary to law, it required a decision of the Attorney General of the United States to thwart this assault upon the standard of honor and decency at Annapolis.

A Recent Example
There are 2,000 midshipmen at the Naval Academy. They enter at a low academic standard of admission established by Congress. The course after entrance must be severe to qualify midshipmen in four short years, owing to the low standard of admission. Dull men and others who are not well grounded in the rudiments, may not reach the standard demanded by the navy. The service will suffer if the standard is lowered. At a recent examination about 200 midshipmen failed to pass. They were required to resign in accordance with rules that have been in force since 1845. But despite

States to impose either discriminatory customs duties or discriminatory tonnage dues. President Wilson refused to execute this section of the Jones act, although he had executed a similar provision in the La Follette seamen's act. He based his refusal on the technicality that Congress couldn't properly instruct him to terminate parts of treaties—a technicality which he had waived previously when it suited him to waive it.

The Jones act is unrepented, and Section 34 may be enforced whenever President Harding thinks the time is ripe to do so. It is unnecessary, therefore, for Congress to make another effort by legislation to denounce the restraining clauses in our commercial treaties. When these are swept away by Executive action it will be appropriate to impose specific discriminatory duties and tonnage dues. The Underwood act began at the wrong end and accomplished nothing.

Endings

The happy ending of young Frank Schwartz's affair with the Muse, with the Prix de Rome at the right moment knocking at his garret door, stands out in dramatic contrast to that other news story whose ending was tragic. A farmer, overcome by fear lest the drouth should ruin his crops, shot himself, and was found three hours later in a pool of water formed by a sudden shower.

The penniless artist was facing eviction from his attic, just as the old man was facing financial ruin. The ending could have been reversed at the order of any fiction editor without violating the rules of plot construction. Despair could have seized upon the young man as he brooded over his failure, and it could have been the landlady bringing the letter who found his lifeless body. Courage could have come at the right moment to the old man, or a check from a wandering son who had just read a newspaper story about Mothers' Day.

External circumstances apparently have little to do with endings. The "tyranny of to-morrow" hovers over all our lives. It is the inner factor which decides. For one artist who starves in his attic there are scores who starve in imagination until the pangs of anticipated hunger drive them to surrender. For one head of a family who loses his home through business depression there are thousands who worry themselves into the sanitarium.

Courage, optimism, luck, or plain common sense—each man has his favorite weapon against worry. But it all comes to this in the end—that it is the man who never cringes from to-morrow who lives to enjoy it.

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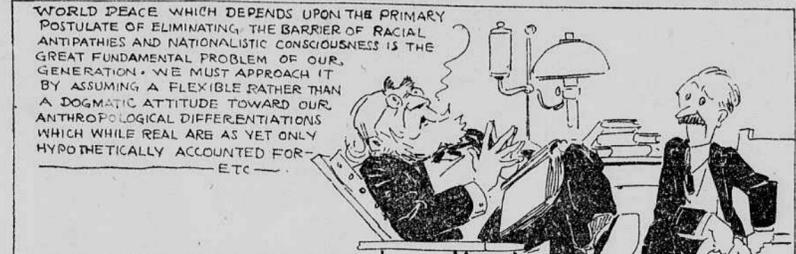
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GETTING BACK TO NATURE

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chanan, Luce, Worden, Rodgers, Brownson, Sampson and Wainwright. The Naval Academy must be controlled by naval officers. They alone can establish and maintain its standards. Patriotism, not politics, must be supreme at Annapolis.

Naval War College

The Naval War College at Newport was founded by Rear Admiral Luce for the purpose of giving to naval officers a course of instruction in naval strategy and tactics. Admiral Mahan was closely associated with Admiral Luce in the development of the college, and while serving as president he gave direction to the initial methods, which were carefully designed to fit out naval officers for the practical, skillful and successful handling of fleets in war.

It is not too much to say that War College training is absolutely essential to the success of the commander in chief of a fleet, if he lacks this training he will be heavily handicapped. He cannot win, nor hold, the perfect confidence of his captains, nor can he victoriously direct naval maneuvers and operations against a fleet of equal strength whose commander in chief is thoroughly conversant with the principles that govern in naval warfare. His ignorance may spell defeat for the fleet and humiliation for the country.

In the ordinary routine of naval life it is difficult for an officer to master naval science thoroughly by personal study. A few officers may do so, but it is a precarious dependence. The nation cannot trust to such haphazard training. To be sure, the War College correspondence course now in vogue and the encouragement of war games on board ship and at naval stations are a great benefit. But the commander in chief must be recognized by his subordinates as a past master in the art of war, and he must have the right to feel his own personal fitness if victory is to be assured. The same argument applies to the chief of naval operations.

Routine Work Insufficient

Officers who are efficient in merely routine or subordinate duties and commands—the so-called "practical" officer who glories in his lack of "book learning" and never deigns to study, the swashbuckler and the noisy fighter, though personally brave in a rough-and-tumble contest, cannot meet the situation in modern war. Ignorance may be bliss for them, but not for the navy!

These principles have been recognized at times by the Navy Department in assigning officers to duty. But there have been astonishing exceptions—in fact, it would seem that the principle has been deliberately and too often ignored for purely personal reasons. And the navy has suffered in consequence.

It is only proper to state that at times an officer of War College training may not be available for assignment as commander in chief or as chief of naval operations. Such cases are unfortunate. But the principle remains just the same—otherwise the Naval War College should be abolished as a needless naval complication. It is either necessary or unnecessary.

The subject is more vitally important now than ever before. Fleets in the past fought upon the surface of the sea. Warfare was comparatively simple, especially in tactics. But to-day it is very complicated. The fleet will fight on three planes—on the surface, above the surface and beneath the surface of the sea. The skillful coordination of the forces on these three planes in battle justifies the statement: "In a naval war as waged to-day we find the greatest concentrated effort of men and machines that the world has ever known."

The commander in chief must know the war game. And his subordinates must know that he knows it. Otherwise we may face disaster upon the sea.

Sinn Fein Terror

Irish Newspaper Filled With Reports of Deeds of Violence

To the Editor of The Tribune:
Sir: I have read with amazement the letters of your few pro-Sinn Fein correspondents. I was born in Ireland, and my immediate family now lives there. Every week my brother (who fought at the front for four years, having enlisted when he was eighteen) sends me an Irish newspaper. It is filled with reports of murder and violence on the part of Sinn Féiners. Many women are being murdered, and some of them are innocent bystanders. The usual method of murder is to kill from ambush.

During the Easter rebellion of 1916 a little cousin of mine was murdered because he dared to give a drink of water to a dying British soldier. A Sinn Féiner shot him through the head as he lifted the cup to the lips of the wounded man. The defenders of Sinn Féin will need the courage of their convictions to condone such a crime, and there have been many similar murders, but I quote this one because it came so near to me.

Admiral Sims was more than justified in his recent remarks. He knows what he is talking about, and that is more than can be said of many pro-Sinn Féiners. Sinn Féin will need the defense of its friends when the truth is known, but it will be known if there is any justice. Sinn Féin is the disgrace and ruin of Ireland, and there are many honorable Irish people, both here and in Ireland, who know that peace will never come to Ireland while Sinn Féin dominates it and while Sinn Féin exerts its sinister influence to promote discord and rebellion.

TRUTH.
New York, June 28, 1921.

A Week of Verse

Dead Waters
(From Contemporary Verse)

WHEN men reap only where they have not sown
And share those things it is not well to share;
When none may say, "This is my very own";
And there is nothing left to dream and dare,
Then will there be no hope and no despair,
No battle bravely lost or nobly won;
But unimaginable darkness where
No wind shall stir, nor any water run;
Nor shall they mourn a long forgotten sun
Nor will the lack of unremembered stars,
They shall be born, and die—and all be done
Silently, in a dungeon with no bars.
They shall watch old fires sink and old faiths cool
With eyes grown duller than a stagnant pool.

Back From the Wind-Blown Desert

LET the old faiths be kept. There is no light
In any land unless old fires burn
Upon inviolate hearths. Eternal Right
May lie too deep for any man to learn.
We cry aloud for Justice; but we yearn
For Might to break all things to our desire.
Back from the wind-blown desert let us turn,
Back to the only everlasting fire
Of home and love; to joy that does not tire.
Knowing the touch of dear accustomed things;
Back to the lesser dreams whose long empire
Outlasts the dream of Commissars and Kings.
So shall we waken as from troubled sleep
With new faith born of the old faith we keep.
JOHN FRENCH WILSON.

Defeat

(From Contemporary Verse)
IS THIS defeat then, after all—
This new indifference to the street,
This unfeeling weight of roof and wall—
Is this defeat?