

New York Tribune

First to Last—The Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements... SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1922

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The Russian Answer

Russia's answer to the proposals of the majority of the nations represented in the Genoa conference is an emphatic and decisive "No!"

So doing, Tchitcherin contributes, although this is scarcely his intention, to an ultimate sound settlement.

The victory is thus not so much over Lloyd George, although great must be his chagrin, as one for sense over nonsense.

There could be barter intercourse, such as once existed between the Sultan of Muscat, where the pearls came from, and the outside world,

The Genoa conference might have been a benefit. If some had said, in tones loud enough to be heard, that assistance would gladly be given to Russia provided she established a free press, free assembly and a government based on free elections and free ownership of private property probably Lenin would have been forced by Russian opinion to yield.

Genoa sounds its warning. Union among the Allies—this is the first step to real peace and reconstruction. Full acceptance of the responsibilities that arise from power—this is the second step.

The Tacna-Arica Conference: The ugliest outstanding international disagreement in the western world is the Tacna-Arica dispute between Chile and Peru.

By that treaty Chile acquired the Peruvian province of Tarapaca and a right to hold Tacna and Arica for ten years, pending a plebiscite which

should decide between Chile and Peru. In 1893, at the expiration of the ten-year period, negotiations for the taking of a vote failed. No vote has ever been taken. The situation parallels to some extent the failure to carry out the Treaty of Prague, in which Prussia promised to hold a plebiscite in North Schleswig, taken from Denmark by the Prussians and Austrians in 1864 and taken from Austria by Prussia after the war of 1866.

This rapprochement does credit to both nations. Diplomatic relations between them were suspended not long ago because of friction over this still rankling issue. Attempts have been made to bring the controversy before the League of Nations. But the wiser course of settling a purely American dispute at home is being followed.

Power Misused: Labor leaders complain of prejudice against unionism. Yet the right of labor to organize and the right of collective bargaining are generally admitted in this country.

In great strikes which affect the public interest the sympathies of the people are with the side which seems to be in the right, whether it is the side of labor or capital.

But most persons, responsive to a common human tendency, see the concrete rather than the abstract—consider practices rather than principles. Labor has great power. How does it use it?

The experience of Patrick F. Kenney, of Yonkers, who appeared recently as a witness before the Lockwood committee, gives some light. Kenney had an \$85,000 plumbing contract for the Electric Light and Power Company, at Hellgate. Controversy arose over work with which Kenney had nothing to do—between the steam fitters and plumbers' unions.

The plumbers struck, not because of a grievance against Kenney, but because of their row with the steam fitters. He was left without labor. He has already lost \$25,000, and will probably lose much more money before the quarrel is over.

No Third Party for Kansas: An attempt was made the other day to organize a Kansas branch of the new "Independent" party. Six hundred delegates were expected at Topeka. Only a dozen appeared.

Undoubtedly the farmers of Kansas and of the other Western states where the Independent organization hoped to take root were too busy to bother with any third party. Kansas was long "God's country" for mushroom party growths.

The Kansas farmer felt that he had wrongs in the old Populist days and was willing to smash many things—party organizations first of all—in order to right them. He has no sense of economic persecution now.

The Western farmers had a grievance a year ago. They were the most conspicuous victims of post-war liquidation. They were hit harder, for a time, than any other class. But they turned for a remedy to co-operative action.

What could an Independent party do for the Kansas farmers which the "farm bloc" in Congress cannot do? Here is the obvious explanation of the coldness shown to the Topeka venture.

and of those eligible to vote. In only seven states do females outnumber males. But the percentage of women eligible to vote is greater than that of men in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

Helping Europe Financially: From the White House recently came word that the President considered that advances to Europe by private banking houses constituted "our proper avenue of aid to Europe."

A Miracle in the Making: A task far more gigantic than the digging of the Panama Canal is contemplated in the plan of the Transit Commission for the construction of new traction facilities to meet the needs of New York City five years hence.

Traffic channels must be opened in a dozen different directions. Flushing and Staten Island must be given as easy access to the business center on Manhattan Island as is enjoyed now by Washington Heights and Bushwick.

It is far too big an undertaking for politicians—far too important an enterprise for politics. The money that will be required must be supplied when it is needed.

Everything, however, points toward a constantly increasing amount of co-operation between American financial interests and Europe. That out of it will grow some practicable plan for extending the necessary financial aid to the rest of the world seems inevitable.

More Truth Than Poetry: By James J. Montague. The burglar was not always bad, Nor swift to club and shoot; He did not practice as a lad His criminal pursuit.

The Power of Memory: The burglar was not always bad, Nor swift to club and shoot; He did not practice as a lad His criminal pursuit.

British Women Voters: British women like the ballot, and British politicians are eagerly watching the results of this spring's registration of voters.

Explained: According to London "Punch," the inhabitants of Genoa were forbidden to expose their washing during the conference.

Modest Ambition: All that Germany and Russia ask of the other powers is to leave them alone till they are in a position to lick the world.

Coming Back: Genoa has regained some of the publicity Christopher Columbus gave the place by leaving it.

Humane Care of Prisoners: To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I am in accord with much in your editorial in to-day's Tribune on "The Criminal and Society."

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The Tower

EXALTATION YOU stood, oh, Christ, upon a mountain height; And were there gray rocks, baking in the sun, With stunted cactus, lifting to the light, Plump hands of treachery to torture one, And gray, crisp moss and grasses, sparse and dry, That whispered sadly as the wind went by?

The Kaiser now spends most of his time reading theological works. Possibly he is contemplating a suit against Gott for breach of contract.

"After all this talk from Genoa about German and Russian finances," says Uncle Abimelech Bogardus of Preakness, N. J., "Zeke O'nderdonk sez he's willin' to pay the \$75 feed bill he owes Cal Doremus if Cal will lend him \$125."

MAY LYRIC Silently, one by one, in the infinite purities of Broadway, Blossomed the new straw hats, the forget-me-nots of the Sun God.

There seems to be something almost vindictive in the way the rain is holding off until the felt hats of winter have been discarded.

We suppose that the people who are now offering their flats and houses for rent during the summer months were among those who howled all last winter at the rapacity of landlords.

POEM TO MOTHER Never put off till to-morrow What you can do for your mother to-day; There may be no to-morrow for her— She may have passed away.

JOSEPH L. BURTON. "Messrs. General Motors (Limited) announce price reductions," proclaims the Chesterfieldian London "Morning Post." No such action, so far as we know, has been taken by Senors Mexican Petroleum, but while searching for such intelligence we gathered that bonds of Japanese Government San and Messieurs City of Bordeaux continued strong.

Confessions of a Customer Tells his friends to watch for his first contribution to The Tower. Presented with The Order of the Grand Razzberry on two consecutive days by the same friends. Discovers that it takes time for genius to be recognized.

Some day, we suppose, if we continue upright, honest and virtuous, we will get the Perfect Job. For years, when we worked at night, we always had to leave the Polo Grounds by the beginning of the eighth. Now, so unfortunate is our lot, we rarely arrive before the ending of the third.

We wonder that an administration wedded to economy doesn't ask for bids on the Monday morning rag-picking concession in the city parks.

Over the pastoral countryside, Lie the luster and bloom of Spring; Folk toot there on an auto ride— Now look at the gosh darned thing!

The Genesee memorandum writers are rapidly losing all illusions. They have already named the body that is to settle Russia's difficulties "The Mixed Tribunal."

MAN DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE IMPROVED THE QUALITY OF HIS ENEMIES IN THE LAST MILLION YEARS



The Domination of Air Power

By Rear Admiral W. F. Fullam, U. S. N. (Retired)

The civil war in China sounds a warning to the world. A press report brings the news that one faction with a few bombing planes attacked the gunboat fleet of the enemy and forced it to surrender. The air fleet triumphed over the surface fleet.

This incident carries far. The lesson is not confined within the limits of the Chinese empire. It not only affects the military and naval plans of all nations but it will ultimately serve to greatly increase the defensive strength of China and it will profoundly affect the political and aggressive policies of all nations that may assume to dictate to the Chinese empire in years to come.

During the past century, owing to Chinese weakness and unpreparedness for war, all nations have protected their missionaries and their "interests" in China as well as their legations in Peking by sending small gunboats up the rivers, by establishing armed legation guards and by occasionally re-enforcing their demands with special naval demonstrations along the coast of China.

The New Era in War: The time has come for conservatism to open its ears and eyes and begin to hear and see. Military and naval policies must be built upon the rock of new inventions and upon the inevitable development of recent weapons in the near future.

End of Aggression Foreseen: Let us now picture the change that may logically follow this trifling incident—the sinking of gunboats by aircraft. Suppose a strong, stable government is established in China in the not distant future. In that event we may assume that the Chinese will realize the importance of air power and provide themselves with a strong national air force.

The New England Conscience: To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: I have read with interest your editorial on the New England conscience. The good doctor that you quote is doubtless interested in praiseworthy efforts to prolong life.

Laws and Laws: To the Editor of The Tribune. Sir: How can the expressions of indignation emanating from the ranks of the prohibition forces avert the disregard of the prohibition law be reconciled with their attitude concerning the violation of the fugitive slave law by their ancestors during pre-Civil War days?

gent use of air forces, mines and submarines alone can protect itself from attack by sea as surely as did the Great Wall protect it from the hands of the north armed with bows and arrows in ancient days. There is nothing sensational in the statements. There is nothing new we have known for months, if not for years, that ships at anchor or on rivers where they cannot zigzag are in the mercy of aircraft. The incidents of the Ostfriesland and the Chinese gunboats are mere bombs that arouse conservatism from its torpor. In stressing the value of new weapons we do not justify the scrapping of our present fleet nor the reduction of our navy personnel. Not at all. Pacificists and "little navy men" can not seize upon these modern truths as an argument for abolishing our navy. A Three-Plane Navy: We cannot swap horses in the middle of the stream. We cannot throw away one weapon until a better is provided. The Monitor and the Merrimack proved in 1862 that wooden ships were useless against armored ships. And yet we continued to build wooden ships for twenty years and built no steel ones. There is always a period of transition. No nation has a modern naval air force at present. It will require at least ten years for the United States to provide itself with new weapons. The Washington conference decided aright. Its decrees were righteous and wise. It stopped a foolish and wasteful race. The navy as it exists to-day must be manned, mobilized, trained and kept ready for war. It must be developed gradually into a "Three-Plane Navy." The air, the surface and the submarine must be included. In a few years we can re-evaluate the weapons of these three planes. We have stopped building battleships. But we must keep what we have and build up our air forces and submarines. In bombing conservatism we do not nurture something worse—pacifism. There is reason in all things.