

Nicaragua  
Needless Liquor

### Barge Canal Navigation

#### Naval Architect Asserts Advantages of Designs Whose Practical Utility Was Questioned

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: "F. W. B.," the writer of the letter published in your issue of May 21 under the caption "Barge Canal Limitations," is apparently unaware of the difference between the depth and draft of a vessel. The vessels which I am planning are designed to be eighteen feet deep of side, and when passing through the canal are to be loaded to a draft of ten feet. In my investigation of the depth of water in the section of the canal from Troy to Oswego I have found that in the channels twelve feet may be depended upon except where considerable deposit results from inflowing rivers, and that these particular shallow spots or bars are being removed by the canal authorities.

It may be that the shallowness encountered by F. W. B. was in another section. It may be that the fleet on which he made his trip from Troy to Buffalo was not kept at all times in the channels, and therefore encountered the shallow conditions, which, of course, exist outside the channels.

It would be of great value to those planning to use the New York State Barge Canal to have constructively determined the correct length of vessel considered from every angle. It is hardly sufficient simply to state that a 257-foot vessel would be impracticable. How much smaller must the vessels I am planning be in order to satisfy "F. W. B.'s" ideas and yet successfully fulfill the transport obligations of my clients in their contemplated service between New York and Chicago via the Hudson River, New York State Barge Canal (Troy to Oswego), Lake Ontario, Welland Canal and Lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan? It is apparent that there is much more in the problem requiring attention than the ability to make a comparatively sharp turn in the channel with the maximum of ease two or three times on a run of this length, New York to Chicago and return.

It is my judgment, based on experience, that the 257-foot vessel planned by me will move easily and quickly negotiate the sharp turns in the section of the canal, Troy to Oswego, than the fleet consisting of a towboat and barges on which "F. W. B." made his trip last summer, and while doing so cause very much less trouble to other users of the canal.

"F. W. B." should be requested to particularize the fundamentals of a seagoing vessel. I am now designing canalboats, but hulls which will have the form of seagoing vessels and the strength required for such vessels by the classification and insurance societies. If his opinion is based on the desirability of sending a boat to sea drawing ten feet or less of water then I may state for his information that these particular vessels would be operated at sea with a draft of approximately thirteen feet, instead of at the canal draft of ten feet.

No two people will agree in specifying what constitutes seaworthiness any more than beauty. Seaworthiness in my judgment comprises suitable form, strength and power, and these particular features will be definitely provided in the vessels I am planning.

It is incomprehensible to me how "F. W. B." could reach a conclusion that I have been designing these vessels for clients interested in using the New York State Barge Canal, Troy to Oswego, without both of us having carefully considered the rules and regulations of the canal authorities in respect to the use thereof. It is im-

most possible for me to recite them section by section. For his information I here state that these vessels in unrestricted water will make ten knots when loaded to other seagoing draft of approximately thirteen feet.

Referring to the breadth of hull, i. e., forty-two feet, it is well known by me and by my clients that two of these vessels meeting in certain sections of the canal between Troy and Oswego, would not be able to pass, as their combined width would exceed that of the channel at these sections, but we are assured that central stations will be provided in order to hold either vessel out of such sections while the other is passing through.

It is my hope that you will do me the favor of prominently publishing this reply to "F. W. B.'s" communication, for I am fully convinced that the spirit of his communication is destructive and not constructive.

THEODORE D. WELLS.  
New York, May 24, 1922.

### German Bonds All Around

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your recent editorial "International Bonds" prompts me to submit a plan of stabilizing economic and financial conditions that embodies some thoughts on the subject that I think have not heretofore appeared.

The existing chaotic condition of Europe and of the world generally is due primarily to failure by Germany to pay reparations demands to the Allies as agreed and its debts to the United States government, as well as to the unquestioned inability of the Allies to pay their huge debts to the United States government and to each other within a period of time that cannot with safety be said to be less than fifty years, and then do so only by a drastic wiping of the slate by balancing of accounts.

The war debts of the Allies to the United States government are, say, eleven billion dollars. The Allies' debts to Great Britain are, say, one billion pounds sterling. Germany's reparations and other debts to the Allies and to the United States government are, approximately, fourteen billion dollars. Assume that Germany issues external bonds to the value of five or ten billion dollars, maturing in fifty years, bearing interest coupons at the rate of 4% to 5% per cent, and establishes a sinking fund bearing a rate of interest that, invested or controlled by the Allies, will retire the entire issue in fifty years.

Assume that each of the Allies will take these bonds, pro rata, on account of Germany's reparations debts to each, and that Germany settles the balance of its reparations debts in kind.

Assume that the Allies endorse or otherwise guarantee such of these bonds as each individually receives, principal and interest, and hand them over to the United States government and to each other on account of their existing debts to the United States government and to each other.

To make the transaction complete the United States government to further guarantee these German bonds, principal and interest, and offer them in exchange for Liberty and Victory bonds on a basis to be determined.

Note some of the advantages of this plan, viz:

1. No additional obligations would be incurred by any government.
2. Germany's financial and economic

condition would be eased by the change and extension of reparations terms.

3. The serious tension resulting from huge debts owing by one nation to another would be removed.

4. The dates of final payments of these war debts would be definitely fixed and the interest thereon provided for.

5. The certainty of stated payments by Germany would be practically assured.

6. Exchange rates between all countries would be much benefited and consequently economic and financial arrangements would soon approach normal.

7. The United States government would reduce its direct debt by an amount equal to the amount of such of these bonds as were exchanged for Liberty and Victory bonds.

8. These long term bonds, bearing 4% or 5% per cent interest, backed by the guaranty of two or more governments, would be an ideal investment and valued without doubt above par. They should be exempt from all taxes.

9. As the bonds would be guaranteed by the respective debtors and turned over to the United States government as security for allies' debts they could not be considered a loan to Germany, hence, their origin would not be objectionable to the American people.

W. J. B.  
Goshen, N. Y., May 24, 1922.

**Russia and Lloyd George**

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Shades of Disraeli and Gladstone! The British Prime Minister pleads for the future of the non-aggression pact of Geneva, that it has averted the danger to Europe from Soviet Russia's army of 1,500,000, backed by 4,000,000 reserves and starting millions. Give us trade and recognition, the murderers of Petrograd and Moscow demand from their "bit of squalid misery" or we destroy you by force of arms!

Have British diplomats forgotten the words of a great American statesman: "Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute!" when sailors of the Republic swept the seas free from Barbary pirates? If oil concessions are more important than starving humanity, then truly Mr. Lloyd George's methods may be justified, but before the doors had closed upon Geneva a purpose to subject the much heralded compact to anticipatory breach was proclaimed from Moscow and Petrograd.

The shame of the thing is to brand the great Russian people with intent to destroy the peace of Europe. That purpose, so dear to Bolshevism and its financial abettors, is not to be read in the heroism of the 2,000,000 murdered intellectuals, bourgeois and nobility of Russia or in their fast perishing survivors.

Is this greatly applauded address of Mr. Lloyd George an admission that his policies are inspired by fear or by some secret, unseen hand, which purposes to make Lenin and Trotsky and their henchmen an institution among the nations? "Woe to those prophets who cry peace, peace, when there is no peace!"

FRONTINUS.  
New York, May 25, 1922.

**Looking Under the Pastor**

In a Boys' Camp Pamphlet of the Newark Y. M. C. A.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Permit me to bring to notice the narrow-minded spirit of the directors and promoters of the "Boys' Camp Division" of the Young Men's Christian Association of Newark, N. J. On page 9 of the booklet "Camp Kiamasha" July 1-September 2, 1922, conducted by the "Boys' Camp Division" of the Y. M. C. A., of Newark, N. J., we find that a pastor cover the original sentence, printed under the advantages of the use of the rifle range. By removing the pastor we discover, with astonishment, that the original sentence there reads, "Getting in trim for the Hun."

The promoters of the boys' camp under whose supervision the booklet was prepared, passed and published probably never thought that such camouflaged, base and insulting sentence to every American of German blood and descent would be discovered.

The war is over, peace has been declared and normal conditions are settling in, as President Harding assures us. But how is it possible that such a blunder can happen, that such a lack of tact and savoir vivre is to be found among men at the head of an association having for its foremost purpose the education of our young people to a higher standard of morality, intellect and honesty? It seems that men with such views should be asked to hand in their resignations without delay.

Was not the German element in the United States at the outbreak of the

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# Letters to the Tribune's Editor

I wholly disapprove of what you say and will defend to the death your right to say it.—Voltaire to Helvetius.

### Vigor Without Alcohol

#### Wrong Notion That Wine and Beer Are Necessary to Man's Well-Being—Reply to Mr. Maxim

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I shall not follow Mr. Hudson Maxim into the department of rhetoric that he enters in his letter to you dated May 14, further than to say that he will feel much worse than that before he gets very far with his crusade to rescue the holy places of strong drink from the hands of the unbeliever.

If he will take the trouble to read my earlier letter he will find no assertion that the use of liquor makes long life impossible. I will concede, to save space, that there are users of intoxicants who will have to be shot on Judgment Day. What I did say is here repeated, in substance: Deprivation of wine and beer is of no serious consequence. But, on the other hand, millions of people will be deprived of things that do amount to something—happiness, home, schooling, social standing, life itself—if the liquor traffic be permitted to exist to provide income for an idle and useless appetite.

There is no third way out. We know that because narrow and liberal are we stoned by our opponents, we of the temperance movement tried for centuries to find a way to keep the drink from them while eliminating the drink's evils, while they, the "broad and liberal," broke every restrictive law that interfered with their selfish desires.

Mr. Maxim calamitously cites Maine. That state first went under prohibition by statute in 1851. In 1884, after thirty-three years' experience, the people voted almost 3 to 1 in favor of confirming the Maine law with a constitutional amendment. That is the verdict of the people on the ground, the people who know. Lately Maine's Senate voted unanimously to ratify the Eighteenth Amendment and the Assembly voted that way by an overwhelming majority. I know that every now and then people have come out with stories of the ease with which liquor is to be obtained there. But I am not responsible for the kind of company they keep when they go to Maine.

If Mr. Maxim will trouble to read my first letter he will find no endorsement of the teaching in American school books that alcohol is a poison even in small quantities. I merely state that such things are taught.

Mr. Maxim wants me to point out any nation that since the dawn of history has been without wine or beer. All right. To say nothing of the hundreds of millions of Mahomedans and Buddhists who were true to their Koran and Vedas and managed to attain physical growth and strength without intoxicants, the European explorers found on these American shores a race who, Heckewelder says, knew nothing of distillation or fermentation. Yet they could run down the deer on foot and often lived to a green old age.

All the creatures that crawl, walk, fly or swim, on the earth, in the heavens or in the waters under the earth, reach and maintain physical vigor without

alcohol, save one species. Man alone, according to Mr. Maxim, must have his wine or beer or must suffer. It is an affront to one's intelligence to say that a man drinks wine and beer through necessity. He needs these things no more than he needs a third leg. He suffers no real hardship when wine and beer are taken from him, as society's last resort in its long effort to find a way to protect some of its creatures who are in real need of consideration.

Mr. Maxim, who woke up one morning and found prohibition here, is still unable to see how it was done and insists that it was by an "overwhelming minority," whatever that is. But thirty-four states were under prohibition before the Eighteenth Amendment came, nearly all of them by direct popular vote, not to speak of other vast areas where no license prevailed. It was discussed everywhere for generations. It came by constitutional methods. It came by majorities that will be vastly larger if prohibitionists are forced to organize. For they are not now organized, nor have they been except for temporary, isolated campaign emergencies.

ORRIN H. GRAHAM.  
Franklin, Pa., May 24, 1922.

### Protected Nicaragua

#### Indictment of American Overlordship by One "Who Had a Peep Behind the Scenes" in 1909

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have long since reached the age of posthumous illusions and am therefore cynical enough to be merely amused at your faint-hearted effort to justify "American overlordship" in Nicaragua on the score that this protectorate is consented to by the Nicaraguans and ratified by "diplomatic agreement."

If I were still a visionary youth with a belief in such ideals as independence, individuality, nationalism, government by consent of the governed, self-determination, etc., my heart would bleed for the Nicaraguans and my cheeks would burn at the spectacle of the tyranny exercised by this great and glorious nation over a weak and defenseless country whose only crime is that it finds itself geographically in a territory that might be made use of for an interoceanic canal in competition with our own shadily obtained waterway at Panama.

Why gloss over the ugly facts? Why must the United States assume a holier than thou attitude over such usurpations as Gibraltar, the Transvaal or Egypt when its own actions in Panama, Nicaragua, Haiti and Santo Domingo brand her with the same stigma of unscrupulousness as sears the brow of such Old World powers as boast of colonies?

I happen to have had a peep behind the scenes in Nicaragua. I was there in 1909-'10 to observe and report on the revolution which resulted in the ousting of Zelaya and the installing in power of the conservative party. No matter how worthy the motive—the restoration of peace in a country torn by chronic revolutions—the intervention of the United States then and now cannot be justified on any ground save that of expediency. The conservative party was placed in power by the United States and is being maintained in power by the United States. The "legation guard" which threatened to blow up the handful of deluded Liberals who captured the fortress of La Loma last Sunday unless they surrendered their prize to the "government" is the ultima ratio of Nicaragua.

A company of United States marines, stationed at Managua, constitutes the highest court of the nominally autonomous Republic of Nicaragua. They have been there eleven years and they will stay a hundred and eleven years more, and whenever the dissatisfied Nicaraguans attempt to effect a change of government via arms, which is the only way a change can ever be made in a country where nobody votes and so this, too, will be exploded.

**Teutonic Mythology**

(From The Philadelphia Inquirer)

The old story of the French bombing of Nuremberg has cropped up again, this time with a denial of its truth by a German who was on the spot. His version is that a French plane on its way to Constantinople made a forced landing near the ancient town and was shot at by Germans when it resumed its voyage.

Other legends of the war are as deeply imbedded in the German consciousness as this, and with as little reason. One of the most widespread still is that Germany was not beaten at all. Perhaps in a generation or so this, too, will be exploded.

**Soul-Neglected Youth**

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I read in The Tribune recently that several women, prominent socially and politically, have taken up the anti-prohibition movement. I was surprised. The reason voiced by one of these women was the conduct of young people, drinking at dances especially. What an illogical reason for joining such a movement! As if the plucking of a few light wines and beers could stop self-degradation on the part of youth. Has the fact that rouge, lipstick, etc., are available on every side prevented their abuse?

It is the lack of Christian self-respect in these young people that causes them to drink, even as it causes them to do other foolish things. It is the "rest of the soul" that determines the goal, and not the handiness in alluring difficulty of obtaining liquor or other forbidden pleasures.

The "young people" of to-day have never been truly trained—that is, those of whom these women speak.

Many of the parents of the present day forget that every child contains a soul that will direct manhood and womanhood. They provide every physical comfort for that child, but neglect the key to the whole situation, the training of the soul. That is what forms the basis for our understanding of each other in later years. A person without this training is baffling, impossible to reason with and to control, and when it is too late, or nearly so, people wonder why youth is unmanageable and why rash acts are committed.

Brooklyn, May 25, 1922. EQUITY.

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F. O. B. CLEVELAND

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