

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

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THE DIGNITY OF CLOTHES

WE believe it was Thomas Carle who found a school of philosophy based on clothes. And they certainly do bear some relation to spiritual things. We believe that it was a celebrated lady writer who said that the knowledge that she was well dressed brought a peace to her soul that the grace of God could not do. Now we find that that genial philosopher, William Howard Taft, once president of this republic, and possibly its next chief justice, has been discarding to the law students of Boston in the philosophy of clothes. The Cleveland News thus comments on the facts:

"To the eternal feminine, to the always alert intelligence of the Association for the Advancement of Women, may be referred for philosophical reflection what former President Taft said to the law students in Boston.

"Judges, said Mr. Taft, himself an ornament to the judiciary, should always wear gowns. Clad in the ordinary habiliments of man they fail to inspire that respect and awe that appertain to a figure robed in black silk. Those western judges who not merely eschew the robe, but are known to sit with their feet on the desk, smoking black cigars as they dispense justice, may be responsible for more lawlessness than they correct.

"It is a curious fact, and one which woman might well stop to consider in her tendency to make her robes negligible, that when ever man desires to make himself more than usually impressive, whenever he determines to command unusual reverence, he puts on clothes like those of womanhood.

"The coronation robes of an emperor—in the days when the world still tolerated emperors—outdid anything ever worn by the statelyst dame of our own four hundred.

"When Harvard, Yale or Princeton wants to make a mere mortal into a doctor of laws he is robed in flowing skirts of crimson, blue or orange.

"When the United States supreme court is wrestling with the task of making some act of congress coincide with the constitution its members maintain the needful dignity with the aid of puffed sleeves and flowing black robes that a New England matron of the Victorian era would have envied. Who can tell how much of the spirituality of a bishop is due to his lawn sleeves?

"In view of such phenomena, how shall we explain the zeal with which our younger feminine generation is reducing its robes to the minimum? Are these apparitions prepared for inspiring awe and compelling respect to be surrendered wholly to mere man?"

FOREST FIRES

THE destructive forest fire in Minnesota recently calls attention anew to the enormous waste of property caused by forest fires. The forestry department of Montana in the last week has made a special effort to educate our citizens on this subject. This is not a time of year when forest fires are generally expected in this state. It is in the dry period of the summer time that they are looked for, but that time is approaching. Moreover it is a fact, as anyone familiar with the woods knows, that there is plenty of fuel now in the forests to make a disastrous fire, if it once got started and was fanned by high winds.

Some of the causes of forest fires are beyond control, but the most of them are preventable, and altogether too large a proportion are caused by the carelessness of ignorant persons who go to the woods to camp, fish or hunt.

All through the federal forest reserves the citizen who takes to the woods on pleasure bent in the hot summer days will find canvas posters on the trails cautioning him against building fires and leaving them smoldering, against the careless dropping of cigar ends that have not been extinguished, burning cigarettes and like careless tricks, born of ignorance of what terrible results may follow on the heels of such carelessness. And yet despite such warnings many campers will take a chance by building great bon fires, merely to see the blaze by night, or for cooking purposes. The experienced camper not only knows the danger of building great fires, but he also knows that a few small sticks will make a much better fire for cooking purposes than a big fire. And he chooses the spot for his fire near some stream where he can drench the hot coals with plenty

of water before he leaves his camping place. He is also careful with his tobacco and matches. It is the greenhorn that is feared by the forest rangers, with good cause.

It is to be hoped that the efforts of the forestry service to educate campers to increasing care and precaution against fire in the forests may be successful. In fact it is not their business alone. It is the business of every one who loves the woods, and seeks their grateful shade in the hot days of the summer. Therefore if experienced campers see some greenhorn taking unnecessary risks with fire in the woods it is their duty to warn them. And if such zeal is resented and their advice scorned they should report the facts to the forest service as soon as possible.

REPUUDIATING GEORGE HARVEY

WE rather expected there would be somewhat violent dissent from the meat of Ambassador George Harvey's statements about the war made before the Pilgrim club at London, and we are not disappointed. Even the hardest republican organs that defended President Harding for selecting George Harvey to head the diplomatic delegation abroad are either silent or apologetic. Many of them cut out his most offensive remarks from the Associated Press cable that told the news story. On the other hand the Democrats that opposed his confirmation are grinning and saying "I told you so." It did not take George Harvey long to put his foot in it. Particularly are some of the more independent Republican editors sore at Col. Harvey for his statement of the mean, sordid and cowardly motives that induced this republic to enter the war.

Speaking of America's part in the war, Mr. Harvey said: "Nothing could be more futile, more delusive and more mischievous than to pretend that the American proffer of a helping hand was a tribute primarily to a tender susceptibility.

"We deceive ourselves occasionally. Even to this day at rare intervals, an ebullient sophomoric seeks applause by shouting 'we won the war.' Far more prevalent until recently was the impression that we went to war to rescue humanity from all kinds of menacing perils.

"Not a few remained convinced that we sent our young soldiers to save this kingdom, France and Italy. That is not a fact. We sent them solely to save the United States of America, and most reluctantly and laggardly at that.

"We were not too proud to fight, whatever that means. We were afraid not to fight. That is the real truth of the matter. So we came along toward the end and helped you and your allies shorten the war. That is all we did and that is all we claim to have done."

The Wheeling (West Va.) Register discussing that statement says: "Was ever there heard a more un-American speech? No wonder Republican papers of the type of the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times struck this section of our ambassador's remarks from the Associated Press reports and failed to publish it. The shame was too great. In the foregoing sorry words, Ambassador Harvey attempted to sweep away every ideal for which America fought. According to him, the United States did not enter the war to overthrow autocracy, to crush imperialism or to save civilization. We fought to save America, and were afraid not to fight for that cause alone. If such declarations had been made the basis of a plea to recruit sailors and soldiers, to stir draftees to that high sense of duty which rallied them to the flag and to inspire the people to the purchase of Liberty bonds that the war might be financed there would have been no war. Not one hundred thousand would have answered a call based upon such pure selfishness as Ambassador Harvey outlined, and no one would have bought bonds, because so far as America was concerned America was secure from attack. With ease we could have stretched a cordon of vessels along the Atlantic coast which, along with the aid of airplanes, sub-chasers and other light craft, could have established such a patrol as no German vessel could have broken through. That would have been sufficient."

Col. Harvey knows very well what the words "We are too proud to fight" meant as they were used by Woodrow Wilson before this country realized fully what the issues of the war meant. The con-

The Haskin Letter

By FREDERICK J. HASKIN THE FOREIGN FILM INVASION.

New York May 25.—Civil war has broken out in the moving picture industry. Those who, only a few months ago, stood solidly united in the fight against censorship, now are split into two bitter and belligerent factions by a new issue—the importation of foreign films.

Since the successful introduction of the German film, "Passion," not long ago, dozens of German film productions have been received in this country, 48 recently arriving in one week. And they are still coming in, with no end of them in sight. Encouraged by the German success, moreover, the French are now making films with the American market in view, and the Italians, who are famous for the artistic quality of their pictures, are said to be speeding up sample productions.

This flood of importations is regarded by the most serious misgivings by actors, directors and others employed in our own picture industry, who realize that it means a curtailment of production in this country. They know that for every foreign film bought by an American producer, he will make one less over here and employ correspondingly fewer people. The picture people have already lived through an exceedingly lean year, while the big producing companies were getting rid of their surplus stock. Now they face an even greater crisis if the influx of foreign films keeps up.

Thus, the war cry is being sounded throughout the industry and the various organizations of actors, directors, assistant directors, scenario writers and camera men are sharpening their weapons for a stiff fight against the foreign films. Leading the rebellion is the Actors' Equity Association, which has enlisted the aid of the American Federation of Labor, and is preparing to take the matter up with congress, with a view to securing a protective tariff. The opposition has become as intense that when "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" (The new German futuristic film which has created such a furore) was exhibited in Los Angeles a few weeks ago, it was boycotted. Protests were first lodged by the American Legion, the Motion Picture Directors' Association, the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture operators. When the theater management paid no attention to the protests, pickets from these organizations, including wounded veterans of the war, were stationed outside the theater with banners admonishing the public not to patronize it.

Boycotting a Film. The demonstration, which lasted from the opening time on Sunday night to 8:30 at night, was unquestionably successful. Up until 6 o'clock about 75 persons entered the theater, while less than that number attended the evening show. Thousands were attracted to the neighborhood, but they merely stood on the sidewalk and viewed the proceedings. When a patron emerged from the theater he was jeered at, but there was no violence.

At 8 o'clock, the theater management announced that another picture had been substituted for the German film. The great menace of the foreign film to the American picture people's standpoint is their remarkably low cost. Owing to the difference in American and European exchange rates, they can be bought for a mere fraction of the price of our own pictures. "Passion," for instance, which is said to have been bought for a pittance, has already brought its American distributors over a million dollars.

Some of the films, elaborately staged and containing massive scenes showing 10,000 people in action, are sold for \$2,000 apiece. Furthermore, the new foreign films are tremendously popular. Except in the Los Angeles instance where the theater was picketed, they have drawn unprecedented crowds, and hence are much in demand by moving picture exhibitors. Not only has the public forgone its supposed distaste for costume plays, and given the German pictures its enthusiastic endorsement, but American critics have given them a royal welcome. "Passion" was the finest picture since Griffith's "The Birth of a Nation," which made the movie critics drop their stereotyped phrases and launch forth into original and impassioned eloquence. Columns

text explained the phrase. President Wilson said we were too proud in the knowledge of our strength to be driven by fear into war as was the case with many of the European nations. It was not because we were afraid that we entered the war as George Harvey says it was. This nation entered the war with higher motives than fear. We did it first to vindicate our rights on the high seas, brutally assaulted by Germany, and secondly to put down military autocracy that endangered the life of democracy and liberty everywhere. When Woodrow Wilson told congress that we must go to war to make the world safe for democracy to live in he told the truth. Senator Harding, now president of the United States, and all his brother senators said aye as we remember the facts. No one disputed the truth of President Wilson's lofty words in those days. Like living fire they made clean the heart of the nation and inspired them to great deeds. We shall be disappointed indeed if President Harding permits the declaration that fear prompted this nation to enter the war to go uncontradicted. We do not believe it is the president's view of the facts. We believe that Col. Harvey as the representative of the president at the Court of St. James has slandered President Harding as he has consistently slandered President Wilson.

We agree with the West Virginia newspaper that the average American had no fear of a German invasion of the United States, or that Germany had the power to inflict any great damage on this country, even if she defeated the allies in Europe. We know now that such was the fact. Germany had nearly spent her resources be-

fore the United States entered the war. When we did that it brought a speedy end to the war. The gallant fighting of our troops in France coupled by the words of our president that wrought demoralization among the masses of the German people put an end to the war. But we did not fight because we were afraid not to fight as Col. Harvey says it did.

of praise were heaped upon the German's Polish star, Pola Negri, and the frankly German director, Lubitsch, all interspersed with unwelcome comparisons of the German film and the typical American production. "Deception," has earned an almost equally favorable reception. Here is a sample of the sort of thing which the American movie ranks are finding so depressing: "Deception," by an old paradox, is a German picture about English history. It tells the story of Anne Boleyn, the second charmer in the sextet of wives of King Henry VIII. Both are a historical and an American document, it is magnificent. Lubitsch (the director) brings history to life and turns lead and stone figures into human beings. It is an old saying that the public does not want historical dramas and that no one will go to see costume plays. But "Deception" has proved that the public is 10 times more interested in a historical drama than they are in a costume play. It is a masterpiece of the picture industry, who realize that it means a curtailment of production in this country. They know that for every foreign film bought by an American producer, he will make one less over here and employ correspondingly fewer people. The picture people have already lived through an exceedingly lean year, while the big producing companies were getting rid of their surplus stock. Now they face an even greater crisis if the influx of foreign films keeps up.

German Propaganda Again. It was immediately after this that the old war-time cries of "The Haskin Letter" began to be circulated. "Deception" was really nothing more than a scandalous episode in English history; that the Germans had delib-

erately selected Henry VIII for their caricature because he was a tyrant and a libertine and ate venison dipped in gravy with his fingers. Anne Boleyn had been represented not as the scheming sixteen history painter, but as a merely a weak and cruelly sinned-against woman. "Huh," said the American picture people indignantly. "We notice that the Germans stick carefully to the history of other nations. They don't dare film any of their own." To this charge the defenders of the films retort that even if they do contain propaganda (which they do not) there is nothing to prevent the French and British from circulating in kind. An investigation of German monarchs would probably yield a rich harvest of lurid material which the American public would be only too delighted to review in their Futurism, the first French film to reach us "J'accuse," is frankly a propaganda picture, depicting some of the worst phases of the late war. The picture is a masterpiece of French talent; it is true. There are no seductions of nuns or mutilations of infants in the picture, but it is a plea for sympathy for the French nation, which is struggling bravely to recover from the desolation of the war.

But propaganda or not, the champions of the new foreign films declare that they are a welcome relief from the average American movie which is largely devoid of artistic merit. While "Gypsy Love," the latest Pola Negri film, does not live up to the high standard set by the first foreign picture, the majority is said by those who have seen them to be exceptionally good. In many respects, it cannot be denied, the European directors are ahead of our directors over here. For instance, nothing has yet been produced in this country to compare with the artistic sense designed by a noted European modernist for "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari." It could easily be done in Hollywood. We have plenty of artists in this country who could achieve equally good results. But the fact remains that it has not been done.

The moving picture people themselves are willing to admit this. It is not the artistic merit of the new foreign films to which they object nor of which they are jealous. They have their own reasons for objecting to them. They are always open to suggestions for improving their own work. It is the cost of the pictures which they resent—a cost with which the American exhibitors are unable to compete. In this they see a real danger which threatens the livelihood of over 60,000 American bread-winners, and which eventually may turn this nation from the world's greatest producer of films into its greatest film buyer.

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The Jingo is finding it hard to talk louder than taxation.—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont. Japan will please take notice of the fact that our president wears a No. 10 1/2 shoe.—Columbus Dispatch.

"The war brought historical books into more constant use," says a publisher. Also check books.—Baltimore Evening Sun.

It is still a long way to normalcy when a lot of girls who were satisfied with porch swings last year are insisting on automobiles.—Sacramento Union.

"The meals you eat here," advertises a Marinette, Wis., restaurant, "makes you think of home." And think better of it, too.—Columbus Citizen.

Dr. Einstein says he cannot measure universe.—Newspaper headline. Let him not despair; many other are in the same unfortunate situation.—New York Herald.

The father of his first child feels that the world is full of fine people until he meets the chap who has just bought his first automobile.—El Paso Herald.

There's a thorn to every rose. The meek will probably inherit the war debt along with the earth.—Baltimore Evening Sun. A Louisville young woman, admittedly a fine singer, has just married, saying she "preferred matrimony to a vocal career." There is, then, a distinction.—Kansas City Star.

The Spirit of America

DAILY EDITORIAL DIGEST

Prepared Exclusively for The Tribune Today's Subject: GERMANY'S "THIRD MARNE"

"The Allies' first victory" since the armistice, as the Norfolk Ledger Dispatch (Ind. Dem.) calls the acceptance of the reparations demands by Germany, is generally heralded in the American newspapers as an event rightly described by the Birmingham News (Dem.) as "second only in importance" to the surrender of the Central Powers. Beside the general comment to the effect that the industrial world will not breathe with relief many different views of the cause, effect and method of bringing Germany to terms are reflected in the different papers. That force was the deciding factor, is the opinion of some who credit France with another victory, while others feel that time softened the demands and brought them nearer the realm of reason. A few, unprejudiced by the question of who created France, with another victory, while others feel that time softened the demands and brought them nearer the realm of reason. A few, unprejudiced by the question of who created France, with another victory, while others feel that time softened the demands and brought them nearer the realm of reason.

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Large Force of Men Engaged in Killing Reservation Gophers. Special to The Tribune. Harlem, May 25.—V. F. Larsen, of Plains, Mont., who is connected with the biological survey in this state, is endeavoring to exterminate the gophers and prairie dogs on the Fort Belknap reservation. He has a crew of 12 men with him placing gopher poison in the valley along the river. They have this territory pretty well cleaned up and their next job will be a visit to the various prairie dog towns. They will continue to work during the rest of this month and June and in that time they hope to have most of rodents out of existence.

Forestry Officers to Enforce the Law in the Mountains. Special to The Tribune. Kalispell, May 25.—P. J. O'Brien, law enforcement officer of the forest service with headquarters at Missoula, has been here for a conference with local forest officials and the law enforcement officers of Flathead county in regard to means of preventing man-caused fires, violation of state and federal game laws and the stealing of government property such as tools, fire fighting equipment and supplies, which has been common in the forests.

Montana Branch Road Operates at a Loss. Special to The Tribune. Billings, May 25.—The smallest railroads as well as the largest have been hit by severe financial conditions, according to Manager Earl Tiffany of the Billings & Central Montana railroad, who spoke before the Rotary club here. The line runs 14 miles from Billings to Shepherd. Manager Tiffany said the road was now operating at a loss of \$1,000 a month, and had a deficit of \$30,000. The property represents an investment of \$207,000 and was built in 1913.

Men of Minneapolis Lease Home on Lake. Special to The Tribune. Minneapolis, May 25.—I. R. Romig and D. L. Dunn of Minneapolis, have secured the Cannon summer home on Flathead lake and will move their families to the new home about the middle of June. The two men have several hundred acres of orchard and farm land near Kalispell.

Rounds Up Vagrants to Dig Dandelions. Special to The Tribune. Billings, May 25.—Unable to assign city forces to the task or to employ a sufficient number of men to do the work Chief of Police Bert Talo ordered a roundup of vagrants, resulting in the arrest of 18, who were put to the task of digging up the dandelions upon the court house lawn and other public grounds of the city.

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