

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1915.

Salvage Corps Needed

If an arrangement could be effected under which the city and the insurance companies doing business in Richmond would share the expense of establishing and maintaining a salvage corps, as an adjunct to the Fire Department, difficulties would be smoothed out and much good accomplished.

Count von Bernstorff has denied about everything except himself, and in this respect he is a close second to old Carranza.

Die to Live

It takes a Middle West or Far West town to do things dramatically. Take Chanute, Kans., as an example. Chanute is in the oil strip of the State. The sum and substance of the story about Chanute is that, in order to make the town live, its citizens must die.

The town has a municipal water works, a municipal electric plant, a municipal gas plant and a municipal cemetery. The finance committee recently completed footing up its accounts, and found that for the three months ended June 30 there was a deficit in every department except in the cemetery. That was ahead. It had made a profit.

The report does not say so, but there is only one logical conclusion. At the rate at which the town has been going, the only way for it to break even is for its citizens to die and be buried in the municipal cemetery. Whether civic pride will go this far remains to be seen, and the country will watch the result with interest.

Hitchener says that the Germans have nearly shot their last bolt. There are several other things they have shot which the war lord failed to mention.

Muddling Through

DISPATCHES from England state that plans have been perfected which will prevent another Zeppelin raid on London. Probably such plans have been made, now, and possibly they will be effective. But what a commentary the whole affair is on England's custom of "just muddling through!"

The war has been in progress for more than a year, and the world has known for years that the Germans possessed a great fleet of Zeppelins and other aircraft, yet London, the social, financial and governmental center of the United Kingdom, has lain so utterly unprotected from the danger of aerial attack that a squadron of war balloons has been able to drop bombs on the city itself without hindrance.

In referring to the slaughter of children in that raid, the Archbishop of London is quoted as having said of the imperial murderer "he permitted it that his punishment might be found in the words of the Psalmist—"I will set before thee the things that thou hast done." Meanwhile, the fathers and mothers of the dead and maimed children might well say, not to the Kaiser, but to their own King and his ministers: "We set before you the result of the things that you have not done."

So, according to Berlin, the Hesperian was not the victim of a submarine. The Hesperian probably undertook to torpedo the sub, and, chagrined at her failure, committed hara-kari.

Will Bombs End the War?

WHEN the War began we heard a great deal to the effect that new methods in the science of slaughter would bring the conflict to an end much sooner than other wars had been terminated. Germany's long preparation for the conflict was considered the last word in efficiency. Although the allies were not in the same state, it was believed, by many experts that they would not be inefficiently equipped to enable them to cope with their adversaries.

For more than a year the war in the western front has been fought from the trenches. What the aircraft and submarines have done is not considered in this connection, for they are mere adjuncts of the general system. When war is discussed as a whole, it is understood that the army is the big factor. Most great wars have been decided on the field.

We are told now that the whole system inaugurated by the army councils a year ago has failed, and that something different is to be adopted. The bayonet and rifle have accomplished nothing, and much valuable time has been lost in the trenches. The new plan contemplated is war by bombs. It is said that the word has already gone forth that the allies in the future will use these weapons on a great scale. If this be true, it follows that Germany must alter her tactics to some extent. An English officer, who asserts that he is violating no confidence, says

that le dernier cri is for bombs, and that it is the opinion that this system will be the decisive one.

It must be confessed that wherever aggressive fighting has taken place, trenches have not been in evidence. The German invasion of Poland and Russia is proof of this. The grand duke in the victories he won did not rely on trenches. The Italians are fighting in the open and in the air, and not from trenches.

If the bomb, already used in trench warfare, will end the war any sooner, the whole world will be glad to see them put to wider use; the sooner the better.

"President Wilson has been considerate, he has been broad-minded, he has been just, and he has been generous," says the New York World, referring to the President's course with Germany. That's what's the matter. We believe it is in Don Quixote that we read that doing good to the vulgar is like throwing water into the sea. Germany is not vulgar, but in its relations with this country it has been everything else that isn't fair and square.

Prize Court Assumptions

CONFISCATION in a British prize court of some \$15,000,000 worth of American meats and other food products is not likely to be followed by any increased tension in the relations between Great Britain and the United States. For this there are several reasons.

It is impossible, in the first place, to avoid the conclusion that these meat shipments were suspicious in character and amount. They represented in large part the sort of canned meats suitable to an army's use, and the vessels seized were carrying to Copenhagen thirteen times Copenhagen's normal receipts of such commodities. These circumstances may incline us to understand, even if we should not sympathize with the court's findings.

In the second place, the decision is not final. An appeal already has been allowed to the Privy Council, and when that has been exhausted, there will remain the resources of diplomacy and international arbitration. As the American government has placed the British Foreign Office on notice that it would not be bound by orders in council that sought to establish new principles of law, it is in excellent position to press its contentions.

It cannot be denied that the position of the packers has many elements of strength. The ships were seized last November, when the British orders in council were not in effect and when no blockade of German coasts had been declared. Germany had not then promulgated the regulations for the control of food supplies, which Britain has held justified her treatment of food practically as absolute contraband. Food last November was conditional contraband, subject to confiscation only when shown to be designed for the armed forces of a belligerent enemy.

The prize court has reached its conclusions through a series of assumptions. Assuming, first, that the meat was meant ultimately to reach Germany, and, second, that in Germany it would be used to feed soldiers and sailors. The first assumption is reasonable, but the second, while it may be correct, is by no means demanded by the established facts. The conclusion reached would not be justified by the rules of evidence, as they are understood and applied in this country.

And yet the second assumption is as necessary as the first to the court's conclusion and to the legality of the confiscation. There was no blockade, so there could be no penalty for avoiding it; food had not been declared absolute contraband, so it was subject to confiscation only when its enemy destination and intended military use could be established.

However prize courts may find it necessary to rule, it is certain that an international tribunal would find much to commend in the packers' position. Perhaps the packers are regretful now that they did not accept the offered compromise of the British government and take pay for their products at a rate somewhat below that obtainable in Copenhagen, but there seems small reason to doubt that in the course of time they will receive ample justice.

James J. Hill celebrated his seventy-seventh birthday working on a big loan. A man doesn't have to be as old as that to work a big loan or a loan of any dimension, but he frequently feels twice the age before he gets it.

Again the Road Hogs

AGAIN it is the inconsiderate few whose conduct threatens to make trouble for the many; again the road hogs are bringing about the ears of decent motorists a storm of police activity. If the Chief of Police forbids the use of any automobile signaling device other than the old-style bulb, or "honk" horn—and it is to be hoped he will not find it necessary—it will be the direct result of the abuse by some of the privilege granted to all.

Under the traffic ordinance, no signal may be used on the streets of Richmond unless it be approved by the Chief of Police, and he may not approve any device that "shall produce a sound unusually loud, annoying or of distressing character." For a time, the chief refused to approve any signal except the bulb horn, but, upon the earnest solicitation of dealers and motorists, he modified his ruling and authorized the use of certain automatic devices.

Now, advantage has been taken of the increased liberty; certain persons have equipped their cars with sirens of unearthly power, which they do not hesitate to sound at all hours of the day and night; dwellers in the avenues and streets that are recognized motor lanes have risen in protest, and the police threaten severe measures.

Given an inch, they took an ell, and the chief now considers taking away the inch. The means of forestalling him lies at the hand of the offenders.

A deaf and dumb barber has been announced as a means of attracting immigration to Savannah, Mo. But it won't work out. Most men who patronize barber shops usually open the gab game as soon as they get in the chair. The boquacious tonorial artist is a myth, unless he has to talk back in self-defense.

The civilized world understands by this time what Germany did to Belgium, but nobody would have thought that a nation of Kultur would descend to tearing up iron rails and carrying them off. This is Belgium's latest grievance.

The Germans have cut the Russian railway at Novosibirsk to Yanyay. A passenger for that place would be carried miles beyond if he relied upon the brakeman calling out the name.

SEEN ON THE SIDE

Hanlet on the Charter. To chart or not to chart—that is the question. Whether 'tis nobler in this town to suffer The stings and arrows of the cheap politician, Or to take a whack at things ourselves And, by reforming, mend them? Aye, there's the rub. For if in shuffling off our present coil We fixed things worse—if that can be—Than now they are. 'Twould make our knotted and combined locks To part. And each particular hair to stand on end, Like quills upon the fretful porcupine.

There's the respect must give us pause. For who would bear the unmitigated gall Of petty place, crowned asininity. The ash collector's scorn, the policeman's angry scowl.

The tax assessor's thrice-oppressive hand, But that the fear of something that may chance. When we have turned the reigning powers out And thrust our own, puzzles the will And makes us rather bear those ills we have Than fly to others that we know not of.

This weakness doth make cowards of us all. And our brave plan—like the old cat in the cage—Is sickled o'er with the pale cast of thought And knows not how to jump.

Weather—This Is Not a Bluff.

We Are in Favor of Peace at Any Price. We Are Ideal Neutral. But If Anybody Tells You a Cold Wave Is Coming, Call Him a Liar and Vanooose—But Hit Him First.

Tribulations of Youth. "How are you getting along at school, Tommy?" inquired the lady visitor. "Rotten," replied Thomas, viciously. "There ain't a boy in my class that can put up a good fight, and our new teacher seems to think a feller ought to know his lessons every day."

As You Jog Along. Kind hearts are more than crowns. And simple faith than Norman blood.—Tennyson

Youth is a blunder; Manhood is a struggle; Old Age is a regret.—Disraeli.

The Psalmist Says

Always think well of yourself. It may be a hard task, but you can perform it easier than the rest of the world.

Hit and Tat Club

"Can you post a loan unless there is a sinking fund?" Nobody wants a loan that floats. If it can't stay put, what's the use? As to a sinking fund, it's no use unless it comes to the surface. If this doesn't answer your quiz, you've asked at the wrong place. Drop a line to the financial editor of the T-D.

On the Eastern Front in Richmond. At 10 o'clock last night the enemy had advanced a few kilometers on the Main Street ditch. That is to say, they had dug from Ninth Street to Fifteenth two days and nights. If the picks don't break, they will capture the hollow by Saturday night.

Inconceivable

"Why does Binks wear that peculiarly woebegone expression?" "Because just before the hot wave arrived he bought himself a new fall hat and threw away his old straw."

What there is about an automobile to make a humble bee mad is beyond human ken. A Goshen, Ind., man was speeding along when he met one of these buzzers, and it unhinged his brain and upon his machine, into the bushes and abandoned it. The surest way of losing a automobile, when you see it hovering in the air, is to move over to the nearest fence and give the insect the right of way.

Points for the Police Commissioners

The police commissioners of Richmond are considering plans which will put a quietus on the noise made by auto horns. If they are going to put the noise absorber on everything in town, there are a few other outbreaks besides auto devices that ought to be put under ground. Plans and specifications can be seen at any old place.

The Guide and the Jit

Confidential remark of the Capitol Square Guide to Newcomer: "I kind o' looks as if the jit was comin' back. But you never kin tell. These here Council committee reports is like a nigger I once knowed. His wife put a patch on the hind gate of his britches, and he kicked. When she ast why, he sed that nobody who looked at the patch could tell whether he was goin' away from home or comin' back. How do I stan' on the question? How do I stan' on the corner. That's wher everybody stan's, gittin' on or off."

Next to It

Grubbs—Do you consider that the lecturer exhausted his subject? Stubbs—Of that I am not sure, but I know he exhausted his audience.

By Phone—Hello. Is this the T-D? Say, our ice man started out with a load of coolers this morning, and before he had gone a block he was using his wagon as a street sprinkler. What do you know about that?

A Way They Have

There was an automobile once That by the weight of age was tried, And so grew weary and forewent. It coughed its last, the engine died, And five-and-fifty miles from home That engine turned upon its side.

Chats With Virginia Editors

"So Richmond," says the Blackstone Courier, "is to have no more Bines. But 'twas fun while it lasted." Now you just wait and see.

The entirely too observant editor of the Roanoke Times says: "Some of the stockings the girls are wearing in this town look like they were originally meant for a checker board but went astray."

"Fried chicken," says the Petersburg Progress, "is claimed to be the American national dish, and nowhere can it be found in perfection except in the South." And not much further South than old Virginia.

"Millions for cotton," wails the Halifax Record-Advertiser, "but not one cent for tobacco."

But, you know, you can't wear tobacco on your backs, nor can you shoot it in your guns. While tobacco may kill some people, the process is too slow to be used in war." Well, nobody has asked any millions from government or others for tobacco. Virginia's old stand-by crop can generally take care of itself.

"It has been suggested," says the Charlottesville Progress, "that the American mules in the Russian army were responsible for the recent stop in the precipitate retreat. Rear-guard action, we must remember, is another propensity of the American mule." In due time perhaps the Germans will adopt the old Virginia darkey's maxim, "If you got anything to say 'kin a mule, say it to his face."

The Franklin Chronicle makes the following heart-rending appeal: "Mr. Mayor, have you ever stopped to think that the money wasted each year on battleships, naval and army appropriations would build a most complete system of roads in this congressional district, giving every farmer a macadamized highway to his farm? That, in addition, it would build, equip and supply with teachers of approved ability a school of the best character in every neighborhood and an academy in every county, pay the whole cost of tuition, board, clothing and books for every child between six and twenty in this district? Are you willing to continue having this money wasted on the tinklings of war for the pleasure of a few army and navy officers and the manufacturers of war supplies? It is moved and seconded that the whole appropriation for battleships for the next year or two be withdrawn and the money appropriated to the Fifth Congressional District of Virginia for roads and schools."

News of Fifty Years Ago

(From Newspaper Files, Sept. 18, 1865.)

The first real negro excursion ever to go down the James river was on 3 o'clock this afternoon, bound for City Point. The steamer Allison will carry the crowd, and tickets are being sold to none but negroes. The sable sons and daughters are so excited over the event and the promised entertainment at City Point, they are buying tickets at a great rate, and it now looks as if another steamboat will have to be called into requisition to help the Allison out.

Cadmus P. Luck, formerly the proprietor of the Columbus Hotel, has been on his farm, near Danville, since evacuation, has done some but little real work, and has a fine crop. A sample of his crop in this office is a jug of as fine sorghum syrup as ever was seen.

Mrs. Minor's famous school for girls, Grace Street, between Adams and Jefferson, will open for the fall and winter session to-day.

James L. Orr, of South Carolina, who spent much of his time during the war in this city, and is well known here, has been pardoned by the President. Mr. Orr probably be a candidate for Governor of his State.

A negro riot which was started in Hampton night before last was quelled by United States troops, under command of Lieutenant W. H. Wenderly. Twenty-one of the rioters were arrested. They were armed with revolvers, cut-throats, carbines and shotguns.

Fabien Armstrong, an old citizen of Petersburg, and for a long time connected with the Exchange Bank of that city, died yesterday.

Major Fred Menasha, of the Forty-ninth New York Volunteers, died in Petersburg night before last.

General John C. Breckinridge, accompanied by Colonel Benham, Major Helm and Colonel John R. Atkinson, former members of his staff, has reached Toronto, Can. They intend, so it is said, to make that city their present home and wander about the world no more.

Major General N. P. Banks has been removed from command in New Orleans, and ordered New York. There has been a clash between General Banks and the officials of the War Department at Washington.

The Republican State Convention of Massachusetts, over which Charles Sumner presided, has nominated Colonel Alexander H. Bullock for Governor and William Claflin for Lieutenant Governor.

The Voice of the People

We Are Scorch'd by Sarasso. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir.—Your editorial of September 15, entitled, "No Lending a Hand," seems to indicate that not only the pro-British press of America, but the pro-British press of America are becoming weak-kneed in their fight against Germany. You seem to intimate that you understand our country—that it might possibly be an important asset for this country to finance the allies; and, furthermore, that this country might be incurring some risk by accepting bonds from the allies.

Mr. Editor, I am sorry to see you take such a hesitating stand. Though my article was rooted in the fact that the allies are on and do not stop the music. How can you have any scruples in our dealings with the allies as long as you know that such dealings are harmful to "the Germans." Germany's enemies since the outbreak of the European war have fully convinced me that Germany is to blame for everything detrimental to the allies and their sympathizers in America. That Germany has not been beaten to a frazzle during the first six weeks of the war is her fault. That on some days she has too hot and on others too cold, and that she has been the cause of some of our troubles, is evidently Germany's fault, and she deserves to be knocked for it. You have so fully convinced me of these and like facts that I feel compelled to ask you to continue to offer a "stubborn resistance" against Germany until she is an insane asylum, the German Kaiser but a mad dog, and the German people a mob of savages to be divided among the allies and the editors of the pro-British press of America.

Richmond, September 15, 1915.

Queries and Answers

Inner Shrine. Who wrote the Inner Shrine? MISS L. W. BASI KING.

President Arthur. Was President Arthur ever married? GREENSBA.

He married Ellen, daughter of William Lewis, of Culpeper, Va., October 3, 1859. Mrs. Arthur died January 12, 1880.

Cleric and Catholic. Is it safe to use cider in which benzoate of soda has been mixed to keep it? Has any Roman Catholic ever been known to change his faith? T. J. O.

The quantity was a proper one. Thousands of them.

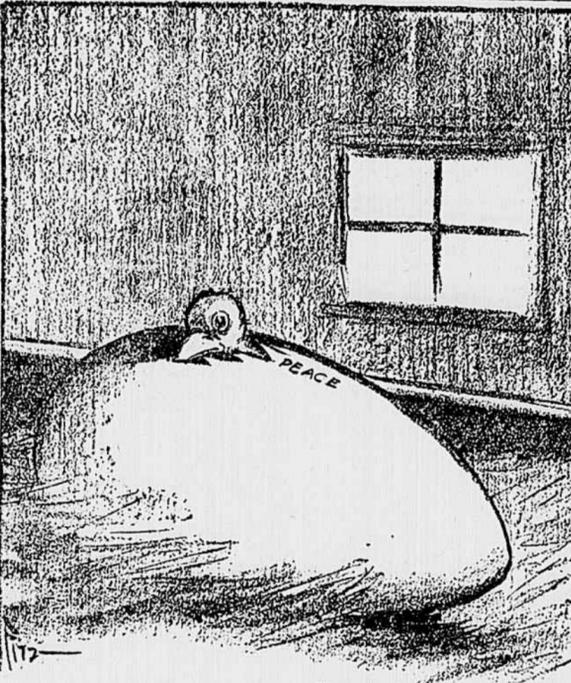
Current Editorial Comment

How Far staff means to follow up the retreating Russian armies, if they can't be cornered, a movement is being surmised. A new stroke may be made any day, and when it comes it will be with the utmost suddenness. If nothing happens in another field, the German strategists have a free hand to strike at any quarter of the compass, and it is a matter of course that by this time each of these possible moves has been analyzed to the last decimal point and all the details planned so that when it begins it will go like clockwork. The event most likely to precipitate such a move would be a definite withdrawal of the part of the Balkan States. So long as they can be played off against each other, providing the Turks can hold on at Gallipoli, it may seem wiser for the German armies to go no further than a menacing concentration in the direction of the Balkans.

No Maximum on Hooking. Morrisville is one big honk since the village authorities began wholesale prosecutions because automobile drivers did not sound their horns freely enough at street corners. The law fixes a minimum on the amount of footing, but no maximum, and the Lamplow town is said to be perfect because since crusade started.—Randolph, Va. Herald News.

PEEPING

One of the Day's Best Cartoons.



WHY CITY NEEDS A CHANGE

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir.—In your admirable editorial of the 15th you spoke of the effort now being made by the Civic Association to inaugurate some drastic changes in the present city government, and you asked if the present government is considered satisfactory. It seems to me that the people generally do not seem to be satisfied with the present city government, and that the good citizen should contribute his mite toward the answering of this question, and so I venture to give a few instances of my own personal experience.

It is considerably more than twenty years since I made a personal canvass among the retail merchants of Broad Street and secured from a number of them the promise to be placed at my disposal of an approved pattern of a convenient spots, particularly at the entrance to alleys, where waste paper, fruit skins and such debris might be their hands. The securing of places is a recognized cause of much of the dirt in our streets; it helps to spread disease germs, and the fruit skins have long been recognized as a source of annoyance to the people. The effort required to sweep this trash into the carts would have been saved, and to that extent the cleaning of our streets would have been facilitated. The matter was brought to the attention of our City Council, who, instead of taking any action, took the matter into consideration. They have never yet acted upon it.

On one occasion, some years ago, I was one of a crowd of some 200 or 300 citizens summoned by friends of the cause to appear before the Finance Committee of the Council to urge the adoption of measures looking to the cleaning of a city alley. The meeting was duly advertised in all the newspapers, the date had been fixed by the Finance Committee. I have rarely seen a more representative crowd than

the one which gathered in the Council chamber. We waited one hour and a half, and were then dismissed by a statement of the committee with the suggestion as there was not a quorum present. When later the creation of an Administrative Board was suggested many were the allusions to this committee's suggestion that when we had five men paid to devote all their time to the city's needs and in their seats every day, the law's delays would cease, and our more obvious needs would receive prompt and satisfactory attention. The list of neglected opportunities and improvements awaiting future consideration is so long and so conspicuous in its features that I need not mention them in detail. The city, from the Juvenile Court, the need for adequate water supply in our congested business district, to me without having to indulge my brains. I have been for more than a generation an active and interested worker in Richmond's welfare, and I confess to a feeling of profound discouragement over the development of the city along educational, artistic and philanthropic lines under present conditions. The chance of a more direct and simple method is certainly a new and inspiring possibility. That Mr. McElrath and his co-beneficiaries should resent the interference which endangers their jobs is natural, and he has made the trouble of saying so by saying it himself. Richmond is not, however, an elementary institution, and, much as Mr. McElrath's friends may desire to furnish him "bread and meat," there are some claims even more desirable and some claims even more appealing. I bespeak for the Civic Association a hearty endorsement from the citizens of Richmond, and I give voice to the sentiment of the people.

AN OLD-TIMER. Richmond, September 17, 1915.

Dutchmen Coming Here

WASHINGTON, September 16.—A projected tour of the United States by representatives of the reorganized American Chamber of Commerce in Amsterdam, and the American Export Chamber of Commerce, is announced by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Department of Commerce.

The committee is informed that the visitors will arrive some time next month, and will remain in this country about three months. They come with the double object of extending the membership of the organization in this country, and calling to the attention of boards of trade, chambers of commerce, manufacturers and merchants' associations, individual firms and corporations, and any persons interested in the export trade of the United States, the opportunities that the Netherlands presents as an export center, especially with reference to the new and changed requirements resulting from the present war.

The committee from Amsterdam has asked for the co-operation of the bureau in conducting its campaign in this country, and has received from the bureau assurances of active assistance in the arrangement of the itinerary of the representatives, and for appointments and meetings in the various cities that they desire to visit. The visitors will be received in the principal cities of the East, the Central West as far as Chicago, and the South as far as New Orleans. In meeting the business men of these cities, they will present, by means of slides and films, Amsterdam's facilities for handling foreign trade. The purpose of the organization is to maintain headquarters at Amsterdam, consisting of suitable rooms where books and magazines, pamphlets, and papers relating to all world business will be kept on file, so that commercial travelers, firms and corporations can, at any time, receive information, free of charge, as to business openings, the best routes of travel, and anything that will be of benefit to them in their trade abroad. It is planned to exhibit trade and stock exchange reports, and to keep the addresses of individuals and firms desiring to open correspondence with the view of establishing business connections.

Details of all these features of the work of the Amsterdam office will be presented during the numerous meetings and conferences that are to be held in this country, and to make the campaign as effective as possible, the American Chamber of Commerce and the American Export Chamber of Commerce offers to arrange to place this committee in touch with representative business men and organizations desiring to confer with the visitors. The latter have made a special study of plans for readjusting disturbed business relations, so that their lectures and addresses and private talks, it is believed, will be not only of special importance to business men, but also of general interest to the public.

Out of the sickening battle strife, Into a new, everlasting life; Out of their sin and misery, Into everlasting peace and bliss. Our Father lead them on!

Out of their shameful fall and loss, Into the gain of Thy glorious cross; Out of the chains of ev'ry sin, Into everlasting peace and bliss. Our Father lead them on!

Out of the darkness in which they grope, Into Thy great eternal hope; Out of their hatred and jealousy, Into everlasting peace and bliss. Our Father lead them on!

Out of their blindness, wanting to see, Into that blissful knowledge of thee; Into the thought of immortality, And everlasting peace and bliss. Our Father lead them on!

MARY BEAL MONTAGUE, Tunstall, Va., September 16, 1915.