

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

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EDITORIAL PAGE

COURT MARTIAL SENTENCES.

The yellow peril that this country has most to fear from is the yellow journals and the yellow near statesmen in congress. It is the vice of sensationalism, the desire to create excitement and gain public notice by statements grossly false and designed to deceive the public with no sense of responsibility for their truth and no effort to find out their truth or falsity. If the statement be only sensational enough and calculated to excite the public mind and set people to talking that is all the yellow journals and yellow near statesmen ask for. Its truth or falsity is a minor matter with them, a thing of little importance. Senator Chamberlain of Washington, Senator Poindexter of the same state, and indeed most of the statesmen of the Pacific coast seem victims to this yellow disease. They have apparently been educated by the Hearst yellow newspapers in the yellow school of sensationalism and they make exaggerated and false statements without a twinge of regret or apology for them, even after their falsity has been disclosed.

Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the military affairs committee, and a democrat, is just as much tainted with this yellow disease as his republican colleague from the coast, Senator Poindexter. It will be recalled that in the early days of the war when the war department was straining every nerve to get our armies across the water Chairman Chamberlain in a speech in New York in criticism of the administration declared that the war department was so badly managed that it "had almost ceased to function." President Wilson called him down sharply for that speech, but he never apologized for it or retracted his false statements. Later the public learned that the war department functioned after a manner at Chateau-Thierry, at St. Mihiel and in the Argonne wood, and that our friends and enemies alike were amazed at the swiftness with which we made an army, trained it, transported it, and got it into action in France. Oh, yes, the war department functioned some despite the slanderous and false assertions of Senator Chamberlain to the contrary.

But a yellow near statesman learns nothing and forgets nothing when it comes to hysterical assertion. Just now a number of these hysterical yellows are in full cry over the subject of military justice. As usual Senator Chamberlain is leading the pack. He is quoted as saying that "the records of the court-martial in this war show that we have no military law or system of administering military justice which is worthy of the name of law or justice," and he cited four cases of severe sentences passed by court-martial to prove his point. One of these was for the crime of sleeping on sentry post and the soldier got a sentence of ten years, and the other a sentence of twenty-five years for absence without leave. The only fact that the senator did not mention was that both had been restored to duty, one after serving six months and the other eight months, not in jail, but in disciplinary barracks. That fact would have spoiled the sensationalism of his story. Though chairman of the military affairs committee of the senate he never took the trouble to call the attention of the war department to his alleged facts before he sprung them on the public in a speech. Had he done so he would have learned the truth and spoiled his speech for the senate he expected it to create. Another tale which has been going the rounds—we forget just now whether Senator Chamberlain or some other yellow politician is the author of it—is the case of a soldier who was sentenced to twenty-five years in jail for "refusing to peel potatoes." The man referred to is now discharged and at liberty with his back pay and a bonus of \$60 in his pocket. He was an alleged "conscientious objector," and his conscience would not even let him peel potatoes to feed our soldiers in the mess kitchen. The sentence had a good effect on his conscience, and the army authorities at Washington restored him to duty and gave him an honorable discharge. But that fact tends to diminish the sensational value of the story. These facts are supported by Major Arthur Train, U. S. A., who writes to Collier's Weekly about the charges of Senator Chamberlain and others that the army court-martials were unduly severe in administering justice to the army. Major Train states that not a single soldier was executed in this war for breach of military discipline. He says that out of 20,000 court-martial sentences only 7,500 are now in force, and many of these are under review and will be cut down. With 100,000 new officers sitting or liable to sit in judgment on a soldier accused of breach of his duty it would be a miracle if some mistakes of judgment were not made, and some over severe sentences passed, but all of these are subject to review. Sleeping on sentry post may seem a trivial fault to people living in safety at home, but it might mean death or captivity for many of his comrades. Absence without leave may mean anything up to desertion in the face of battle. Disobedience to orders may mean anything up to mutiny. Doubtless if Senator Chamberlain and his fellow critics were held responsible for the lives and

efficiency of a force of men confronted with a foe in battle array these terms would take on a different significance. It is the testimony of the soldiers themselves and of all foreign military critics that no army of modern history was ever better treated by its commanding officers and its country than our own army was treated. No doubt here and there exceptions to the rule can be found, but they are exceptions and rare ones at that. The man who hunts up these exceptions and tries to make the country believe that they are characteristic and represent the average is not patriotic. He is yellow. He is a sensation monger. He is a pest.

THE SPEECH OF LLOYD-GEORGE.

If the public expected to learn much details regarding the work of the Paris peace conference from the speech of the British premier to parliament they will be disappointed. He was very general in his remarks and we know little more about what has been done than we did before, or what remains to be done. In general we are told that the work of the peace conference is nearly done, that they met with many difficulties that have been surmounted, that the great powers have worked together in harmony and without quarrels, that one of the irritating facts they had to contend with was outside interference, and that the critics had made their work harder by throwing stones on the roof, and crazy men yelling through the keyholes at them while they needed quiet and calm deliberation to solve their mighty problems. He finished with a plea for confidence till the job was finished which would be soon.

M. Pichon, foreign minister to France, also had a stormy time in the French chamber because he declined to give curious members any prior information about the peace proceedings until the treaty was signed. This led to much disturbance and wound up by a demand on the part of the French government for a vote of confidence, which they got by a majority of two to one.

From these speeches we learn one thing, and that is that it is not the purpose of the peace conference to make public its conclusions until they are presented to the German delegation on April 25 at least. It is, however, probable that the most important points will leak out before that time through the activity of the newspaper men, though they will lack official confirmation. It is also probable, however, that a good many purported revelations of the terms will be printed that are fakes. Yellow journalism is not unknown in Europe and it can be quite as yellow as our own as we know by experience.

However, the British prime minister in his talk to parliament made clear and emphatic two points which were unofficially pretty well known before. The first is that Great Britain, like the United States, has no idea of any military intervention in Russia and that its policy will be to let the bolsheviks stew in their own juice. As Lloyd-George puts it he would rather see Russia suffer than bankrupt Great Britain. On the other hand he intimated that they would continue to help their friends to defend themselves against their enemies by supplying them arms and munitions and other goods. The second point he made clear was that there was no intention on the part of the allies to give any recognition to the bolshevik government.

He was also most emphatic in declaring that the league of nations was the heart and soul of the peace treaty, and without it they could never have reached any agreement at all. He declared that instead of delaying the conclusion of peace the league of nations provision had greatly hastened it. There is small comfort for the opponents of the league of nations in that part of the British premier's speech. From now on we will probably get some interesting stories by cable from the other side as to the details of the treaty. They should be accepted with a grain of salt, and judged more on their probability than on their statements. One such report came yesterday and its inherent probability is such that we are inclined to believe it is true. It says that one provision of the treaty calls for the complete dismantling of the great German fortress at Helgoland. This island which formerly belonged to Great Britain was ceded to Germany in return for some "claims" to African territory at a time when Great Britain was trying to make friends with Germany. It was turned into a second Gibraltar by Germany with special intent as a threat against the British coast. We should naturally expect that the peace treaty would demand its destruction and quite likely the neutralization of the Kiel canal also. The free passage of the river Rhine is also another point we can be pretty sure is included because this will give Switzerland an outlet to the sea for her produce and also be of advantage to France and Belgium. These are all matters that have been discussed and generally conceded as likely to be incorporated in the peace treaty for some time, so the public can take them partly for granted. But the more sensational the alleged purport of the various clauses of the treaty as revealed by the busy newspaper sleuths is, the more the truth of these premature revelations may be doubted. We are all anxious to know the facts as soon as possible, but any man who uses his thinker can see why it is wisdom not to publish the full purport of the peace treaty until it is signed or the Germans refuse to sign it. There are too many people just yearning for a chance to put stumbling blocks in its way for selfish purposes, and too many interests that are bound to be sore and disappointed at its terms whatever they may be.

HASKIN LETTER

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

A SOUTHERN MILL TOWN

Charlotte, N. C., April 14.—How would you like to rent a house in the suburbs, with a yard large enough for gardening and poultry-keeping, with a good store close at hand where you could buy most of the things you need at a little more than cost, and with churches, schools and a social center in the neighborhood, for 25 cents per room per week?

These are the usual terms for mill workers all thru the Piedmont section of the south. And the owners of the houses are not philanthropists, either. They are mill owners who are anxious to keep their workers and to keep them satisfied. The people who rent the houses do so on condition that they, and all members of their families who work, will give the mills an option on their service.

The distinctive thing about these southern mill towns, and the thing that makes them most different from the mill towns of the north, is the fact that they are "American" towns—among the few in America. Less than one per cent of the people in North Carolina are foreign-born, and the complexion of the population is about the same thruout the Piedmont section.

These southern mill people are descendants of Scotch, English and Irish settlers who came to the Allegheny region in colonial times. They are mountaineers whom the mills, with their good homes and good pay, have induced to come down from their native ridges. Some of these people went to work for the mills when they were first started, and some of the younger ones are of the second generation to work in the mills, while others have only recently come down from the mountains; but they are nearly all of the mountain stock.

Most of them retain, in surprising strength and purity, these characteristics of colonial Americans which have been preferred everywhere among the southern highlanders. They are religious, and take their religion strong and pure as our forefathers did. They believe in a literal hell of burning brimstone. They read the bible, know it, and quote it. Above all, they still cherish the ideals of family life that prevailed a couple of centuries ago, and which seem to decline steadily in the country at large.

With these people, the family is a close corporation of which the father is the head and the absolute ruler. The father makes a bargain with the mill owner for the services of his whole family, which takes the place of a union to a certain extent. The mill owner, if he wants to keep that family on the job, must provide work for all the members of it who want to work, on terms which are satisfactory to the workers, and especially to the father. Having these provided all working members of the family with jobs, and the family as a whole with a house, the mill owner may expect to retain the services of that family for a long time—perhaps for several generations. As the mill owners have improved the living conditions in their mill villages, the moving about of mill workers has become a smaller and smaller factor in the employment problem. That is why the mill owners are trying all the time still further to improve the family and community life of these towns they have created.

The mill girl of the south is a very different person from her gay sister of the Massachusetts towns. In New England the Puritan ideals have been softened by the influx of pleasure-loving foreigners, and the night life of the mill towns is filled with melody and laughter. Here in the south, which is supposed to be the home of gayety as New England is supposed to be that of sober rectitude, the music is reserved. Among these mountain folk, pleasure is still sin, and damnation is real as death. Wherefore the girl of the southern mill village is the proper Priscilla that her New England prototype is supposed to be—a sober, wishful-looking person who lives in the awe of her father's commands, and in dread of the village gossips.

You perceive here several angles of the child labor situation which do not appear in academic studies of that question. These mill people believe that a growing boy needs the discipline of work. So, when the negotiating paternalists

has arranged for his own job and for those of all the other adult members of his family, he brings forward little Johnny, 15 years old, and demands a job for him, too. It may be that the services of the whole family depend upon whether Johnny is provided for.

Many of the mill owners contend that they do not really want Johnny's services, and a visit to the mills tends to bear out, to some extent, their contention that Johnny is not needed there. The boys who are just like other boys of the same age, cannot sit still, make faces and stick out their tongues at each other, and have constantly to be warned away from dangerous machinery. Their pay is not the few cents a day that you read about, either. About \$14 a week is usually Johnny's wage.

As stated above, there are literally no foreign workers in these mills. One mill owner tried to import some, but it didn't work. Foreigners are not wanted here, and whatever the laws may be on the subject they stand no more chance to get in than the Asiatics do in California.

The negro is here, of course, but he is not a weaver. No doubt the color line is one reason for this. No white man in the south will do "nigger work." If one negro worked at the spindles here, all the spindles would fall to the negroes. But the negroes do not want them. They are well satisfied to do the hauling and freighting, much preferring the variability and eccentricities of the Missouri mule to the monotonous reliability of a machine.

It is said that an industry as a whole matures and improves with time, just as an individual does, doing crude, rough work at first, and attaining to finer results later. This process may be observed to good advantage in the cotton-weaving industry. Fifty years ago all of the fine weaves were imported. New England was then making the coarse stuff and doing almost exclusively so. The southern mills were not yet built.

When these mills were started, they too began on the coarse weaves, and they are now producing all of that kind of goods for the United States, while the New England mills are making the finest clothes in the world. Many of the southern mills are just now advancing to a higher class of work. Some of them are making print cloths, which are the next step upward from ducks and sheetings. A few small mills are already producing the cambrics, lawns and plushes, which are the highest products of the spindle. Many mills are preparing to do a higher grade of work by installing the machinery and arranging to devote a few of their best workers to it.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Q. We started in calling them Sammys, now we stile them Yanks. Why the change? W. W.

A. General Pershing wrote to General March, chief of staff, saying that the name "Sammy" was displeasing to men in the army. He said that they preferred "Yank." General March explained this preference to the newspaper men in Washington and asked them to say "Yank." Yank it has been ever since.

Q. Why is New York sometimes referred to as "Gotham"? A. G. N.

A. The term "Gotham" is applied to New York satirically. The illusion is to a parish by this name in England, noted for the simplicity of its inhabitants, which simplicity has passed into a proverb.

Q. Please give me a good hair tonic. I had the "flu" and my hair is falling out. O. P. N.

A. The United States public health service suggests the following: Tinct. Cantharides 3 drams
Tinct. Capsicum 6 drams
Oleum menth. 25 minims
Alcohol in quantity sufficient to make 4 ounces.

Mix.—Apply to the scalp twice daily. Ray Rum may be substituted for the alcohol. The scalp should always be kept perfectly clean and the hair brushed daily.

Q. Is there a bell known as the "Bad News Bell"? If so, where? G. C. G.

A. Yes, a bell is hung in Lloyd's insurance office in London, England, known by this name. Whenever news is received that a ship is overdue or when definite information comes of the loss of a ship, this bell is rung, and all transactions are suspended until the tidings are read.

As a general thing, when a woman is raising six or seven children she may not be much of a visitor, but she's never lonesome.

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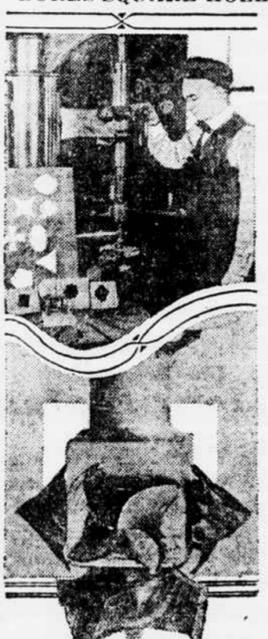
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INVENTS BIT THAT BORES SQUARE HOLE



C. H. Schmidgall at machine with his wonder drill and closeup of bit that bores square hole.

Fourteen years ago C. H. Schmidgall of Peoria, Ill., started to work on what was then considered a mechanical impossibility. That was a bit that would bore a square hole. Two years ago he solved the problem. He has invented one that will bore holes of any size. The sketches shown on the panel on his machine above. On March 18 of this year he received the absolute patent on his device and is now willing to have the world know about it.

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TRAVELETTE

By NIKSAH

PRINCES STREET.

When Edinburgh began to outgrow its streets and run over into the countryside, the citizens took the matter in hand and decided to enlarge their city. They started with a drab little street which they built over from the ground up and called it Princes street. From the day its first stone was laid, the Scots of Edinburgh determined that Princes street should be the most beautiful street imaginable.

Today Princes street is, to the Scot, the most beautiful street in the world. The stranger from another land struggles to remain true to home attractions, and compromises by pronouncing Princes street one of the most beautiful streets in the world.

On one side of this Scottish main street are ranged the best hotels, shops and clubs in Edinburgh. On the other are terraces and monuments with a frame of trees and grass. From this street you can see the towers of Edinburgh Castle standing out against the sky. Here are statues of Edinburgh's great, and gardens where the Scots can take the air without going to the outskirts of the city. Of the statues, the most beautiful is that of Scotland's favorite writer, Sir Walter Scott. An arch decorated with many spires forms a covering for a marble statue of the novelist. About him in corners of the arch are small statues of his greatest characters.

Princes street is beautiful because the Scots have never swerved from their purpose of making it so. Nothing can be added to Princes street, no structure built without the approval of the city.

AMERICAN MISSION FROM PARIS

PARIS, April 17.—An American mission comprising Messrs. Ellis, Grevel, Lithgow and Osborne, with a force of clerks, left last night for Berlin, for the purposes of keeping the American peace delegation informed of events.

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