

GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

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EDITORIAL PAGE

PEACE NOT SO SURE

The latest news from Paris is not so optimistic. We are told that Italy will not sign any peace that does not give her the maximum of her territorial claims founded on a secret treaty with France and England made prior to the entry of the United States into the war.

These tales are coming thick and fast from the special newspaper representatives abroad. No official announcement on the subject is made, but there is some corroborative evidence of the truth of the newspaper stories in articles published in the newspapers of Italy, Japan and Germany.

Perhaps these rumors are exaggerated. The closing days of the conference are near. It may be more or less a case of bluff in the hope of obtaining their desires.

In that event, however, the United States holds the whip hand. We intervened in the interest of democracy and civilization, and we are asking no selfish advantage in return, no price for our service.

It would be a great pity of course if all the effort we have spent in Paris to accomplish a harmonious peace that would satisfy everyone in fair measure should prove to have been spent in vain, and we had to give up in acknowledged failure our dream of a league of nations founded on justice instead of force.

An argument and ultimatum such as that may be expected from Woodrow Wilson we believe as a last resort before he leaves Paris. It may prove effective and we rather think it will.

THE REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGN

The republican national committee and various statesmen nursing booms for the presidency are getting busy with their propaganda work these days. The Tribune, though a democratic paper, is favored with considerable of their literature post paid.

because he cannot trust Boies Penrose or the old standpat crowd with the mighty task of defeating Woodrow Wilson, who he says is planning to run again in 1920. That part of his letter is interesting if true. In fact his whole letter to The Tribune is interesting at least for its pure unadulterated gall. Here it is:

"The country needs a republican president next time. After the coming of peace, in the critical years of reconstruction just ahead, we shall have to face the most difficult readjustment at home and the keenest competition abroad that we have ever known. We can face them successfully only with the help of a republican administration and republican policies of government.

"To get a republican president and enact a republican tariff, we must nominate a man who can be elected. To be elected the republican candidate must be acceptable to the great mass of republican voters. In particular, he must appeal to the independent republicans of the west, who will decide the next election as they did the last. These men and women must be satisfied with the nomination before they will vote the ticket. We cannot win without them.

"Correspondence with republicans systematically carried on for many months, and extending into every state and almost every county in America shows me that the large majority of republican voters are strongly progressive. They are entitled to, and they will demand, a candidate and a platform they can support without reservation or regret.

"But from the day when Roosevelt died, the old guard leaders have been actively at work to nominate a man of their own kind. If they succeed, they will add a third republican defeat to the two they have produced already. We are facing the same old question whether the nominee shall be openly chosen to win, or shall be hand picked by the old guard to keep them, win or lose, in control of the party organization.

"The old guard calls for harmony. I am for harmony, but with the republican voters rather than with the republican bosses. Harmony headed toward defeat has little charm for me. Unless progressive republicans are willing to see harmony made impossible and defeat made inevitable by the nomination of a reactionary candidate out of touch with the mass of our voters, they must take action, and take it soon.

"It is clear that Wilson plans to run again, and that he will be a dangerous antagonist. The ground he has recovered since his slump last autumn is one more proof of that. Neither our position abroad nor our safety and welfare at home can wisely be entrusted to the domineering, secretive, reversible, and terribly costly dictatorship of Woodrow Wilson. We cannot trust him, and we must defeat him—but we need a candidate and a platform that are genuinely progressive to do it.

"Less than a month ago the Roosevelt permanent memorial committee, appointed by direction of the republican national committee, and of which its chairman, Mr. Will H. Hays, is a member, unanimously decided to establish and endow a permanent organization with the purpose to promote the development and application of the policies and ideals of Theodore Roosevelt for the benefit of the American people. We owe it to ourselves, our party, and our country to choose a candidate whose purpose will be the same.

"Colonel Roosevelt's death deprived our country and the world of its boldest, strongest, and soundest leader, and the republican party of the certainty of victory. All are agreed that he would have been the republican nominee in 1920. He would have won, of course. Since he is gone, it is no more than common sense to nominate a man who will stand where Roosevelt would have stood, and who will naturally act as Roosevelt would have acted in his place.

"For these reasons, and because it is time to stand up and be counted, I wish to say now that at the next presidential primaries I shall submit my name to the republicans of Pennsylvania as one of the candidates for delegate to the republican national convention. I shall stand for a platform in harmony with the policies and ideals of Theodore Roosevelt and for the nomination of such a man as Henry Allen, Hiram Johnson, Irvine Lenroot, or Leonard Wood.

"I shall oppose the nomination of a reactionary like Senator Harding or Jim Watson, or any other supporter of special privilege. Such men cannot be trusted to secure to all the people the full results of their great war sacrifice. The people paid the price, and the interests who are behind these men ought not to get what the people paid for.

"I call upon all republicans who look ahead, both in Pennsylvania and in the nation, to join in preventing the men who fought Theodore Roosevelt and his policies while he was living from controlling and sacrificing the party he would have led to victory, now that he is dead."

Considering that Gifford Pinchot and his crowd did their best to wreck the republican party, and are indeed primarily responsible for the first election of Woodrow Wilson, it takes a good deal of gall for him now to appear in the role of a savior of the party from the men who stood loyally by it when he had deserted it, and was firing hot hot in its rear. But then Gifford Pinchot never lacked for gall at any stage of his career. He suffers acutely from exaggerated ego.

The Opinions of Others

JIM IS KIDDING HIMSELF (Dallas News)

Senator Reed says that the democratic members of the Missouri legislature are trying to embarrass him. Like as if anything could!

COUNTRY SHOULD SURVIVE THE BLOW (Omaha Bee)

If this thing keeps on, Senator Reed and Senator Borah are up to a soviet of their own and withdraw from the United States.

HASKIN LETTER

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

WAR AND A MOUNTAIN MAN—THE STORY OF CORPORAL YORK.

Nashville, Tenn., April 20.—He began his military career as a religious conscientious objector. He was convinced of the need for killing Germans by arguments drawn from the Bible. And he did not let his conscientiousness prevent him from engaging in killing 24 Germans in a machine gun nest with his rifle, and capturing, with five assistants, 132 of the enemy including four officers.

This achievement of Corporal York's, which has been called by General Pershing the greatest single exploit of the war, has become famous; but the man himself remains unknown. And surely such a man deserves to be explained. You want to know what sort of a chap he is, and what environment fostered such a combination of moral courage and physical skill.

The answer to these questions is found here in the section on the produced Corporal York. It may be stated in a sentence by saying that York belongs to the vanishing race of Old Americans. Men who were just like him in their faith in God, their courage and their straight shooting won the Revolution and several subsequent wars.

Such men have become scarce in America now. New breeds have come in, and the old breed has been changed by changing conditions. But there is one section of America in which the Old American race still lives almost as it lived when the Boonesboro men threw down their axes, took their rifles, and went out to exterminate General Ferguson's command at King's Mountain.

The section referred to is the Southern Allegheny mountain region. The place where Corporal York was born and lived all his life until he was called to war is a typical bit of it. His home postoffice is Pall Mall, Pentrestown, Tennessee, about 100 miles east of here. There is nothing at Pall Mall except the postoffice, and the three forks of the Wolf river which come together there. On all sides are the wooded ridges of the Allegheny mountains. Until two years ago, it was 35 miles to the nearest railroad. Many men who went to war from this section saw a railroad train for the first time when they answered the call to go to the front. They stepped out of the eighteenth century and into the twentieth. That is what Corporal York did.

All the people in this region are of Scotch, English, Welsh and Irish stock. Their ancestors came down through the mountains from Virginia and North Carolina to the Allegheny lands. There have been held by the same families ever since. One of these families is the Clemens family which produced Mark Twain. He was born at Jamestown, the county seat of Pentrestown. His father owned large areas of land near there, which he sold and traded about in such a way as to immortalize his name, for they are still trying to straighten out the titles to the Clemens' lands, and the old man's dealings promise to furnish occupation for many more generations of lawyers.

York is the "third from the top," as they say down here, in a family of nine children, and is 27 years old. His father having died, and his two older brothers married, he became the head of the family and took care of his mother and the family household. He once described himself as being "a kind of a mother's boy."

He is not, however, given to describing himself at length. In this country where people never talk unless they are running for office, the Yorks had a reputation for silence. His father is said often to have gone thru a whole day in the company of a friend without saying a word. And he didn't mean to be unsociable either. Corporal York took after him.

The York estate comprises 40 acres of land, of which part is rich bottom land, but most is hill country. The house has one room on the ground floor, which is dining room, sitting room, and all, while the loft is everybody's bedroom. The kitchen is a lean-to built against the house. The farm crops are corn and hay, and the livestock consists of a pair of mules, a cow, some hogs and chickens. All about the place is tall virgin timber.

Questions and Answers

Q. What is white gold? E. R. V. A. White gold is an alloy of gold in which silver predominates. The ratio is about twenty parts of silver to four of gold. It is used a great deal in jewelry manufacture as a substitute for platinum.

Q. Are there any divisions of the American expeditionary forces composed of negro troops? W. B. A. Two divisions of colored troops were sent to France: the 92nd and 32nd. Both have been returned to the United States and demobilized.

Q. Who first used the expression "United we stand; divided we fall"? E. E. P. A. The originator of the motto "United we stand; divided we fall" was probably John Dickinson (1722-1782) in his Liberty song, written in 1768. The phrase was freely quoted during the Revolution, and was used by Geo. P. Norris in his poem "The Flag of Our Union."

Q. How long after discharge or release may uniforms be worn by men who were in the navy? E. J. P. A. The rule is the same as that in the army. Uniforms may be worn three months after the date of discharge. The rule is the same for naval reserves. In all services uniforms may be worn at ceremonial, parades, meetings of service organizations and such gatherings, even after the three months period, in fact as long as the former service man lives.

Q. What is the meaning of the word "pogrom"? S. S. A. "Pogrom" is the name given to anti-Jewish riots in Russia. They first took place in 1881 and were organized by a secret society and encouraged by government officials. Their organized and governmental character was partially proven by investigations and publication of secret government documents. The riots have been the direct cause of the emigration of large numbers of Jews to the United States. The word "pogrom" is derived from "po" meaning "gradually" and "gromit" meaning "to shatter or overthrow."

(Any reader of The Tribune who wants the facts on any subject can secure prompt service by writing The Tribune Information Bureau, Frederic J. Haskin, Director, Washington, D. C. State your question briefly and enclose a three-cent stamp for return postage. All inquiries are confidential. The replies being sent direct to each individual.)

So Corporal York, before he went to war, lived in the one-room house in a clearing, which was the usual home of the American pioneer, and the life he led was just such a life as his forefathers had lived for generations. When not engaged in tilling his 40-acre farm, he commonly went hunting. All of the men therabouts go hunting and are good shots, but York was especially efficient with the rifle. The standard and favorite game of the section is the squirrel. Every man has a squirrel dog and a good one is worth \$35 or \$40. The dog trees the squirrel, and the hunter shoots it—always thru the head, so as not to mangle the meat. If you want to know how Corporal York learned to shoot, try to knock a squirrel out of a tall hickory tree with a rifle, shooting always for the head. They also hunt foxes here, running them with dogs and bringing down the swift quarry from a "stand." On autumn nights coon hunting is in order. The coon is chased up a tree by the dogs in the old days the tree was then always chopped down, so that the dogs and the coon could fight it out, no matter who owned the tree or how valuable it was. Recently, owing to the high price of lumber, a sentiment against chopping down a \$100 tree to get a \$100 coon has developed, and this is regarded with contempt by the old-timers as a sign of the degenerate modern mercenary spirit.

The law in this section is whatever local custom approves, and it does not approve of restricting a man's personal freedom. That is a fact of prime importance to the understanding of Corporal York. Every man here carries a gun, and is prepared as a matter of course to shoot anyone who presumes to trespass on his premises. Every man who wants to do so makes his own whiskey, keeps it in his house and operates the stills quietly, in deference to federal regulation, but the revenue officer does not intrude much. It would be impossible here to enforce the Mann act, the Harrison drug law, the prohibition law, or any other law which involves curbing freedom and invading premises. These people stand by the constitution as it is written, not as it is interpreted. Their creed in brief, is that as long as a man does not interfere with him, no law has a right to interfere with him. This was the gist of Patrick Henry's bill of rights.

Like most men who value their liberty, these mountaineers have a strong sense of justice. They believe in the proper use of liquor by responsible persons. When a couple of bootleggers came into the neighborhood and began selling whiskey, a mob was organized and the bootleggers disappeared. The law was not invoked.

Next to his personal freedom, the thing that a mountain man takes most seriously is his religion. He believes in the Bible as the source of truth, and as a guide for human conduct.

In these regions the church is a place of sincere worship, a place of social gathering, and an emotional experience. No doubt in all remote regions the church takes somewhat the place that the theater, the movie, the parade, and other similar stimulants of emotion take in cities. That is one reason why the religious faith of these mountaineers is so strong. It is found in all back-woods sections. It also probably explains in part the appeal of such sects as the Holiness church.

York's father was a Methodist, and he was brought up a Methodist, but he and his mother and sisters became converts to the Holiness church. The belief of this church seems to be that if a mortal neither does wrong nor thinks wrong, he is already, in effect, an angel, and may taste on earth something of the bliss of Heaven. At its meetings there are brief readings from the scriptures, then periods of silent meditation, then shouting of great joy, as the full glory of their triumph over sin and trouble bursts upon the congregation all at once. These alternate periods of silent meditation and frenzied shouting often extend far into the night, and throw the congregation into a state of religious ecstasy.

York took his new faith seriously. It satisfied some craving of his nature. He still carried arms. He was still a soldier, but he had a new need arose. But when he heard of the war and the draft law, he realized that he faced a great crisis. He believed in fighting for the right, but he did not see how, as an angel on earth, he could kill a fellow man who had never as an individual done him any harm.

York and his mother went to S. E. Frogge, a merchant and farmer living near them, who was their representative in the state legislature, and begged that Frogge try to obtain an exemption for York. The young man said that he could never kill in war. Frogge, of course, could do nothing. A few days later York left for the first time in his life the little clearing and the cabin and the wild woods which had theretofore been all the world to him.

He took his convictions against war with him unshaken. As soon as he reached camp, he said that he was willing to drill, but not to fight. He made his position perfectly clear to the captain of his company.

In having this captain, York was fortunate. If he had been imprisoned, hazed or mistreated as other conscientious objectors were, he would almost certainly have spent the period of the war in prison. But this captain was a man of insight. He saw that York had in him the making of a fine soldier, and he also saw that York was a conscientious objector by sincere religious conviction.

This captain had been something of a Bible student himself. He now refreshed himself on the scriptures, called York to him, and set out to convert him to war by the Good Book. It is said that the argument lasted far into the night, that it was audible at quite a distance, and that Biblical quotations thundered back and forth like big guns in a battle. But when the pale dawn came, one mountain man was convinced that his God commanded him to go forth and slay Germans.

When he went home on a furlough, Corporal York, late conscientious objector, was a soldier thru and thru. A hunter and marksman by training, he was fascinated by modern military arms. The machine gun, with its deadly sweep and play, the vicious army automatic, the military rifle with its wonderful range and flat trajectory, now held his heart as the creed of Holiness on earth had held it before.

There is nothing more to tell about Corporal York, except that when he performed his wonderful feat of shooting 24 Germans and capturing 132 of them, he did not take the prisoners back to his own battalion, but to another. Nor did

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