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Deal with the Facts!

"But we are dealing with facts," exclaimed President Wilson on Thursday, waving aside the topological rhetoric and nettling criticism of his once great and good friend, General Venustiano Carranza.

Mr. Wilson is still extremely reluctant to face the facts of the Mexican situation. On Thursday orders were sent to the Mexican border towns to let no more arms or munitions of war go across into Constitutional territory.

It was the same thing with the dispatch of troops from Galveston to Vera Cruz. The President held out against it. He could hardly bring himself to see that a reinforcement of troops at Vera Cruz was essential if emergencies which might easily arise were to be met intelligently and with the least possible cost of life to the American column of occupation.

The President's attitude is that of a man who, having got himself into a difficulty, looks backward instead of forward. In a crisis like the present one it is a weakness to look back regretfully to what might have been.

It is not "dealing with facts" for President Wilson to talk of further delays for the purpose of seeing what Huerta will do or Carranza will do. Real war is so imminent now that it is idle to grasp at the shadow of a successful settlement through measures "short of war."

All of our wars have been wasteful because they were fought slowly and ineptly at the beginning. Conditions are far better now than they were in 1898, at the outbreak of the war with Spain.

President Wilson is pretty certain to drop his illusions and deal with actualities. In his reply to Carranza he said: "Wherever and whenever the dignity of the United States is flouted, its international rights or the rights of its citizens invaded, or its influence rebuffed where it has the right to attempt to exercise it, this government must deal with those actually in control."

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the Rockefeller contribution for the study and elimination of animal diseases assumes a new importance.

The Volunteer Army Bill.

The volunteer army bill passed by Congress yesterday provides for the first time an adequate measure for the supplementing of the standing army in time of emergency.

The bill meets those difficulties. It does away with the short term enlistment—volunteers will serve for three years, the enlistment period of the regulars. Also it will do away with the troubles and trials attendant on the appointment of officers for volunteer troops by state governors, for now such officers will be appointed by the President.

Whatever advantage there is in having neighbors in an organization will be retained through the provision for acceptance of a militia unit, if three-fourths of its strength volunteer, in advance of other volunteers. The bill is expected to make possible the organization of a volunteer army without the payment of bounties or drafting, and by its long-term service provision to bring about a reduction in the number of men who serve, and consequently a smaller pension list.

Our South American Friend.

The intrusting of our foreign affairs in Mexico to the keeping of Brazil is a wholly admirable step. It not only answers the Mexican charge that no South American nation maintains friendly feelings toward this country.

Various obstacles have stood in the way of such a condition. One of the chief of them is the ignorance on the part of many Americans of the really great and stable nations, such as the United States of Brazil, below the line. In consequence there has resulted a patronizing ignorance utterly unsuited to the facts and irritating in the extreme to our South American neighbors.

Mme. Fremstad's Farewell. It is not often that the local, and let us hope temporary, passing of a singer brings forth a demonstration as sincere and as spontaneous as that accorded to Mme. Olive Fremstad at the Metropolitan Opera House on Thursday night.

Mme. Fremstad is not to return to the Metropolitan next year. The stage she has so illuminated with her queenly Isolda, her sublime Brünnhilde, her poetically enigmatis Kundry, will seem cold indeed without her when these characters are again essayed.

Olive Fremstad already sits in the hall of fame of Wagnerian heroines. To the younger generation she was the very embodiment of the great master's imagination. Poetic fire, beauty, plastic grace, supreme skill in song were hers, even if her voice was not one of the great organs of all time.

A False Prophet of Peace.

It is a sad awakening for the great prophet of peace, Mr. Bryan. The subject has been his favorite topic on the Chautauqua platform, the recipient of his most glowing rhetoric. And he now not only finds himself part and parcel of a great war, but held largely responsible therefor and blamed bitterly by friends and enemies alike.

No criticism can cut Mr. Bryan's sensibilities deeper than the scathing words of Mr. Norman Angell. As an international peace advocate Mr. Angell has made some especially interesting contributions to the economic aspects of the question. He now feels impelled to point out that the type of pacifism which Mr. Bryan has represented must always fall and must always do harm to the cause of peace.

Mr. Bryan's method, like that of so many who proclaim themselves peacemakers, has been based on the assumption that the first and last requisites for the maintenance of peace are high aspirations and good intentions; that these will of their own virtue save the trouble of understanding the facts, obviate the need for grappling intellectually with the problem; that in some way a high morality can be made a substitute for a knowledge of facts, and that the maintenance of American peace will get over difficulties of practical politics and human shortcomings; that war, being, according to this view, due to human wickedness and brutality, can be kept at bay by stirring rhetoric and the "Angel of Peace"; that, by shutting, if we are all very good and high minded war will be no more.

Mr. Angell proceeds to point out the utter falseness of these assumptions. The present war is not the product of evil intention; it was not precipitated by wicked people; few wars are. High-mindedness and fine emotion usually start wars—the desire to stop some evil or avenge a wrong. Of the present warlike prospect Mr. Angell says:

If the administration, against its declared intention and probably against its real desire and belief as to the best course, is pushed out of the present muddled and anomalous position into a definite war of conquest—as obviously it may be—it will be because the bulk of American people have generally believed that the conquest of Mexico by the United States will put an end to weary years of bloodshed, gross tyranny and hopeless disorder; that the sacrifice of lives which conquest will involve will be a trifle compared to that which it will prevent; that it can do for Mexico what it has done for Cuba; that the United States being a very great power and Mexico a very small one, the conquest of the latter will be a relatively simple matter, and that it should be accomplished in order to give to Mexico and possibly to all Spanish-Americans right through to the Panama Canal a civilization superior to that which they now possess.

Mr. Angell feels that the basis for these views is unsound, that such a project loses sight of the actual facts. But Mr. Bryan has done nothing to combat these facts, he points out. He has simply gone about preaching high aspirations and fine emotions and ignoring the real truth of war. Instead of pointing out the vast cost and dubious problems involved in a war upon Mexico, he has recited glowing periods describing the barbarity and un-Christian intentions of war—matter wholly aside from the case.

The Conning Tower

Butchered to Make a Moving-Picture Play.

CAMPAIGN IN SIX REELS BY THE SHOOTSCOPE COMPANY OF AMERICA. In days of old when knights were bold And pure heroics were the fashion, Men's honor was not bought and sold, And wars were waged with actual passion.

But nowadays we go to war For motion-picture syndicators; Our armies fight, our cannon roar To furnish gold for speculators.

The public yearns for scenes of crime And ceaselessly insists on thrillers, And managers work overtime Inventing new theater fillers.

And war is IT. It has the drop On Coney as a money-maker, And even Bunny cannot cop The cash like films of hell's half acre.

We read of Huerta and his crew In scareheads terse and semi-Sapphic; Of bloodstained Villa. Yet the two Are puppets cinematographic.

Things are, alas, not what they seem. And war, as I have tried to prove, is No more a glory and a dream But just an adjunct to the movies.

VIEUX MOUSTACHE.

The condition of some of the schools in this broad, geographically, land is something of an insult to the flag. Why not declare war?

Don't fail to get to-morrow's Gotham Weekly Gazette. The first REAL report of the Bad Taste Show.—Adv.

Artless Thoughts on Artless Objects.

(After Seeing Certain Manhattan Monuments.) Sir: Which gets the idea first, the sculptor or the confectioner? MEL CANE.

The political graft in many large cities is an offence to American patriotism. Why not declare war?

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPPYS.

April 23—Will Shaxpur was born 359 yrs. ago this day, yet I did remain calm at realizing it, and went to play at tennis with H. Brown and had good luck enough to win. In the afternoon I did meet again Mistress Ann Watkins, and she seemed even more beautiful than the first time I saw her, and she said, How now, Mr. Pepys, you have said things of my beauty, which publick notice I do not like. So I promised her I should say nought, but thinking again on it I deemed it my duty to the rest of the world to mention it. But hereafter I shall stay mute. By St. Dunstan! there be many that would fain have their beauty spoke of, yet gain no fame at all; and those that have the charms do grow wroth at the mention of them. So runs the world away.

24—Up betimes and with A. Guiterman the poet to the court, and I did beat him one set, and grew so vainslorious that I did lose the next three; and then we beat Mr. Thwaites and Mr. Stagg a set and they us two; a poor day as for winning, yet I did enjoy it highly. To the office then and came John Reed and told me more of affairs and conditions in Mexico, mostly of Villa, and very interesting, too. He said that Villa should be assured that there are many in this land that are opposed to any war, as indeed are all I know; wherefore then he might not join with the other forces there. At my desk until late and so home and to-bed.

The adulteration of food products is an affront to our national honor. Why not declare war?

FREEWALTMASONRY.

By A. P. W.

My wife upbraids me, oftentimes, for fooling with these nonsense rimes. She says it helps no jots nor tittles to pay the rent or buy the victuals. I can't refute her. If I devoted to my job the thought, I, puffing my old cob, expend to dope these foolish phrases, she says, I might get several raises. I don't dispute her, nor do I pull that bromide bunk, that art's the thing and coin is junk. She'd say such art won't buy her bonnet nor put a single feather on it. Thus I salute her: "Although my verses do not sell and are, of course, but deggerel, my joy, when'er I make the brain's acuter; 'tis thus I dust the cobwebs out and put the brain-fog germs to rout; the practice tends to keep me cheerful." (You see, I give her quite an earful; I strive to suit her.) Of course, the wife's right, in the main; but I aver, declare, maintain: this piffle helps to keep me youthful, though it does not—I must be truthful—feed or accoutre.

It was published in these columns and is absolutely true.—Alfred Henry Lewis in the American. "A paradox! A paradox! A most ingenious paradox!"

THE COMPLETE SLANGLER.

[From Thomas Hardy's "The Return of the Native."] "Don't you be mournful, you be a green-leaved old man still! There's time enough left to ye yet to fill whole chronicles." "Eegod, I'll go to 'em, Timothy—to the married pair!"

The employment of child-labor is an outrage to American chivalry. Why not declare war?

YES—AND NO.

[From "The King's English," p. 48.] The effect of using quotation marks with slang is merely to convert a mental into a moral weakness. When they are not used, we may mercifully assume that the writer does not know the difference between slang and good English, and sins in ignorance; when they are, he is telling us, I know it is naughty, but then it is nice. Most of us would rather be taken for knaves than for fools; and so the quotation marks are usually there.

It is called by Edar to our attention that four weeks have passed since Jim the Creelman called Huerta a wine-bibber, yet nobody has spoken of him as Hictoriano.

Huerta Decipher This All Yourself, Dear Reader.

If Huerta war on Mexico and if we Huerta Huerta prestige and pursue all the soldiers of General Huerta Huerta escape they wouldn't know Huerta lay their heads. But Wilson says Huerta find another way out. LEXICOG.

*Caption written by contrib.

The pronunciation of Huerta's name still engages the attention of many.

According to the keyboard of our new typewriter it's this way:

Werty.

E. P. A.



WILSON—Don't forget! You are only a precautionary measure!

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

NO TIME FOR WATCHFUL WAITING

Every Hour Now Wasted Is Called Criminal Delay.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Pray allow me to thank you for your editorial on "No Time for More Watchful Waiting" in The Tribune of this morning. It exactly expressed the average sentiment of all sound-minded and clear-headed Americans, and all your readers will rejoice that you now "see clear and think straight." The time for dilly-dallying with Mexico is past, and every hour now wasted in "watchful waiting" is criminal. The time has come for moving immediately upon Mexico City, and the quicker the better. The war has actually begun. The blood of our marines cries aloud to us from the streets of Vera Cruz, and there is no more time for hair-splitting and delays. It is amazing that the President does not immediately restore the embargo on the importation of arms and ammunition into Mexico. Not a gun or a case of ammunition should be allowed to cross the border. All army officers see this clearly and are of only one opinion on this question. Why should we permit arms and ammunition further to enter Mexico, only to be used in shooting down our soldiers as they advance, as they must advance without delay?

It is idle to say that our war with Mexico will take ten years, as alleged in The Tribune elsewhere today. What is there there to take ten years to conquer? When we were there about 1848 under General Scott we conquered an honorable peace in about six months, and there were no railroads or telegraphs there then either. Why can we not do the same now with our greater population and power?

So it is nonsense to talk about the job requiring 200,000 or 300,000 men, as some people do. Scott had only about 10,000 men, and he marched from Vera Cruz to Mexico in about sixty days, fighting several battles en route, and everywhere victorious. When he got there he fought a big battle with the Mexicans under Santa Anna, and that ended the business. He occupied the chief cities, and peace soon prevailed everywhere, and he had only about 10,000 men altogether.

I have no doubt that 50,000 good American soldiers would end the whole business in one year's time or less, occupying every important city, pacifying the country and establishing law and order and civilization upon a better basis than ever heretofore. Let President Wilson pluck up courage and give us no more "watchful waiting," but "forward march," and the Mexico trouble will soon end honorably and gloriously, and then let us stay there and hold Mexico as a part of the American Republic and not scuttle out, as we did in Cuba. This would be better for Mexico and for all mankind. JAMES F. RUSLING, Brigadier General United States Volunteers, War of 1861. Trenton, April 23, 1914.

HINTS FOR STENOGRAPHERS

Advice for Those Lacking Intelligence to Vote.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: "Another Business Man" would like to offer a hint to "Another Stenographer," who says: "The majority of stenographers have domestic aspirations instead of political." If one has brains enough to be worthy the name "stenographer" she could not be so narrow minded as not to have as much intelligence as the average present voter and, being an average woman, could not have worse moral principles than the majority of voters who have burdened this state with graft and crime for many years, and it need not interfere in the slightest degree with her "keeping in training for the more important profession of home making." Those who have not enough intelligence to vote should not be permitted to marry and bear young of such a low order of intellect. The women of this country enjoy the blessings of good government just as much as the men do and suffer the effects of bad government as much as

THE SCHOLAR AT WAR

President Wilson and Our Other War Chiefs.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: If President Wilson had been a man of worldly affairs instead of being a scholar in politics, and had been gifted with real, practical sagacity he would certainly have foreseen that his plan to compel General Huerta to salute the United States flag in exact accordance with President Wilson's idea of etiquette would not result in getting any salute to that flag, and would result in an awful war between the people of the United States and the people of Mexico. But, without realizing what he was doing, President Wilson has applied the torch of war to two already excited nations; and now neither the President nor the Congress of the United States, nor any other influence or power whatever can quench the spreading flame until it shall have burned out its course through the deaths of many thousands of men and the destruction of many millions of property.

THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO

It is Inevitable, a Reader Argues, in Consequence of Wilson's Blundering.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The conquest and annexation of Mexico, rapidly becoming more and more inevitable, will, without any doubt whatever, be an ethical wrong. But history results from the play of cosmic force, and there can be little doubt that the cosmic force which is finding expression in the American people would have impelled them, sooner or later, and quite irrespective of any possible attitude of the American government, to introduce white man's rule among this semi-Indian people. I lived in Mexico twelve years. I know the character of the population, and, as well as any Northern can, their habits of thought and the motives which actuate their deeds. I therefore know what I say to be true when I say that the conquest of the country is becoming more and more inevitable with every utterance from the White House, every additional prostration of grapejuice statesmanship. It is the habit of pedagogue to interpret history as resulting from the will of rulers, but President Wilson is rapidly being taught that this habit is a mistake. Let us therefore hope he will come to a sense of reality in time to save some portion of the national honor.

Bismarck once said that it was not nearly so important to be politically right as it was to have an object; in other words, to possess purpose. Now, what was the object, not of President Wilson, but of the nation which had trusted him, when Huerta overthrew and murdered Madero? In the first place, to look out for its own; in the second, to so comport itself that the national conscience should have as little with which to reproach itself as possible. The first object has been, so far as all practical results go, absolutely ignored; the attempt to achieve the second has been vitiated by stretching the purity of our motives until they have lost all relation to actual facts. For the actual fact is that President Wilson has attempted to handle a fifteenth century situation in a twenty-fifth century way, and a hundred thousand of his fellow countrymen have been obliged to bear the expense of his scholar's dream.

For the last year I have been in the habit of forecasting President Wilson's probable actions by thinking out what would be the least practical, most stupid thing for him to do. I have forecast rightly in the majority of cases, but I must confess that my imagination was insufficiently bizarre to conceive his attempt to separate Huerta from the Mexican people and yet seize Vera Cruz without due notice to non-combatants. What interpretation can the mothers and fathers, the friends, the innumerable sympathizers, place upon the death of those boys, the cadets of the Naval College, fighting with popguns against the cannon of a mighty fleet? I cast no reflection upon our navy; it was stern necessity for them, but I could not help a feeling of the most profound and humiliating shame when I read this morning that those to whom we have intrusted honor persisted in reiterating that the killing of those boys was not in the least palliated by being incident to a state of war. WILLIAM VAUGHAN PETTIT, New York, April 23, 1914.