New York Tribune.

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The Scope and Effects of Mediation Are Still Highly Uncertain.

The opening of the Niagara Falls conference has been postponed for a couple of days. To those who expect substantial results from the mediation now in prospect that postponement must seem unfortunate, since every day's delay will probably diminish the importance of any agreement which may be made between the United States and the Huerta government. If Huerta's rule is upset while the conference deliberates the results of the mediation will be negligible. The real settlement of the Mexican problem will have to be taken up with the Constitutionalists and the Southern factionists who supplant Huerta.

The public has gotten the idea that the conference at Niagara Falls is empowered to overstep the limitations of the technical controversy between Huerta and the United States and to attempt to deal with the whole question of internal disorder and lack of responsible government in Mexico. That has been taken for granted in this country, although there is nothing but the vaguest hint on record that the Wilson administration will demand such an enlargement of the scope of mediation. It is somewhat disconcerting, therefore, to learn that the Mexican delegates now on their way to Canada consider it their duty merely to discuss the actual diplomatic break between the President and General Huerta over the withholding of full reparation for the insult to the American flag and uniform at Tampico.

In a dispatch from Key West Señor Rodriguez, one of the envoys, is reported as saying:

> We go with the intention of only settling the foreign conflict, and in no manner intend touching upon the interior one. It is only in the exterior problem, anyway, in which the A B C mediators have intervened.

In a cable from Havana Señor Rodriguez is thus quoted to the same effect:

> We have ample authority to save our country's honor and to adjust our country's foreign differences. We will not treat of the revolution, nor with Carranza delegates, because Carranza said he would not send delegates to the conference.

It is certainly within the diplomatic rights of the Mexican envoys to insist that a foreign board of mediation shall confine itself to settling outstanding international differences between the United States and the Huerta administration. The only difficulty of record is the ultimatum about a salute, failure to comply with the terms of which caused the United States to seize Vera Cruz. Mr. Wilson made an informal demand on Huerta last summer that he retire from the provisional Presidency and eliminate himself as a candidate for election as President. But that demand was not in the nature of an ultimatum and was not intended to be backed up by military action.

It has been the great fault of the administration's diplomacy in Mexico that it has not laid the basis for a mediation of the proper scope. If anything besides the salute issue is taken up at Niagara Falls it will not be because the way has been opened for a general settlement, but because the Mexican envoys are willing to waive their technical rights on the ground that a discussion of the internal problem would be just now distinctly to Huerta's advantage.

Mediation as it stands is a pig in a poke. No one knows exactly what questions it will cover or what fraction of the Mexican people it will bind if it results in anything substantial. In its delightful indefiniteness it is precisely in line with the whole Mexican policy of the Wilson administration.

Looters Ashamed of Their Work.

It is not often that a federal administration has to listen to such frank criticism of its spoliation of the foreign service—or of any other service—as is contained in the report of the executive committee of the Civil Service Reform Association, made public Wednesday night. Yet the criticism is fully deserved and might have been made even stronger, since the looting occurred under the eyes and with the approval of a President who before taking office was always anxious to be counted among the firmest adversaries of the spoils system.

While commending the President's observance of the rules governing consular appointments, the report said:

> The policy with reference to ambassadors and ministers has, on the other hand, been severely condemned. This criticism comes not so much from the fact that changes have been made as because of the dropping of many really trained diplomats to make places for politicians, often of obscure note at home. Such criticism is, we believe, proper, and should be welcomed as demonstrating that the people to-day are tired of the spoliation of the diplomatic service in this way and that public sentiment will before long drive the spoils system out of the foreign service.

The policy of making diplomatic representatives out of politicians with claims on Mr. Wilson or Mr. Bryan has worked so badly that even the administration is now nearly ready to admit its evil results. When an official of diplomatic training was needed recently to take the place of Mr. Malone as Third Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Wilson picked out a former secretary of embassy, Mr. William Phillips. If instead of resigning Mr. Phillips had stayed in the service and been promoted to be a minister plenipotentiary, he would certainly have been displaced last year by some Democratic statesman from the interior, void of any qualifications for a diplomatic career.

Only a day or two ago when an adviser to the United States representatives at the Niagara Falls mediation conference was needed the appointment fell to Mr. H. Percival Dodge, a competent diplomat. But Mr. Dodge not many months before had been ousted as Minister to Panama in order to make room for a spoils system appointee. Even Mr. Wilson and Mr. Bryan seem to be beginning to sympathize with the public's criticism of their spoliation of the diplomatic service.

Help for Morningside Park.

It is good news that Park Commissioner Ward has a comprehensive plan to restore Morningside Park. He ought to receive the necessary money from the Board of Estimate without delay.

This park should be one of the beauty spots of the city. It isn't. It has natural beauties of rocky ledge and sloping lawns which nothing can entirely destroy, but some of the rocks are loosened and dangerous, the lawns are cut to pieces and barren and the trees and shrubbery are frayed and tattered. The park is a striking example of misuse and neglect. Fortunately it can be brought back without too great trouble and expense. Commissioner Ward will deserve the thanks of the public for undertaking the work.

The Human Material in the Lodging House.

Examination of 2,000 men who sought shelter at the Municipal Lodging House last March by physicians acting under the direction of Charities Commissioner Kingsbury showed that 89 per cent of these men were able to do work. Only 7 per cent were regarded as permanently unfit for manual labor; 62 per cent could have done hard, heavy work. In striking contrast to sympathy-producing tales related of the homeless, it was disclosed that only 3 per cent were suffering from lack of food and poor nutrition.

It is possible that the unusual lack of work all over the country has driven into the lodging house here many men temporarily unemployed who have never before been rated among the homeless, the "down and outers." That might account for the high proportion of well-nourished, physically fit men among the lodging house's guests. At any rate, the examination's showing justifies Commissioner Kingsbury's recommendation to the Mayor that such physical examination be made a permanent phase of the routine at the lodging house, in order to serve as a basis for an extension of the city's social work.

This extension would be to give medical attention to those of the homeless who needed it to fit them for work and to endeavor to place in jobs those shown by the examination to be already fit to work. It would be a practical form of service deserving encouragement in every way possible. It would help the men themselves and it would help the city by making workers out of non-producers, an asset out of a liability.

A Prospective Revolution in Auction Bridge.

Not even a change in the alphabet or a rise in the price of coal affects quite as many souls as does a new wrinkle in the card game of the hour. Therefore the news that the Portland Club, of London, is planning a wholesale reform of the game officially known as royal spades auction bridge deserves our gravest attention.

The card committee of that august body—which lays down the laws for all well regulated British players—has now been cogitating the revision of "auction" rules for some two months. And according to the London "Daily Mail" the most important decision has already been reached. That is to eliminate the American two-point count for spades altogether and let spades stand at their value as royals, nine points. As a matter of fact, our complicated American schemes for signalling by means of the spade bids have not made much headway abroad. The Portland Club rule will therefore register the prevailing practice.

Nevertheless, loud protests are already being heard in London against the rumored decision, and whether such a change will be followed here is extremely doubtful. Some standardization of the game would be well received. As things go at present, with new bids arriving hourly, to say nothing of such devices as "nullos," only the daily devotees can pretend to keep pace with the game. A little rest would be welcome to all. But standardization without the small spade bid is another matter. Auction has made its way by reason of its science and any increase in the element of uncertainty will probably have hard sledding.

No Pay for No Work.

A sensible suggestion which, if carried out, should save this city much money, comes from the Appellate Division, Second Department, in deciding a policeman's suit for restoration to the force. The court found that Commissioner Waldo had dismissed this man on testimony which wasn't sufficient, although it proclaimed itself loath to interfere with the original verdict. In ordering his reinstatement, which involved payment of his back salary, the court commented on the length of time which had elapsed before the proceedings were begun, saying:

> In the absence of any other explanation such delay must be attributed to ulterior and unworthy motives. As a salary is incident to office, and thus beyond our control, reinstatement carries with it pay for more than a year, during which the city has no benefit of relator's services. The statute should be amended so that, if possible, it should provide that if a case is not brought to hearing within thirty days after the return is filed the relator should be deemed to have waived his salary from that date in the event of reinstatement.

The Legislature was unwilling to give Mayor Mitchel a law permitting the Police Commissioner to dismiss his subordinates, after a hearing, without any right of appeal to the courts. Perhaps the next Legislature might at least adopt the course suggested, which would compel the man who neglected to obtain a speedy hearing of his appeal from dismissal to forfeit any claim to back pay for the time when he wasn't working.

The existing system is unjust on all sides. Hope of accumulated back pay brings into the courts many cases of men dismissed who fight for reinstatement just on the chance of getting a decision on some technicality. Department discipline suffers; the city's treasury suffers. Any man with a real grievance would fight his case hard enough and soon enough. Those who wish to dawdle about getting back to work shouldn't be permitted to have the power to penalize the city which they now enjoy in case the courts find reason to reinstate them.

The Conning Tower

WANTED—PEGASUS.

$1. TO THE TOP OF A TOWER ON HORSEBACK.

On the 16th of May, 1797, Napoleon Bonaparte rode to the top of the Campanile, or bell tower, of St. Mark's, Venice, that he might himself signal to his fleet the surrender of the city.—Curious Questions, p. 155.

Hearken now to history,
Ye who Tower heights would climb;
Hear how great Napoleon B.
Did it, once upon a time.

Not for him our toilsome course—
Progress slow, with many a stop—
Mounted he upon his horse,
Galloped to the Tower top.

BAB.

"Be steadfast as a tower," said Dante, "that doth not bend its stately summit to the tempest's shock." Thanks for the ad, Sig. Alighieri.

AREN'T THE PITTSBURGHS LEADING? ALSO, HAVE WE EVER LOST A BASEBALL BET?

Mister: As one loyal to the interests of the Pittsburgh team, I write to inform you that if you ever bet on my team again I shall blow your head off or steal your tennis racquet, or something. Also, the share of even a losing team in a world's series is about $200,000, and in my opinion you are directly liable.

C. H. T.

These ball-teams impose on good nature. A week ago we informed the esteemed Giants and the even more highly thought of Pirates of our bet that the Pirates would finish ahead of the Giants. Since then the Pirates haven't won a game nor have the Giants lost one.

THE DIARY OF OUR OWN SAMUEL PEPYS.

May 14—Up and to a luncheon that men from the coledge at Ann Arbor were giving for Mr. Thomas O'Brien that had been Ambassador to Japan, and he said how glad he was of being there and many other pleasant and gracious things. To my office all the afternoon and essayed to fashion some verses but could not, what with this one and that one coming in to see me for no reason at all, until finally I was forced to seem churlish to a young man that came. Thence to dinner and stopped there until late, held by the fascination of watching Mistress Loretta Brady dance, a fair, sweet-seeming girl. Thence to the office until late, and then to my cozen Charles's where we had a game at cassino and he won £1, the lucky, addlepated zany. Thence home and read a piece of Kitty Buell's about Mr. Hearst, in Harper's Weekly, and I thought it a good piece of work.

15—Up by times and with Sam'l Adams to the tennis court and we did have a great long sett, 18—16, which he won, despite all my efforts. And we did play three more setts, and I could not take any of them. Which doth not greatly sadden me. To the office again and then with S. Fisher and Will Houghton to dinner, and we watched Loretta again, very pretty in a black gowne. To the office then and so home and to-bed.

During this trial, it seems that we shall not, at any rate, hear from Our Own Samuel Schepps.

Vallon denied yesterday that he ever told Fischmann that Webber was the biggest liar ever created. Men of Vallon's type have a wide acquaintance, however.

WHY THE QUOTES?

[From the New York Tribune.]

"Bridgie" Webber, the second of the so-called "informers" in the Rosenthal murder case, carried the colors of the prosecution at the trial of Charles Becker yesterday without materially lowering them to the defence. Webber's story of the murder plot dovetailed into that of "Bald Jack" Rose, the chief witness for the people, to a nicety.

A mass of "negative" evidence, in the form of affidavits of alleged conversations and statements by the state's three informers, Rose, Webber and Vallon, purporting to show that Becker had been "framed" by the gamblers . . .

The esteemed Evening World's picture of "Statue of Washington Laying in Backyard" adorns the walls of the Pulitzer School of Journalism.

(1) OH, YES WE DO. (2) OH, YES WE DO.

Sir: Maybe you don't know that F. Mugge shaves them on Columbia Ave., Bklyn. And then again maybe you don't care.

MONIQUER.

From a list of Harvard men of the class of 1910 it appears that one is "engaged in literature," another is a "writer" and another is "on the editorial staff of the American Magazine."

THE TRUTH AND POETRY ABOUT NEW CANAAN.

[From the Stratford (Conn.) Times.]

Shelton's a hustling little burg,
That lies along the river
And every one gets out that can,
Without a qualm or quiver.

New Canaan—last place on the line,
Sits on hills, perhaps they are seven;
It's well known for one simple thing
It is the next stop to Heaven (?)

Hats are made in Danbury town,
It is up in the country;
A fellow said the other day,
To live there I've to get bounty.

Just below the hatting town,
Is Bethel on the way;
I've never been to this fine spot,
So of it have nothing to say.

Then—oh, yes, there is Trumbull,
Monroe and—oh, yes, Redding,
And Huntington we must not forget;
Automobiles go through them speeding.

Next week I will try and tell
Of another County in this State,
And the towns that people live in;
You'll read it sure as fate.

And so shall you, cherished reader, if the exchange editor doesn't forget to spear the Stratford Times for us.

In to-morrow's GAZETTE will appear a soul-stirring poem, "The Flax," by Mary C. Burke, and a bitter rebuke to Artie, the G. W. G.'s dramatic critic, by Clif, the G. W. G.'s movie reporter.

Sticking around for the Seventh Avenue car isn't the only instance of watchful waiting. Ever stood around in the dining-car vestibule of the 1 o'clock train to Boston?

NOW WE CAN ALL SLEEP.

F. P. A.—There seems to be some misapprehension among column readers as to the correct pronunciation of my last name. It should be pronounced with the long a, thus: Mc-El-rā'-vy. Thanking you for the hospitality of the column in this little matter, Yrs,

ROBERT C. MCELRAVY.

We should like to ask Mr. Mellen, before the investigation ends, why the trains from New Haven to New York after the Princeton-Yale games in 1913, 1911, 1909 and 1907 and the Harvard-Yale games in 1912, 1910, 1908 and 1906 were so crowded that we had to stand all the way?

Lines of colyumists remind us
We must hurry every hour
And departing, leave behind us
Stuff enough to fill the Tower.

F. P. A.

AN OMINOUS SOUND FROM WITHIN.

THE PEOPLE'S COLUMN

An Open Forum for Public Debate.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

School Children Should Be Taught Its Words.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: At the termination of the sessions of one of the evening high schools the other evening the school rose as a body to sing the national anthem. It was very noticeable, however, that a goodly number of the students did not recall the words of this divine song, and gazed about the auditorium at their fellow students to grasp an occasional phrase of two. This condition prevails in a number of the schools of to-day.

It seems to me in these enlightened times, at a period when patriotism should be gripping at all our hearts, that it should become obligatory for any student, before being graduated from our public schools and before being admitted to any high school, day or evening, to be able to accurately and completely recall the words of our famous hymn.

The action of these students the other evening not only cast a reflection upon the school in which the exercises were being held, but to a large extent discredited the Board of Education.

New York, May 15, 1914. A. H. M.

A QUERY FOR OLD NEW YORKERS

Who Remembers the Greeting to Major Anderson in This City?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: At this late day occasion has arisen where I would, if possible, desire to ascertain the correct date of the following:

Major Robert Anderson evacuated Fort Sumter, April 15, 1861, and left for New York. Shortly after his return to New York he was stopping at the hotel that was located at the northwest corner of Clinton Place (or 8th st.) and Fifth av., the name of which I canot recall. On the day in question the children then at the Half Orphan Asylum, located in West 10th st., between Fifth and Sixth avs., marched around to the hotel and serenaded Major Anderson, who I remember came out and shook hands with each of the children present.

If you could give the information on the editorial page, where letters are generally found, you will do so to one who was present on that day and one who has for many years been a daily reader of The Tribune, and trusts will be for many years to come. CALEB DUNN.

No. 25 Bartholdi av., Jersey City, N. J., May 11, 1914.

WAR AND THE OLD TESTAMENT

Bloody Conflict Is Pictured in the Hebrew Prophets.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The Rev. Dr. H. Pereira Mendes, in his letter appearing in your to-day's issue, declares war an anachronism and bases his thoughts on the teachings of Hebrew prophecy.

All utterances of the Hebrew prophets bearing on world peace refer to the "latter days" and are premised upon the last historical stage of universal human civilization. Until that stage is reached, the same prophets foretell, a succession of bloody wars among nations will lead up to the last universal war (mentioned in Ezekiel, Chap. 38 and 39), that is to be the immediate precursor of the Messianic times, or the millennium.

So long as any corner or part of the globe remains inhabited by savage and half-savage tribes and races or barbarous and semi-barbarous nations more or less sanguinary conflicts among men will be necessary in order to promote the cause of universal peace in the end.

This lesson is plainly taught throughout the Scriptures, beginning from the oft repeated Mosaic behest: "So shalt thou put the evil away from the midst of thee" (Deut. xiii, 5), etc., down to Joel's far off vision: "And I (the Lord) will show wonders in the heavens and on earth, blood and fire and pillars of smoke" (Joel ii, 30). ADAM ROSENBERG.

New York, May 12, 1914.

SIDE-DOOR ACCIDENTS

A Real Peril of the Subway, Declares a Reader.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In The Tribune of this date I saw an account of an accident to a child where the quickness and presence of mind of a passenger in the subway probably saved a life.

The side door is certainly a most dangerous thing as at present cared for. I saw an occurrence almost exactly like the one described, except for the fact that the mother's arm was caught instead of the child's neck, as in the case under consideration.

In the case coming under my observation the mother had got off ahead of the child. She had the child by the arm, but the guard attempted to close the gate immediately after the mother had got off, the door coming between the two and pinning the woman fast. Fortunately, a passenger grabbed the door and forced it back in time for the child to get out safely.

Considering the enormous number of passengers carried, the subway has thus far been an unusually safe place to be in, but a thing which is so self-evidently dangerous as this side door should be remedied. F. MILTON SMITH.

New York, May 7, 1914.

A CALL TO THE COMMENTATORS

How Can Kindred Souls Who Inhabit Libraries Foregather?

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Some time ago, while reading a little treatise on economics which I had drawn from the Public Library, I found that the paragraphs were frequently enlivened by divers pungent remarks, warily written in the margins in the faintest of pencilling to elude Madam Librarian.

I remember one which rankled particularly: it was a most arrogant "Bosh!" with which the anonymous critic had characterized a paragraph anent private property, and I recall the desire it aroused in me to meet this quizzical person on his own ground and hear his arguments as well as—oh, incidentally, of course, to refute them.

I had the same sort of feeling when reading a book on the voice, also drawn from the Public Library, wherein some daring vandal had placed a defiant "?" next one of the pages outlining a cherished theory of voice culture.

That started it. I have been wondering if it would be possible to organize some means of communication between these people, patrons of the public libraries, who read the same books and whose opinions, whether differing or akin to ours, would certainly be of worth. The Public Library in its every department is a meeting place for people with like tastes, or, at least, some knowledge of the subject they are pursuing; yet there we are, groping hither and thither for a book, with a scant "Oh, I beg your pardon, may I see that?" when all the time there would probably be fruit for both in a discussion of the books which have our particular interest.

I have heard a number of folk express the same desire for a meeting place where these kindred spirits might "have it out," and, by-the-bye, avoid working out their ire in pencilling margins; it would seem a comparatively simple thing for the local libraries to establish registers, by subjects, wherein those interested might write their names and the book they desired to discuss. I do not know if it would be possible to arrange for meetings of these groups in the library buildings, but I am confident that if a sufficient number of library patrons were interested in the matter a feasible scheme could be hit upon.

Perhaps some of your readers have suggestions to offer. It would suffice if I knew that this had "started something" definite. ISABEL L. REICHENTHAL.

Brooklyn, May 11, 1914.

SIN AND CIGARETTES

Earnest Smokers Do Three-quarters of the World's Best Work.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Public spiritedness demands that I should dull the intolerable brilliance of my own brain with a little cigarette smoke anyhow, but those who wish to protect the folds of their brains from paper poison would be glad if Mr. Edison would invent a new cigarette paper, instead of attacking one more of this life's great pleasures.

Three-quarters of the world's best work is done by earnest cigarette smokers. Mr. Edison is one of the eccentric exceptions which make the rule conspicuous.

It is sad that we are foolish and sinful, but think what life would be like if we were virtuous!

No; sin and cigarettes are good enough for me. STEPHEN HAWES.

41 Washington Square, May 10, 1914.

England Was Represented.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: A letter published in your columns dated May 6 has been brought to our attention. In it the statement is made that "not one of the names of these men" rescued from "the burning British steamer Columbian" is English.

We beg to state that four of them, seamen from the Columbian came to our society, 507 West st., New York, to receive help and shelter. Therefore we can state with accuracy that one man at least was English—Thomas Connor. A statement of Connor's was published in The Tribune of May 9.

GEORGE M'PHERSON HUNTER, Secretary American Seamen's Friend Society, 507 West st.

New York, May 14, 1914.

For the Lonely Girl.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In reply to the letter from a Lonely Girl in the issue of the 8th inst., allow me to suggest the International Order of Good Templars (the members of which are all pledged to total abstinence from all that can intoxicate).

Among the lodges of the order are Manhattan Lodge, which meets every Monday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. David Gillies, 529 West 148th st.; Cosmopolitan Lodge, which meets every Thursday evening at 8 o'clock at Union Hall, 341 West 47th st., or Guiding Star Lodge, which meets every Wednesday evening at 8:30 o'clock at Norge Hall, 335 Union st., Brooklyn. (Union st. car passes the door.)

The initiation fee for any of these three lodges is 50 cents for ladies and dues 25 cents a quarter.

If Miss Kyrbian will call at Guiding Star's lodge rooms any meeting night she will be admitted to our "Good of the Order" and given a cordial welcome and an opportunity to meet our members before being asked to become a member.

DANA E. JENISON, C. T. Guiding Star Lodge.

Brooklyn, May 11, 1914.