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SHALL WE TRADE WITH GERMANY?

Head of New York Shipping Concern Discusses Phases of Situation.

NEW YORK—"Will America consent to do a commercial business with Germany?" That is a question quite as pertinent as any that is agitating the mind of general traders today. It is just as pertinent to the German mind, also. It evolves another question of equal importance—can America spurn the German market with justice to itself? Or, can Germany recover in any measure her pristine economic position without America as both seller and buyer? Under the process of readjustment now to begin these problems are going to be solved, and it does not appear that either the United States or Germany is going to assume the role of a Felix and tell the other to "go thy way until a more convenient season, and I'll call for thee." It has often been said that America with the allied nations of Europe are going to commercially ignore that abjectly conquered empire, but that threat was made during the heat of strife and bloodshed.

Peace is coming now, and the world must resume its former activities, and this can not be done without a system of universal commerce between all nations.

Business Must Go On.

When asked for his views as to what the attitude of America would be toward Germany from now on, the head of one of the largest shipping concerns in New York said:

"Feeling as I do at the present time I should ignore Germany with the same feeling of bitterness that I would any species of creeping reptile with poisonous fangs. She should be ostracized by all nations and allowed to continue in her degenerate downward course until every drop of Hun blood has been soaked up in oblivion. That is my personal feeling understand. Now from a business standpoint, I am going to consider the proposition differently. I do not believe that any one knows at this period what the allied countries are going to do with Germany from a commercial point of view. Under the adjustment of our economical problems, I suppose that it would be childish to sever trade relations with Germany. At present it is a Eunuch empire, incapable of performing a commercial function.

Will Slowly Recover.

"As a nation Germany will slowly recover sufficient energy to entitle it to recognition only as a degenerate. It will require American cotton and many other classes of raw material that are produced in the United States. These will be turned into manufactured articles and sold back to us Americans. I don't mean to convey the impression that we can not get along without German-made goods, for that time is past, if indeed it ever existed. But the business will be there, and regardless as to what other countries do, it is my opinion that the United States should resume business with every nation in the world, Germany included.

"Of course certain conditions will have to be met by the vanquished country. Germany has spent the last forty years in teaching its people the art of war. Now if Germany will spend the next forty years teaching its people the art of peace, and do it with equal—well what shall I call it—assiduity, or ferocity—they may in a few generations win back enough respect to entitle them to a place in the commercial world. Germany will never be the dictator that she has been; on the contrary, that country will occupy a very subservient position from both moral and commercial considerations.

Must Be Made to Feel.

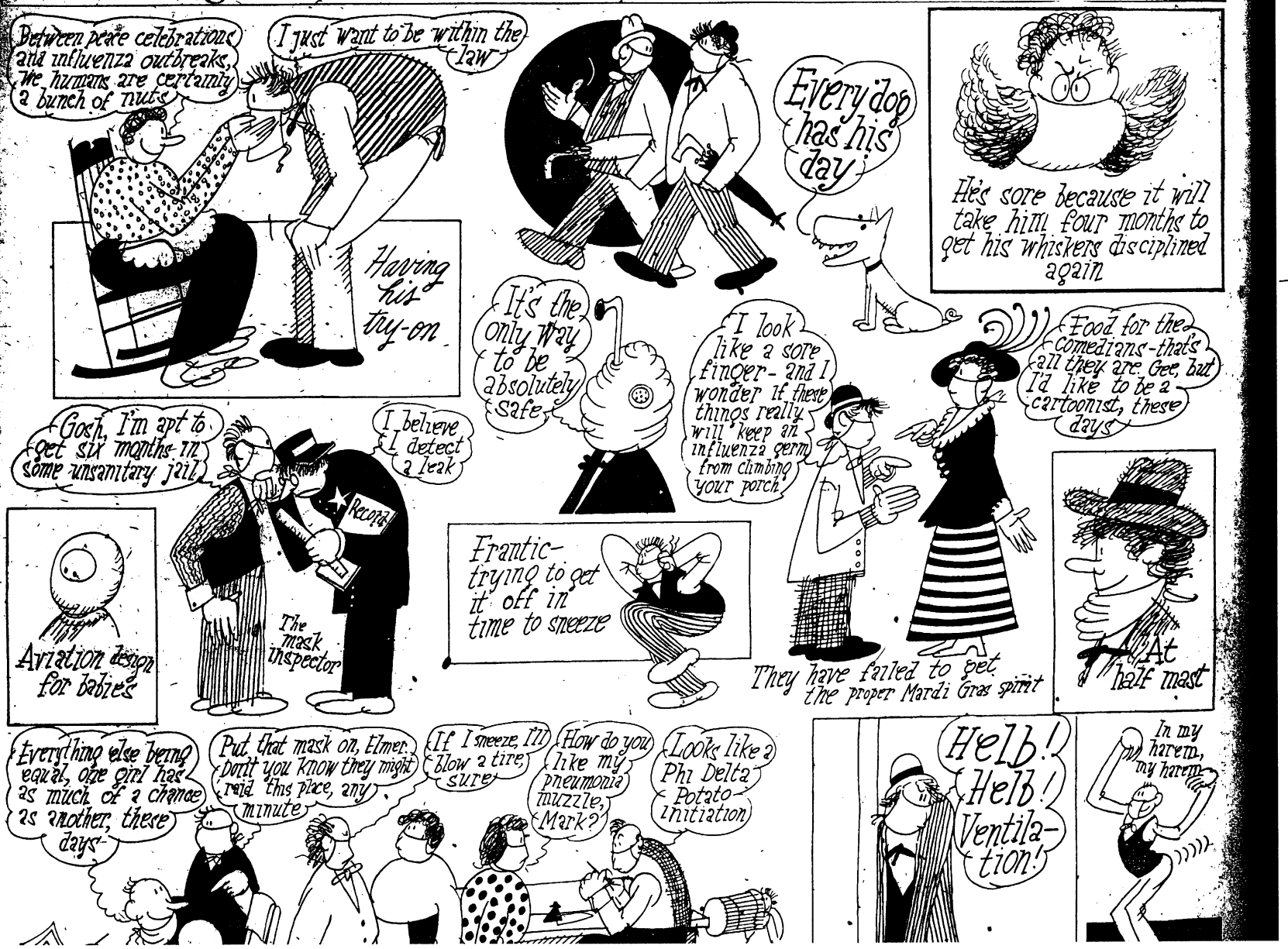
"As a suppliant at the world's commercial shrine, Germany must be made to see and feel the humiliation that she has brought upon herself and that she is a recipient of favors and not a grantor; that she has nothing to lose, but everything to gain, and unless she can deal honorably, as do all other nations—and when I say honorably I mean that, having lost prestige and the respect of other countries, she has financed enterprises the products of which have borne the name of other nations in order to find a market for them. Until then Germany deserves to be ignored by the nations of the entire world.

"Our future relations with Germany all depend upon what kind of a government she sets up under the new regime. If a republic is established with the voice of the populace a controlling element, it may become sufficiently stable to merit recognition of other countries." These are the words of the head of a reputable shipping concern. Continuing, the gentleman said: "With its population of something like seventy millions of souls, Germany will be forced to show penitence or experience the pangs of want such as she has not as yet felt. Her credit is gone and we can not deal with a bankrupt and impotent country. How long it will require her to regain her feet is a matter of guessing.

Government Looks Weak.

"It does not seem that the present head of Germany is the proper man to restore the empire to a dependable position, or establish a credit that will be more than a 'scrap of paper.' Person-

Masking Out the Flu - - - By Don Herold



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