

Battle of the Century—The Chicago Tribune Against the Enemies of Freedom and Truth

ORIGINAL COURSE HELD INFLEXIBLY THRU THE YEARS Unprecedented Attacks Turned Back

This is the story of the battle of a century, a 100 year fight by THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE against the enemies of freedom and truth who sought to dominate or to wreck The World's Greatest Newspaper.

It is a story of triumph—THE TRIBUNE undominated, gaining strength and greatness out of every conflict, stature from every lance blunted by a foe on the shield of its integrity.

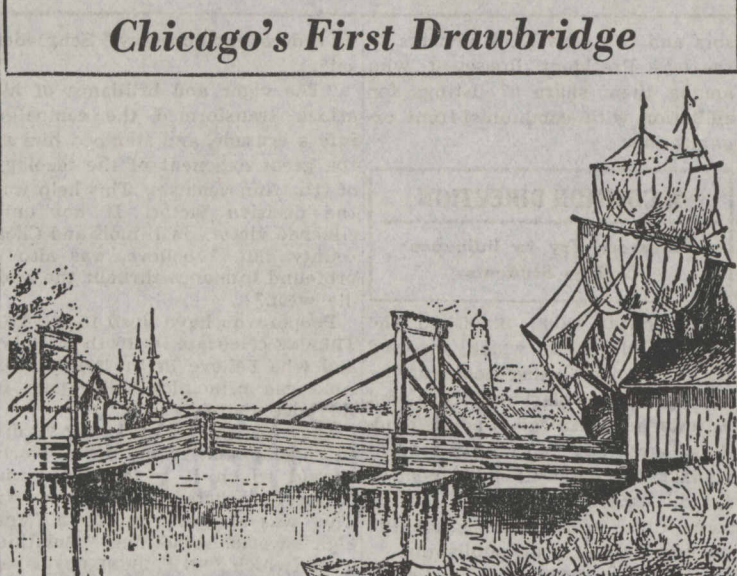
The salutary contained in its first issue June 10, 1847, predicted the course THE TRIBUNE would hold thru the years against some of the toughest and most unscrupulous gangs that ever arose to plague human development.

"Our views in all probability will sometimes be coincident with the conservatives; sometimes we may be found in the ranks of the radicals; but we shall at all times be faithful to humanity—to the whole of humanity—without regard to race, sectional divisions, party lines, or parallels of latitude or longitude," it said.

It took more than type metal, paper, and ink to make that humble, hand-set daily of 100 years ago into the World's Greatest Newspaper in the span of a century. Newspaper men were responsible for that accomplishment, newspaper men who were neither bankers nor brokers, playboys nor politicians.

The first and only business of any of THE TRIBUNE's proprietors in this century of accomplishment has been to put out a newspaper. The guiding star of these men—and necessarily THE TRIBUNE's star—was and ever will be, America and the freedom, rights, and greatness of her citizens. From that true, long range course the helm of THE TRIBUNE never once has turned.

NEVER ENDING STRUGGLE Be on the Offensive, Critical, and Vigorous, Says Medill



Drawing of the first drawbridge over the Chicago river, which spanned the stream at Dearborn st. in 1834. It was torn down five years later.

In American journalism and he and Joseph Medill were close friends. Back in 1834, when Pulitzer was bringing the former New York World to prominence, he described his ideas of the management of a newspaper to a Tribune reporter.

"It should make enemies constantly, the more the better, for only by making enemies can it expose rogues and serve the public," he said. "The most valuable and successful paper will generally be that which has the most enemies."

In reporting this incident, Philip Kinsley, a historian of THE TRIBUNE, commented sagely: "Mr. Pulitzer may have studied the history of THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE before reaching these conclusions."

Attacks Started Early THE TRIBUNE started before it was 6 years old. THE TRIBUNE was crusading against "wildcat" currency, then widely circulated, particularly against the currency issued by George Smith and company, a banking firm. An opposition journal, the Commercial Advertiser, charged that THE TRIBUNE had been bought by enemy bankers.

THE TRIBUNE sued the Commercial Advertiser and its publisher for libel, its first recorded appearance in the courts. On Jan. 12, 1853, a mob of hoodlums invaded THE Tribune office and broke up the type in its forms, a serious setback which delayed the issue of the paper.

THE TRIBUNE offered a \$100 reward for arrest of the vandals and appealed to good citizens to resist this interference with a free press. A group of citizens responded with an additional \$100 reward and among them were top leaders of Chicago life of the day.

PRO-AMERICAN POLICY Medill Begins Fight on European Beliefs It was in 1855 that Joseph Medill, young Ohio editor, came to Chicago to buy an interest in THE TRIBUNE. It was Medill who named the Republican party, and he and his co-editor, Dr. C. H. Ray, were responsible to a greater extent than any one else for the nomination of Abraham Lincoln.

THE TRIBUNE'S vigorous pro-American policy began with Joseph Medill, as did its enduring criticism of New York City and the eastern seaboard of America for pro-European, anti-American beliefs.

debt-paying money of the nation to gold when President Arthur asked for retirement of silver certificates. While it opposed William McKinley for nomination, it swung its full support to successful election campaign against William Jennings Bryan.

Joseph Medill coined the term "Popocrat" in the courtroom of a train going east. It described the Populist or People's party, annexed to the Democratic party of 1896 and 1900. The neatness of Medill's deduction was affirmed in the election of 1900 when the "Popocrats" and Democrats entered separate slates in the state of Kansas with identical candidates.

THE TRIBUNE under Medill was one of the first newspapers in America to demand the independence of Cuba from Spain under United States' protection, and it supported the war with Spain vigorously.

One of Medill's last acts was to send a message to President McKinley saying that the United States should take the Philippines from Spain. The present editor of THE TRIBUNE was the bearer of that message.

First Permanent Building THE TRIBUNE moved into its first permanent building at the corner of Madison and Dearborn st. in 1867, built on property leased from the school board.

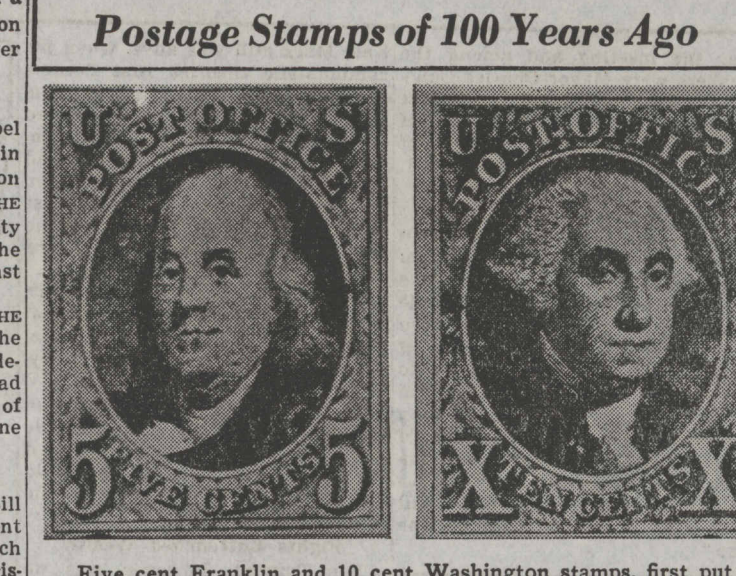
THE TRIBUNE lease of this school property was a favorite object of attack by the newspaper's enemies for 50 years or more. Three political machines used it as a weapon in attempts to "get" THE TRIBUNE. All of them failed and THE TRIBUNE was vindicated and its lease upheld by the Illinois Supreme court.

In the 1850s, the old Chicago Times attacked Joseph Medill, charging that during his administration as the "reconstruction" mayor of Chicago immediately after the great fire of 1871 THE TRIBUNE profited because of low rental charged by the school board on this leased property.

Charges Proved Baseless This brought blistering denials in the editorial columns of THE TRIBUNE and factual disclosures proving the charges baseless.

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A FULL EXONERATION Lease Validated in Report; High Court Upholds It Again Again THE TRIBUNE proved the charges to be false and malicious. The issue was raised 20 years later, soon after Robert W. Patterson became editor-in-chief of THE TRIBUNE upon the death of Joseph Medill.



Postage Stamps of 100 Years Ago Five cent Franklin and 10 cent Washington stamps, first put to use by United States government the same year THE TRIBUNE was founded.

ganger murder of two crusading editors. A group of Tribune executives a few years ago was entertaining a visiting newspaper publisher at luncheon in Tribune Tower. The guest, who was in Chicago between trains, described the operation of his properties, telling how he had been able to get machines for his type foundries which would do the work of five men, and how economies here and curtailment there had caused his profits to grow.

When the guest had departed, the editor and publisher of THE TRIBUNE turned to his colleagues and remarked: "You know, I think that man publishes newspapers to make money. He is very wrong. There are so many easier ways to make money."

THE TRIBUNE said, "The Minnesota" gag law was passed by a crooked legislature to protect criminals in office and supported by a state court as feeble in public spirit as it was weak in legal acumen.

"We must not blind ourselves to the fact that subversive forces have gone far in this country when such a statute could be passed by any legislature and upheld by any court, and must be on guard against further encroachments. The newspapers of America will realize the responsibilities devolving upon them under this decision and will maintain and increase the high principles which have guided them since the inception of a free press."

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These same forces joined hands with selfish commercial interests to interfere with THE TRIBUNE's supply of newsprint. The story is an interesting one.

THE TRIBUNE consumes the entire output of its Canadian mills and none of it ever has been sold on the open market. This meant that production and employment at Tribune mills was extremely steady. Elsewhere in the Canadian paper-making industry, however, this happy condition did not exist.

The commercial newsprint industry in Canada, spurred by stock selling schemes of the 1926-'29 boom days, expanded enormously and unwisely, adding more than 80 new paper making machines and nearly tripling its capacity.

Then came the slump of the 1930s. Orders fell off at the commercial mills. Those which did not shut down curtailed their output. Unemployment reached critical proportions and the relief burden caused the provincial governments of Ontario and Quebec, where most of the mills were located, to demand that the industry set its house in order.

Self-Imposed Plan This was the beginning of "pro-rating," which was not a law but a working plan imposed by the commercial newsprint manufacturing mills on themselves, with the encouragement of the provincial governments of Quebec and Ontario.

The provincial governments were in position to exert influence on the mills because the governments lease timber limits to newsprint manufacturers and collect stumpage taxes. The commercial mills pooled all their orders and shared their quotas largely on the basis of productive capacity.

The commercial mills, hard pressed by the results of their own over-expansion, looked longingly at the tonnage THE Tribune mills produced for their publisher-owners. If they could only take this tonnage away from THE Tribune mills, what a fine grist it would be for their own idle paper machines.

ANONYMOUS PETITION Subject of the Tribune to Proration Demanded In the unpopularity of THE Tribune editorial policies among peoples of British countries, they saw an instrument that might be used to force THE Tribune mills under their proration scheme. In time of war they hoped popular frenzy in Canada could be whipped up to compel the two provincial governments to force proration on THE Tribune mills.

An anonymous petition was presented to the Ontario and Quebec governments by a group of rival Canadian newsprint manufacturers asking that publisher-owned mills such as THE TRIBUNE be included in the prorating plan.

The campaign was organized in Montreal and Toronto under the direction of a firm of publicity agents. Unknown senders mailed to Canadian newspaper editors, legislators, churchmen, and business men a petition that they sign and return, clipped unfairly to show bias against Britain which was not there.

VICTORY IS CONFIRMED Thompson Decision Stands as Bulwark of Freedom

The victory was confirmed in an epoch-making unanimous opinion of the Illinois Supreme court, written by Chief Justice Thompson, which will stand thruout the ages as one of the great bulwarks of a free press.

"History teaches," the justice wrote, "that human liberty cannot be secured unless there is freedom to express the grievances."

"The right of the government to persecute its accusers was founded on the theory that the king could do no wrong. He was an hereditary monarch and was not responsible to the people. When the people became sovereign, as they did when our government was established under our Constitution and the ministers became servants of the people, the right to discuss government followed a natural sequence."

Fundamental Right Involved "The fundamental right of freedom of speech is involved in this litigation and not merely the right of liberty of the press. If this action can be maintained against a newspaper it can be maintained against every private citizen who ventures to criticize the ministers who are temporarily conducting the affairs of his government."

Newspapers all over the world hailed THE TRIBUNE'S smashing victory. The New York Times said: "In throwing out of court the ridiculous suit for 10 million dollars damages brought by the city of Chicago against THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Judge Fisher reaffirmed some fundamental and wholesome principles."

"So ends a dangerous and insolent attempt by one of the most arrogant of politicians to maintain in his own hands a power and to outlaw, crush, and silence all possible effective criticism of himself and his acts..."

Even the London Daily Telegraph added its approval: "We congratulate our able and spirited American contemporary, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, on its notable victory."

STRIKE AT CORRUPTION Tribune Forces Thompson to Repay Money to City

Meanwhile, THE TRIBUNE, striking vigorously at arrogance and corruption in the city hall, filed a suit against the mayor. In the summer of 1920, cry was raised for aldermanic investigation of \$50 and \$100 a day fees paid by the Thompson machine to so-called "experts" valuing property for widowed states. It has been estimated that \$2,750,000 was doled out to these favorites.

Judge Hugo Friend in Circuit court sustained THE TRIBUNE'S petition and held that the money must be repaid to the city treasury by Thompson and his gang. This was a severe blow to the mayor from which he never fully recovered.

The Supreme court decided that the money had been improperly spent and negligence had been shown, but was unable to find any proof that the mayor had entered into a conspiracy to defraud the taxpayers.

The Supreme court, of course, was not allowed the privilege of opening "Big Bill's" safe deposit box, as the state treasurer and attorney general did 14 years later, a few days after Thompson's death. In \$1,466,250 in currency, bills of large denomination, packed so tightly they sprang out like a jack-in-the-box when the latches opened.

CLAIMS ANOTHER LIFE Walter Liggett Slain After He Exposes Graft

This Minnesota campaign for press freedom claimed also the life of another publisher, Walter Liggett, who exposed graft in the Farmer-Labor government in Minneapolis and was murdered by gangland machine guns.

THE TRIBUNE'S appeal to the Minnesota Supreme court resulted in an adverse opinion, upholding the constitutionality of the gag law. This decision aroused a storm of editorial protest thruout America.

CLOWNSH SUGGESTION Vancouver Paper Hurls a Barb at Eastern Editors

"It was not surprising... that THE TRIBUNE should stick to its policy when Britain was at war," the Vancouver Sun said in an editorial, "but one or two Eastern Canadian editors who should know better took the matter into their own hands with the clownish and stupid suggestion that Canadian newsprint mills put THE TRIBUNE on paper rations... The thing was a piece of absurd and unworthy rubbish, abhorrent to Canadian opinion, repugnant to any responsible authority..."

The St. Catharines [Ont.] Standard said editorially: "In brief, we would be committing blackmail and intimidation, the fine art of which we always have [Continued on following page]"