TRIBUNE' TREATY SCOOP BUT ONE OF HISTORIC SERIES

Laconia Sinking, Manila Victory, Lorimer Case, Others Recalled.

THE TRIBUNE'S achievement in obtaining for the United States senate a complete copy of the peace treaty, which had been sought by senators in vain from official sources, and in giving vital and hitherto unpublished extracts of the treaty to its readers, recalls a series of exclusive stories of history making character published in this paper over a long series of years.

Among these "scoops," belonging to the history of American journalism, are the announcement of Dewey's victory in the battle of Manila, the United States Supreme court income tax decision in 1895, the Lorimer senatorial case, the printing first in America of the revised text of the New Testament, the complete story of the sinking of the Laconia, a long ago scoop on the capture of Island No. 10 in the Mississippi river by Commodore Foote and Gen. Pope in the second year of the civil war—and last, but not least, the text of the peace treaty.

The Scoop That Counted.

The story of the peace treaty scoop has already demonstrated its importance through the action of the United States senate in spreading THE TRIBUNE'S copy of the document upon the Congressional record, and by the recognition given it by other newspapers throughout the country.

While senators were pleading with President Wilson and others for the full text of the conditions of peace, a TRIBUNE correspondent, Frazier Hunt, reached Paris on his way back from Russia.

There, from a legitimate but confidential source, he obtained a copy of the treaty. With the document he hastened to Brest and sailed May 29, landing in New York June 6, and in Chicago June 7.

After a conference in THE TRIBUNE office, it was determined the patriotic thing to do was to turn the text of the treaty over at once to the foreign relations committee of the senate. Mr. Hunt hurried back to Washington and on Sunday afternoon put the document in the hands of the members of that committee. After that, Mr. Hunt sent a dispatch to THE TRIBUNE office, giving verbatim the most mooted points in the treaty. This dispatch, comprising 27,000 words, was printed in THE TRIBUNE Monday morning.

Again, the First News.

A similar combination—the right man at the right place at the right time—allowed THE TRIBUNE to print, in February, 1917, another of the most sensational exclusive news stories of the great war, the sinking of the liner Laconia.

Floyd Gibbons, a member of THE TRIBUNE staff, was a passenger aboard the liner on the way to Europe as a war correspondent. His story of the torpedoing of the great steamship is still fresh in the minds of hundreds of thousands of Americans who were thrilled by it at that time, when the sinking of ships loaded with men, women, and children was becoming a daily tragedy.

After floating for hours in a crowded open boat in a winter sea, Gibbons was picked up by another vessel.

Once on the shore of Ireland, as the first trained newspaper man to undergo such an experience, Gibbons wrote a story which brought to the readers of THE TRIBUNE and to the world a realization of the shock and terror, the panic and heroism, the suffering and sacrifice, the fear, the hope, and at last the joy of rescue which had been felt by thousands in similar circumstances, but had never before been brought close to the millions of Americans safe at home. That story was published exclusively in THE TRIBUNE.

Frederick A. Smith's Feat.

One of the outstanding news beats of the great war also was the feat of Frederick A Smith, THE TRIBUNE'S correspondent with the armies in France after the wounding of Floyd Gibbons, in being the first American newspaper man to reach Berlin after the signing of the armistice. In order to achieve this and give to the world the first authentic information of conditions in the German capital Mr. Smith induced a Richthofen circus flyer of the German aviation service to fly with him from Frankfort to Berlin. More than 350 miles of the journey into Berlin was through the air. Smith was the first newspaper man to connect up the outside world with Berlin after the fighting ceased.

The Lorimer Case.

A little further back in the series of notable "scoops" obtained and published by THE TRIBUNE, the Lorimer case stands out boldly.

On April 30, 1910, less than a year after the election of William Lorimer to the United States senate by a combination of Republican and Democratic votes, this newspaper printed exclusively the startling confession of Representative Charles A. White. This confession led ultimately to the expulsion of Lorimer from the United States senate.

In the history of the country no newspaper achievement probably ever has caused a greater sensation or marked greater journalistic enterprise than the work of THE TRIBUNE of May 7, 1898, in giving to the world the first news of Admiral Dewey's victory over the Spanish fleet at the battle of Manila.

Mr. Harden Delivers.

Edward W. Harden, a member of THE TRIBUNE staff, was in Hongkong in April of that year. He proceeded, as civilian correspondent, with Admiral Dewey to Manila. It will be remembered that Dewey had cut the cables at Manila to prevent the red tape of the navy from interfering with his work. For that reason, with the news of the greatest single American naval victory in history in his hands, the young reporter was unable to cable it from Manila on May 1.

Returning to Hongkong Mr. Harden, paying extra commercial cable rates, filed his news briefly but conclusively to THE TRIBUNE. It reached the home office shortly after 3 o'clock in the morning of Saturday, May 7. Immediately the presses were stopped, the story was put into type and at the same time long distance telephone wires were busy to Washington, calling the White House, the secretary of the navy, the secretary of war and Gen. Miles. Even the government had not had a word of what had happened.

Brief dispatches of thanks were received from Secretary Long, Secretary Alger, and Gen. Miles the next day.

Another History Maker.

In the field of national affairs another "beat" of importance was that of April 6, 1895, when Raymond Patterson, then Washington correspondent of THE TRIBUNE, obtained exclusively the Supreme court's decision which declared the income tax law invalid and necessitated a constitutional amendment.

An interesting sidelight on the changes in newspaper methods of expression in twenty-four years is revealed by the opening paragraph of that story. It read:

"Washington, D. C., April 5.—[Special.]—The United States Supreme court has shot the income tax law full of holes. The decision has been completed and only awaits formal ratification at the consultation when held at noon tomorrow."

The result of that consultation is history, and history of vital importance to every citizen of the United States, and the first news of the history making decision was carried exclusively in this paper.

"Beat" on New Testament.

Of another kind, but of vast importance, particularly among the religious, the cultured, and literary people of the country; was THE TRIBUNE'S achievement in 1881 of publishing the Revised Version of the New Testament, complete, two days before any other American newspaper. A staff man had been sent to Europe for the purpose of obtaining a first copy and, on finding that impossible, returned to New York on the ship which brought the first consignment of printed volumes from England.

He obtained a copy as the first packing case was opened on the pier a few minutes after the ship docked. He rushed it to Chicago by train and it was set up on a Saturday night and printed as a sixteen page supplement to the regular Sunday edition of April 2, 1881.

Stensland's Capture.

In the history of bank collapses in Chicago the story of Paul O. Stensland stands out as remarkable. It was through the enterprise of THE TRIBUNE that Stensland was captured after a chase half way around the world and brought back to justice.

Stensland was president of the Milwaukee Avenue Savings bank. Simultaneously with his disappearance it was discovered the bank, which carried millions of dollars in deposits, was insolvent. THE TRIBUNE discovered Stensland's whereabouts. The information was imparted to the state's attorney, who assigned Harry Olson, an assistant to go with James Keeley of THE TRIBUNE on the long trail. To Paris, to Spain and then to Morocco they traveled. At Tangier they found Stensland. The story of the pursuit and capture was cabled to THE TRIBUNE and published exclusively in this paper.

A Civil War Scoop.

Among the earliest of news beats scored by THE TRIBUNE was that in the spring of 1862, which chronicled the union victory in the capture of Island No. 10, one of the most important actions of the early days of the civil war. This story was obtained by George P. Upton, then war correspondent for THE TRIBUNE and a member of the staff until his death recently. Mr. Upton only a few months ago rewrote the story of that triumph of the union forces. In opening it he says:

"The capture of Island No. 10 was effected jointly by Commodore Foote's fleet of seventeen gunboats and mortar boats and by Gen. Pope's army, which effected a passage from the Missouri to the Tennessee side by means of a twelve mile canal cut across the peninsula formed by a bend of the Mississippi river."

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MAJ. WILLIS A. DIEKEMA

Among the units of the A. E. F. returning in June is the 9th aero squadron, commanded Maj. Willis A. Diekema, advertising manager for the De Free Chemical company of Chicago. He wears the distinguished service cross and returns to his desk at the age of 26, being one of the youngest officers in the air service to attain his rank.

Enlisting immediately after the war broke out, Maj. Diekema had his early training in flying at Champaign, Ill., and Dayton, O. He sailed for France in October, 1917, with rank of first lieutenant. When awarded the D. S. C. his citation set forth that he was attacked by a superior number of enemy aircraft, while on a photographic mission. Disregarding the fact that his companion planes had been driven off, Maj. Diekema (then lieutenant) continued his flight until his observer had completed the photographs. On their return they fought their way through the enemy patrol and destroyed one of the German machines. This engagement took place in the region of Metz, Sept. 15, 1918.

Maj. Diekema is the son of former Representative G. J. Diekema of Holland, Mich.

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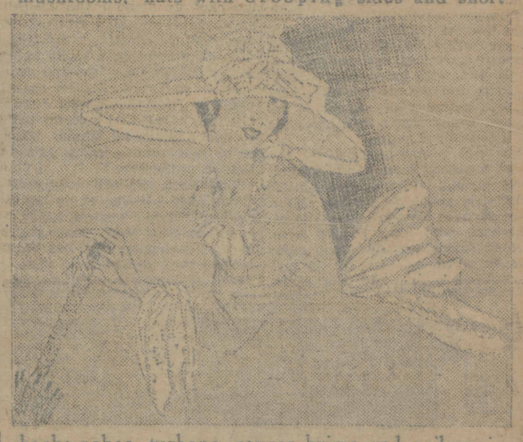

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