

SIDE LIGHTS

Some Reflections on the Silver Dome and These Under It. Everything seems to be subordinated to the senatorial mix-up. Even that penny subscription to smear the gold standard all over the capitol dome seems to lag. Why not elect U. S. senators by popular vote? And to bring this about, why not this time elect two senators who favor the idea? That might mean Rosewater, however, and it would be iconoclastic for the republican party to elect a man who in any way might support something the people want as opposed to what the corporations seek. Besides it would be idiotic to elect anybody for whom the electors have expressed their preference at the polls. It would be unrepudiation.

Doesn't it strike you that D. E. Thompson is a much over-rated man as regards his ability to manipulate legislation. Seems like he ought to have been the whole story, if he's the holy terror people think he is. Representative Beall's 'aid-piece is on straight. He is not afraid to vote for a republican, "just to see the wheels go round," as Budge would say. And Hinslaw, the affable Hinslaw, he of the smooth features, even if he did repudiate the vote, must have secretly felt elated. Let a few more of the fusionists pass similar compliments to their political enemies and see a real wild west show. If the republicans can't break the deadlock—well, the fusionists can enjoy the fun by throwing a few brands into the fire.

Uncle Jake got that school land business badly "bailed up." He was indiscreet enough to lease almost every vacant acre in the whole state. 'Fshaw! It's enough to make a good republican swear—not anything left to reward the "rooters." Well, one thing is certain, we can let the republican renters go without paying any rentals for a few years and then compromise by cancelling the leases and letting them have possession without contract. A state without "vacant" school land is certainly a howling failure.—From "Dreams I have Dreamed," by Land Com. Follmer.

By the way, isn't Attorney General Prout needlessly slow about dismissing those trust-smashing suits his predecessor brought? There is no use of delay. The people that is to say, a comfortable minority of them, declared against trust-smashing—what has the attorney general to fear? But, of course, there is the senatorial fight to be settled before any business can be done.

"All things come to him who waits." The Hon. William Morgan may yet see the happy day when he will have a "contract in bulk," under the beneficent provisions of house roll 299, for supplying all the state institutions with Whitebreast coal, without being subjected to the annoyance of competing with those plebs who sell other brands of black diamonds. And, if the board of educational lands and funds continues to reduce the premium on state warrants, and the state treasurer deludes himself in the belief that he can keep the permanent school fund invested without an earnest and continuous effort, the Hon. William may again be able to invest a little of his surplus profits in state warrants at, say, 93 or 95.

If the republican board of purchase and supplies will perform its duties as conscientiously as did the fusion board preceding, there need be no further legislation relative to purchasing what the state needs in maintaining its penal and charitable institutions. A glance at the table given in Governor Poynter's message will show that these institutions were maintained under fusion government at a cost away below that under the administration of Governor Crouse, who it should be said, was the best republican Governor who ever sat in the executive chair—at least within the past twelve or fifteen years. Governor Crouse could have done better, but

he was handicapped on every hand by republican barnacles. His emphatic repudiation by these barnacles at the next convention was a foregone conclusion. He was persona non grata. Governor Holcomb took up the work begun by Governor Crouse and improved upon it; and Governor Poynter continued to give the people the benefits of economical government.

The result at the last election no doubt warrants Governor Dietrich in assuming that the people do not care for economy, but prefer a "business" administration such as will result from the passage of his pet scheme to allow the board of purchase and supplies to make "under-the-hat" contracts with republican politicians. The Independent is Jacksonian enough to make no complaint if the republican board of purchase and supplies gives preference, other things being equal, to republican bidders; but it objects to allowing a republican bidder to be awarded a contract at a higher rate than the same goods can be purchased from a bidder of a different political faith.

Maybe a majority of the people last fall did ask for a "business" administration patterned after the days of Thayer et al., but there are over 113,000 voters who protested against a return to republican misgovernment, and, in behalf of them, The Independent protests vigorously against purchasing supplies or transacting any other public business.

"Two years ago," said a member of the legislature to The Independent a few days ago, "there was an adverse sentiment toward what was known as 'curative' legislation. Whenever a bill came up, if there was the slightest suspicion that it was 'curative,' it was promptly killed and buried. This session every member seems to be on the lookout for 'hold-up' bills, and all that is necessary to do to insure indefinite postponement is to spread the information that the bill is 'hold-up' in character."

As a matter of fact, the curative bills introduced two years ago—at least a majority of them—had been carefully prepared by a man who was in position to know the legislative defects which could be urged against many sections of the statutes. None of the bills had for their object any change in the existing laws, but were intended to settle beyond cavil any question of irregularity in their enactment. Many of the sections had never been tested in the supreme court, however, and the lawyer members of the legislature saw the probable loss of some fat fees if the bills were allowed to pass. Hence, a sentiment was manufactured to kill them off. The manufacture of 'hold-up' bills will result in killing some obnoxious bills, no doubt; but it will also prevent the enactment of meritorious laws.

Isn't it about time that Governor Dietrich take some steps looking toward the pardon and release of ex-Treasurer Bartley? Perhaps, in his creator, the Burlington railroad, has completed its task of electing a United States senator. Governor Dietrich's election (even by a bare three-figure plurality out of a six-figure vote) was rightly construed as a splendid vindication of Bartley; and now that a signal failure has been meted out to Governor Poynter wash some of his mighty dirty republican linen, Governor Dietrich should show that he is a man of courage, and do the one crowning act which he was elected to perform.

And the republican legislative investigating committee actually discovered a bad smell down at the penitentiary? Small wonder. A good many years ago some "contracts in bulk" were let to certain republican philanthropists for the erection of a state penitentiary. It is an imposing structure—or, perhaps, it might be more accurate to say that the people were imposed upon in its construction. It looks like a feudal castle. Not only is the most expensive used in its construction "plugged to size," but it seems that the builders plugged every avenue of ventilation. Perhaps their aversion to figurative ventilation ren-

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dered them cautious about permitting the real thing. At any rate the whole building is about as airy as the Black Eye of Calcutta. Undoubtedly there is a bad odor at the penitentiary. There is a smell of prison contracts, entered into by republican state officers with their republican henchmen, whereby the contractor was paid enough to more than pocket all their earnings. There is a smell of lost school funds, lost sinking funds (why, shouldn't a "sinking" fund be "sunk"?), lost county funds, and lost city funds. Even as the faint odor of onions may be distinguished from that of burnt beefsteak or beans, one can distinguish the odor of small republican politicians who get their clammy fingers in the state treasury under the pretext that they would pay it back—and then sneaked off when the day of reckoning came and made a scape-goat of the treasurer.

Yes; there are various bad smells at the penitentiary, but the committee who have enough to say that the act is not the result of any mismanagement by Warden Hopkins. The crying need of popular legislation, that is to say, legislation upon which the people have the last word, is well illustrated in the case of the free high school law. Certain portions of taxation, necessary to carrying such a law into effect, have in the past been found contrary to the state constitution, and the supreme court, however friendly to the law, could do nothing else than declare the law bad for unconstitutionality. Here is a case where the legislature and governor are friendly, the court is friendly, and the people are anxious to have the law; yet the supreme law of the state says "no." The Independent doubts whether any law can be framed which will successfully evade the constitutional objections.

Now, suppose the people had power to ask for an expression of their will upon the important question decided by the supreme court. The high school law would undoubtedly be sustained, constitutional objections to the contrary notwithstanding, and this would result in an indirect method of amending the constitution so as to permit the desired law. This constitution is a preposterous law—but the people are certainly above the constitution.

Auditor Weston's recent ruling on the insurance reciprocal law will have the effect of depriving the state of Nebraska of \$25,000 to \$30,000 each year that rightfully should be in the treasury and be used in cancelling outstanding warrants. Here's a pretty how-do-ye; the auditor, all by his lones, holds in abeyance the plain mandate of law, for the law is plain that the reciprocal fees should be collected. What official knowledge has the auditor as to what taxes, if any, are paid by any insurance company in this state? How and where does he get the information which enables him to "forgive" the insurance companies what the law says he should collect?

How do you 113,000 republicans like his ruling? The law has been in effect a long time, and if it has any companies that the insurance companies must have a lot of lunk-head attorneys, because they have never had the temerity to resist payment and test it in the courts.

Where a law is good, however, there is an easier way to evade it: just control the republican convention, elect a republican auditor—and he'll do the rest.

The insurance companies and the railroads rendered valuable assistance to the republican party last campaign. The insurance companies are now getting their reward. Just wait until the state board of equalization cuts down the railroad assessments, and then you'll know why the railroads wanted to turn the fusionists out.

Mullet-Head Innocence The editor of the Wisner Free Press writes in the following childlike and pathetic manner: "One would think from reading the reports from the senatorial farce at Lincoln that the republican members were absolutely owned body and breeches by the various senatorial candidates. The candidates dictate how a caucus shall or shall not be conducted, and these representatives of the people, or supposed to be, submit to this dictation with the most servile subserviency. Their constituents elected them to be their servants and not the servants of office-seekers. Their constituents claim the right to do the dictating, if any is to be done, and not the men with the senatorial bee in their bonnets. Their duty is to their constituents and especially to the republican party. They should go into caucus on their own motion regardless of what candidates say or think, work in the interest of the party that elected them and if they cannot agree on present candidates, senatorial timber not exhausted by any means, but two stalwarts can be found."

Who elected this legislature? Who laid the plans and imported the voters? Are not the men who made a republican legislature possible to have the direction of things? If they are not, there will be no more republican legislatures. Does this innocent chicken really believe that what he calls "constituents" had anything in reality to do with the matter? Didn't Thompson handle the railroad part of it and swing the employees into line? Didn't Rosewater work the national committee for funds without which the plans would have come to naught? Now this country rooster intimates that they are to have nothing to do with the matter. He really seems to think that the mullet heads who voted the republican ticket should have the right to say when a caucus should be held and who should be elected. Did anyone ever hear of like simplicity?

IN A ZONE OF DEATH.

BOER TACTICS WILL COST AN AWFUL LOSS.

An American Officer Gives His Views on the South African Situation and Predicts Horrible Slaughter—Many Thousands Will Fall.

"In the deadly fire-zones of the Boers a score of thousands of Englishmen must fall before the Transvaal is conquered." This is the opinion of a distinguished American military authority with whom I talked to-day, writes Walter Wellman. "Great Britain is face to face with the most difficult military proposition of the century," continued this officer. "It is a remarkable fact that the difficulty which the English army is now encountering in South Africa was foreshadowed in a book published before the outbreak of hostilities. It was written by a Polish banker named Bliokl. M. Bliokl's studies led him into a critical examination of the effect of modern small caliber high velocity magazine rifles when handled by skillful and brave troops, and he laid down the axiom that such troops, when properly entrenched, could hold their positions against all comers. By carefully selecting their positions, he pointed out, they could sweep the zone in front of them with a fire so deadly that no troops in the world could live in it, while remaining practically out of danger themselves. At short range one of their small caliber balls, driven at great velocity, could disable from three to five men. At longer range from two to three would fall by the same bit of lead. In such a fire-zone, he said, attack would be suicide. Men would go down with appalling rapidity, and the surviving remnants of the bravest troops that ever walked could do nothing but retreat as rapidly as possible. They could not recover their wounded, and the hit must lie where they fell till firing ceased and flags of truce covered the rescue.

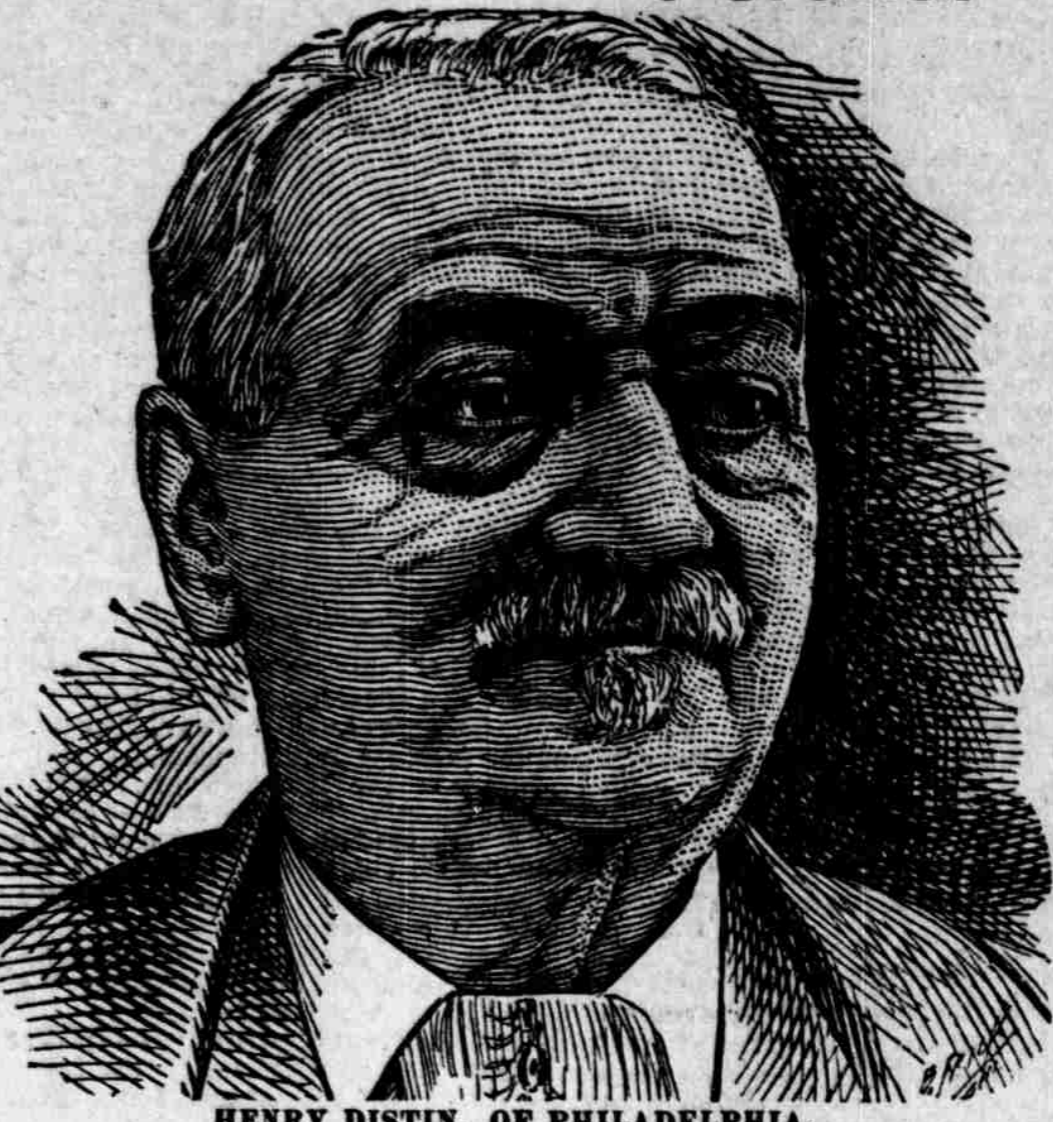
"This is precisely what has happened in South Africa," continued the military student. "The Boers take up commanding positions on the side hills. They trench themselves and from there sweep the open before them with a fire so deadly that even the reckless daring and enthusiastic self-sacrifice of the British army is unable to do more than dash into that hell-zone and then dash back again. Except in rare instances, where the conditions are unfavorable, have the Boers failed to hold their intrenchments. On only few occasions have the combatants come to hand to hand fighting. You will remember that: ter our campaign in Cuba Inspector General Breckenridge said the bayonet might as well be thrown away, and that it was only useful to grind up coffee with, for which purpose a small hammer would serve better. The English have had a few opportunities to give the Boers 'cold steel,' but only a few and by small bodies rushing some outlying position. The great problem for the English commanders is how to make an advance. Their troops have fought with a bravery which fills the world with admiration, but they have almost nothing to show for their sacrifices.

The character of the country aids the Boers' tactics. It is for the most part hilly and broken. The Boers take position on a hillside, following the usual tactics, the English shell them out with their artillery, and then advance their infantry to take the position. But the moment the artillery fire ceases, and it must stop before the British line can move into the open—the Boers move back from the other side of the hill, where they have been in cover, and resume their places in the trenches. The artillery has wasted its strength on empty rifle pits. But before the advancing troops can get far on their way the Boers are ready for them, and when the opportune moment comes that deadly rain of little bullets sweeps the open like a sleet storm. More than once," continued the officer, "the British have walked into such destruction; have fallen by scores, rallied, advanced again, received another deadly fire, and have then broken and retreated, baffled and beaten, without once seeing the enemy, and probably without hitting one of them. Men were never born who can keep up much of this sort of fighting. The Boers have demonstrated that with modern weapons a small force can defend any favorable position against five times their numbers. Up to date the Boer losses are probably not one-tenth that of the English. Front attacks are things of the past, unless commanders have men by the thousands to throw away. Flanking is the only thing that will win, and flanking is hazardous and almost impossible against troops as mobile and alert as the Boers, operating in a country favorable to that line of defense. These are the problems which the British leaders have to work out, and every military man in the world is curious to see how they are going to do it. In my opinion the British will find a way to do it, but only by making good Kruger's prophecy that if conquest of the Transvaal is achieved at all, it will be at a cost which will appal humanity."

China's Diminishing Nobility. In China when an honor is conferred on a family it is the ancestor and not the descendants who share the glory. If a Chinaman, for his merits, receives a title of nobility his son can never inherit or have the right to use any but an inferior title. Thus the nobility in the family goes on diminishing from generation to generation till it finally becomes extinct.

Still They Don't Win. There are twenty-one British generals now serving at the front.

A FAMOUS MUSICALIAN Cured of Catarrh and La Grippe by Peruna.



HENRY DISTIN, OF PHILADELPHIA. Henry Distin, the inventor and maker of all the band instruments for the Henry Distin Manufacturing Co., at Williamsport, Pa., is probably the most active old man in Philadelphia today. He and his wife recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage, at their home, 1441 South Ninth Street. Mr. Distin comes from one of the most famous musical families of the old world, his father and grandfather before him, as well as himself, having played at most all the royal courts of England and the continent.

1441 South Ninth Street, Philadelphia, Pa., May 6, 1899. Dr. S. B. Hartman: Dear Sir—I write to inform you that I had a bad attack of la grippe last December which lasted more than three months, and which left me with catarrh, and several of my friends advised me to try your wonderful medicine, Peruna. I began with a bottle the first week in March and it certainly did me a great deal of good. I was so well satisfied that I purchased another bottle and followed your directions, which you furnish with every bottle, and I am glad to say that it has cured me. I shall certainly recommend the Peruna to all my friends. Yours, very truly, Henry Distin.

As soon as any one is attacked with la grippe Peruna should be taken every two hours during the day—adults a tablespoonful, children a teaspoonful. But it is the after-effects of the grippe which are generally the most serious unless Peruna is taken. In all cases where Peruna is taken as above during the acute stage the recovery is prompt and complete; but where the ordinary treatment is followed the patient will complain for weeks and months of weakness, slight headache, want of appetite, and many other symptoms of low vitality. Such people should begin at once the use of Peruna—a tablespoonful before each meal, gradually increasing the dose to two tablespoonfuls.

Mrs. Theophile Schmitt, wife of the Ex-Secretary of the German consulate, writes the following letter to Dr. Hartman in regard to Peruna: 3417 WABASH, AVE., CHICAGO, ILL., The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, O.: Gentlemen—"I suffered this winter with a severe attack of la grippe, and having repeatedly heard of the value of Peruna in such cases, I thought I would try it. I used it faithfully, and began to feel a change for the better the second day, and in the course of a week I was very much improved.

After using three bottles I not only found the la grippe had disappeared, but my general health was much better. I am satisfied that Peruna is a wonderful family remedy, and gladly endorse it." Yours, Mrs. Theophile Schmitt.

La grippe is epidemic catarrh. Peruna cures catarrh wherever located. Send for a free copy of "Winter Catarrh." This book contains a lecture by Dr. Hartman on la grippe, which has attracted wide attention. Address Dr. Hartman, Columbus, Ohio.

WEST POINT HAZING

The Committee of Congress Reports and Law is Passed That Will Forever Put an End to It.

The Independent has kept its readers correctly informed about the barbarism practiced at West Point. While it was laying the facts in the case before its readers the P Street Idiot was telling the few mullet heads who read the State Hypocrite that all this talk about the cruelties practiced at West Point was without foundation and that the reported hazing was only the harmless pranks of school boys.

The committee appointed by congress to investigate the academy was submitted the other day and since that a law has been passed prohibiting hazing in any form, expelling any cadet who is proven guilty of attempting to haze and prohibiting him from ever being appointed to any position in the army, navy or marine corps.

The committee finds that Cadets MacArthur, Breth and Burton were hazed until they fainted, while others were hazed until they were sick. The hazing of Cadets Booz and Breth are elaborately treated, and then the report says: "But while we cannot fix upon hazing the responsibility for these two deaths, the possibility that it hastened them and the blot it throws on the otherwise fair and glorious fame of the academy, its conflict with proper training and discipline, and unfitness in this new century, urges the adoption of reasonable, yet we believe effective, measures for its eradication and the promotion of discipline at the academy."

The upper-classmen, the report goes on, have resorted to more than 100 distinct methods of annoying and harassing fourth-classmen. They are divided into three general classes: "1. Things done professedly for the good of fourth-classmen or of the service.

"2. Things done to punish fourth-classmen for violations of the upper-class code.

"3. Things done apparently without purpose, except to annoy or for the mere amusement of upper-classmen." Furthermore, the committee describes, eagling, wooden willying, chon-choning, dipping, sitting on bayonet, eating quinine, standing on head in bathtub filled with water and many other forms of hazing. Continuing, the report says the fights grow out of the necessity of vigorous measures to coerce cadets into submitting to the less vigorous forms of hazing, and each upper class has a regular fighting committee. The committee says that on the whole a man's religious opinions are highly respected at the academy. The bill submitted contains eleven sections against hazing, and provides means for its detection and punishment.

Combination Offer No. 77

The Independent 1 year, Farm and Home 1 year, Good Housekeeping 1 year, Home-made Contraceptives, all for only \$1.50. Address, Independent Pub. Co., Lincoln, Neb.

T. J. Doyle—Attorney at Law.

NOTICE

In the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska, in the matter of the estate of J. A. Smith, deceased. This notice is given to all persons interested in the estate of J. A. Smith, deceased, to appear at the probate court in Lancaster County, Nebraska, on the 14th day of March, A. D. 1901, at 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, to show cause why the said estate should not be granted to said administrator as set forth in the above described real estate, subject to the life estate of Mary Smith, widow of said deceased, as shall be necessary to pay said debts and expenses. It is further ordered that notice of this order by publishing this order in the Nebraska Independent for four consecutive weeks, to-wit: the 14th day of January, A. D. 1901. EDWARD P. HOLMES, Judge of the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska.

Burlington Route

Low Rates, West and North West. At a time of year when thousands will take advantage of them, the Burlington Route makes sweeping reductions in its rates to the west and northwest—its order of Montana, Washington, Oregon and British Columbia. Dates—February 12, 19 and 26. March 5, 12, 19 and 26. April 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Rates are shown below: To Ogden, Salt Lake, Butte, Helena, Anaconda and Missoula. \$23 To all points on the Northern Pacific Ry. west of Missoula, including Spokane, Seattle, Tacoma, Portland, and Victoria, B. C. \$28 To all points on the Spokane Falls & Northern Ry. and the Washington & Columbia River R. R. \$28 Never has the Pacific Northwest been so prosperous as now. Labor is in constant demand and wages are high. The money making opportunities are beyond number—in mines, lumber, merchandising, farming, fruit raising, fishing and all the other industries of a great and growing country.

Literature on request—free. J. Francis, Gen'l Passenger Agent, Omaha, Neb.

LIFE SIZE DOLL

FREE "Baby's Clothes" now fit dollie. Girls can get this beautiful Life Size Doll absolutely free for sending only four boxes of our Great Gold & Silver Toilet Tablets to the Santa Fe Hotel today and we will send the dollie and the clothes. The dollie is made of money (\$1.00) and we will send you a high and can wear baby's clothes. Dollie has an insulating lining. Life Size Doll, Colored, Yellow, Brown, Blue, Green, Red, Black, White, and all other colors. This doll is an exact reproduction of the finest baby doll ever made. Address: SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., Chicago, Ill.

Combination Offer No. 76

The Independent 1 year, Farm and Home 1 year, Wood's Natural History, Good Housekeeping Magazine 1 year, all for \$1.50. Address Independent Pub. Co., Lincoln, Neb.

Advertisement for Dr. Horne's Electric Belts. Features include: 'Your First and Last Opportunity to get the World-Renowned DR. HORNE'S \$20 Electric Belt for only \$6.66'. 'THIS OFFER IS GOOD FOR 30 DAYS ONLY'. 'DR. HORNE'S ELECTRIC BELT & TRUSS CO., DEPT. L, CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.' Lists various ailments treated: Rheumatism, Sciatica, Lumbago, Catarrh, Asthma, Neuritis, Gynegia, Gonorrhoea, Headache, Paralysis, Nervousness, Spinal Diseases, Vertigo, Torpid Liver, Throat Troubles, Kidney Complaints, Gynecological, Nervous Debility, Lost Vigor, Cold Extremities, Female Complaints, Pains in the Back and Limbs, All Weaknesses in Men and Women.

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SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., Chicago, Ill.