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Full steam ahead and lock the lever!

Now let congress translate its enthusiasm into

Knocking on meatless days at \$25 per knock visions more "dough" than discretion.

Editor Rathom of the Providence Journal has our Senator Hitchcock's number all right!

President Wilson's message belts the world of democracy with reinforced confidence in the out-"Public business as usual" finds no cheering

response in the bond market. For the war period partnership is dissolved. Nothing "barmecide" about President Wilson's new war message. Even the densest pro-German

can see through its "crystal clarity." Before the formal break comes let us chalk up one credit mark for Austria. The willing tool of Germany never accused Russia of precipitating

Recent messages sent over the line by Mexican bandits boomeranged with unexpected force. Taunting Uncle Sam's boys in that quarter lends

Periodical dragnets for holdups relieves the strain temporarily. For permanent results a workhouse with work vigorously rubbed in carries the endorsement of practical reformers.

uncommon speed to cemetery planting.

Orders requiring common use of railroad terminals as a war measure make for increased speed in transferring business. Incidental to the main object lies the prospect of broadening the democracy of railroading.

Why did Senator Hitchcock write that letter against extending our declaration of war to Austria? Why has our senator and his hyphenated World-Herald so often been saying just what the kaiser would want them to say?

Pan-Germanism may be a good thing for the folks at home. Elsewhere its devotees get the hammer. A blacklist of 2,000 firms in Central and South American republics features a drive into German trade vitals, the effect of which will putlive the war.

Prospects in congress indicate favorable action permitting soldiers to receive well-earned decorations from foreign governments. Such action simply extends to our allies the privilege congress exercises in awarding medals of honor for extraordinary service.

A mere glimpse of the stunning household bills of Uncle Sam might warrant congress in "viewing with alarm" the rising cost of national living. The occasion forbids. Large as the total appears, it is little more than the premium on the insurance of American institutions.

Senators and congressmen are reintroducing all sorts of measures proposed, but not acted on, in previous sessions. We see no notice, however, of Senator Hitchcock reintroducing the kaiser's bill to stop the export of munitions and arms which he promised so faithfully to champion and press until enacted into law.

In saying that the law of supply and demand has been superceded by "the law of unrestricted selfishness" President Wilson underscores an unpleasant fact of common knowledge. While a majority of business lines support and obey measures of national safety, the greedy minority extend their reach whenever chance offers. If congress applies an effective club to profiteering patriotism will score heavily on selfishness.

Tax Muddle Up to Congress

Three distinguished lawyers, one from New York, one from Boston and one from Chicago, have been chosen to advise the commissioner of internal revenue on the execution of certain provisions of the war revenue act. The particular provision which these eminent legal minds are to harpen their wits upon is the excess profits tax.

There is no lack of ordinary talent in the federal tax commissioner's office for interpreting a tax statute. Why, then, this call for outside advice? The reason is undisputed. The commissioner himself does not know how to interpret the statute in question. Nobody in his office knows how to interpret it or administer it in any practical and just manner. No corporation to which the tax applies knows how to apply it.

No two men can agree in respect to any one corporation. As an example, one set of experts place the United States Steel corporation's excess profits tax for this calendar year at \$193,000,000 and another set place it at \$118,000,000. And the corporation itself cannot tell which is nearer right or whether either is anywhere near right.

This is an intolerable condition of things and violative of the very first canons of taxation. It was a simple matter for congress to impose a tax on war profits or profits in excess of the recorded average for certain years before the war. But congress reduced the whole matter to a hopeless muddle by hinging taxable profits on uncertain calculations of invested capital with exemptions

as variable as those calculations must be, There is time enough for congress to restore this provision to some semblance of an under-standable and workable law. That is easily possible, but a just and equal application of it in

Reception of the Message.

From all over this country and from every important world center come reports of responsive reception of President Wilson's wonderful war message. Everyone admires courage in taking a position and standing unflinchingly by it and it it a safe surmise that even in Germany and Austria, where the attempt will be made to belittle the declaratoin and pick flaws in it, the United States will be held in a more wholesome respect for frankly proclaiming our determination to fight to the finish, while in the same breath defining our purpose eventually to force settlement for right and justice without selfish advantage of any kind.

Here in this country the first result of the message has been to sharpen the edge of every patriotic citizen for whatever burden-bearing or sacrifices may be required. The next effect will the people of the recommendation for putting Austria also on the list of enemy nations as a country with which further pretense of friendly relations must cease.

If any discordant notes have been struck by the president they are not yet loud enough to be distinctly audible. Even the notoriety-seeking senators, plainly described in the president's reference to men who debate peace without understanding its nature, "who may safely be left to strut their uneasy hour and be forgotten," for the moment "have nothing to say." Outside of these few silent ones and the exceptional dissenter here and there, the popular chorus of approval is full and strong.

Hold Down on Local Bond Issues.

The records of the Nebraska state auditor show an increasing number of municipal, county, school district, irrigation and drainage bonds submitted to that official for registration. The total amount up to November 30 approximates four and a half millions of dollars, or about twice as much as the totals for the two previous years. These bond issues may be regarded as evidence of a rising tide of prosperity throughout the state, especially the irrigation and drainage bonds, for they reflect the good fortune which has come to the farmers and land owners of the state. These increased bond issues give evidence also of increasing public spirit and the desire to improve the material conditions and to foster and develop the agricultural resources by reclaiming vast areas of land not now cultivated.

While all well-wishers of the state rejoice in this widespread prosperity and in the efforts to promote industrial enterprises, yet there may be some basis for the opinion that it is not wise at this time to incur public indebtedness not absolutely necessary. These bond issues must be sold on the money market and if every state would issue annually five millions of these securities for every million and a half of its population the aggregate would make a considerable drain upon the great reservoir of accumulated capital. Just when Uncle Sam is telling the people that his needs go into the billions and will soon ask them to lend him many billions more it would seem to be the part of patriotism to hold over for the time being further issuance of municipal and other

The South Takes it All.

The usual paeons of sorrow are being poured forth over the announcement that Congressman Fitzgerald of New York, chairman of the important appropriations committee of the house, has resigned after twenty years of active service, being unwilling longer to sacrifice the larger financial gains he can make in private law practice as compared with public life.

Mr. Fitzgerald's high abilities are conceded and also his undoubted right to seek more profitable fields "that he may provide against old age and for the needs of his family before the period of his earning capacity is ended." In this particular case no one need fear that Mr. Fitzgerald will not be able to take care of himself. He has been conspicuous in congress chiefly as the head of the Tammany group and Tammany support will be a valuable asset outside of congress as well as inside.

Where condolence over the fetirement of Congressman Fitzgerald should really be offered is to the people of the country at large, because it makes way for a southern democrat to head the appropriations committee and thus gives the chairmanship of every one of the big house committees to representatives of the solid south. This means that we have a more sectional government now than we have ever had since the civil war and that the Bourbon democrats of the south, the most reactionary of all, have absolute guidance and control not only of the nation's law making, must buy. but also of its budget. From this point of view Congressman Fitzgerald's resignation, taking away from the north the last important house chairmanship that remained to it, is a deplorable blow to our form of congressional government.

Made-in-America Fire Insurance.

The state insurance department has been notified by the United States Treasury department to disqualify six German insurance companies heretofore doing business in Nebraska. It is a common report that the war in Germany has greatly impaired the value of securities held by German insurance companies and that some of those companies sought to unload a portion of their securities upon the bankers and investors of neutral nations. This action, by the way, is a true indication of the opinion as to the final result of the war entertained by the insurance magnates of Germany. The fact undoubtedly had something to do with the action of the Treasury department in ordering the states to cause those companies to liquidate their, business, as a matter of protection to property owners, and likewise fully justified by considerations of loyalty. In any event the fire insurance business in this country will be properly and safely handled by the American companies, which in the main compare with the best in the world.

A generous stream of American money hitherto pouring into the treasuries of enemy insurance companies is blocked by the government and the companies put out of business for the period of the war. These concerns enjoyed unusual facilities for spying on American war measures and profiting in a business way at the same time. Their suppression is another step toward winning the

The hungry spider never welcomed a fly to its lair with more courtesy and condescension than the Germans show to the peace messengers of the Russian reds. Flattery is a potential force in

Food hoarders and food profiteers persisting in ignoring orders face a prospect of two years' sentence or a fine of \$5,000. Better be safe than

The Salute

Saluting an officer is a ceremony that palls on many a soldier of our national army, if he must go through it frequently in the course of a In the reservation or cantonment he is seldom allowed to avoid it, never by an officer who understands the significance of the salute as a part of discipline. On leave, the soldier of the national army, whose head may be filled with false notions of the relation of democracy to military usage, sometimes fails to see the officer to whom a salute is due. Particularly is this the case when the soldier, who knew the officer in civil life as an equal, or perhaps as a less important citizen, disapproves of his success in obtaining a commission. It must be admitted, too, that officers do not always return a salute promptly and in the right spirit. They misapprehend the meaning and value of it as much as the ill-disbe seen in the ready acceptance by congress and | ciplined private does. On this subject Lieutenant Colonel Andrew J. Dougherty, late of the Thirtieth infanty, United States army, and now of the Three Hundred and Fifty-seventh infantry, national army, speaks words of wisdom, which the national army would do well to assimilate: When an enlisted man, a lieutenant, a cap-

tain, a colonel, a general salutes his superior, he says by that act: 'I will obey you.' smartness with which the salute is made is an exact measure of the way he will obey. When he returns the salute of an inferior in rank, he says: 'I will strive to the limit to prepare myself to lead you to victory.' He will fight as he salutes. This act, repeated scores of times daily, forms a habit which neither fear, nor sickness, nor physical weakness can break."

Colonel Dougherty was once an enlisted man himself. At San Juan he fought as a corporal of the Third cavalry. Ten years later he was governor of the province of Santiago by appointment of Major General Thomas H. Barry, at the time commanding the American army of the second occupation in Cuba. The civil governor had been delinquent, and was ordered to turn his office over to Captain Dougherty, the corporal of San Juan, who had qualified for the new trust by his success in making regulars of the rural guard of Camaguey and Oriente. The point is that Colonel Dougherty rose in the service because he submitted to discipline when he was in the ranks and taught it to the men he commanded as an officer, in other words, because he was always actuated by the spirit of the soldier. He is, therefore, an excellent authority on the salute.

The Parallel of the Watermelon

Edgar Howard's Answer to Senator Hitchcock's Attack on Him.

Once when I was a little boy I went with some playmates to visit a watermelon patch. None of us had been invited to the patch. We just invited ourselves. The melons were fine. Each boy picked the best melon he could find, and all began running for the fence. Then came the voice of the farmer who owned the melon patch. All the boys except one dropped the melons they were carrying and quickly plunged through, over or under the fence. The boy who insisted upon carrying his stolen melon lagged far behind. The farmer commanded the boy to stop, but he con-tinued to run as fast as he could, which was but slowly, because the stolen melon was very heavy. Then the man fired a shot from a gun. Several of the bird shot struck the boy carrying the melon. He dropped his stolen plunder, and soon he caught up with his more fortunate mates. That evening the doctor picked 46 little bird shot from beneath the boy's skin. All through the years that little boy, now a middle-aged man, goes into one of two kinds of convulsions every time he sees a watermelon, or hears anybody talking about a watermelon. Sometimes it is a convulsion of rage, causing the man to foam at the mouth and make dire and frightful threats against watermelons. Sometimes it is a convulsion of fear, causing the man to moan piteously and to plead that the watermelon may not be permitted to harm him. Always I am reminded of that playmate of

ine who insisted upon keeping that stolen watermelon when I note the convulsion of rage, or the convulsion of fear which attacks Senator Hitch-cock's Omaha World-Herald at mention of the name of a farmer. Sometimes the convulsion is so severe that it causes the World-Herald to run amuck, and not only to attack every farmer it meets, but also every man who is known to be a friend of farmers. And often I am thinking that the life of that boy might have been sweeter in his younger years, and his later years more free from madness and fear, if only the boy had not insisted upon keeping that stolen melon, even after the farmer had caught him with the melon under his arm.

What is the moral attached to this little story about the boy, the watermelon, the farmer and I don't know that there is much the shadows? of a moral attached to it. My business in the world is to make people understand each other. And so I have told this little story of the boy who stole the watermelon, and insisted upon stealing it and keeping it, even after the farmer caught him in the act-why. I tell the story to show Nebraska farmers how natural it is that Senator Hitchcock's newspaper should now be taking the side of the big war profiteers and denouncing Nebraska farmers as lacking in patriotism, simply because they insist that if the government is to fix the price of things which the farmer produces, then the government should also fix the price of some things which the farmer

War Clothes for Men

The "reformation" in styles of clothing which the Commercial Economy board is said to have effected as a conservation measure, bears some of the marks of a revolution as respects male at-Not only are men's clothes to be "simplified and to a great extent standardized," but a saving of 40 per cent in material is promised, as against 25 per cent in women's clothes.

This means the elimination of a full yard of cloth from every man's suit. A decade ago, when men wore coats which were popularly designated as "young overcoats," and trousers correspondingly voluminous, the saving might not have been difficult. Now, with men's clothes more or less "standardized" in general snugness of fit, the economy will involve drastic curtailment. will necessarily mean the elimination of patchpockets and pocket-flaps, lapels, belts and trouser-

cuffs and the reduction of coats to jacket length. Will the next step be to knickerbockers and small-clothes? Golf may give us a logical style of civilian war garb with a saving of cloth from the knee down and waistcoats of any material. But certainly there is no war measure of reform in which American men will more cheerfully cooperate than in the alteration of clothing styles toward simplicity and economy of material.

People and Events

The campaign managers of Mayor Mitchel in New York report having spent \$1,209,695 from start to finish and then came in a poor second. However, they had a lively Hylan fling.

New York appraisers value the estate of the late Colonel Oliver Hazard Payne at \$32,000,000, of which \$7,000,000 goes to charities and public institutions in Cleveland and New York.

Coal is rattling into the fuel bins of Philadel-phia. The federal fuel dictator placed a water wagon seat under the driver of each coal wagon and required deliveries of strictly dry fuel with-out stops at suds stations. The plan is said to work during business hours.

Colonel Harvey of free silver fame is reported in the southwest sulking in the tents of the good roads movement. Twenty-one years ago half the voting population swore by the colonel and flocked to his coined dope as eagerly as though it were a loaded pie counter. Now they are swearing at him down in Oklahoma and criticizing him "as erratic, impulsive and consequently undepend-able." Old "Coin" Harvey, all right.

Miss Anna A. Gordon, who is presiding over the sessions of the National Woman's Christian Temperance union in Washington this week, has been president of that organization since 1914, in which year she was chosen to succeed the late Mrs. L. M. N. Stevens. Miss Gordon is a native of Massachusetts and a graduate of Massachusetts and a graduate Mount Holyoke college. In early life she became interested in the cause of temperance, and in the course of time became private secretary to Miss Frances E. Willard, probably the most famous of all American women temperance workers. As an official of the Woman's Christian Temperance union Miss Gordon has toured the world, and is as well known in other lands as any worker in the temperance crusade who comes from America. She is the author of a life of Miss Willard and has written many temperance songs

One Year Ago Today in the War.

Austro-Germans captured Bucharest, capital of Roumania. German crown prince made his first

attack at Verdun since French victory David Lloyd George was asked by King George to form a ministry for Great Britain.

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago.

Joseph Barker was elected president of the Omaha Bureau of Charities; Augustus Pratt, vice president, and W. W. Wallace, treasurer.



A large audience witnessed Karal 'Dolores" at the Boyd.

Chief Seavey took a short trip Cortland, where he spent Sunday with J. B. Dewelett, an old army friend. The new Presbyterian church at the corner of Twenty-fifth and I streets will be dedicated on Sunday next. The opening sermon will be delivered by Rev. W. W. Harsha.

At a meeting of the councilmen the city physician reported 87 deaths and 119 births in Omaha during the month of November. At the same meeting a, petition of the Chicago, St. Faul, Mineapolis & Omaha railroad for pormission to construct a sewer along Grace street was referred.

Colonel Henry's lecture on "Indians and Indian Campaigns" was given in the chapter rooms under the cathedral.

Miss Agnes McDonald was elected assistant principal at the Leavenworth

This Day in History.

1816—Curtis Hooks Brogden, gov-ernor of North Carolina and representative in congress, born at Goldsboro, N. C. Died there January 5, 1901. 1830—George G. Vest, for many

years a United States senator from Missouri, born at Frankfort, Ky. Died at Sweet Springs, Mo., August 9, 1904. 1833-Colonel John Singleton Mosby famous confederate cavalry chieftain, born in Powhatan county, Viriginia. Died in Washington, D. C., May 30,

1863—General Sherman relieved Knoxville, which had been besieged by General Longstreet. 1889-Jefferson Davis, ex-president the confederate sta died in New Orleans. Born in Chris-

tian county, Kentucky, June 3, 1808. 1914-French captured Vermeles, north of Arras. 1915-President Wilson sent note to Austria demanding disavowal of the Ancona sinking.

The Day We Celebrate.

Francis A. Brogan is celebrating his Major Herbert M. Lord, paymaster United States army, is 61 years old to-

day.
Charles E. Foster, former police judge, is celebrating his 41st birth-General August von Mackensen, who has been directing the Austro-German

drive into Italy, born in Saxony, 68 Howard Elliott, who recntly became chairman of the board of directors of the Northern Pacific railroad, born in New York City, 57 years ago today. Rear Admiral Victor Blue, U. S. N former chief of the bureau of navigation, born in Richmond county, North

Carolina, 51 years ago today.

Atlee Pomerene, senior United States enator from Ohio, born in Holmes county, Ohio, 54 years ago today. Joseph Conrad, one of the most popular of present-day English novelists, born 60 years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

The people of Holland today will hold their annual celebration of St. Nicholas day, which corresponds to the Christmas festival in other Christian Opportunities and responsibilities of

life insurance in solution of the afterwar problems of the nation will be the theme of the 11th annual convention of the association of life insurance presidents, meeting today in New York

A four-day conference of state chairmen and other leaders of the woman's party has been called to meet in Washington today to decide whether the picketing of the White House shall be

THE COUNTRY DANCE.

William H. Bellah in Philadelphia Inquirer. Oh, come, the leaves are fallin' and something keeps on callin'
And callin' me from city street to quiet
country lane;
Tis the season's spell around me which
has haunted and has found me

In ecstasy to yield myself unto its charm come let's take a ramble by stream and

brush and bramble,
The town is mad with rushing and ambition's always sad;
We'll leave the feverish worker and be today the shirker And try again some old delight which pleased us when a lad, What say we go a-frolickin' to a_country

what say we go a-relican to a country
dance a-relican.

And gayly foot an old-time step to an
old-time fiddler's tune.

None o' this new style lange that never
heard a bando

With its "swing yo' corners" one and all,
to the light of the harvest moon.

Here, nigger, tune that fiddle and "ladies pass the middle.

And "bands around," "grand right and left," and "cut the pigeon wing."

Oh, it's joy in old square dancin' to feel your feet a-prancin' And know you've not jes' quite forgot to do that sort o' thing!

Get off my foot, Bill Ryder, you mus' be full o' cider; What was that call, to "honor all?" Miss Kate I'll honor you; If you're my partner, honey, you sho' can get my money. I've loved you since you were a kid with

heavenly eyes of blue.

Now, stop: you quit that mughin'; a man don't like such chaffin' don't like such chaffin'
When all his future happiness depends
on what you say:
Jes listen to 'em holler' Ed Jones has lost
his collar!
Look out, there, Ed, there lots o' time,

s we'll dance till crack o' day And home we'll go a-frolickin' through
Autumn woods a-rollickin';
One hand to drive and one to hold; perhaps a stolen kins;
And tonight we fare a-plenty with the youth
of sweet-and-twenty,
Where Reuben is the kins of all and owns
a kinsdem of blise

Wayne, Neb., Dec. 4.—To the Editor of The Bee: In your issue of December 3 you printed a communication from a candidate for president of the State Teachers' association, in which

he says in part: 'I can see no reason why the teachers of the state should be called upon to decide between the warring factions of two competing state normal schools when it is certain that, no matter, which side they may take, there must be a division of the educational forces. Let these schools settle their own differences while the teachers go on building better things for the children of the state. I can see no earthly reason why the teachers of the state should listen to a few designing men who are seeking to divide the educational forces in order that they may further their own personal interests." The above quotation is uncalled for

in every particular. It places the state normal school at Peru and the state normal school at Wayne in the wrong light. The facts are that the relations between the faculties and the presidents of these schools are most cordial and friendly and always have been. There is not a prominent school man or school woman in the state of Nebraska who is conversant with educational affairs who does not know this to be true.

To speak of the "warring factions' when there is no foundation for so doing is unprofessional, unfair, un-

kind and silly. The whole thing looks like a cheap bid for votes. I believe I voice the sentiment of every member of the Wayne faculty as well as of the Peru faculty and its president when I protest against the spirit shown in the article referred to U. S. CONN.

Why Nots for Thoughtless Givers. Omaha, Dec. &-To the Editor of The Bee: Why not refrain from buying that tinselled whiskbroom holder for a reciprocal giver and donate the price therof to war relief work? Why not refrain from making that safety-pin holder out of gay ribbon and put in the time knitting wristlets

for the hands that are defending you

from the horrors of war? Why not throw aside that tatting for your friend's guest towel and let your hands get busy making surgical dressings for the boys who are fighting for

Why not eliminate the seals and tags and tinselled cord from your Christmas packages and give the price thereof to the relief of suffering in the ountries devastated by war?
Why not give useful gifts this year?

Aim to supply some want instead of giving triffing makeshifts or extravagant gifts? Why not give to your nearest and dearest friends of your love, your loy-alty and unselfish consideration and

donate your gift money to the safe-guarding of their homes and yours against the dangers that threaten? Why not be moderate and at the same time be safe and sane in regard to the children's Christmas this year? Santa Claus has an excellent alibi in the camps and in the trenches, for there he is helping to procure for your children the gifts of security and free-

dom for years to come. And, lastly, why not put an inde-faceable stamp on your Christianity at this time? Why not bring your gifts of gold, of self-sacrificing labor and deeds of mercy to lay at the feet of the Divine Savior, in whose righteous cause our brave men are enlisted to-BAYOLL NE TRELE.

Real Meaning of Democracy.

Omaha, Dec. 4 .- To the Editor of The Bee: Mr. Frank A. Agnew has written some good things for the Let-ter Box, but he evidently has his "lines crossed" with regard to the origin of the words democracy and republic In his most recent effusion he contends that the terms are antithetical. whereas they are really synonyms. The only difference is that one is derived from the Greek and the other from

Demos in Greek means the people and lexicographers agree that a democracy is a government by the people, "a system of government in which the sovereign power of the state is vested in the people as a whole and is exercised directly by them or their elected agents," says the Century dictionary. And the same authority, defining reppblic, states that it is "a commonwealth, a government in which the executive power in vested in a person or persons chosen directly by the body of citizens entitled to vote." This is the difference between twedledum and twedledee. As "democracy" is derived from demos, the people, so "republic is derived from res publica, the primitive being populas, the people. How Mr. Agnew can confound "ochlocracy" (mob government) with democracy is something that I cannot understand.

Nor can I understand why he should allow his effervescent patriotism to classify the German people with "the most barbarous nations of the earth.' The history of this great people shows that it is among the most advanced nations of the world in literature, science and art.

Make All Help Foot the Bills. Omaha, Dec. 4 .- To the Editor of The Bee: It is manifestly the duty of the government to furnish our soldier boys at the expense of the whole people with the conveniences of the Young Men's Christian association and with the necessities that are now furnished by the Red Cross. Our representatives in congress now assembled should be asked to bring this about. The cheerful givers in all cities and towns are left to do all the giving. while some of the wealthiest tightwads get away without ever having

their names on a subscription list. Then take the farmers as a whole. They certainly have not done their toward the Red Cross and the Young Men's Christian 'association, These activities should be paid for by taxation and not be allowed to fall on the shoulders of the willing givers.
ONE OF THE WILLING ONES.

SAID IN FUN.

"Judging from the picture of Miss Deco-licte in that society paper, she is in urgent need of being taken to a hospital."
"For what reason?" "To have her cuts dressed."-Baitimore

"She has rejected me by letter. There is no nope.
"Are you sure it's final? Nothing written between the lines?"

"There's only one line."—Boston Tran-

Club Bore-Say, old fellow, I want some thing up to date in the way of fancy dress for the Vegetarians' ball temorrow night, Acquaintance—Well, stick a turnip on our head and go as a meatless day.-Len-



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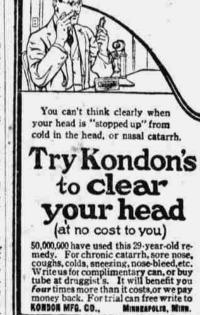
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