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Jack Frost is good to the iceman.
All right, Mr. Taft; we are always glad to see you.

Globe-trotting royalty has nothing on democracy these days.
As usual, the California and Florida orange groves caught the freeze.

Between the flu and the smallpox, life is getting to be one steady trip to the doctor's office.
It was the weather, not the people, that gave the War Labor Board men a chilly welcome to Omaha.

Stories from other cities show that Omaha is not the only place with an unsolved street railway problem.

Now, Mr. Weatherman, we all concede your ability to pull down the mercury to the bottom of the tube, so let it go at that.

Turn about is fair play always, so the Germans have given Riga up to the bolsheviks, who gave the port to the Germans a few months ago.

Germany does not want to give up Posen, but does not know what to do about it. How different from the Germany of a few months ago!

Forty hours for delivery of a letter dropped in an Omaha mail box shows how the service has improved under Mr. Burleson's ministrations.

If it is not so much of a German conspiracy against Nebraska potash as it is a desire to give the cotton barons of the democratic south what they want.

What to do with the "governor's mansion" is puzzling a lot of folks at Lincoln. All admit it ought to be used somehow, but the wise ones do not agree as to how.

Mr. McAdoo thinks that five years will be long enough to vindicate his railroad policy, figuring perhaps that by that time the public will not care what happens.

"Citizen" Lenin narrowly escaped finding out what it is like to be a prisoner of war, when Perm fell, but his running ability saved him for the justice of nations to deal with.

It will not lessen the pressure on your coal pile any, but it may console you to know that the cold wave is nation-wide and that Omaha is far from being the coldest place on earth.

If any town in the world is accustomed to processions of royalty and democracy combined, it ought to be Rome, where something of the kind has been going on for twenty-seven centuries.

After all the fakes and hoaxes perpetrated by other news agencies, readers of The Bee must appreciate more than ever the value of Associated Press reports of peace conference doings.

Mr. Taft reminded Archbishop Harty that they had lived in a place the temperature of which suggested a fate for the Hohenzollerns, and as most of his hearers knew where it was, they all agreed.

New York docks are again piled high with goods awaiting transport to Europe, this time relief supplies. Same old story of trying to run the outflow of the country through the narrow neck of a single port. It was this that made trouble last winter.

Democrats now oppose promotion for General Crowder, for fear he has some ambitious plan with a political end. Something of the same sort of narrow-mindedness deprived the country of the services of Leonard Wood in Europe, but he has lost nothing in the estimation of the people.

Taxing a Year Ahead

When the senate last week, by a strict party vote, decided to retain in the revenue bill the tax provision for 1920, it was plain that no opposition delaying the measure would be undertaken by the republicans. With the democrats in the majority and committed to this unusual and unwise anticipation of legislation properly belonging to the next congress, any delay in imposing the taxes for 1919 would have injured the business interests of the country and accomplished nothing in the end. By voting unanimously against the democratic plan the republican senators made their own position perfectly plain. The very fact that the revenue bill has been materially altered since it passed the house, that the total to be raised has been considerably reduced from the original estimates suggests that it is too early to make financial plans for 1920. If the expenditures of the government are cut down as rigidly as they should be, the burden upon the taxpayer will be much lighter. The senate has passed the bill practically as it came from the finance committee. The most important change is the tax on luxuries, which is restored in the form in which it passed the house. The admitted purpose of its advocates is to make the wealthy pay for the extravagance. Whatever may be said of the desirability of this purpose, it is clear that the wealthy are not likely to pay exorbitant prices if they can help it. As a class they are quite as shrewd buyers as those of lesser incomes. And it must always be borne in mind that to increase prices is to check consumption. It will not be surprising if the amount of revenue derived from these luxury taxes is disappointing. But that is not a feature of the bill which is likely to be eliminated in conference. War profits and excess profits taxes may offer more fertile ground for controversy.—Philadelphia Ledger

IMPROVEMENT IN LEGISLATIVE METHODS.

Senator Cordeau's comment on the antiquated system for making laws still in vogue in Nebraska deserves careful consideration, for it comes from wisdom born of experience. His service in the legislature has given him accurate knowledge of the shortcomings and dangers of the methods and his suggestions for improvement, therefore, command attention. He has a plan, simple enough and within the scope of the constitution, whereby much of the present complication can be avoided. This contemplates the appointment of a special committee, with competent counsel, to examine all bills presented, for the purpose at least of fixing their status as to constitutionality and the form of their construction. Such a committee would not interfere with the right of any lawmaker to introduce as many bills as he wishes, nor would it limit him as to topics covered. But it would save an immense amount of time for the other committees, by sending them measures properly drafted, and with an indication at least of their validity and workability. Such help certainly would be appreciated by the experienced legislators, while the newer ones would soon learn the advantage of the plan. So long as our devotion to democracy requires that no limit be placed on the propensity for revising old and making new laws, we ought to welcome any change in the system that might bring about laws better worded and so phrased that courts would not be baffled in their interpretation.

Contrast Between War Leaders.

One aspect of the recent election in Great Britain may have escaped public notice. At the outset, when Lloyd George made his appeal to the country on his war record, certain democratic organs tried to set up a parallel between the course of our president and that of the British premier. So far as making an appeal to the country for endorsement goes, they acted alike. The difference, however, is as important as it is simple. When Lloyd George overturned the Asquith ministry, he did it on a plea for coalition. He wanted all parties in the United Kingdom to be represented in the cabinet and have a share in the conduct of the war. When he went to the voters, he went with a plea for coalition, and won. Our president resolutely declined to hear any suggestion that he form a coalition cabinet, insisting that as he was elected by a party he must recognize only that party, making the great adventure of the war as far as possible a partisan enterprise. When he issued his appeal to the voters he asked for a democratic congress, and was defeated. The people took the first opportunity to express disapproval of the extreme partisan course pursued in the administration of our government during the war. The moral is plain.

Problems for the Peace Table.

A league of nations to sustain the peace that will be produced at Versailles is being widely advertised. Such a league entails much of genuine perplexity for its projectors and thoughtful advocates. Greatest of these will be to locate the nations. How serious this undertaking will be is indicated by the aspirations of some of the recently revived members of the family. Take Poland, for example. Dismembered, parcelled out among its conquerors, the country had disappeared from the map and existed only in the hearts of a faithful people. Fortune's wheel brings it to the surface again, and what do we discover? It is the premier of resuscitated Poland speaking:

I desire to see Poland inhabited only by Poles. I do not favor giving special autonomy and schools to the Jews, but do believe in giving them civic rights if they performed their civic duties. Territorially we want what is ours ethnographically. We do not want what is German or Ukrainian, but think that Lithuania is ours in this sense. To get the full significance of this naive declaration, keep in mind the fact that the Lithuanians look forward to being re-established as a national entity, enjoying all the powers and privileges bestowed on Poland. Also, that the Jews ask to be relieved of the oppression under which they have lived for generations in Poland.

"Liberty's a glorious feast," but it must be freely shared or it ceases to be liberty. Some disappointment has been felt that the first use the Poles are making of their freedom is to indulge in pogroms and plan for territorial aggrandizement, but the peace conference may be able to cure some of these notions. At any rate, when the delegates come to rearrange the map of Europe, they will tackle some job.

Loose Business Methods.

The senate has refused to validate contracts made over the telephone, even if the secretary of war did recommend that such arrangements be given legal effect. The matter will be adjusted on a basis of fairness to both parties, while the inquiry may lead to some disclosures of a nature as surprising as that which developed in the house last spring in connection with the expenditure of the special appropriation made for ordnance. It then came out that Mr. Baker had diverted an enormous sum for the establishment of a steam plant at Mussel Shoals for the fixation of nitrogen to operate until the hydro-electric plant, for which an appropriation of \$20,000,000 had been made, was in service. In the first draft of the contract the steam plant was to revert to the promoters at the end of the war, but this was changed to give them right of purchase at scrap value. The feature of the incident was that Indiana and New York had each sought to have established a nitrogen fixation plant at a cost far below the amount expended at Mussel Shoals, but had been turned down. The amount diverted for the cost of the supplementary plant at the Tennessee point was about \$125,000,000, which was to have been tossed in as "lagniappe" to the promoters of the original \$20,000,000 undertaking. We did some things on a grand scale in hurrying to get into the war, but Mussel Shoals, Hog Island and the air craft incidents all remind us that haste does not beget efficiency, and that the essential disorder of democracies is also costly.

Both movie producers and movie patrons have a real kick on the proposed revenue measure slapping an additional tax on the movie business in the form of a tax on film rentals. The movies did their full share in the propaganda work of speeding up the war and putting over all the war drives and it is this what they are to get in return? The movies are being treated by congress about as shabbily as the newspapers and periodicals.

TODAY

Right in the Spotlight.
Sir Arthur Pearson, who has come to America to confer with those responsible for the care of the United States and Canadian soldiers blinded in the war, knows the handicap under which these men will go through life, since he himself has been almost totally deprived of sight within the past few years. Sir Arthur is one of the world's foremost newspaper and magazine publishers. His career has been a most remarkable one. Born only a little more than 50 years ago, the son of a country rector, he entered journalism after leaving college, and within four years he was able to establish a weekly paper of his own. This proved a success, and other publications were soon begun or purchased. At the age of 40 he found himself the proprietor of nearly half a hundred publications, including numerous magazines and periodicals of wide circulation, together with leading daily newspapers in London and the provinces.

One Year Ago in the War.
British hospital ship Rewa torpedoed in English Channel, no casualties reported.
Earl Reading, lord chief justice of England, appointed high commissioner and ambassador to the United States.

In Omaha 30 Years Ago Today.
Kountze Memorial church is in a turmoil over the refusal of Rev. J. S.



Detweiler to comply with the demand of the council that he tender his resignation as pastor. At a heated session of the congregation, the grievance was stated as "too much Detweiler and not enough Christ." On the ballot 75 voted to retain and 33 to dismiss.
The official bond of Timothy J. Mahoney as county attorney was approved in the sum of \$2,000.
John A. McShane left for Washington to express his confidence in the passage of the bill making further appropriation for building the Omaha postoffice.
T. J. Stillwell, manager of the Bemis Omaha Bag Co., returned from an eastern trip.
Augustus Kountze is visiting his brother Herman Kountze.

The Day We Celebrate.

H. R. Bowen, president Central Furniture company, born 1877.
Charles H. Grattan of Pacific Storage and Merchandise company, born 1859.
Carter Glass, the new secretary of the treasury of the United States, born at Lynchburg, Va., 61 years ago.
Rev. Charles J. O'Reilly, Catholic bishop of Lincoln, Neb., born at St. John, N. B., 59 years ago.
Rev. Frank M. Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal church, born in Orleans county, New York, 68 years ago.
Joel Hastings Metcalf, a Unitarian clergyman who has attained celebrity as an astronomer, born at Meadville, Pa., 53 years ago today.

This Day in History.

1752—Harry Innes, the first United States judge of Kentucky, born in Caroline county, Va. Died at Frankfort, Ky., September 20, 1816.
1825—Ferdinand IV, whom Napoleon drove from the throne of Naples, died in Naples. Born there January 12, 1751.
1868—Sir Robert Napier landed at Amoy, in command of the British expedition against Abyssinia.
1900—The British repulsed two determined attacks by the Boers on Ladysmith.
1915—French capture heights west of Senheim and village of Steinbach, in Alsace.
1916—Severe artillery duel on Yser river front in Belgium.
1917—Establishment of military headquarters of the allied countries gathered in Rome for a general war council.

Timely Jottings and Reminders.

Birthday greetings to Carter Glass, the new secretary of the treasury of the United States, who is 61 years old today.
Leading representatives of the retail shoe trade throughout the United States will gather in St. Louis today in anticipation of the meeting of the annual convention of their national association.
Leading representatives of the bench and bar of North Carolina are to take part in a celebration of the centennial of the supreme court of North Carolina, which is to be held at Raleigh today in connection with the annual meeting of the North Carolina Bar association.

Storyette of the Day.

She was a four-flusher, particularly as to her abilities in various sports. "Do you golf?" he asked. "Oh, I love golf," she answered. "I play at least 36 holes twice a week."
"And how about tennis?"
"I won the woman's championship in our state."
"And do you swim?"
"The best I ever did was a half mile straight away," she replied. Somewhat fatigued he changed to literature. "And how do you like Kipling?" he asked.
"I kipling an hour only yesterday," was her unblushing reply.—Journal of the American Medical Association.

HERE AND THERE

One coffee tree yields about a pound of beans each season.
Many of the lamp standards on London and Waterloo bridges are made from cannon captured by British troops in the Napoleonic wars.
London is the "rat center" of the world. It has been estimated that there are as many rats in the British metropolis as human beings.
Blue veils preserve the complexion, and blue glasses protect the eyes because blue diminishes the scorching effects of the rays of light.
The practice of wearing beards had practically died out in England when Queen Victoria ascended the throne. But during the long winter siege of Sebastopol the British soldiers in the Crimea allowed their beards to grow and on their return revived the fashion, which has never died out.

The United States After War

Emerson Hough in Brooklyn Eagle.
Fourteen reconstruction necessities:

1. Repeal of the immigration law. Forget the foolish "Melting Pot" idea. Cease to believe that America is the haven for every man looking for license and easy work. Cut out the maudlin idea that we must harbor the earth's scum in the name of "democracy." Make every immigrant take out first papers as soon as he lands. If he doesn't take out the rest, send him back. Let's have a flag and a country of our own.
2. Don't waste too much sympathy and too much food feeding Germany. That's her peace propaganda. Germany is not contrite. Show her mercy now, feed her, pet her and console her with a lot of subjective rot about human democracy, and in 40 years she'll be biting the hand that fed her. She has earned nothing but contempt and destruction. Why should she have more? Would she give as much? And look out for the "German-American." He is as disloyal as ever, and only scared just now.

3. Secretary Lane's "free land" or rather cheap land, scheme for the soldiers is broad and good. Extremely expensive, extremely public spirited, extremely prolific in bureau activities; from more of which God deliver us Americans.
4. No demobilization of all the army. Some think war is done with. I don't by any means. I think we'll be at war again inside of 30 years.
5. Make Mexico salute our flag at Vera Cruz now, since once we said she must. Clean up Mexico. Get that question ended. Get into good and final relations with Mexico and Canada.

6. Don't plan to set this country right by talking and theorizing beautifully. The farmer and the laboring man have come to stay, but they should not be permitted to oppress the rest of America. Bolshevism is afoot all over the world. We must not let it start here.

7. Get as many men on the land as possible—Americans, not new, trouble-making foreigners.
8. Good roads are good assets. Build many new and good roads, in our national parks, in our farming regions, if it seems the government must do something for the unemployed.

9. Spread the doctrine that we ought not to lapse back into our old crazy dollar chasing as the one aim and end of man. Do what can be done for leisure, content, art, literature—above all, work toward as many contented homes as possible, not city flats inhabited by unhappy workmen.

10. Work, think and vote Americanism. Cut the hyphen out absolutely. Kill all foreign language societies. Make the Lutheran preacher talk English, not German. Forbid use of German or textbooke in public assemblies—for a time, even on the telephone. Germanism in America is not dead. She ought to be. The hyphen is outlived in our scheme now. We should be manly enough to make that known and to damn politically any man who ever again caters to the foreign vote. Dignify America.

11. Let the doors open and the wheels move and the pavilions be as fast as possible for the soldiers who came back. They'll have to work. Laurels won't last long as food. Competition ought not to be allowed to run into sweat shop prices. Hold off any panic in labor.

12. The people of America have been robbed by food dealers. They are going to be restive over any more monkeying with their private breakfast table now. We should put in a party of men big enough to kill the quibbles of food monopolists and to force them to lower prices that are kept up through combine. "Down with aristocracy of monopoly!" not a bad cry if we are really to be the democracy of which we hear so much lofty prating. While a lot of high idealism has been spilled in Washington and elsewhere, the American family has been pinched and all at once, as never could have been thought possible in the case. That pinch has not to ease up or there will be serious trouble. Our republic has been made acquainted with autocratic methods all too soon and fully. The war is over now.

13. Abolish censorship, but enforce the law against treasonable talk.

14. A stern and merciless peace with Germany; a practical view as to our own needs at home; a fostering of the old individual unbridled American way of thought; a stiff selection of any new-comers who now aspire to be citizens, and a general stiffening of our social attitude, ought to be all in line. Let us be Americans. I don't think we should allow any hyphenates any chance or any recognition. Why shake hands with the spies and cut-throats who infested this country, the because they are for the time being too scared to talk? Let them be Americans or get out.

The stiffening up of admission and recognition of Germans alone would make more room for the American soldier in our business world. America for Americans only! It is not a bad war cry for the day. Feed our hungry first!

Hold Your Liberty Bonds

There are various explanations for weakened Liberty bond prices. More people are disposed to sell than to buy other securities, and they are weak. Many subscribers to the last Liberty loan took more than they could easily carry and have been unloading. Others in temporary need of funds have found these bonds the readiest means of getting the money. Still others are following the rule of selling what there is the best market for in order to protect holdings for which the market is weak. This last is a point the average small government bondholder should keep in mind. Weak as may be the market for Liberty bonds, it is stronger than any other part of the securities market. Furthermore, other securities are weak on the uncertainties of the immediate future, which no one can read with accuracy when all Europe is prostrate from the great war.
But the future as to these Liberty bonds all can read with certainty except the fractional fluctuations in price from day to day. The bonds will be paid to the last penny of their par value. The interest will be paid as the coupons mature. This is as sure as that the republic and its government will endure for some little time to come.

Hold your Liberty bonds! Then the market price will matter nothing to you. It is hurting only those who insist on selling out.—New York World.

People and Events

Down in Columbia, S. C., where booze may be had by sick people, 3733 sick permits were issued in one day before Christmas. Medical circles class the rush as an extraordinary fever epidemic.
Wireless telephony is coming by leaps and waves. The progress being made promises the telephone companies early relief from the worries of copper wire prices and the drain of wire down in stormy weather.
Technical engineers on the payroll of Chicago are making a loud noise because, in instances, they pull down less money than unskilled laborers. Nothing, nothing about it. In Chicago and elsewhere it is not unusual to find members of a working gang drawing more money individually than the boss.
An inkling of the wealth lost by the jobless male waiter developed in the case of a woman strike breaker in New York. In six weeks she saved \$294, which she banked in her bed where the roll was found by a maid and turned in to the office. "It's my Christmas money," exclaimed the owner. "I've been saving my tips for six weeks."

The Bee's Letter Box

O'Connor on Ireland.
Greeley, Neb., Dec. 23.—To the Editor of The Bee: A few days ago I had the ill luck to send a letter to The Bee couched in as mild and simple language as I could use. In fact, I know no other, and that not well, and instantly I am accused of being a German propagandist and an Irish agitator.
Strange how people will jump to conclusions when they read something that runs counter to their own cherished ideas of what is right and wrong on a subject that concerns them more or less deeply.

The question I touched on was Ireland's right to consideration at the peace conference, in which I tried to show that because of its helplessness and subjection to a foreign and hated rule which it never accepted, and never will, it would, along with other small and struggling nations of Europe, be allowed the right of self-determination. From my viewpoint I could see nothing objectionable in this, and certainly nothing inimical to either France or the United States, as my critic so flippantly asserts. England, of course, would lose some 150 by 200 miles in extent—that and some prestige. But why should that be considered when the welfare of the island and the happiness of its inhabitants are at stake?

My critic accuses me of saying that England never did anything for mankind but from a purely selfish motive. I defy him to show me all his scribe to prove that statement false.

England was a good performer in that awful tragedy. I freely admit it did some meritorious things, and some that were rather indigestible. But for whom or for what? For England, first, last and all the time! Every move it made, every gun it fired, every Hun it killed had one and only one object in view—the preservation of the tight little island from the domination of its beastly kinsfolk, the other branch of that madorous Anglo-Saxon litter, the Irish, Belgium and France, profited by its efforts, but that was only incidental. It in turn profited by the others, so there can be no real owing on that score. But to assert that England went to war for democracy, to right the wrongs of Belgium or to benefit mankind in general is not just rot, as my critic says. "Atch" uses some figures to prove that Ireland didn't do its share as compared with England, Scotland and Wales. Now, I have never respected figures when they are used, but I have mistrust of them when I don't know where they were obtained, by whom compiled and for what purpose, so there can be no naturally quickened when they are presented by a nameless propagandist.

But admitting, for argument's sake, that the figures are correct, what do they prove? Simply that England, Scotland and Wales are satisfied with their form of government and the way it is administered. Ireland is not an entirely different form of government, and are allowed some share in its administration. They were fighting to get Ireland to fight, while Ireland didn't even have a fireside to fight for, that being claimed by that benevolent bird, the absentee landlord, just as Scully, a scoundrel Irish landlord, was reaching out his devilish tentacles to strangle the farmers of a large section of Illinois. Is it reasonable to expect that the interests of those countries in the war would be the same?

England passed a home rule bill about the beginning of the war, but the Irish, under the leadership of Carson, and armed by Germany, threatened to kick the union jack into the Boyne if the measure was put in force. And it never went into force. Carson won out on a bluff. Was Carson punished for that flagrant and notorious act of disloyalty? Not he. Instead, he was honored with a seat in the cabinet.

The Sinn Feiners, observing Carson's success, made up their minds to profit by it and sent Sir Roger Casement over to Germany to flirt with the kaiser, but the flirtation proved fatal to Roger. He, too, was honored, not with a seat in the cabinet, but with a swing on the gallows, a six-foot hole in the prison yard and quick life for a shroud.

This is a simple English rule in Ireland. This is equality before the law. Was such treatment likely to enthrone Irishmen and cause them to rush the standards of England and pull its chestnuts out of the fire?

And yet some of us wonder, or affect to wonder, why Ireland—nationalist Ireland—wasn't better represented in the great war. In truth the wonder is that it was represented there at all, for, as between German and English domination or intolerance, it was a case of Hobson's choice. Poor old Ireland was indeed between the devil and the deep sea.

Now as to propaganda: Does it not seem that English propaganda, for an infant industry, and of course, without the approving nod of Downing street and the "perquisites" that usually accompany it.

Editorial Snapshots

Minneapolis Tribune: The president is as ardent an advocate of Mr. Taft's league of nations as Mr. Taft himself. Mr. Wilson even "goes him one better," and insists upon making it a corollary of the peace treaty.
New York World: War profiteers in the United States have fallen short of their German brethren in one respect at least, for they have not as yet resorted to airplanes in getting out of the country with their loot.
Baltimore American: The governor of Iowa warns against letting molasses and sissy boobs run this country. No one senses such danger since the record made by our boys over there. And it would be difficult to persuade the Germans that America had any such classes.
New York Herald: Ninety-six thousand auto trucks and passenger cars were left on the hands of manufacturers by cancellation of War department orders, besides large numbers of motorcycles and bicycles. Fortunately, the civil demand for auto vehicles is good and manufacturers, as a rule are "on velvet."

Is fairly well organized? Why, it even had the power to draw the "Sage of Silver Creek" out of his shell to "leave a brick" at President Wilson in an endeavor to head off those 14 points, especially that "orrid word self-determination, which his not Hango-Saxon hat all, you know.

In conclusion I would inform "Atch" that the hyphen has been thrown in the discard, into innocuous desuetude, that there no longer are any German-Americans, Irish-Americans or British-Americans, with the possible exception of itself and Thomas Henry Watkins.

MICHAEL O'CONNOR.

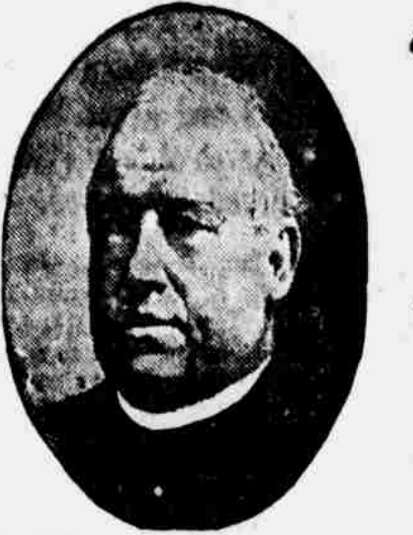
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Free From Alcohol and Dangerous Drugs—60 Years in Use—Guaranteed

The most eminent medical authorities, recognized all over the world as the highest in the science of medicine, have made public statements endorsing the value of such ingredients as we guarantee are the principal ingredients of Father John's Medicine.
High medical authorities say "that these ingredients are beneficial notably in wasting diseases which are curable and those maladies which are connected with or have their origin in colds and debilitating and wasting diseases."

To give these statements in full would take too much space, but we will furnish on application the list of ingredients of Father John's Medicine, the names of the medical authorities referred to, what they say, the publications and the dates of same.

Never wait for a cold to wear off—it wears away the lungs instead. Neglected colds often lead to pneumonia. Father John's Medicine gives prompt relief from colds and throat troubles.

Guaranteed free from alcohol and nerve-destroying drugs upon which many medicines depend for their temporary effect, and which are dangerous because they weaken the body and allow the disease to get a deeper hold.—Adv.

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