THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

Morning Daily (Founded 1887)

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES
$5.00 per year (in advance) delivered to City
$4.00 per year (in advance) mailed to P. E. Island
$5.00 per year (in advance) mailed to Canada and U. S.
Members Audit Bureau of Circulations.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1938

"The Strongest Memory is Weaker than the Weakest Ink."

A Plea For Democracy

The question of amending the British North American Act is again likely to come up for lively discussion at Ottawa. The attitude of the Rt. Hon. R. B. Bennett as expressed in his speech on the Draft Address is therefore of more than passing interest. The Throne Speech intimated that in the matter of amending the Act for unemployment insurance purposes, "the co-operation of the provinces has been sought," and on this point Mr. Bennett asked pertinently "Who represents the Provinces? Is it the Government at the provincial capital? Do the members of the executive represent it, or the electors? How do they amend the constitution in South America? How do they amend the constitution in Australia? In neither case can it be [illegible] there is an opportunity afforded [illegible] to express their will."

All that the King Government has done in this connection [illegible] to solicit the co-operation of the [illegible] of the various provinces. "Is that dictatorship or democracy?" asked Mr. Bennett, and proceeded as follows:

"What right have I to say that a Premier of a province and his Government represent the will of the people with respect to this matter? It has not been submitted to the electors; they have had no opportunity of dealing with it or of expressing their will with respect to it. Have I a right to deal with the question in that way? Here in this House you have members from these provinces. They represent the electors of the provinces with respect to Federal matters, and their views must be quite as important as the views of those who constitute the Government of these provinces unless indeed you have the will of the Legislature expressed, and even if the will of the Legislatures is expressed, what then?

"I happened to be in Australia when they were dealing with the amendment to the constitution with respect to a vital matter. What happened? First of all, they settled what the question should be, and then by plebiscite they submitted it to the people of the whole Commonwealth. It is provided that on the one hand there must be a majority of the people to support it and, on the other, there must be a majority of the states which are agreed to it.

"Applying the principle to Canada it would mean that we should have a plebiscite to amend our constitution, if we want to amend it, and that five of the provinces should have returned a majority in favour of the change. What right has any Government to proceed upon the assumption that the Premier of a Province has said 'I agree to the change.' What about the electors? What about the members of the Assembly supporting that Government.

The Premier of New Brunswick says, 'I am going to consult the Legislature.' Well, that is going a step farther towards democracy, — but it fails there. Why? It fails because the issue is not submitted to the people in terms, at an election."

Mr. Bennett made it clear that he was not opposing a national unemployment insurance act. His own Government had enacted such a measure, but it fell by the wayside because it was referred by the King Government to the Courts, when it should not have been. Without the concrete facts being declared, admissions were made by Government counsel in Court which were used as the basis of the judgment declaring the legislation to be invalid.

We note that frequent efforts have been made in the Liberal press to misrepresent Mr. Bennett's attitude on this question. His clear-cut explanation in Parliament this week furnishes an effective answer to such propaganda.

The Atlantic Ferry

In the April of 1838, the little paddle steamer Sirius crossed the Atlantic Ocean under continuous steam power, and won honour for herself as the pioneer transatlantic steamship. To celebrate the centenary of this notable achievement, a special exhibition is opening next month in London's Science Museum, with a comprehensive series of models, to show in outline the history and development of the Atlantic Ferry since the advent of the steamship.

The first exhibits consist of the actual figurehead of the P. S. Sirius and a scale model of the vessel, which has been constructed in the Museum Workshops after careful historical research. This little paddle steamer, of 703 tons gross, was built of wood in 1837 for cross-channel service between London and Cork. Although never intended for the Atlantic crossing, she was despatched from Cork Harbour on April 4, 1838, with 40 passengers for New York. She arrived on April 22, closely followed by the P. S. Great Western which arrived the next day.

The Great Western was the first steamer constructed specially to cross the Atlantic. She was built of wood at Bristol in 1837 for the Great Western Steamship Company, and fully demonstrated the practicability of ocean steamship transport. The foundation of the modern Atlantic steam ferry, however, was laid by Samuel Cunard, who in 1839 entered into a contract with the British Government to commence a monthly mail steamship service from Liverpool to Halifax and Boston. The first vessel of the Cunard Steamship Company was the P. S. Britannia, launched at Greenock in 1840.

Her passenger accommodation, for 115 persons, was described as luxurious; but Charles Dickens, who crossed in the Britannia in 1842, placed on record in his "American Notes" a most depressing account. "Before descending into the bowels of the ship," he wrote, "we had passed from the deck into a long and narrow apartment, not unlike a gigantic hearse with windows in the sides; having at the upper end a melancholy stove, at which three or four chilly stewards were warming their hands; while on either side, extending down its whole dreary length, was a long, long table; over each a rack, fixed to the low roof, and struck full of drinking-glasses and cruet-stands, hinted dismally at rolling seas and heavy weather."

Modern liners represented in the exhibit include the Italian Conte di Savoia (1931) and the French liner S. S. Normandie (1932), present holder of the Blue Riband, which actual Trophy is also on view. The centre-piece of the Exhibition is a fine 22-foot model of the 80,773-ton quadruple-screw Cunard White Star liner R. M. S. Queen Mary (1934).

Invidious Distinctions

Prohibition of the right of appeal to the courts was the reason given for disallowing the Alberta statutes. Mr. Bennett touched on this subject in Parliament the other day. He indorsed the King Government's action of disallowance, but warned against making invidious distinctions between provinces in this regard "You cannot treat provinces differently with respect of the same matters without involving yourself in difficulties,' he said.

Everyone knows what happened in this Province in the case of the dispossessed property owners of the National Park area. They were deprived not only of their properties but of their right to appeal from arbitrary judgment of the Campbell Government. Our cabinet representative at Ottawa, Hon. C. A. Dunning, was in the Province at the time this high-handed expropriation procedure was under way. We suggested that instead of making political speeches at Liberal meetings he could spend his time more profitably in visiting the North Shore farmers and inquiring at first hand into their grievances. He must have felt a twinge of conscience when the Conservative leader dealt with the principle involved in this question. Mr. Dunning, being an Englishman, has an inherent respect for the rights of freeborn subjects under the British flag, but he cannot escape his share of criticism in being a party to the subversive measures taken by the Campbell Government in his own constituency.

Editorial Notes

General Cronje died this date, 1911.

* * * *

A provisional Conservative convention will be held this month in Ottawa preparatory to a National convention later.

* * * *

Only three contests in five wards and a mayoralty acclamation do not indicate much dissatisfaction with the out-going Council. Or is it despair?

* * * *

We are consuming more and more ice cream according to the Bureau of Statistics. In 1935 it averaged 0.60 gallons per head, while in 1936 it increased to 0.68 gallons per head.

* * * *

The sudden changes in weather are being ascribed to the Northern Lights display and sun spots. Not only here have we been having unique weather, Europe has undergone similar experiences, which the weather Bureau at Paris lays at the door of the Aura Borealis and great sunspots showing themselves through the telescope.

* * * *

A treat is in store for those who attend Prince of Wales College Hall tonight, for not only will there be shown moving pictures of this province which are going on circuit in the interest of the Tourist Bureau, but films of the recent Boy Scout Jamboree in Holland in which three Charlottetown boys took a prominent part. So it is a case of seeing ourselves as others see us.

* * * *

In view of the discussion of civic accounts and the Campbell Government's intention of borrowing another $300,000 or $400,000 it is time to note the warning of Lord Wardington, chairman of Lloyds Bank, who sharply rebuked municipal and local authorities for too much borrowing in a speech at the annual meeting of the bank's stockholders recently, the last annual meeting of the "Big Five" British banks. Competition to borrow is so keen that only "careful nursing" of the market by the Treasury and the Bank of England keeps interest on this form of loan from being higher than it is now, he said. "Economy has lost its old meaning and now means 'wise spending'," Lord Wardington said, adding that wise spending usually means whatever is currently fashionable.

* * * *

Fat boys on St. James street are doubtless humming once more about Camillien Houde, "He's dead, but he won't lie down", writes John Bird in The Winnipeg Tribune. Eighteen months ago, Camillien made the great renunciation. He abdicated as mayor of Montreal when Duplessis was elected Premier of Quebec, professing to be disturbed at the nationalist tendencies in the province. Four months later he bounced back into politics and ran for the mayoralty he had just resigned. This time he got bounced out of sight, by Adhemar Raynault, a henchman of Duplessis. Today, after a year in political hiding, he has run again, as Independent anti-armament candidate in the federal riding of St. Henry, Montreal. And these are but the latest somersaults of that resilient and usually engaging acrobat Chameleon Houde. (Pronounced roughly, Hood). The man has political "It". In the past he has flopped again and again and yet achieved astonishing comebacks. Houde is a brawny, vibrant little man who looks like a cross between Mussolini and Balieff, late impresario of the Chauve Souris. He makes jokes about his looks and maintains that since he cannot be beautiful he will be well dressed. "The people like it," he says, and marches off after a successful campaign to order a dozen new suits.

NOTES BY THE WAY

The world is full of people wanting to tell other people things and trying to find new ways of arresting their attention. The earliest and most natural instrument for that purpose was the human voice. The world has travelled far since the days when Aristotle set the limits for his ideal city-tate by stipulating that it should be of such a size that all its citizens assembled in public meetings could hear the words of a single orator. It has travelled far, but it has traveled, strangely enough, full circle. With the invention of wireless diffusion the human voice has come once more into its own. The audience capable of hearing the words of a single orator is numbered to-day by tens of millions, scattered over every inhabited land in two hemispheres.—The Spectator (London.)

It still looks like a hare and tortoise race between dictatorship and democracy. Democrats can only hope for the classical outcome. The old year went out with the aggressor nations pressing onward. The best that can be said of the new year is that, while short-term factors still favor the dictators, long-term factors appear to be increasingly on the side of the democracies. Among the long-term factors, of course, economic and financial strength is one of the most important.—Winnipeg Tribune.

The Communist Party of British Columbia has adopted a four-point platform, chief of which is the formation of an Anti-Fascist People's Front, "to which every other activity of the party would be subordinated." The Communists of the Coast Province are running true to form in placing their fetish over all other interests. Evidently they are giving no thought whatever to British Columbia's problems and needs. In the circumstances it will be surprising if they secure the 1,000 membership they speak of for May 1.—Montreal Gazette.

A recent article in The Review of Religion by Professor Karl Beth of the University of Vienna, says that magic is replacing religion in Germany and threatens culture with extinction. Now, if this were so it would be one of the great tragedies of civilization, beside which wars, tidal waves, five-alarm fires and other catastrophic events would pale by comparison. It is strange how man gets so excited about one person about to jump from a fifth storey window, how everything gets out of the way for fire engines, how all civilizing agencies close up and suspend activities pending the settlement of a war that threatens the life of a nation. But it is stranger still to see life flowing calmly and casually past a home in which a child is inconspicuously dying for want of attention or facilities which are easily available. Strangest of all, though, is the sight of a philosophic pestilence creeping up upon the peoples of the whole world — and the people blithely unaware of the impending doom.—Ex.

A living man has been taken out of the stomach of a crocodile, according to a report from Multan. At the confluence of the five Punjab rivers a man was eaten by a crocodile. A fisherman trapped the beast and cut it open. The man was found to be living though unconscious. He is making satisfactory progress in hospital.—Indian Press Bulletin.

The story of Japanese spies in B. C., has been built into something of a sensation out of the original remarks made on that subject by Archdeacon F. G. Scott, parson, poet and veteran padre of Canada's war forces. It has been denied by Japanese officials and characterized as "a fantastic idea"—they hardly would be able to admit that it is true. Yet certain facts have been well known for years in connection with Japanese infiltration into B. C., and they indicate that the idea is not necessarily as fantastic as it is made to sound. Reports that Japanese naval officers have worked on fishing boats up and down our coast and that Japanese information concerning our coastline is more comprehensive even than our own are given every credence.—Cowichan. (B.C.)

People who are inaudible, or audible with difficulty, on the wireless, in a chancel or a pulpit, on a platform or in private conversation, are public nuisances. Some of the clergy, I think, are the worst offenders, and I suppose that on a general average the best enunciation is heard, as it should be, on the stage. Yet is there any reason, after all, why the enunciation of the stage should be better than the enunciation of the Church? Clear speech may be considered intrinsically more important in the latter case than the former. But first and last clarity of utterance in ordinary conversation matters in the aggregate most of all. The amount of irritation and strain slovenly speakers create in any 24 hours is beyond computation. (I am sometimes accused of lack of clarity myself; that only means that the other person is deaf.)—London Spectator.

Can anything be more silly than the craze, which seems still to survive, of writing the Lord's Prayer on a threepenny bit, or even more remarkable feats of compression? It is a kind of blasphemy to use sacred words for so trivial a purpose: it seems to be always the Bible that is chosen for the purpose, on the same principle, perhaps, on which it is always the Bible that is chosen for American speed-reading competitions. —C. T. B., Glasgow.—London Observer.

Agglomerations of individuals throughout the world are agitating for justice being meted out to China. There is not on record an instance of even one solitary body agitating for placidity being the policy in regard to Japan. It remains, therefore, for the peoples of the various nations to assert their wills. Recently we wrote about the Popular Front coming to Asia. By that we did not mean Communism in all its crudeness. What we meant, and we make the explanation in view of the fact that we have been told that our policy is rather inclined toward the "red" policy, is that we stand first and foremost for the pure principles of democracy, which actually means quality in all things national and international. When one considers that throughout the world there are millions of liberally minded people, one realizes what enormous power is virtually at the back of China. The cause of China is the cause of democracy.—Hong Kong News.

Stanford University co-ed, lost in the snowdrifts of Yosemite National Park, shed her ski skirt to kindle a fire and thus saved the lives of herself and three companions.

As Kipling meant to say, a woman is only a woman, but a good ski skirt is a smoke.—Windsor Star.

Professor Gilbert Murray has been writing the Times, expressing satisfaction at the withdrawal of Italy from the league of nations. He would have preferred to see Italy expelled, her going, he insists was inevitable "The Covenant," Professor Murray adds, "was a great act of repentance and reform; an acceptance of law and a rejection in international anarchy and gangsterism. The council of the league will breathe more freely without a member who openly and on principle rejects the law. One would not care to see Al Capone or Bugs Moran on the supreme court of the United States.—Vancouver Province.

That Body of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

THE METABOLISM TEST FOR GOITRE MUST BE MADE UNDER FAVORABLE CONDITIONS

When the heart beat is persistently rapid the first thought (if the heart itself be sound) is usually that the thyroid gland in the neck is manufacturing too much juice. As this juice speeds up the body processes, the heart rate is, of course, 'speeded up.' This is considered one of the serious forms of goitre.

To make sure that the thyroid gland is at fault and that a goitre, even if small, is present, the basal metabolism test is made. The patient is warned not to eat any food after his evening meal of the night before the test, and goes to the physician's office or to the hospital before breakfast the next morning. He lies down quietly with body and mind as much at east as possible, breathes in oxygen and breathes out the "used" air (containing carbon dioxide) into a tube carrying it to the soda lime chamber where the amount of carbon dioxide can be measured later.

If too much oxygen is being used or too much carbon dioxide is being manufactured by the body processes while at rest, that is if the body processes are working at a rate of more than 15 percent above what is considered normal, goitre is considered to be present.

This seems simple enough, but physicians know that if the patient is excited, perhaps afraid of the test because it may mean an operation, they cannot breathe slowly or naturally, and the heart is faster because of this fear or worry. In addition, as the patient has not had any breakfast, he misses the "settling" or quieting effect of the food which would draw some blood down to the stomach from the "excited" brain.

It is for the above and other reasons which excite the patient that if the first test shows more than 15 percent, further metabolism tests are made.

It is only natural that with so much at stake—operation, anaesthetic, stay in hospital, expense—patients are upset or excited at the first test. By a few days' rest, reassurance by their physician, and by the physician or nurse making the test, the true reading or measurment can be made.

It should be remembered then that the basal metabolism rate must be persistently high when taken under favorable conditions (quietness of mind and body) before your physician and surgeon would consider operation or Xray treatment necessary.

Canada's Fur Trade

(St. John Telegraph-Journal)

Canada's fur trade during the last trading year amounted in value to $15,464,200, as compared with $12,843,000, an increase of about twenty per cent. This is the highest figure reached since the boom year of 1929 when the total value of pelts taken was $18,745,000. The record high year was 1920 when, due to abnormally high prices an aggregate of $21,387,000 was reached.

The development of the fur industry in Canada since the turn of the century has been phenomenal, due largely to the breeding of foxes, muskrat, mink and a variety of other animals in captivity. In 1900, the value of furs produced was less than a million dollars—$899,645. In the next ten years the production more than doubled to $1,927,500 in 1910, and the increase in the following decade, ended in 1920, was almost ten-fold, that being the record year. Since 1920 the fur harvest has never dropped below $10,000,000 a year.

An interesting feature of the growth in fur production, also due to breeding in captivity, has been the fact that, whereas the bulk of pelts reaching the market thirty years ago came from the wild lands of Northern Canada, today fully forty per cent of those marketed are from fur farms fairly evenly distributed throughout the Dominion, as the following table showing the production for the last trade year will demonstrate:

Ontario	$ 2,649,600
Quebec	2,470,900
Prince Edward Island	2,119,700
Alberta	1,696,300
Manitoba	1,291,800
British Columbia	1,201,500
Northwest Territories	1,188,200
Saskatchewan	1,152,300
New Brunswick	740,700
Nova Scotia	676,300
Yukon	276,900
	$15,464,200

Prince Edward Island was the original location of the fur farming industry in Canada, concentrating on black and silver foxes, and the enterprise began in the little island province has spread across the Dominion and also into the neighboring states of the American Union. Today silver fox accounts for nearly half the Canadian fur bearing animals pelted, the value for the 1937 trade year being $6,108,000. The next highest was muskrat with $2,148,000. This is a tribute to Prince Eward Island which originated the breeding of foxes in captivity, and which is still in third place in fur production in Canada.

PUBLIC FORUM

This column is open for the discussion by correspondents of questions of interest. The Charlottetown Guardian does not necessarily endorse the opinions of correspondents.

MAYOR TURNER'S SECOND BLUNDER

Sir,—Mayor Turner has no grasp or comprehension of the accounts of the City over which he has presided for the past two years. He quotes as follows from page 6 of the City Accounts for 1933: "In the City Year Book 1933 is to be found the following attached to the statement of ordinary accounts—Excess of expenditures over receipts 1933 $56,021.83; excess of expenditures over receipts 1932 $62,392.84; overdraft at Royal Bank of Canada, Dec. 31, 1933 $118,414.67." The two excesses of expenditure which he has mentioned amount together exactly to the total which he states was an overdraft at the Royal Bank. He stupidly tries to create the impression in the public mind that this overdraft was in addition to the two amounts of excess expenditures.

In my letter I stated that the net debt in 1932 was increased by $41,614.64. The reason this doesn't agree with the $62,392.84 quoted by Mr. Turner was because of a City liability of the previous year which was carried into 1932, but for which the 1932 Council was not responsible.

It is the easiest thing in the world if the right procedure be adopted to ascertain the amount by which the net debt of the city has been increased for any one year, but it is very evident that Mr. Turner is not aware of that method.

Evidently trying to get out of the blunder contained in his first letter Mr. Turner complains that I offer nothing constructive. He evidently heard someone say so and proceeded to put it into his letter. I, however, will now offer something of a constructive kind, which may be of a help to him to ascertain how much the net debt of the City has been increased in any given year.

The city accounts of each year has in it a full statement of the outstanding City debentures and with it the amount of the sinking funds. For example, to ascertain whether or not the net debt of the city has been increased in the year 1932, look up the amount of the outstanding debentures on the 31st. of December 1931. Deduct from it the amount of the then sinking funds and add to the remainder any unpaid debts that have been carried over from 1931.

Then look up the amount of the outstanding debentures on December 31, 1932, deduct from it the amount of the then sinking funds and add to the remainder any unpaid debts carried forward to the next year. Then deduct the amount so ascertained in 1931 from the amount so ascertained in 1932 and that will give you by how much the net debt of the city was increased in the year 1932.

All my calculations were made in this way and are perfectly correct. The statement from which Mr. Turner made his quotation was not the statement of ordinary revenue and expenditure for the year 1933, because on the revenue side it contained the proceeds from the sale of about $28,000 City debentures and on the debit side about $15,000 of City debentures redeemed.

Mr. Turner's calculation as to increase of the debt in the years 1932-34 is simply guess work and proceeded on no intelligent principle.

I am, Sir, etc
W. S. STEWART.

"LANGUAGE OF THE LATINS"

Sir,—I was delighted to find in your issue of the 31st. ult. another letter from R. S. Frank, and I hope that anything I write this time may not discourage her in writing, for her letters make pleasant reading; but I think I have got her by the neck this time, and wish to take no advantage, only to whisper in her ear that there is quite a difference in saying that such words (as referred to) are from the Latin, and saying that such words are from the Language of the Latins. We can conveniently divide Europe into three great classes of people. There is the Teutonic race in the north, the Slavonic in the east and down the middle, and the Latins in the South. The French, Italian, Spanish and also the Greek language can be said to be the language of the Latins. I therefor made no mistake and I ask my good lady which does she feel inclined to do now to giggle or to squeal. I am a little surprised that she had to go to the Dictionary to find the derivation of such common words as polygamous and conifers, however, I agree with her as to the usefulness of a Dictionary. Even the best of scholars can find it useful as they always cannot be sure of a word's origin; but we cannot depend on getting a dictionary just every time we come across a word derived from a foreign language nor is it convenient to carry one. Besides this a person going to a dictionary often chooses the wrong word. For example I noticed at a school fair "Sketches of great men" (and I don't think any of the men R. S. Frank refers to were mentioned) in which the statement was made that King Edward confiscated the Crown. Such a mistake would not be made if the writer had any knowledge of Latin. The strange thing about this argument is that an ordinary farmer is correcting a highly educated lady, holding the degrees of B. A. and probably M. A.

She says, that those who study the little Latin, as given in our common schools are not greatly enriched thereby. This is true. The Latin taught therein is only preparatory and this is its value, as long as it will continue to be taught in the Colleges and Universities. The preparatory work is the most important. I can refer to some who have gone from the common school to the university without the benefit of a high school.

I quite agree with R. S. Frank that the study of Latin should not interfere with the study of English, and that we should devote much more of our time to our own language, and I think this is the case in our Common Schools. At the Matriculation Exam a student is required to make 50 per cent in English and Arithmetic and as low as 35 per cent will do in other subjects if there is 65 per cent on the whole.

In reading R. S. Frank's first letters I understood that she was for taking Latin and Geometry from our schools altogether, but she makes the statement now that she wishes that every child, who is so inclined, would have the opportunity of studying Latin and studying long enough and under Latin scholars, so that it may be a cherished part of his adult life. This is a stronger statement than anyone has yet made in the defence of teaching Latin. Your correspondent gives the names of some who had not the opportunity of a good common school education, who became great and successful men. She probably could mention many, who became great without any education or with very little. Success does not depend on how much Latin one knows, or English either as Burns said.

Give me a spark of Nature's fire
That's all the learning I require.

I am, Sir, etc.
M. M. N.

St. Catherines.

The Poets' Corner

A SHIP, AN ISLE, A SICKLE MOON

A ship, an isle, a sickle moon—
With few but with how splendid stars
The mirrors of the sea are strewn
Between their silver bars! . . .

An isle beside an isle she lay,
The pale ship anchored in the bay,
While in the young moon's port of gold
A star-ship—as the mirrors told —
Put forth its great and lonely light
To the unreflecting Ocean Night.
And still, a ship upon her seas,
The isle and the island cypresses
Went sailing on without the gale:
And still there moved the moon so pale,
A crescent ship without a sail!

—James Elory Flecker.

Oppose Scheme For Amalgamation

LONDON, Feb. 2 —(CP Cable) —Prime Minister Chamberlain tonight received a deputation, headed by Sir Mervyn Manning Buller, Conservative member of House of Commons for Northampton, which protested against the compulsory amalgamations provision of the Government's coal bill.

Mr. Chamberlain promised careful consideration of the points raised by the deputation.

Representing what is believed to be a large section of the Conservative Party in the House, the deputation urged drastic alterations in the bill and, if possible abandonment of the compulsory amalgamation provision.

The move followed a meeting of party members yesterday at the invitation of a small group of coal-owner-members and it was reported opposition to the bill might assume the proportions of a "revolt" in Conservative ranks.

AN AMERICAN TOUCH

Lady —Why should a great strong man like you be found begging?

Beggar —It's the only profession I know in which a gentleman can address a beautiful woman without an introduction.

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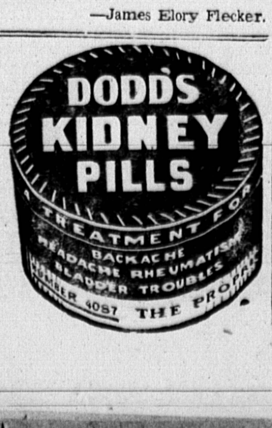
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