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LONDON, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16.

THE FRANCO-CANADIAN TREATY.

The Minister of Finance is at present in Paris promoting the Franco-Canadian treaty, which has met with some obstacles in the Senate. The Canadian Gazette of London, England, says it has information that the difficulties in the way of the ratification of the treaty tend to increase, rather than diminish. A group of French agriculturists and agricultural machine makers are still under the belief that Canada is getting far more from France in the way of tariff concessions than France gets from Canada. French manufacturers of silks, embroideries, and the like, make much of the fact that the goods of their Austrian and Swiss rivals would be received in Canada upon equally good terms. Another impediment is that France is undergoing a process of tariff adjustment.

The opposition to the treaty in the French Parliament is evidence that Canada made a good bargain. It is amusing to contrast the French arguments against the treaty with those advanced in the Canadian House of Commons. Its opponents in France claim that Canada is "giving too little and asking too much," in the words of Canning; while its Canadian opponents contend, of course, that the balance of advantage was with France, and that some Canadian industries would be adversely affected. The fact that only five or six members of the Canadian House of Commons voted against the treaty, although a score spoke against it, is pretty convincing testimony to the shrewdness of Messrs. Fielding and Brodeur, the Canadian negotiators. There will be selfish protests against any proposal to remove restrictions upon trade. There is even hostility in this country to the British preference. But if governments were to absolutely protect every domestic interest against external competition, international commerce would almost cease.

WHERE THE RACES MIX.

The subject of "Races in the United States" is interestingly treated by Wm. Z. Ripley, in the Atlantic Monthly. The writer deals with the statistics of immigration and population in a novel way. He avers that the foreign-born with their children constitute one-third of the total population and make up forty-six per cent of the white inhabitants. In some of the cities the percentage is even higher. For instance, in New York, it is eighty; in Milwaukee, eighty-six, and in Boston, seventy. "Were we to eliminate these foreigners and their children from our city populations," says Mr. Ripley, "it has been estimated that Chicago, with today a population of over two millions, would dwindle to a city of not much over one hundred thousand inhabitants." Some of the one hundred thousand are descended from grand-parents who were foreigners, others from great-grandparents. The writer claims to have good authority for the statement that in the entire thirteen colonies at the time of the revolution, one-fifth of the population could not speak English, while at least one-half was not Anglo-Saxon by descent.

Mr. Ripley has reached the conclusion that as a result of adding tribe to tribe the United States holds a unique position for "ethnic diversity on a large scale." Statistics show that the birthrate is highest among the immigrants, but that it diminishes rapidly from generation to generation. A sharp and considerable, and sometimes even alarming, decrease in fruitfulness occurs in the second generation of these immigrants. So notable a characteristic of democratic communities is a declining birth-rate that it may be regarded as almost a direct concomitant of equality of opportunity among men.

The writer deals at some length with the subject of intermarriage, and claims that, while mixed marriages are relatively infrequent, the number is large. In the majority of cases it is a foreign-born man marries a native-born woman. It is commonly the man who marries up in the social scale, and so general is this custom that, contrary to common belief, most of the marriages between whites and blacks "take the form of a negro husband and a white wife."

Under such conditions it seems idle to speculate as to what the national characteristics of the people of the United States, or the American "type," will be a century hence.

ELECTORAL REFORM IN BRITAIN.

The appearance of three and four candidates in some of the recent British by-elections has not infrequently resulted in the return of one representing a minority of the votes polled. As there are now four distinct political parties in the United Kingdom—Liberals, Conservatives, Irish Nationalists and Laborites—this minority representation might easily become more common than it is. At the same time, there are large sections of the country in which for years the minority may either have had no representation, or been represented out of proportion to its numerical strength. For the past two decades the Unionists of the south of Ireland have had no representation in the Commons, and the same party in Wales, though numbering over 38 per cent of the electorate, did not elect a single candidate in the last election. Taking the country as a whole, however, the Conservatives appear to have the best of it. For instance, the returns of the general election of 1895 show that, while they cast 1,775,000 votes, they secured 273 seats, as compared with 202 seats obtained by the Liberals, who polled 25,000 more votes.

Second balloting, as carried on in France, Germany and Belgium, where a majority of votes polled is necessary to elect, has been suggested as a remedy for this injustice. The objection to this method is that it gives rise to bargaining, involving sacrifice of political principles, and often brings out the worst symptoms of intrigue. One writer, dealing with the system as it works in Belgium, says it opens the door to negotiations among the candidates representing the parties whose candidates were unsuccessful at the first ballot, with a view to combinations at the second, which often have very little to do with political principles.

Proportional representation is another method which has been suggested. A dozen English newspapers, headed by the London Times, are at present engaged in holding a mock election to demonstrate its practicability. This system has been adopted in Württemberg, Sweden, Finland, some Swiss cantons, and Tasmania, while other countries contemplate its introduction. To introduce such a system in Great Britain, existing constituencies would first have to be grouped into larger areas, each returning several members, and each elector having one vote. If, for example, such a constituency returned seven members, each seventh of the electors would theoretically be able to secure a representative. As an extremely popular candidate might poll more than the number of votes he needs, provision is made for a second choice, or to make votes transferable. This could be accomplished by the voter placing the figure 2 opposite the name of the candidate to whom he desires his vote transferred, should his favorite receive more than the necessary number, or so few as to put him out of the race. By this means it would be possible for the voters in a constituency returning seven members to group themselves into seven equal groups, each returning the desired candidate, and fair representation in Parliament would be given the large electoral divisions.

An influential deputation waited recently upon Premier Asquith to urge a reform in the electoral system, preferably proportional representation. Mr. Asquith made a very encouraging reply, and promised to appoint a commission to study and report upon the question. He admitted that the present system was open to serious objections.

Probably Longboat owed his victory last night more to his Indian ancestry than to what "civilization" and white men have done for him.

Venezuela is again in trouble, but the man who made it, and who has a genius for keeping his country in hot water, is safe in Europe. Like Artemus Ward's kangaroo, Castro is an "amooosin' little cuss."

Mr. McKinder has been telling Britishers that there is a tendency to closer commercial relations between Canada and the United States which must end in political union. The tariff reformers of Great Britain may play upon the fears of the people at home, but such talk excites only amusement in Canada.

The Governor-General has consented to be the patron of the Montreal winter carnival. Evidently he thinks that the Canadian winter is something for Canadians to be proud of, not ashamed. This growing and thriving Dominion of today can afford to be less sensitive to misconceptions about its climate than in the time when immigration was giving it the go-by.

If it is any advantage to either of the political parties to have a majority on the city council, it has not been apparent this year. There never was a better opportunity for both to drop

the slate-making business and allow the municipal elections to be run without the "maghine."

UNFULFILLED.
(Clifton Bingham.)
Never a rose tree in the garden
But bath a bud, when summer goes
That never, though fair and sweet the
sunshine,
Becomes a rose.

Never a heart in this world of hoping
But hath some hope, unfold, unstilled,
That though all the others bloom, must
ever
Go unfulfilled!

"SPICY" REMARKS.
(Philadelphia Record.)
Nail-Me, Quizzler's conversation is
rather spicy, don't you think so?
Belle-Well, it is generally tinged with
the aroma of cloves.

ANOTHER CLAN.
(Punch.)
Magistrate (eviling prisoner)—Are you a
"clan?"
Indignant Scot—"Deed Ahn not! Been a
MacIntyre all my life!"

THEN THE TROUBLE BEGAN.
(Leslie's Weekly.)
O'Flanagan came home one night with
a deep band of black crape around his
hat.
"Why, Mike," exclaimed his wife,
"what are you wearing that mournful
thing for?"
"I'm wearing it for your first husband,"
replied Mike, firmly. "I'm sorry he's
dead."

MILTON.
(By Laurence Binyon, read at the memorial
services on Milton's birthday.)
He who, like his Samson bowed,
Tolling, hardly tasked, and night-enfolded,
Steered his proud course to "one purpose
vowed,"
As on eagle beats through hailing cloud,
Strong-winged and alone:
Seeking skies unknown,
Of old realms and kings.

He whose verse, majestically molded,
Moves like armed and bannered host,
Streaming, irresistible, and boundless
River in a land's remotest frost,
Poured from solitary peaks of frost,
And far histories brings
Of old realms and kings.

With high fates of fallen men resounding.
This is England's voice that rang
Over Europe; this the soul unshaken
That from darkness a great splendor
sang.
Beauty mightier for the cost and pang;
Of our blood and name
Risen, our spirits to claim,
To enlarge, to summon, to awaken!

THE FAT OF THE LAND.

(Joseph Herald.)
A good deal has been said this week
about fat cattle, but how many like
to eat the fat?

THE SHOPPERS.

(John Kendrick Bangs.)
Oh, the Christmas tide is rising!
You can see it on the street
In the astounded
Of the shopper most discreet.
There are merry times a-coming,
Santa Claus is on the way—
You can tell it by the huming
'Round the bargain counter gay.

There's a bloom in worsted slippers
Such as pious preachers wear;
Woolen mitts for chilly fingers,
Rich tararas for the hair.
Every toy shop's spick and span,
All abloom with dolls and things;
And the men who make the candy
Look as prosperous as kings.

Santa Claus has by the dozens
Stand behind the window panes,
While our sisters and our cousins
Disparage our surplus gains.
Even the fated Christmas turkey
By the spectacle is moved.
As he thinks how fat and perky
He will look when he is served.

There are twenty thousand women
On each ordinary block
In a human ocean swimming
With no thought of frazzled frock.
Like a lot of centre rushers
In resistless force they roll—
Pullers, haulers, shovers, pushers,
They're advancing toward the goal.

Mr. Porteous, Mr. Athos,
O'Artagnan, the three and brave,
Would become a thing of pathos
If they stood before that wave.
For a woman with a mission
What is all beneficence?
Would have made that coalition
Look like 27 cents.

DOUBLY ARMED.

(Toronto Star.)
Carrie Nation is using the Bible in her
Glasgow campaign, but she takes the
hatchet along as surgical operation
may be necessary before the Scotchmen
see the point.

DICKENS AND CHRISTMAS.

(Winnipeg Free Press.)
"Dickens dead? Then will Father
Christmas die too?" Cries a barrow-girl
in Drury Lane on that June day in 1870,
when the news ran down the streets of
London, Watts-Dunton, who heard the
cry, made it the text of his poem "Dickens
Returns on Christmas Day."

"Dickens is dead?" Beneath that previous
cry
London seemed shivering in the summer
heat.
Strangers took up the tale like friends
that meet;
"Dickens is dead" said they, and hurried
by.

Street-children stopped their games—"they
knew not why."
But some new light seemed darkening
down the street,
A girl in rage, slaying her way-worn feet,
Cried "Dickens dead? Will Father Christmas
die?"

City he loved, take courage on thy
way!
He loves thee still, in all thy joys
and fears.
Though he whose smile made bright
thine eyes of gray—
Though he whose voice, uttering thy bur-
dened years,
Made laughter bubble through thy sea
of tears—
Is gone, Dickens returns on Christ-
mas Day!

LIFE-WORK.

(Henry Van Dyke.)
Let me live my life from year to year,
With forward face and unreluctant soul;
Not hurrying to, nor turning from, the
goal.

Not mourning for the things that dis-
appear
In the past, nor holding back in fear
From what the future veils; but with a
whole
And happy heart, that pays its toll
To Yesterday and Age, and travels on with
cheer.

Let me do my work from day to day,
In field and forest, at the desk or loom,
In noising market place or tranquil
room;
Let me but find it in my heart to say,
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray,
"This is my work; my blessing, not my
doom,"
Of all who live, I am the one by whom

This work can best be done in the right
way."

STUNG.

(The Bokenham.)
The rich bachelor sighed and looked at
the beautiful girl fixedly.
"Yes, I feel the great need of a woman
in my home, one who could straighten
out my tangled affairs and make life
worth living again."

Her glance spoke an interest which
approximated expectation.
"Yes," he queried softly.
"Do you know of any good, able-bodied
woman whom I could get to clean house?"

KAISER BROKE TO SELL PALACE

Though His Income Is \$10,000,000 a Year, Extravagances Compel Economy.

Berlin, Dec. 15.—Emperor William and every member of the imperial family must practice most rigid economy from now on and indefinitely. William II. finds his revenues so exhausted by his extravagances that he is in desperate need of cash. This, although his annual income is estimated conservatively at \$10,000,000.

This galling lack of money may account for the present almost melancholic state of a ruler who thinks that wealth is as much his by divine right as is sovereignty. Naturally the Emperor's need of money extends to every member of his family, who are in largest part on his purse to maintain the state which he demands of them.

Crown Princess Sells Tiara.

This fact may explain why the crown princess, wishing to help those widowed and orphaned by the recent mining disaster at Hamn, had to sell below its cost a diamond tiara worth \$25,000.

Again and again Socialist members of the Reichstag have deplored the Emperor's extravagances as frightful. But he recognizes extravagance only in others.

To meet the Emperor's current expenses, which the civil list (that is, the sum the nation sets apart for the crown annually), cannot cover, it has been decided to sell several of the crown's castles and other properties, including some on the Rhine, the famous castle at Bleruth and the royal palace at Dusseldorf.

Wanted Bigger Civil List.

The Emperor was pinched for money as long ago as last May. It was put out then tentatively that he would ask the Prussian landtag to give him \$2,500,000 in a lump sum to pay his then existing debts and to allow him \$100,000 a year more to increase the pay of his servants, already well paid.

But frugal Germans frowned on his request, and he had to be content that the Emperor is receiving \$1,000,000 a year more than when he came to the throne.

JIM M'NEIL LOSES TO TOMMY SULLIVAN

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 16.—It required two rounds and a small portion of the third for "Brooklyn" Tommy Sullivan to knock out Jimmy McNeil, featherweight champion of Australia last night. By the close of the first round it was easily apparent that McNeil was outclassed. In the second Sullivan landed six times on McNeil's jaw, flooring him, McNeil taking a limit before getting up. A blow to the left side of the jaw finished the fighting in the third.

WHAT UNCLE SAM GREW.

Washington, Dec. 16.—The production in 1908 in farm value on Dec. 1 of important farm products, according to the final revised estimates of the department of agriculture announced today as follows:

Corn, 2,668,651,000 bushels, and farm value \$1,616,145,000, against 2,592,320,000 bushels in 1907, and \$1,336,901,000 on Dec. 1 of that year; winter wheat, 437,908,000 bushels, and \$410,330,000, against 409,445,000 bushels and \$381,217,000 last year; spring wheat, 226,694,000 and \$206,496,000, against 224,645,000 bushel and \$193,220,000 in 1907; oats, 807,158,000 bushels and \$231,171,000, against 754,445,000 and \$234,585,000, barley, 166,756,000 bushels and \$92,442,000, against 153,597,000 bushels and \$102,299,000.

VERBAL AGREEMENT HOLDS.

Hamilton, Dec. 15.—After hearing the evidence of several witnesses today in the appeal of the Terminal Station Company against the action of the court of revision in confirming the assessment at \$135,000, Judge Snider struck off \$55,000. It was shown positively, he said, that there was an arrangement between the city and the company that there should be a reasonable assessment, although there was nothing in writing. Ex-Mayor Biggar swore that when the negotiations were in progress he and the late Frank Hutton, a city assessor, had a conference with the company's representatives and agreed that the assessment should be a reasonable one. His recollection was that this was to be for a period of five years, although he was not sure. The company wanted a fixed assessment at \$45,000, the same as the old building, but was refused.

STAY OF PROCEEDINGS.

Toronto, Dec. 15.—Mr. Justice Britton this morning granted a stay of proceedings in the West-Petersburg election petition, pending the final decision on the preliminary objections. He also extended the time for the taking of proceedings by either party, including the filing of a cross-petition, if the present petition is maintained.

Has a Corn Any Roots?

Yes, and branches and stems as well. Can it be cured? Yes, by applying Putnam's Corn Extractor. It's painless, safe, and invariably satisfactory. Insist on only Putnam's.

A Big \$100,000 Blaze at Montreal

Montreal, Dec. 16.—A portion of Henry Birks & Sons big building on St. Catherine street, was badly damaged by fire here yesterday afternoon. The fire started on the second floor from defective electric wiring, and shot up to the top floor, which is occupied by the Notman photographic studio. The studios were filled with all kinds of inflammable materials, and it was not until after an hour's stubborn fighting that the fire brigade got the flames under control. Meanwhile they poured tons of water into the building from the roof of adjoining stores, and flooded out a number of offices as well as the big jewelry store on the first two floors.

At first the fire was regarded as a joke by the five or six hundred people in the building, but it spread so fast that eventually a number had their escape cut off. Half a dozen girls in Miss Christie's dressmaking shops in the front of the building could not get to the stairway for flame and smoke, and suffered a good deal from fright before an extension ladder was run up and they were carried down by the firemen, while the family of the janitor, including a small baby, had to be rescued the same way. Messrs. Birks had a stock valued at nearly a million dollars, but all the valuable jewelry was placed in fire-proof vaults as the alarm was given while the salvage brigade saved the rest. Most of the loss is to the building and other tenants. Messrs. Birks state that the damage is covered ten times over by insurance, and they will carry on their business undisturbed by the fire.

Canadian Packers To Fight Swifts

Winnipeg, Dec. 16.—The report that negotiations are in progress looking to the formation of a big western packing house merger to fight the Swift Company, who are endeavoring to get control of the western Canadian business, is again revived. Swift & Co. a couple of years ago acquired the J. Y. Griffin & Co. plant, of Winnipeg, and have been extending it all through the west. The plan is to merge the packing houses of Gordon, Ironsides & Pares, and the firm of Gallagher, Holman & LaFrance. Chicago capital, said to be the Armour's, is being interested in the deal. It is said, will go through in the next fifteen days, when a battle-royal will start with Swift & Co. for the western packing business.

Seven French Jack Tars Drowned

St. Pierre, Miquelon, Dec. 16.—Seven time it was dark and a heavy snow squall came from the southwest un-expectedly. The men on the warship, however, supposed that the sailors had reached port, and no alarm was given until the day, when the crew failed to report. Several officers, who were sent ashore to find out what happened, learned that the men had not landed. No one on the shore saw the launch, and it is believed that it was swamped by the port, the watchman of the Admiral's boat lost sight of the boat. At the occupants.

The Death List of the Eastern Woods

Boston, Dec. 16.—The chase of the moose, deer and other game in three northern states of New England and the adjoining Canadian provinces, for the season which closed today, cost the lives of 34 human beings, 29 by firearms, 4 by drowning and 1 by falling on a knife. Two more were killed while hunting in Massachusetts. Scores were crippled or wounded, 5 of whom may yet be added to the list of dead. Maine, as usual, leads the list, with 20 dead, while 6 were killed in the provinces, and 4 each in Vermont and New Hampshire.

A Fatal Fight With Safe-Crackers

Greenwich, Ohio, Dec. 16.—In a running midnight encounter between a gang of safe-crackers and the police of this village, Marshall Wood and one of the burglars are reported slain. The other burglars escaped, carrying one of their number, who is believed to have been killed by the marshal. Wood fell, shot dead. A posse of citizens has been organized to start in pursuit of the robbers.

Ten Were Killed in French Collision

Limoges, France, Dec. 16.—Ten persons were killed and fifteen injured in a collision today between a passenger train, and a freight train in the Purché tunnel, between the towns of Brive and Limoges.

POPULAR COUPLE WERE MADE ONE

Wedding of Miss Ethel Crouch and Mr. L. S. Olmstead.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Crouch, 331 King street, was the scene of a pretty wedding yesterday afternoon, when their daughter, Miss Ethel Florence, was married to Mr. Lewis S. Olmstead, of Stratford, formerly of this city. The ceremony was performed, in the presence of a number of relatives and friends, by Rev. J. Gibson Inker, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. The bride was given away by her father, and entered the drawing-room amid the strains of a wedding march, played by her sister, Miss Norma Crouch. Miss Beatrice Hunt sang "Love Me and the Life is Mine." Mr. and Mrs. Olmstead left last night for Boston and New York, and on their return will reside at 436 King street.

SUPPRESS THE POPPIES

Mackenzie King Tells How the Opium Traffic Must Be Attacked.

New York, Dec. 16.—The problem of checking the opium traffic is discussed by Mackenzie King, a member of the Canadian Parliament, who sails for England today, to attend the international conference to be held at Shanghai in February. Mr. King said:

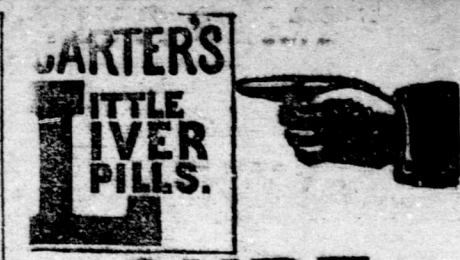
"It is my opinion that the use of opium in a harmful way can only be checked by striking direct at the very root—the raising of poppies to an extent as to make impossible the spread of their product, as other than a mere medicine. The only way in which this can be done is through a congress of representatives of all the nations concerned. I think this conference will unquestionably be successful."

"As for the opium traffic in Canada, we have pretty well obliterated it there. Last year there were as many as seven factories on our Pacific coast, fed by raw product from India. From them the drug was smuggled into the United States. We passed a law prohibiting its manufacture and sale, and closed them in six months."

DIES OF HIS INJURIES.

Toronto, Dec. 15.—Thomas McBrien, the alleged shop-breaker, who was arrested Sunday night after falling from the third story window of a Front street warehouse, which it was alleged he was robbing, died at St. Michael's Hospital at 1:30 o'clock this afternoon. His injuries by falling on a pile of glass were such as to make it impossible from the first of a chance for recovery.

Two men arrested with him are in jail awaiting trial.



CURE SICK HEAD
Headache, yes, Carter's Little Liver Pills are equally valuable in constipation, curing and preventing its annoying complaint, while they also correct all disorders of the stomach, stimulate the liver and regulate the bowels. Even if they only cured

is the basis of so many lives that here is where we make our greatest contribution. Our little pills are very small and very easy to take. One or two pills make a dose. They are strictly vegetable and do not grip or purge, but by their gentle action please all who use them.
CARTER MEDICINE CO., NEW YORK.



Bennett's New Pictures.
A complete change of programme will take effect today at Bennett's. The dramatic film for today will be the "Planter's Wife," and the other drama will be "Monty Buys a Motor."

"Brewster's Millions."
The production of "Brewster's Millions" at the Grand, Friday and Saturday is an event of more than passing interest. In selecting a dramatization of McCutcheon's fascinating story, "Brewster's Millions," with which to enter the dramatic world, Mr. Thompson has found a vehicle worthy his endeavors and one which will sustain his reputation. The sale of seats opened at the box office yesterday with a rush, and no doubt this guaranteed attraction will be greeted with capacity audiences, at all three performances.

THE TURF.

Winners Yesterday.
Oakland, Dec. 15.—Following were the winners here today: St. Francis 3 to 2, Bon Homme 9 to 5, Import 21 to 5, Pajaroita 13 to 5, Fore-runner 6 to 1, Trols, Tomy 5 to 1.
Los Angeles, Dec. 15.—Following were winners here today: Golly Ding 11 to 5, Fair Annie 11 to 20, Fleming 6 to 1, Stanley Fay 7 to 2, Montgomery 9 to 10, La Gloria 7 to 10.

"I purchased a bottle of Scott's Emulsion and immediately commenced to improve. In all, I think I took 14 bottles, and my weight increased from 133 pounds to 184 pounds in less than six months. I know from personal results the efficacy of Scott's Emulsion."—FRED R. STRONGMAN, 417 Bathurst St., London, Ont.

Let us send you a copy of Mr. Strongman's letter. He had a trying experience, had got run down

Scott's Emulsion

built him up, as it has thousands of others. The strengthening and flesh-producing properties of Scott's Emulsion, are unequalled by any other preparation, and it's just as good for the thin, delicate child as for the adult. Be sure to get Scott's. It's been the standard of the world for 35 years, and is worth many times the cost of the numerous imitations and substitutes.

ALL DRUGGISTS.

Let us send you a full copy of Mr. Strongman's letter and some other literature on the subject. Just mention this paper.

SCOTT & BOWNE
126 Wellington St., W. Toronto

Treatment for Croup.

If your child has ever had croup, you need no description of the symptoms, but to the inexperienced, the peculiar ringing cough is often unnoticed until the disease is well under way. A child may go to bed at night in his usual health, except perhaps a cold, only to awaken a few hours later with a well-developed attack of croup and the remainder of the night is spent by the anxious parents in trying to relieve his suffering, which is usually more or less experimental. It is usually difficult to secure the services of a physician in the middle of the night, and he should never be depended upon, as the case must be treated at once. A bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in the house will save anxiety, expense and perhaps the life of the child. When this medicine is given at the first indication of croup, the attack may be avoided, and even after the croupy cough has appeared, it will prevent the attack. We have never known it to fail to effect a cure in any case of croup, and it is well believed in more general use in the United States for that disease than any other remedy.