

TAKE OPEN AIR TREATMENT FOR INFLUENZA

The Massachusetts department of health has introduced a revolutionary system of hospitalization for the treatment of persons afflicted with influenza and pneumonia, which has reduced the mortality from forty per cent to less than thirteen per cent in a few weeks' battle with the worst epidemic which has ever ravaged that state.

This new and successful remedy is very simple. Open air and sunshine are its chief components. Twelve days or so ago, at points where the epidemic had the tightest grip, the state health authorities established camp hospitals employing this treatment. The patients are being cared for in tents and airy wooden shacks, with not more than two to a section. During the hours of daylight, the cots are carried into the open and the results are marvellous. Patients, whose temperatures ran from 102 to 104 while in indoor hospitals, have soon returned to normal after being taken outdoors. Respiration and pulse-rate have shown similar improvement. It is believed that this new hospitalization plan will serve as a model for other communities fighting the disease. Its efficacy has been completely proven at the Camp Brooks Emergency Hospital, Corey Hill, Brookline, at the Receiving Ship, Commonwealth Pier, at Lawrence, and at Gloucester, which was virtually cleaned up. Public sentiment at first condemned the new treatment as barbarous and cruel, but results have made it very popular.

The situation as viewed by Massachusetts State Commissioner of Health Kelley is summarized in a statement as follows:



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"An ordinary hospital ward is not the best place in which to care for an influenza case."

"At the beginning of this epidemic when every pneumonia case was transferred if possible to a hospital for what was believed to be the very best treatment, forty per cent of them died. Hospital physicians, nurses and attendants became infected to an alarming degree. The following figures show this:

Hospital A	23
Hospital B	42%
Hospital C	100

"The modern, open-air treatment of

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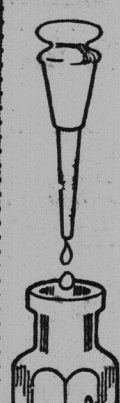
True lobar pneumonia cases was applied most drastically to influenza-pneumonia cases with the following results:
Pneumonia cases, 18 per cent of deaths.
Physicians, nurses and attendants, 0 per cent taken sick.
"These are not statistics of selected

cases, but include all the cases and the staff in two hospitals, the Camp Brooks Emergency Hospital for the United States Shipping Board, and the Emergency Tent Hospital at Gloucester.
"In the Hospital for Crippled Children at Canton, 80 per cent of their pa-

tient population was stricken within forty-eight hours. The principles of open air treatment are in full operation there and their mortality of less than 7 per cent of those attacked was wholly confined to patients who also were in advanced stages of their original malady.
"The most striking feature of outdoor treatment has been the almost constant drop in the patient's temperature to normal within a few hours. A series of charts taken at random from the records of open tent hospitals shows a practically universal drop from 102 deg. or 104 deg. to 97 deg. after a few hours of sunshine and fresh air."

The increased number of patients suffering from influenza at the military hospital on Partridge Island and the illness of one of the nurses made it necessary to call in the help of two more of the V. A. D. members of the local St. John Ambulance brigade yesterday.

ALMANAC FOR ST. JOHN, OCT. 19.
A.M. P.M.
High Tide... 11.38 Low Tide... 18.01
Sun Rises... 7.50 Sun Sets... 6.28



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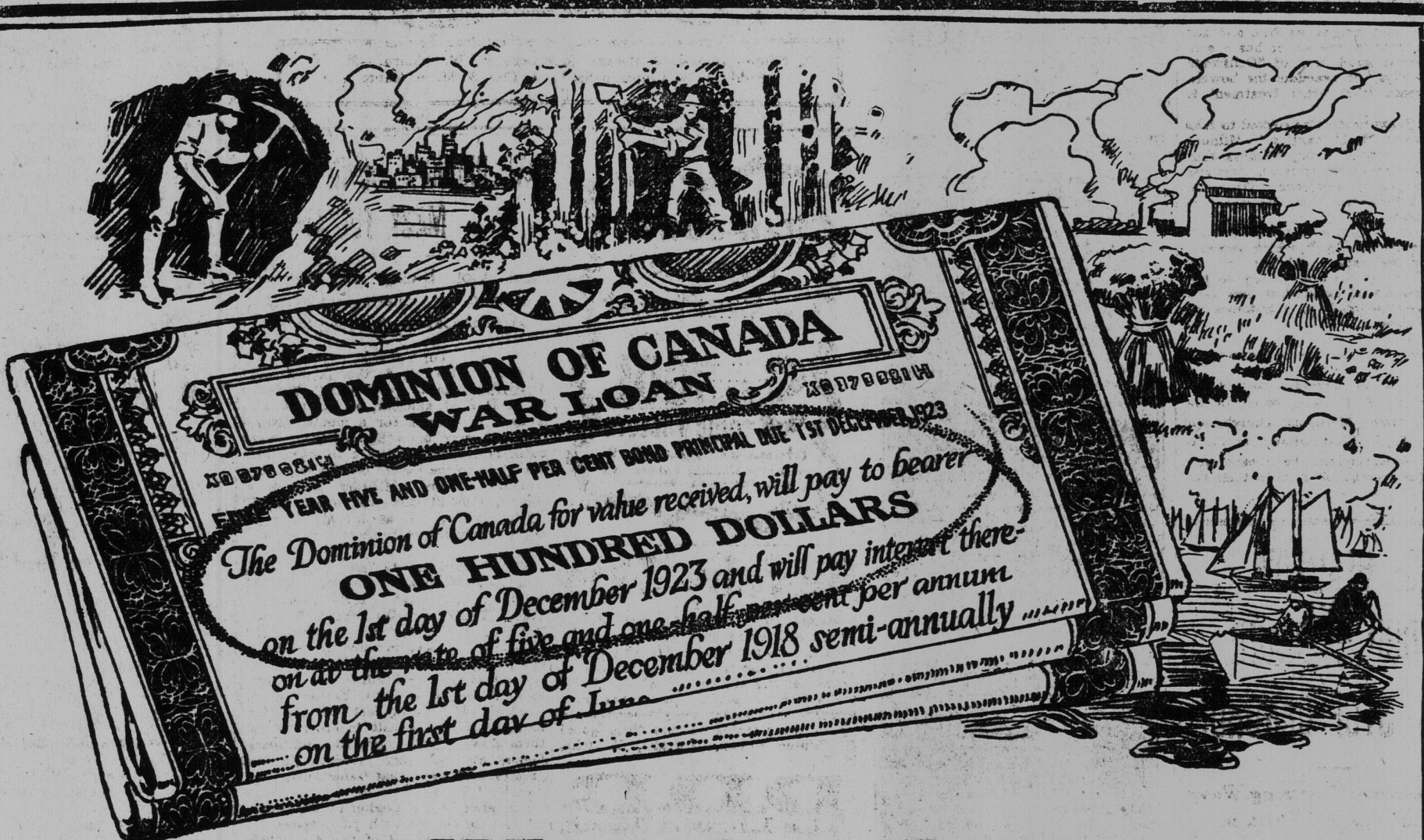
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