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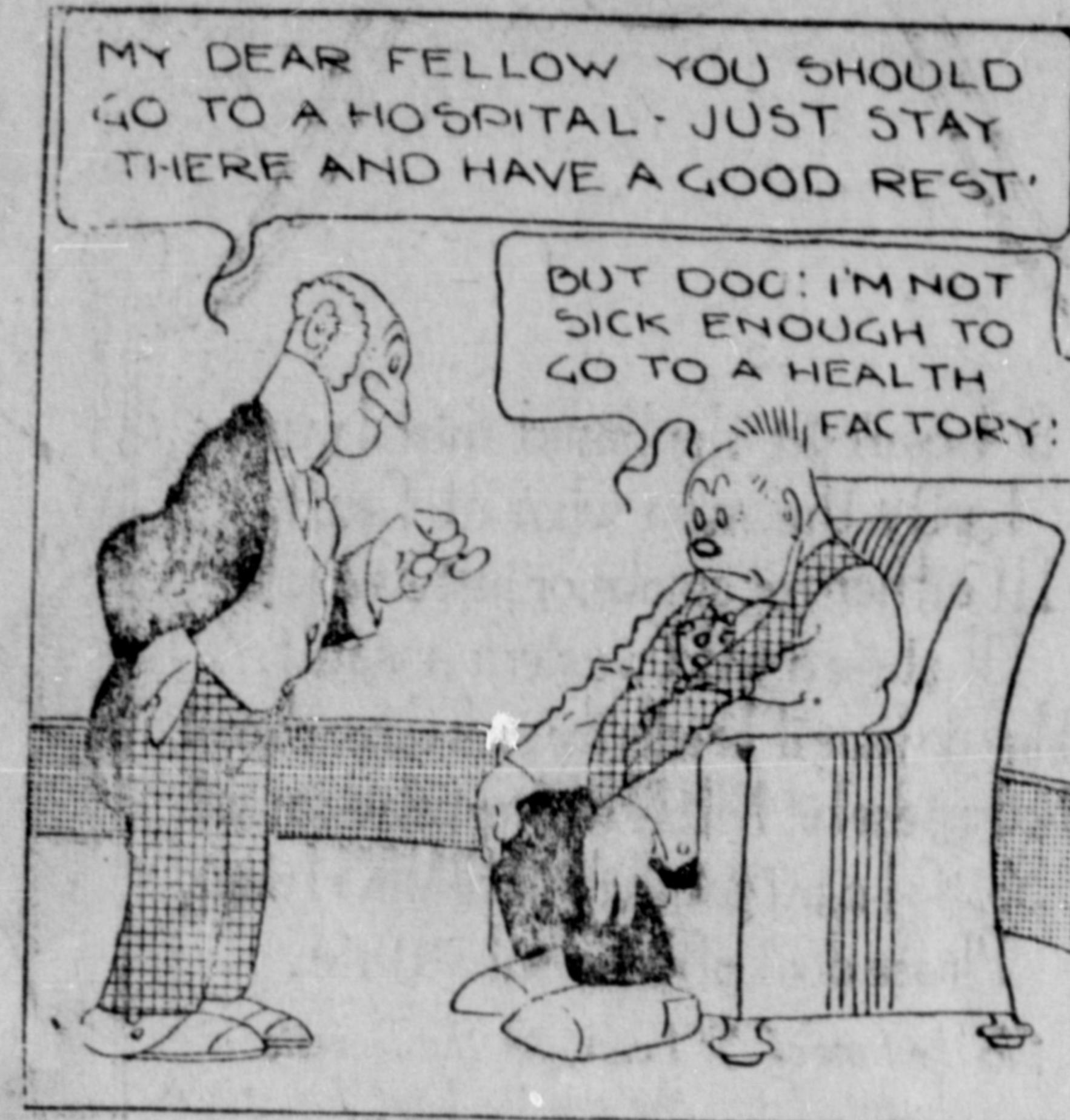
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BRINGING UP FATHER



OUTRAGE OF RED DEMON

Fine Essay by Joan West But it Was Not Strictly on Subject

Fire is the great Red Demon who haunts man wherever he goes, no matter how far — the lurking Red Enemy, ever too ready to burst out in bright wicked little red tongues of flame.

After a long season of dry weather a cigarette end, still burning, a small spark, thrown among heaps of scorched, dried leaves, causes the fierce Red Demon to leap instantly into action. Soon the parched vegetation smoulders, and a small column of blue-grey smoke slowly, but determinedly begins to rise. Presently malicious little red flames shoot up like dancing furnace's share towards the perfecting of the very forest sprites. Now a pile of dried wealth be so eagerly sought to quickly consumed. Soon a shrub catches, roars in red fury for an instant, and subsides to the grey ghost of its former self. The invincible Red Demon has now a strong hold. The giant trees are blazing.

"On, on!" shrieks the Red Demon. "On, all ye Fire-sprites! Stop at nothing. Man shall pay for this! Yes, indeed, he shall pay for his own thoughtlessness. On, Fire-sprites, on!"

Roaring triumphantly — the flames now no longer sprightly, but great, ravenous monsters continue on their trail of destruction. On, on, ever readily obeying the commands of the Fire-fiend, they devour all that lies in their way and scorch and overwhelm all before them with their fiery breath.

All That Is Left

Where, shortly before, Nature had dyed the forest in many different shades of green, where in secret glens and haunts wild beasts had found in security their lairs, and birds had built their nests, only charred and desolate wastes of land are left. The merciless flames reveal many of nature's most hidden secrets. All living things are driven from their haunts, the terrible Red Demon often destroying them in their flight. Hourly the Fiend devours more and more of the country's wealth and with it the homes of both man and beast, leaving behind in his deadly trail stretches of inhospitable desolation, where so recently all had been rich and green.

Yearly the great Red Enemy is devouring with his great pitiless tongue the riches of his master, being released for destruction by the latter's carelessness. Each year the Demon and his band of active followers rage furiously throughout the land leaving behind vast stretches of barren country and rocky, bare mountain sides.

The Rule of Fire

"Destroy all ye can!" roars the Enemy. "Destroy all ye can. Fire-fiends, for the time may come when man will learn to be careful, and there will be no

smouldering camp fires unguarded, sawmills, cigarette ends still burning, or cinders from locomotives, from which we can spring up and again destroy the homes of man and beast. Come on, come on! My merry followers! Rule while we may, for when he learns wisdom and gives a thought to his green forests our power will be at an end."

Each year thousands of acres of the country's richest and most plentiful wealth are destroyed, and great trees which for years have stood the stately monarchs of the forest fall. Each year the Red Demon extends his power over more and more of the green forests. Some day before it is too late the lesson, dearly paid for, will be learned. No more will the Red Enemy consume and devour at the very vitals of our prosperity but, safely leashed, but determinedly begins to rise. Presently malicious little red flames shoot up like dancing furnace's share towards the perfecting of the very forest sprites. Now a pile of dried wealth be so eagerly sought to

(Note — The foregoing essay was adjudged one of the best pieces of literature that was submitted in the forestry department's recent contest. It could not be awarded a prize, however, for it was not strictly on the subject of "Forest Fires, Their Effect, and How to Prevent Them." It was written by Joan Winnifred West, a pupil of D. H. Hartness at Booth Memorial School.)

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