Judge Black Discusses Seriousness of the Flu Epidemic Over Country

Mr. C. E. Adams, Editor Press.

My Dear Mr. Adams:

A day or two ago, I had occasion to extend the influenza situation in western Colorado. You asked me to write something for publication which is my only excuse for this letter. What is said is not intended to apply to any particular locality, but to Colorado generally.

We are in the midst of the most frightful epidemic that has ever visited the world. Death is on every side, and lays its hand upon the rich, the poor, the young, the old. Doctors and undertakers drive madly through our roads and streets, not dividing day from night or Sunday from the week, so desperate are the conditions. Deaths are increasing, hospitals are multiplying, men can scarcely provide coffins and dig graves.

The local papers give columns to the statement of the news of the sick, the dead, the dying, and, with studied pain, tell what undertaker has charge of whom and the sick room to which the coffin is brought, and almost in the same breath, where wedding rings may be had.

Schools, churches, lodge rooms, pools, and similar places are wide open, funerals are largely attended without restriction, everyone being allowed to go.

Members of a family in which the dread disease has appeared, are permitted to mingle freely with the public, visit the post office and other public places, so long as they are able to walk. Nurses go freely and without restraint from the sick room to the crowded streets and mingle with the people, and no one says them nay.

Members of families who are not stricken watch those who are and at the same time go freely among well people. Those convalescing frequently are on the streets before they are able to walk without a cane.

Some boards of health are trying to do something to check the spread of the disease; others make suggestions but do not enforce them, and some take the position that the disease is certain to run its course and that attempted quarantines are more than useless.

Some tell us that business must not be interfered with, no matter what the toll of death.

When conditions continue long as they are, there will be few business men left. Everyone will go to the sick room.

What are we to do here in this great distress? We often hear it said that those who