

Papers of Mayor James Rolph

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16-10

File

San Francisco, Cal.,
January 13, 1919.

Hon. James Rolph, Jr.,
Mayor City & County San Francisco

Dear Sir:-

Most likely you have been pestered to death by people airing their views on the mask controversy.

Would it not be a good idea to hold an election on the subject, and allow the people to vote for or against the wearing of masks. I am sure that we all would be glad to pay our pro rata towards the expense.

Your proclamation was kindly meant, but judging from appearances, the people do not want to wear masks, for about one in five hundred have adopted them voluntarily.

If you think the matter over sensibly (and surely you have done so) you cannot come to any other conclusion than that the wearing of masks is very unsanitary and disgusting, to say the least.

These eminent physicians have suggested a cure that is worse than the disease itself. Dr. Hassler is simply pigheaded and wants to have his way, irrespective of whether the people coincide with his views or not.

If any one desires to wear a mask that one should have the privilege of doing so, no one is interfering with his special desire. However, for the one who objects, the same privilege should be extended, the right to choose.

Respectfully,

Alice Johnston

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