

If the Board of Health should come before the Supervisors and show that the epidemic requires immediate restrictive measures and ask for an ordinance compelling the wearing of masks while the disease exists in considerable force in San Francisco, no doubt such an ordinance would be passed and the police would enforce it. I do not believe, however, that the Supervisors will even consider passing an ordinance compelling the wearing of masks in San Francisco, if the disease has fallen to insignificant proportions here, regardless of conditions elsewhere.

The actual status of the mask case is this: The public is requested to wear masks, but is not compelled to and no arrests will be made of persons who do not wear them. This situation can be altered only by action of the Board of Supervisors.

**HASSLER WANTS MASKS.**  
It is certain that Dr. Hassler will request the Supervisors to act today, but the nature of his request, as he forecast it yesterday, is so much more radical than anything that has gone before that the Mayor thinks the Supervisors will reject it. Dr. Hassler said yesterday:

"It is absolutely certain that the Supervisors will pass the ordinance as requested. It is necessary that they should do so.

The only alternative would be to quarantine the city of San Francisco against all outsiders, and such a thing is obviously absurd and impracticable.

Therefore San Francisco must mask and continue to be masked until the influenza epidemic is wiped out in the State.

I hope that all persons will voluntarily wear the masks until the ordinance is passed by the Supervisors. It is very important that the masks should be changed frequently or kept washed and sterilized.

Improvement in the situation in San Francisco was shown yesterday by reports reaching the offices of the Board of Health. At 4 p. m. only twenty-three cases of influenza had been reported and there were no deaths.

**SAN DIEGO HAS 135 CASES.**

SAN DIEGO, December 8.—Influenza cases to the number of 135 were reported to the Board of Health today. This being Sunday, the deaths were not reported.

**DEATHS DROP IN L. A.**

LOS ANGELES, December 8.—Twenty-six new cases of influenza and two deaths from the disease were reported to the health officers today. Although 2,339 cases were reported for the week ending last night as against 1,526 cases for the previous seven days, the mortality rate has dropped, only 112 deaths having occurred in the week ending last night as against 141 during the previous seven days.

# Lone Wearer Of 'Flu' Mask Breaks Trail

BY W. H. LEVINGS.  
*How very pitiful!  
In a whole city full,  
Only I had one on.*

The Wisest Guy went out last night  
Behind a Red Cross mask.  
"Count me," he said, "as playing safe.  
"If anyone should ask."

But when he hit the open air,  
His courage fell apace;  
He was the only citizen  
With gauze upon his face.

Before he'd walked a square or two,  
He knew he was in wrong;  
That mask became the butt of jokes  
From all the week-end throng.

"Where does he get that kind of stuff?"  
"Oh, pipe the microbe sieve!"  
"That bird must think next week has come."  
"No, he don't want to live!"

**MORAL:**  
Don't try to beat the barrier,  
Nor run before the hounds;  
The game of being a pioneer  
Is tougher than it sounds.

# EPIDEMIC LAW LEFT UP TO SUPERVISORS

Rolph Says Wearing of Masks Not  
Compulsory Today, Only Vol-  
untary; No Arrests to Be Made

Dr. Hassler Declares for State-  
Wide Order to Stop Influenza;  
May Last for Rest of Winter

Mayor James Rolph Jr. and Dr. William C. Hassler, health officer, disagreed yesterday on the status of the influenza mask order.

Dr. Hassler said:  
The wearing of masks will become compulsory on Monday morning and the police will enforce the order.

This was Mayor Rolph's reply:  
The mask order is without legal status. The wearing of masks is voluntary. The police will not and cannot make any arrests.

Dr. Hassler modified his statement later and said that he would go before the Supervisors and advocate an ordinance compelling San Franciscans to wear masks, not only until the influenza is wiped out in San Francisco, but until the disease is wiped out in the entire State. If the Supervisors should pass such an ordinance, it would be legal and the police would enforce it. This, it is said, might compel the wearing of masks for the rest of the winter, possibly for months to come.

Dr. Hassler said:  
The immediate resumption of this preventive measure will assure the normal course of business. If masks are worn there will be no interference with normal affairs, no closing of theatres or other places where people congregate. But if masks are not worn serious conditions may develop and compel another period of closure.

**UP TO SUPERVISORS.**

It is his opinion that all the other cities of the State will follow the lead of San Francisco and adopt mask ordinances, although the majority of these cities did not do so in the first instance.

Mayor Rolph expressed the opinion, on the contrary, that the Supervisors would not pass such an ordinance. The Mayor said: