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## REV. W. C. REUTER REPLIES TO JUDGE W. M. COLVIG

In Answer to the Latter's Article in Defense of the Theater

TO THE CITIZENS OF MEDFORD AND JACKSON COUNTY:

Having made a promise some weeks ago, that I would reply to Judge Colvig in our controversy relative to the influence of the average theatre, I will now redeem that promise. That the reader may gain the full import of my reply, I would advise him to read the Medford Daily Tribune of Feb. 28th.

The tactics of Judge Colvig are those of Bob Ingersoll. By the way, wonder if he was graduated in his school. Certain it is, his article has Bob's earmarks.

The Judge speaks of Rev. Reuter as being a hundred years behind the times. Isn't it amusing to see the Judge, who no doubt claims to be up-to-date, digging up material nearly 200 years old to bolster up his arguments? He opens up his article with a story of old Puritan days, gives it a satirical turn, to make the crowd laugh, and thinks he has demolished his opponent.

Judge Colvig isn't the first lawyer, who in writing about matters of religion, was caught blundering. Here again, he follows in Bob Ingersoll's footsteps. In one of his lectures, Mr. Ingersoll says: "According to the four gospels, John was the only one who knew anything of the Doctrine of the Atonement." Isn't it laughable that a great lawyer like Ingersoll should make such a blunder. Why a 15-year old school girl can see the atonement in ALL FOUR of the gospels. Now, here is Judge Colvig, one of the leading lawyers of Jackson county, blundering in matters of religion. He charges (in principle) W. C. Reuter with the horrors of the Calvinistic creed. Who is W. C. Reuter? He is a Methodist minister, and Methodist preaches Arminian theology, and Arminian theology is radically different from Calvinism. One of two things is true.

Judge Colvig knows the difference between Arminianism and Calvinism, or he does not. If he does not he is to be pitied for his ignorance, and he is the last man that should rush into print and become the laughing-stock of people who are acquainted with church history. If he does know the difference between Arminianism and Calvinism, then for him to charge an Arminian with the horrors of the Calvinistic creed, is to say the least, an act of unfairness. If not misrepresentation, and Judge Colvig should not try to pose before the people as a man "who lives near the cross."

Suppose Judge Colvig is a Republican, and I am a Populist. He and I are having a controversy over the political issues of the day; and in replying, I charge him (a Republican) with Democratic blunders. The people would say: "That man, Reuter, is unfair." "Why, he charges Judge Colvig, a Republican, with Democratic blunders." That is exactly what Judge Colvig does in his reply to me. I am an Arminian. The Judge ascribes to me (an Arminian) the horrors of the Calvinistic creed, which is radically different from Arminianism, and such writing proceeds from the brain of Judge Colvig, who no doubt considers himself up-to-date and not a hundred years behind the times.

Judge Colvig charging me, an Arminian, with the horrors of the Calvinistic Creed, is as amusing as Ed. Andrews charging the American Congress with the burning of witches, an event which occurred one hundred years before the American Congress had an existence.

Of course, that is the Bob Ingersoll method. Misrepresent a thing; and then tell a funny story, to get the laugh and applause of the crowd. No doubt, such stuff is very gratifying to Judge Colvig's theatrical crowd, that "loves to slide down to hell on Saturdays."

In his article Judge Colvig says: "What a gloomy and lonesome place Heaven will be if only those who never smile and whose souls are continually racked with mortifying groans are to reach its pearly gates and walk upon its golden streets?"

Here again the Judge adopts the Bob Ingersoll method. He sets up a "man of straw" first at the pistol of sarcasm, to make the crowd laugh and then glories "Didn't I demolish the fellow?"

I want to tell the Judge that he may ransack the world's libraries, and nowhere will he find a book that has so much to say about joy and gladness as the bible. Does the Judge know that the terms joy, gladness and cognate terms occur three hundred times in the bible? On a certain Sabbath last Octo-

ber the writer preached on "The Philosophy of Cheerfulness." Had Judge Colvig attended the Methodist church, B. St., during the past seventeen months, he would not have charged its preacher with a gloomy, gloating religion. By the way, let me invite the Judge to hear Arminian sermons a little oftener; if he does, he will not be so apt to charge an Arminian with Calvinistic horrors, and if he gets in possession of the experience that John Wesley proclaimed he will not find it necessary to attend a theatre to be cheerful.

Further on in his article the Judge says: "He, (W. C. Reuter), would have been a leader in those days, when every Protestant church in America, save one, condemned the observance of Christmas, on the ground that it was an institution of the Roman Catholic church."

Because a man denounces the immoral influence of the average theatre, therefore he is a red-hot persecutor of the Roman Catholic church. Remember reader, such reasoning proceeds from the brain of one of the leading lawyers of Jackson county. What think you? Wonder if he uses such logic in addressing a jury?

In his article the Judge grows eloquent in admiring the beautiful in art. Does he mean to insinuate that the B. St. M. E. preacher is denouncing the beautiful in art? Is so, he is guilty of another misrepresentation. If the theatre as an institution were stripped of all vile and immoral accessories, the pulpit would not denounce it. No theatrical manager who keeps out of his opera house all plays having an immoral tendency, can make it pay. I want to inform the Judge that that has been tried. Edwin Booth, one of the greatest actors of the American stage, sank a fortune in trying to reform the theatre and failed.

In the latter half of his article the Judge says: "I can imagine how grateful it was to the great President, Abraham Lincoln, to throw aside the burdens of the day, and for an evening hour enjoy the beauty of this God-given art." Then the Judge tells us of President Lincoln's assassination in Ford's theatre. Thank you Judge for putting that weapon into my hand.

I want to ask the Judge three questions:

(1) Where was the shooting done? Not in a church where devout Christians approach a mercy seat, but in a theatre where the theatrical crowd practices Judge Colvig's "God-given art."

(2) Who did the shooting? Not Christians, who at church sing "Where congregations never break up, and Sabbaths never end."

But a representative of Judge Colvig's theatrical crowd who "loves to slide down to hell on Saturdays."

(3) In whose brain was that horrible crime conceived? Not in the brain of a self-denying christian who lives near the cross. But in the brain of a representative of Judge Colvig's theatrical crowd, who for years had been trained in Judge Colvig's "God-given-art." Yes, I want to remind my friend Judge Colvig that it was not pious church-goers but one of Judge Colvig's theatrical crowd, that sent the bullet through President Lincoln's head, fastened crime to the nation's door and plunged the Republic into grief.

Judge Colvig with his article reminds me of the assassin of Marie Sadi Carnot.

Cannot was president of the French republic fifteen years ago. On the 24th of June, 1893, Lyons France was in festive attire. At the close of the day's festivities, President Carnot was riding in his carriage, when an anarchist approached him with a bouquet of flowers, the president suspecting no treachery, reached out for the bouquet, when his assassin drew forth his concealed weapon and stabbed the President.

So Judge Colvig with his Bob Ingersoll tactics, holds out to young people his bouquet of "the beautiful in the actor's profession" of "God-given-art" and other rhetorical flowers, but at the same time conceals the dagger which he thrusts into the young man's faith in the church and sacred things, and then makes it easier for him to fall a prey to vice, and harder to practice virtue.

Yes, Judge, it is true, a theatrical actor sent the bullet through President Lincoln's head; and if I were you I would not uphold that institution which has sent the bullet of destruction through many a young man's character.

W. C. REUTER.

## THE WATER PROBLEM

The water problem still is being actively worked upon by the water committee of the city council, and developments are to be expected soon. The council has been assured of support by many prominent business men of the community and at a meeting of the council held last Friday evening, F. W. Morris, of Portland, assured the councilmen that he would take \$300,000 of city water bonds, provided that the water issue was not preceded by other issues and that the money be used in actual construction of the plant. He furthermore agreed to advance the money as needed, thus saving the city the payment of interest.

Mr. Morris is a prominent capitalist of Portland. He has long been known as a railroad builder and owner of city water works. He urged the council to own their own plant and stated that if the city grows as it gives promise of doing—that the proposition would be a paying one. He stated further that the income from the plant would more than pay the interest on the bonds.

The offer of Mr. Morris is being seriously considered by the council and from present indications it is very likely that his offer will be accepted.

A number of local capitalists have stated that they favored the proposition and will subscribe money for bonds.

There is also a movement to form a stock company and supply the city with water. This movement is not looked upon favorably by a majority of the citizens of Medford seem to think if the system can be made a paying one that the city should own its own plant. A majority of the cities in Oregon and Washington own their water systems and these systems are said to be a source of considerable revenue to the cities.

The committee of the council having the matter in charge have not decided as to the source of the supply, but it is generally believed that Little Butte creek is the source favored. To tap this source it will require a pipe line 20 miles long. It is estimated that a pipe large enough to deliver the 3,000,000 gallons required per diem for a population of from 10,000 to 15,000 people, together with the necessary headgates, reservoirs, distributing pipe and other necessary details of such a plant, would cost from \$300,000 to \$350,000.

### Fire Alarm for City.

The city council is considering the proposition of putting in a complete electric fire alarm system of 14 boxes to be distributed throughout the three wards of the city. On Monday afternoon A. G. Long, of Portland, met with the council and submitted plans and specifications for such a system installed. The matter was thoroughly discussed but the council failed to take action on the matter, preferring to await the next regular meeting, March 17.

Mr. Long will furnish a system of 14 boxes with the adequate alarm system in the city hall for \$2975. He states to the council that the price was low as he had had business relations with the city for a number of years and wished to continue those relations. The council however preferred to postpone the matter of offering the contract. The system offered the city by Mr. Long is similar to those of large cities. The boxes are to be placed about the city in convenient localities. In case of fire all one will have to do is to break a glass plate in the front of the box, turn a key and pull a hanger which turns in an alarm. The boxes in the first ward will be from 1 to 30, and in the second ward from 30 to 40, and in the third ward from 40 to 60. Thus if box number 25 is sounded people may know that the call comes from the second ward. In this way every one familiar with the city, who happens to be without a card showing the location of the boxes will know the general location of a fire.

The matter will be definitely settled at the next meeting March 17.

### For Sale.

A cheap ideal farm home—120 acres land, 40 acres fenced, about 20 acres in cultivation. One acre seeded to red clover, 5 room box house, good frame barn 20x16 feet and log barn with machinery sheds adjoining. Apples, pears, peaches and small fruits sufficient for large family, spring of fine water at house, stream of water flowing through place with deeded water right to same, 5 miles from railroad station, 1 mile from school, daily mail. Good reasons for selling. Price \$15.50 per acre. Deal with owner direct and save real estate dealers' commissions. For further particulars address:

D. M. Marshall, Woodville, Oregon.

## WATER MAINS TO BE LAID SOON

The work of laying the water mains on Seventh street is soon to be started, according to a discussion by members of the city council held on Monday afternoon. The water committee will start the work as soon as more pipe reaches Medford. Three car loads of pipe were shipped on Monday, Recorder Collins being notified to that effect by telegraph.

The work of putting down the pipe on this street is to be hurried, so as to be out of the way of the bitulitic contractors, in order to have the street paved, as is essential, before the rainy season of next year opens.

One matter regarding the laying of the pipe is bothering the council and that is the fact that after the pipe is laid the ground must be thoroughly packed by hand before paving starts. If this is not done the filled places will settle and the city will experience the same difficulty as Seattle is having at present. In the latter place the pavement has sunk in many places, making it necessary for the pavement to be torn up and relaid. Every 25 feet on Seventh street a branch line must be put in and if the dirt covering the pipe is not thoroughly tamped by hand the pavement will not be much smoother than the street is at present.

The councilmen were all of the opinion that the work must be rushed in order to get the pavement finished by fall.

Considerable of the pipe which has arrived for the city is defective and is to be sent back to the firm furnishing it. Considerable delay will be experienced in this regard but the city is determined to have what it ordered.

### Pleased With Medford.

H. P. Wood, secretary of the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce and of the Hawaii Promotion committee stopped over in Medford recently to see Harry H. Tomlin, a former resident of Honolulu. Mr. Wood is one of the foremost promotion men of the West and is a personal friend of Tom Richardson, the secretary of the Portland Commercial Club.

Mr. Wood was very enthusiastic over the increasing population throughout the Northwest and spoke highly of the resources of the Rogue River Valley, of which he had heard but had never previously paid a great deal of attention.

"As far as I can see," said Mr. Wood, "this valley is the garden spot of the Northwest. Here I find a splendid climate and resources peculiar to the Northwest. The growth you have made during the past two years is wonderful and I expect to see Medford a city of 25,000 inhabitants within the next decade. You have resources back of you that warrant such an expectation. I was told of this valley in San Francisco by promotion men there and all their statements were in praise of the valley, its climate and resources. "I am pleased to know that you have a thriving Commercial Club and that you believe in systematic promotion work."

Mr. Wood is the man, who together with Frank Wiggins, secretary of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, made Southern California, the mecca it is today for Eastern tourists. He was also former secretary of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce.

### Amazed at City's Growth.

"The growth Medford has made during the past year is wonderful, simply wonderful."

Such was the substance of the statement made by Louis C. Watkins of Los Angeles, who is here to look after his property interests west of Medford. Mr. Watkins owns a number of lots in that section of the city and has been away for a year. The growth made by the city during that time surprised as well as delighted him.

"I was told by several that I would be surprised," said Mr. Watkins, "but I certainly did not expect to find such vast strides made in so short a time. The town has grown to an extent that I hardly dared to hope for in five years time."

"I am pleased to hear that Medford's success is to be paved, that water is to be obtained and that several other good works are under way. The fame of this valley is spreading and I believe there is a great future for Medford."

Mr. Watkins was asked if he intended to dispose of his property here. He replied:

"Not much. When a fellow has a good thing, I believe in keeping it. Property in Medford is good enough for me."

Mr. Watkins intends to return to Los Angeles after a few weeks spent in Portland and Seattle.

—Clarence D. Kellogg, instructor on piano. Lessons, 70 cents. 12.

## "WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK."

Such was the answer of General Manager Doane of the Pacific Coal Company when asked regarding the commencement of the work of grading for the new railroad to the coal mine. The survey has been completed, the right of way has been secured for all but a short distance, and the management expects to be shipping coal from the mine inside of ninety days.

The road to the mine will be a little over five miles in length and the grade at the further end will be a little more than 1/2 per cent. The road will start from a point about one mile south of Seventh street, and will run in as direct a route as possible to the mine.

The company will establish the coal yard and bunkers near the junction of the road with the Southern Pacific. From this yard the coal is to be retailed locally.

Manager Doane is already looking for teams to start the work of grading, and the work will be pushed as rapidly as possible. One hundred teams will be employed if they can be secured and can be worked to advantage.

It is planned to put on from 50 to 100 men in the mine soon after the road is completed. The work at the mine at present consists in running tunnels so that rooms can be made and the coal mined fast. There is at least 200,000 tons of coal in sight at present.

If one has a doubt as to whether there is coal to be mined or not all they will have to do is to visit the mine and see for themselves. Over 3000 feet of tunnel have been run and after the first hundred feet from the surface they run through a solid mass of coal which improves in quality as the pressure under the mountain is greater. The coal mines easily and with the railroad in operation fuel can be furnished cheaply and readily to local customers.

Within the next year residents of Medford may be burning gas both for lighting and cooking purposes. The Pacific Coal Company is already planning to put in a large gas plant at the coal mine and furnish it to the residents of the Rogue River Valley.

The coal found in the local mine is an extra fine quality for the manufacture of gas and the company realizes that the venture would be a paying one. As soon as the mine is running the company will start on the gas proposition and within a year expect to have such a plant in operation.

### Commercial Club Meeting.

The meeting of the Commercial club Tuesday evening was one of the most largely attended gatherings of that body which have been held this year. Tom Richardson, of Portland, the dean of Oregon boosters, A. D. Charlton, of the Northern Pacific railway, F. S. Morris, of Portland, and others addressed the club.

Mr. Richardson spoke of the progress of the state during the past few years, praised the Medford Commercial club for its good work and made a few suggestions along the line of further progress.

Mr. Charlton spoke in the same vein. Mr. Morris expressed his confidence in the future of Medford and as evidence of his confidence cited his offer to take \$300,000 of Medford water bonds and said he might be induced to raise the figure.

The Jacksonville Commercial Club had been invited to participate in the meeting, but the delegation did not arrive until just as the Medford meeting adjourned.

The town of Jacksonville seemed to have turned out en masse, together with the band. Although the regular meeting was over their enthusiasm was undampened and an open air meeting was forthwith held, which lasted until eleven o'clock.

### Mazama Division C. F. Reserve.

Mazama division, Cascade Forest Reserve has been established, with U. J. Buck, formerly of the Klamath reserve in California as acting Superintendent.

This division includes all of the Ashland reserve including the new lyed spar portion and that part of the Klamath reserve in California which lies north of the summit of the Siskiyou and also that portion of the Cascade reserve lying south of the Umpqua divide, covering nearly sixty townships.

Mr. Buck is at present about as busy as anyone ever saw getting his office in shape to handle the business of the division during the coming season. His headquarters will be permanently in Medford and the administration of the reserve as above mentioned will be conducted from this point.

### Real Promotion Work.

We are thoroughly in accord with the work that the Medford Commercial Club is doing in the way of bringing prospective citizens to Medford. The advertising has been done judiciously and cannot fail to have good results. We cannot help giving the club a word of praise for the spirit of action they have shown, and the life of all institutions devoted to the promotion of community welfare consists in work. We note with much gratification therefore that more talk has become a secondary element in its organization, as it should be.

We would suggest, however, that the commercial club take up other matters aside from promotion by advertising. Possibly some may deem it a small thing for such an influential body of citizens to take up the matter of keeping the sidewalks clean. It is not a petty business, all the same. Not so, on the grounds of the protection of the citizen from injury by slipping upon fruit peelings and from damage to his health by inhaling the microbe-laden dust arising at every tread and every whirling zephyr. It is not petty when viewed in the eyes of the visitor—the prospective citizen that judicious advertising has brought within our gates. One of the first criteria whereby a stranger will form a judgment of a city and its people is the condition of its streets and sidewalks. When this is bad, in either case, even the business blocks and baronial dwellings will not save the citizenship of a low quality of taste, if not down right slovenliness. Therefore we would hail with gratification the announcement that the Commercial Club had appointed a committee to work with the city council, and had set itself the task of giving Medford clean sidewalks and streets.

At all events, the work mentioned would be a tangible evidence of activity and usefulness. It would be a concrete beginning to improve matters at home. Other subjects for improvement would present themselves in turn, and once taken up, we are sure the Commercial Club would pursue each with the same degree of enthusiasm that has characterized its campaign of advertising Medford.

—Loganberry, Dewberry and Strawberry vines for sale, by Walter, the berry man, Eagle Point. 9-11.

—Silver plated ware for sale at the Rogue River Creamery, Medford.

### Horticultural Meeting.

The annual meeting on March 8, 1908, of the Rogue River Horticultural Society for the election of officers was called to order by Pres. J. E. Watt. The secretary being absent, Mr. Signs, was called upon to act. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Moved by Mr. Tou Velle, seconded by Mr. Harris that Mr. Watt be re-elected president for the ensuing year. Motion put by Mr. Tou Velle and Mr. Watt was unanimously elected.

Nominations for vice-president were then received. Mr. Tou Velle, S. L. Bennett and W. H. Brown, being the nominees Mr. Tou Velle having the highest number was declared elected.

Mr. Merrick and Mr. Signs were then placed in nomination for secretary. The first ballot was the S-S. The second ballot showed 7 for Merrick and 9 for Signs. Mr. Signs was accordingly declared elected.

The nominees for treasurer were G. A. Hoyer and W. H. Brown. Mr. Hoyer received 7 votes and Mr. Brown 10. Mr. Brown was declared elected.

F. H. Hopkins, L. D. Harris, Ed. Andrews, H. T. Findlay, and C. H. Lewis were placed in nomination as the Executive Committee. The vote being unanimous this committee was declared elected.

Discussions were held upon the fungus diseases of peaches, blight and the care of roses with respect to their need of being sprayed. Also the policy of trying to have some special authority on various horticultural subjects from the Agricultural College and elsewhere to address the meetings was discussed favorably and steps were taken to see if Prof. Lewis of Corvallis could be secured for the next meeting.

Upon motion the meeting adjourned.

The following new members were received: A. L. Marshall, W. T. York, S. A. Nye, W. N. Campbell.

### Good Ranch for Sale.

120 acres—about 70 in cultivation. Good buildings. Three-fourths of a mile from Eagle Point. Clean and nice. Call and see me in Eagle Point. Will show you the land and give you the terms. Too old to run it.

—Come and get our special prices on Chinaware. Allen & Yeagan.

### For Sale

Good 8 year old mare, weight 1000, 3 year old mare colt, single and double harness 1-horse outfit. 2 incubators, 200 small chickens, and some furniture, top heavy, etc. F. A. Smith, 3 miles south of Medford. Opposite Barrett Orchard 11-41-p.

### For Sale

—Farmer, the pure-bred black Percheron stallion will be in Medford after March 1st for the season. —2200 buys 100 acres, well located buildings, 1000 ft. orchard, 40 acres cleared. Call on J. M. See, C. H. Pierce & Son. —For Sale—Three span of mated mares, and two spans of colts. C. E. Tull, Westside stable. 9-41