

**THE ST. JOHNS REVIEW**  
BY A. W. MARKLE

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On Friday of last week at Salem a tragedy was enacted. Two lives were snuffed out by the hangman's noose. And the pity of it is that they were young men, mere boys, just reaching man's estate. And they died to satisfy the majesty of the law. Not that proof absolute was at hand proving beyond the shadow of a doubt that they had committed the crime of murder. They both died protesting their innocence with their last breath. But a murder had been committed and enough evidence was secured to make a jury believe that they had committed the crime. The jury, the judge and the governor did not know that these boys had perpetrated the crime, but they had been convinced that such was the case. And so they were condemned and then legally murdered in turn. Not that both committed the murder, but that one did, and the other was his companion. The law recognizes no difference between the one who wields the murderous weapon and the one who is associated with him at the time. So in order that a murder might be avenged, a wrong righted in the sight of the law, another wrong was done and to our mind a greater crime committed. Two lives paid the price of one. One of the most rigid and uncompromising commandments of the Scriptures is: "Thou shalt not kill." This commandment has never been qualified. It makes no exceptions. No man, no body of men, are given the right to take the life of another. When that law of God is broken, punishment must follow. But it is not man's right to avenge the death of another by taking the life of the murderer. That right God reserves unto himself alone.

Man is a strange creature. He will dig with unabated energy many feet into the earth to rescue an entombed miner, no matter whether that miner is the worst character in the community. He will scale the mountain tops and descend into the depths of the sea, even risking his own life to save that of another, and yet he will hound his fellow man to the death if he is convinced that he has committed murder. He delegates the authority from God without His permission to take a life for a life, or two lives for a life, as illustrated in last Friday's tragedy.

Surely capital punishment is assuming a power that we do not possess, and a thing that we have no right to invoke. May the wish of these two young lads who so bravely met their death at Salem who, while breathing a message of forgiveness and charity to all, expressed the hope that it would be the last hanging in Oregon, come true.

To be consistent the wonder is that Governor West did not commute their sentence to imprisonment for life. That man Webb, who was saved from the gallows by the governor, surely deserved hanging much more than these two boys, but the former had a daughter to plead his cause. The governor should be consistent, and treat all murderers alike. Why should he not change the sentence of all murderers to life imprisonment, since he rightly does not believe in hanging? Mr. West has made an admirable governor, of whom the state should justly feel proud, but in the hanging last week, it seems to us that he might have done differently and kept his dignity and self respect.

The Sterilization Act, one of the most iniquitous measures ever presented in the state, went down to a well merited defeat at Tuesday's election. And it would have suffered a far greater and more overwhelming defeat had the voters in general realized its full import and perniciousness. The promoters of the measure worked upon the sympathies of the women voters by the plea that it would save the babies. On the contrary it actually placed the babies in real danger. In the years to come they would have been subject to this pernicious and most cruel and cold blooded law, had it passed. It is so easy for the young to stray from the paths of virtue, and one misstep would, under such a law, have made them subject to a punishment far bitter than death itself. Instead of "saving the babies" it would have been a constant menace to them. Much capital in favor of the measure has been made of the terrible tragedy of the Hill family, the little Portland girl and others of like nature, the claim being made that a sterilization law would have prevented these distressing

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occurrences. It would not. They would have undoubtedly occurred just the same, and the degenerates would have been just as safe from the arm of the law as they are now, for the very good reason that they have never been apprehended. Had they been caught sterilization would have had no effect upon them, because they would have long ere this given up their earthly career. The present laws are fully sufficient to cope with such cases, without mutilating what might be innocent individuals. It is so easy to say that other boys and men should be sterilized for the practice of sodomy or the crime against nature or other perverted sexual habits, for being convicted for felony or for rape, all of which the measure covers, but when it comes home to us, and it is our boy or girl that has made the departure from virtue, how different, and how we would denounce such a law. There is such a wonderful difference between our own children and the children of another, in our own eyes. It is well that the voters of Oregon have sought the light rather than the darkness of the ages. Nature sees to it that habitual criminalism, moral degeneracy and sexual perversion is seldom transmitted from one generation to another, and thus the babies are practically safe. 'Tis well that the measure was defeated, and may it never again rear its ugly head in Oregon.

The park proposition is affording the city dads plenty of food for thought these days. Just how to make selections that will please the great majority of people is a difficult conclusion to arrive at. But they have about decided to let the voters make their own selections. It is probable that a straw vote will be taken to secure the sentiment of the citizens. Cards may be sent to each voter with a list of preferred park sites thereon, with the request that each voter indicate what tract or tracts he or she favors, and how many, and return same to the office of the city recorder. Such a plan would get the true sentiment that could be gotten in no other way, unless an election be held for the purpose, which would be more costly but no more satisfactory.

**SUMMONS**

In the Justice's Court for St. Johns District, Multnomah county, State of Oregon.  
C. C. Bandy, Plaintiff, vs. Isaac Bacus, Defendant.  
To Isaac Bacus, Defendant: In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint in the above entitled action on or before the 20th day of December, 1913; and if you fail to so answer for want thereof, Plaintiff will take judgment against you for the sum of two hundred and twenty dollars and eighty-seven cents, besides the costs and disbursements of this action, and an order of sale of the property of defendant, which is under attachment in the above entitled action, and which is in said county and state, and is described as follows, viz: 160 poles, 13 chickens, one calf, one pile of lumber, four cows and one buggy; proceeds of sale to be applied on payment of said judgment and costs and disbursements of this action.

This summons is published by order of Hon. J. E. Williams, Justice of the Peace of the above named District duly made on the 31st day of October, 1913.  
J. E. WILLIAMS,  
Justice of the Peace of St. Johns District, Multnomah county, State of Oregon.

**ORDINANCE NO. 571**

**An Ordinance Declaring the Cost of Improving North Leonard Street from the Northerly Side Line of St. Johns Avenue to the Northerly Side Line of Bruce Street, and Assessing the Property Benefited Thereby, Declaring Such Assessment and Directing the Entry of the Same in the Docket of City Liens.**

The city of St. Johns does ordain as follows:

That the council has considered the proposed assessment for improving North Leonard street from the northerly side line of Bruce street, in the city of St. Johns, Oregon, and all objections made thereto, and hereby ascertains, determines and declares the whole cost of said improvement in manner provided by Ordinance No. 544 to be the sum of \$2450.40, and that the special and peculiar benefits accruing to each lot or part thereof or parcel of land within the assessment district, by reason of said improvement and in just proportion to such benefits, are in the respective amounts set opposite the number or description of each lot or part thereof or parcel of land in the following annexed assessment roll and said assessment roll, which is numbered 99, is hereby adopted and approved as the assessment for said improvement, and the recorder of the city of St. Johns is directed to enter a statement of the assessment hereby made in the docket of city liens, and cause notice thereof to be published as provided by charter, which assessment is as follows:

Address	Lot	Block	Assessment
Hollbrook's	13	26	\$72.30
"	14	"	64.20
"	15	"	64.20
"	16	"	64.20
"	17	"	64.20
"	18	"	64.20
"	19	"	64.20
"	20	"	64.20
"	21	"	64.20
"	22	"	64.20
"	23	"	82.32
"	1	25	28.53
"	2	"	64.20
"	3	"	64.20
"	4	"	64.20
"	5	"	64.20
"	6	"	64.20
"	7	"	64.20
"	8	"	64.20
"	9	"	64.20
"	10	"	64.20
"	11	"	64.20
"	12	"	61.90
"	1	24	37.64
"	2	"	64.20
"	3	"	64.20
"	4	"	64.20
"	5	"	64.20
"	6	"	64.20
"	7	"	64.20
"	8	"	64.20
"	9	"	64.20
"	10	"	64.20
"	11	"	86.40
"	12	23	32.59
"	13	"	64.20
"	14	"	64.20
"	15	"	64.20
"	16	"	64.20
"	17	"	64.20
"	18	"	64.20
"	19	"	64.20
"	20	"	64.20
"	21	"	91.43
"	11	33	71.68
"	12	"	64.20
"	13	"	64.20
"	14	"	64.20
"	15	"	64.20
"	16	"	64.20
"	17	"	64.20
"	18	"	64.20
"	19	"	64.20
"	20	"	64.20
"	21	"	64.20
"	1	34	51.88
"	2	"	64.20
"	3	"	64.20
"	4	"	64.20
"	5	"	64.20
"	6	"	64.20
"	7	"	64.20
"	8	"	64.20
"	9	"	64.20
"	10	"	125.45

Total \$4250.40  
Passed by the council this 5th day of Nov., 1913.  
Approved by the mayor this 5th day of Nov., 1913.  
CHAS. BREDSON, Mayor.  
F. A. RICE, Recorder.  
Published in the St. Johns Review on Nov. 31, 1913.  
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