

The Oregonian

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Portland, Tuesday, Aug. 13, 1907.

REASON OF THE SUNDAY LAW.
 The Jewish Tribune (Portland) continues its criticism of the rather attack on enforcement of the law for closure of liquor saloons on Sundays. It treats the act as a concession to the Christian churches, led by their clergy, whose demands are acceded to by the public authorities for the sake of winning support in politics. The act, says the Tribune, "is not for the purpose that one day in the week man may rest, but is merely a case of politics from start to finish." This on the political side. On the ecclesiastical side it is said to be "a favor to the clergy, who strive to press the observance of the old Sabbath law."

Constantine, in the robe of Christian piety, with police force. This Sunday closing appears upon its face a tendency to unite church and state, a unity which is contrary to the American spirit. And so, "our District Attorney, representing the law, uses it for the purpose of eradicating the spirit of American liberty."

We think this view does not represent the opinion of the body of our Jewish citizens. Moreover, it is only a theoretical view, springing naturally perhaps out of study of the union of church and state under the Roman empire and opposition to its historical consequences. That was a tyranny, to be sure. It led to the extreme despotism, continuing during many centuries, ever known among men. Sunday was the day of pagan observance, in the Roman world. Constantine identified it with the day of Christian worship, based in its turn on the legend of the resurrection of Jesus. By a strange but perfectly intelligible process the command of the Jewish law, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," was transferred from Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) to Sunday, and converted, in the consciousness and practice of the Christian world, into an additional sanction of Sunday as the holy day. But our modern Sunday laws are not enacted and enforced through such ideas as these. No doubt, however, these ideas account, in part, for the activity of the clergy in numbers of the Christian clergy, in their advocacy of closure of saloons on Sundays. Just now their denunciations fall specially on the liquor saloons, for two reasons. First, the saloons, in keeping open on Sundays, were an exception to the general rule of closure. Second, they are wholly opposed to the saloons and would abolish them utterly if they could, but since they cannot, and since they find on the statute-book a law for closing them on Sundays, they invoke it; for the further reason, moreover, that sale of liquor is peculiarly apt to give rise to disturbances, on the day of social intercourse, worship and rest from labor. This last is at once the source of the law and the main reason that prevails with the mass of the people. The ecclesiastical or dogmatic reason, that Sunday is "the holy day" of the week, alone would be powerless.

Our towns and cities of the Northwest, all or nearly all of them, are now adopting this American custom of forbidding the sale of liquors on Sundays. They have been slow about it, for the custom has long prevailed in our Eastern and Southern States. It might, indeed, have been expected sooner here; but though it came late it never will be abandoned. Nor is there need of alarm for liberty. Whatever traces may be observed in ancient English or early American law of ecclesiastical rule or religious purpose in the law governing conduct on Sunday have disappeared from modern law, as practically administered. Sunday is named for the rest day because the masses of the people have for centuries observed it, more or less fully, and the Government can more easily secure and protect a day already popularly designated—than establish a new one—not, however, because the law undertakes to enforce a divine command. Protection of individual liberty is the real object; protection of the liberty of the many, for rest, recreation,

social intercourse, culture and worship, against encroachments and interruptions from the few. It is because the masses desire and need the day for rest that the law forbids the few to prosecute and exact continued labor. The liquor traffic fairly under special ban that day, because of its special liability to abuse. It is a conclusive fact, and must be regarded as beyond debate. The law could not stand at all if its basis were ecclesiastical tyranny. The mistake of the Jewish Tribune is in looking at it as if it were, of course our Jewish brethren cannot assent to the idea that Sunday should be or can be made by law to supersede the Jewish Sabbath, or given higher sanctions by the state. Nor could the great body of our people tolerate Sunday laws, if the idea were to support an ecclesiastical rule or theological dogma. That, however, is not attempted. The idea of the law is not that one day is more "holy" than another. The purpose is to guarantee, impartially, that the masses shall enjoy a stated day during which there shall not be needless disruption of ordinary business or interruptions of noise or tumult, or anything to interfere with the rest and quiet of the day. The law is neither that of Moses, nor of Constantine, nor of Pagan Rome, nor of Puritan England; but it is simply the exercise of the police power of the modern state.

A COSTLY STRIKE.
 This being a free country in which this people do as they please, the telegraphers, of course, have the right to strike. For the same reason their employers have the right to refuse to meet the demands which they are making. Thus far there is not room for any argument, protest and objection. But the telegraphers and their employers are only a comparatively small proportion of the population of the United States. For every one of the operators and employers interested in this strike there are thousands of innocent and unconnected persons who should not be dragged into this controversy and forced to lose money through a disagreement between telegraphers and their employers. The business interests throughout the United States yesterday were kept in a tremor of excitement all day because of the impossibility of securing prompt wire service.

This excitement was aggravated by the uncertainty of a speedy adjustment of the difficulties, and in the course of the day both the stock market and the wheat market suffered fearful declines. Buying and selling makes a market on any commodity, and they, of course, are always accompanied by speculative influences. When the facilities for carrying on this speculation are curtailed and buying and selling ceases or sinks to a low ebb, prices decline through lack of support to which, in many cases, they are legitimately entitled. The wheat market declined 4 cents per bushel in Chicago yesterday. A small portion of this decline was traceable to a decline of about 1 1/2 cents in the Liverpool market, but the change in natural conditions which should govern wheat prices was not at all in keeping with the overwhelming influence of the telegraph strike.

The markets were fairly swamped with selling orders from men who feared a protracted struggle in the course of which they were liable to be left without means of keeping in touch with the market. Accordingly there was no safe course open but to get out from under, even though selling at a loss. In stocks much the same conditions were noticeable. The public, of course, has scant sympathy for the professional bulls and bears who might get caught in a mixup of this nature. But in stocks, as in wheat, there is an enormous following whose holdings are perfectly legitimate. These people have bought Pacific and Great Northern and other shares which yesterday suffered such tremendous shrinkage for an investment, and when the disagreement between employers and employees in the telegraphic service broke out, such a slump as is now in evidence, their investments suffer along with those of the speculators, who dabble only in margins.

According to the dispatches, the Government is affected by the strike through difficulty of getting supplies through the telegraph. Perhaps if the situation becomes sufficiently strained and serious political complications arise, a system by which the many cannot be inconvenienced by the few might be perfected and the Government step in and insist on a speedy settlement of these differences. There are objections to Government ownership, but it is emergencies like the telegraphers' strike that is now hampering the business of the country that is gradually increasing the popular demand for Government ownership of some of our utilities.

AN INDEX OF GROWTH.
 The growth in school population is a dependable index of a city's growth. The activity of the clergy in numbers of the Christian clergy, in their advocacy of closure of saloons on Sundays. Just now their denunciations fall specially on the liquor saloons, for two reasons. First, the saloons, in keeping open on Sundays, were an exception to the general rule of closure. Second, they are wholly opposed to the saloons and would abolish them utterly if they could, but since they cannot, and since they find on the statute-book a law for closing them on Sundays, they invoke it; for the further reason, moreover, that sale of liquor is peculiarly apt to give rise to disturbances, on the day of social intercourse, worship and rest from labor. This last is at once the source of the law and the main reason that prevails with the mass of the people. The ecclesiastical or dogmatic reason, that Sunday is "the holy day" of the week, alone would be powerless.

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and that those who manage the schools and keep them in working order bring diligence, intelligence and earnestness of purpose to the work. The enrollment in the public schools of this city will probably be not less than 30,000 by the beginning of the second month. September is the hop-picking and prune-picking month, and in both of these vocations boys and girls are alert and useful. This is, indeed, the most pleasant, and certainly the most profitable, part of the vacation season to a considerable number of the older pupils of the schools. Others will not return from the Summer's outing until later, so that high tide in attendance will not be reached until the second month.

THE STANDARD OIL REPORT.
 The railroad rebate is like the wicked Gerd in the Arabian tale, who assumed a new color at the very time the Gerls were slain. When the good Princess had killed him as an ox, he became an ass. When she slew him as a bird he became a fish. Thus it is with the subtle and elusive rebate. Slay it as car rent and it springs into new life as an allowance for damage in transit. Smother it as a terminal discrimination and it springs up rejuvenescent as an overpayment for lubricants.

The credit of unveiling this last disguise of the Standard Oil Company's ruthless purpose to rob the railroads and swindle competitors by means of the Commissioner of Corporations, Mr. Herbert Knox Smith, Nor is the credit small. Before reading his account of the matter one would have said there was no possible form of the rebate robbery of which Standard Oil had not already been convicted. But this is a new one. The Pennsylvania road, for example, pays less than half as much as most companies for lubricants. Of course the monopoly does not sell to the Pennsylvania road at a loss. The excess paid by the others is sent to the Standard Oil Company's trust. Perhaps some of it went finally to the American Board of Foreign Missions. Perhaps Dr. Day received a share of the booty.

Commissioner Smith's statement that Standard Oil sells kerosene products cheaper abroad than at home surprises nobody. All of our trusts do that, particularly such disingenuous infants as the steel and watch trusts. The European purchaser of kerosene products enjoys an advantage of 33 per cent over the American, while to the heathen Chinese and the heathen Japanese the deduction is more than 50 per cent. This is the price we pay for the glory of harboring the beneficent Standard Oil Company. It would be actually better for America if our kerosene deposits were in Asia, for then this would be a foreign market and would receive price concessions if used by the Standard Oil Company. The Standard Oil Company has signally favored the United States by giving us vast supplies of timber, iron and petroleum. In practice the favor is rather dubious. Doubtless it was the purpose of the Lord in placing these treasures at our doors to make them cheap to us; but his excellent intention like so many others, has sadly miscarried. American lumber, steel and petroleum products are all cheaper in foreign countries than they are at home. This speaks volumes for our generosity, but not quite so much for our common sense.

THE SIN OF STERILITY.
 We cannot entirely agree with the Rev. Everett M. Hill that women of the smart set are blameworthy for not bearing more children. His sermon last Sunday night was too severe upon our upper classes. Their abstemiousness ought to be counted among the blessings rather than the misfortunes of the country. Children are apt to inherit the mental vices and perversities of their mothers. A woman of the poodle-dog and polyandrous type, therefore, deserves our gratitude if she limits her offspring to a single child. Better still were it if she had none at all.

There is no special merit in the mere act of bringing human beings into the world, regardless of the inherited qualities and the nurture they are likely to receive. If a foolish woman bears children they are likely to be fools, and of that class the supply is already generous. Let us praise our social luxuries, then, instead of rebuking them for this isolated piece of wisdom among their abounding idiocies.

Suppose each such woman had five children by each of her five husbands, as Mr. Hill reckons them, and each child was like its mother. How would that suit our critical friend? We rather fancy he would prefer a delicate child of pulp and preach a still more tedious sermon on the sin of having too many children. Sometimes we are not sufficiently thankful for our negative blessings. It is best to let sleeping dogs lie. Our "smart" women do mischief enough as it is without pouring a swarm of defective children into the world. There are plenty of defective people to perpetuate the human race, and if we give them a chance to support their families in comfort they will attend to the duty without being preached at. An ounce of fair economic dealing is worth a ton of sermons in the solution of the birth problem.

A MIRACLE BROUGHT BY WATER.
 The National Irrigation Congress, which is soon to convene in annual session at Sacramento, will be composed of men of experience in irrigation work and of intelligent observation and sound judgment in regard to results that have been achieved and to be achieved by bringing water to the thirsty places of the great plateau. The states that have arisen upon the site of the Great American Desert of the geographies of two generations ago—Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Nebraska, Nevada, Arizona and the Dakotas—will bring tribute to this congress of the wealth that has sprung from the once arid soil and of great areas that have been redeemed to agriculture by irrigation.

A section where the annual rainfall is adequate to all the needs of agriculture is a charming place in which to pursue that ancient and honorable calling. But the section once a desert—now a garden, once a waste of dull gray color—now a landscape of vivid green or golden harvest hue, to which the irrigation ditches have brought life and beauty and wealth, has an interest all its own. It is as if man had joined hands with Nature and helped her to work out a long-thwarted plan.

Just previous to the advance of the reclamation era, Hamlin Garland, an ardent lover of the boundless West, wrote:

I stood one day on a prairie height
 And looked far out on the misty sea
 Of midday grasses lying asleep
 As silent as the sea.
 Silent, majestic, lone as the sea
 Round the Southern pole, the land unseen
 Awaited the plowman's tread
 To laugh mid plenty beneath his feet.
 Ditches were dug and water was

stored and distributed over these thirsty areas and the record proceeded: I stood again on the self-same mound
 Of swelling turf, three years between,
 And in the land was a-hum with sound
 Of men and reapers, as sickles keen
 Swept into the drowsy-headed wheat
 With clatter and rattle and sound song;
 While wide as the sea-green, yellow and brown
 The grain fields endlessly rolled along.

This may not be poetry in an ethical sense, but it presents a marvelous fact in a pleasant way and attests the power of water in working out this miracle of agriculture in the so-called Great American Desert.

One of the most deliberate, brutal and causeless murders ever committed in this state was that of Ernest Bonomi, the Italian rancher who was shot while asleep in the doorway of his home on Mt. Creek, August 12, of this city. Experts pronounce the murderer, Edward Gossen, a degenerate, in order to distinguish him from the criminal mercenary whom cupidly incites to murder. The distinction is without difference so far as results are concerned, and will probably not be used in this case to turn aside the penalty for murder deliberately planned and ruthlessly committed. It matters little really whether the murderer is "a degenerate" or a mercenary. The extreme penalty of outraged law is his lot. It is gratifying to know that the murderer in this case was not abetted by a woman's perfidy and scheming. The wife of Bonomi was sleeping quietly by his side when the shot that made her a widow was fired. The horror of the situation in which she found herself when a widow was not abetted by a woman's perfidy and scheming. The wife of Bonomi was sleeping quietly by his side when the shot that made her a widow was fired. The horror of the situation in which she found herself when a widow was not abetted by a woman's perfidy and scheming.

The orchardist who fears that apple production may be overdone should dismiss his fears. Good apples—clean and sweet—will bear shipping, and that are, withal, handsome, and toothsome—and a constantly increasing demand in an ever-widening market. In evidence of this is the opening of the Vladivostok market to Oregon apples, to meet the requirements of which it is probable that 20,000 boxes of the shot in beyond this year's crop will be sent. We can only hope that the home supply will not be seriously depleted by the demands of the widening market and that horticulturists will bestir themselves in increasing the apple orchard area of the state.

It is now becoming popular for millionaires to get out injunctions by which one court enjoins another from prosecuting them. This is a fine idea, and in order that all may have recourse to it, the state should employ attorneys to sue out injunctions in behalf of the poor people who cannot sue for themselves. Many a suitor has gone to jail in Portland who might have escaped if he had been permitted the millionaire's defense by injunction. Thus do innocent men get into the penitentiary.

Of course now, if Mr. Ladd's editor couldn't fire his blunderbuss in the direction of the Oregonian, he would have no occupation. In his powerful style he lets off a charge from his mud mortar, labeled "The Scriptural Sow." This animal, we think, "returned to her wallow in the mire." Yet this wasn't the very worst, Mr. Editor, nor by comparison so very bad. If you will turn back to think of it, you will find there was also the Scriptural dog. He "returned to his vomit."

The President classed Haywood with "undesirable citizens." The Socialists are still harping on it. The President's remark was made before the trial, and Haywood was acquitted. But does the proof which the trial developed beyond any question, that Haywood had long been on intimate terms with Orchard, the murderer, show that Haywood is a "desirable citizen?"

A woman suffering from cancer was out picking huckleberries near Point Jervis, N. Y.—so runs the story—and was bitten by a rattlesnake. In this case "it was the snake that died." At all events, the cancer was cured. Whether this is a plain, ordinary snake story or a sensational cancer story the public is not advised.

With all this corporation slime adhering to some Republican and Democratic candidates; with the labor unions against Taft and the New York machine against Hughes, and with the Socialists and the Socialists, who will assume the role of inspired prophet as to the outcome of the next Presidential election?

Suppose somebody who desires to succeed Representative Hawley should pray for his death to make a vacancy. What would be said of him? But it shocks nobody to learn that our younger naval officers hope for a war to kill off their superiors and hasten promotions. Where is the difference?

The Department of Agriculture urges farmers to kill rats. It tells them that rats cost the country not less than \$100,000,000 a year. That's a good deal of money. But it's so much less than Rockefeller and the trusts get away with that the farmers rather pity the rats and let 'em go.

The American people may as well get their pocketbooks ready. The amount of the fine against the oleaginous octopus is rather large, but we can pay it if we work hard and save strenuously.

Of the \$400,000 of stocks, appraised in the Goode estate, that of the Oregon Life Insurance Company is the only one appraised at par. A fact worth noting.

To avoid misunderstanding and consequent worry, it may be well enough to say that the Democratic-state ticket has been only nominated.

To be effective this season, the Council should use more speed in passing the automobile ordinance than it grants to motor cars.

Here's hoping that Commander Peary and Walter Wellman may meet at the real farthest north and get back home safe and sound.

This country is interested not so much in John D. Rockefeller's alleged father as in the future conduct of his posterity.

In selling its products cheaper abroad than at home, Standard Oil is not worse than the steel trust.

It looks as if all hands will have to give their telegraph business this week to the postal authorities.

NEW YORK MEN QUIT KEYS.
Stop Work Without Moment's Notice—Both Companies Affected.
 NEW YORK, Aug. 12.—The strike of the telegraph operators which has affected many cities, was extended to New York today, when men employed by both the Western Union and Postal Companies quit work. The Postal strikers said that 30 per cent of their men were out. The Western Union officials declared that 50 per cent of their day force left their keys. Extra police were called out to protect those in the vicinity, but there was little occasion for their services.

Go Out Without Warning.
 At 1 o'clock this afternoon many operators in the main office of the Western Union here went out. There had been rumors that such a move was in contemplation, but up to a few minutes before the men quit work there were no signs of the intended action. At exactly 1 o'clock a shrill whistle was sounded through the big operating-room, and a large part of the force at work left their keys. As the men left the building they were cheered by other operators who had gathered in the street. The cheers attracted passers-by on Broad street, and in a few minutes a large crowd had gathered.

There was no disorder, however, and the police of the traffic squad soon put the crowd in motion. One man disputed the right of the policemen to compel him to move on, and he was arrested.

It was stated by a general officer of the company that out of 400 on the day force, 201 refused to go out. The men, he said, are now at their keys, and the officers of the company said that by 5 o'clock this evening they would have a full force at work.

Within a short time the strikers dispersed to their homes and by 1:30 there was no sign of anything unusual in the vicinity of the Western Union building. Shortly after 1 o'clock most of the Western Union men working on the Produce Exchange went on strike, leaving only a few nonunion men at work. The local union officers had done all they could to prevent the men going out. He said:

"The officers regret this action of the men going out at this time. We did all we could to restrain them, but they were simply goaded into going out. The last straw that broke the camel's back today was when three men, who had been discharged last week for declining to work with the strikers, were employed."

Secretary Melmerney said that the local men had walked out without any order from the union officers, and had taken the matter in their own hands. He said the officers of the union, though, would stand by the strikers in their action. Secretary Melmerney said that he realized that the feeling of the men was strong against the company, but that the local union officers had done all they could to prevent the men going out. He said:

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Secretary Melmerney said that the local men had walked out without any order from the union officers, and had taken the matter in their own hands. He said the officers of the union, though, would stand by the strikers in their action. Secretary Melmerney said that he realized that the feeling of the men was strong against the company, but that the local union officers had done all they could to prevent the men going out. He said:

Want the Value of Their Wood.
 OREGON CITY, Or., Aug. 12.—(Special.)—County Judge Grant B. Dimick today overruled a motion for an injunction in the suit of the Sunnyside Fuel Company against Bert Jonsrud, et al., to restrain the defendants from crossing a right of way owned by the plaintiff near Sandy. The court ordered that the defendants might be permitted to travel the right of way in dry weather, providing they keep the road in good condition. Immediately after the decision was rendered, the plaintiff commenced an action to replevin 150 cords of wood, valued at \$300, and for damages in the amount of \$100 to the cost of the wood. The case was set for trial at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning to serve the papers in the suit.

Sues for Chemical Work.
 TACOMA, Wash., Aug. 12.—(Special.)—Dr. H. H. Bebb will sue the city for \$500 for the loss of his chemical work. The \$50 account was refused several months ago. Dr. Bebb was employed as city bacteriologist and all chemical work he would entrust it to her. She did so and some chemical analysis of water and milk were made by her. When the bills for her services came in the Comptroller and Mayor held them up and the Council finally decided not to pay them.

New Wharf Completed.
 ASTORIA, Or., Aug. 12.—(Special.)—The wharf which Ferguson & Houston are building for the Government at Fort Canby is nearly completed and will probably be finished tomorrow. The piling used in this work was creosoted and coped, in order to protect it from termites. The contract price for the wharf was \$7000. The same firm has completed the laying of tie drains in the portion of the reservation surrounding Fort Stevens barracks. The grading contract will not be completed for about three weeks.

Pastor Goes Into Real Estate.
 TACOMA, Wash., Aug. 12.—(Special.)—Rev. A. H. Barnhill, lately pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, has taken the management of the investment department of a real estate firm. Speaking of the work, Mr. Barnhill said he wanted something that would give him a chance to "get out into the world" and to speak, chiefly, to recruit his health, and he decided to undertake the work at least for a year.

DEAD OF THE NORTHWEST.
 Jacob Jacobson.
 MINNAPOLIS, Or., Aug. 12.—Jacob Jacobson died at Sodaville of rheumatism inducing heart failure, and his body was brought home Friday evening for burial. The funeral was held Saturday under charge of Undertaker Macy. Two services were held, the first at the undertaking parlors, where Rev. Mr. Johnson spoke in the Danish language, and the second at the South Yamhill Baptist Church, where Rev. Mr. Johnson preached the sermon. Mr. Jacobson expected to return to his home here in a day or two, as he was feeling comparatively well when he retired at night, but his wife awoke to find him dead. He was born in Denmark but had been a resident of Oregon for a number of years.

Henry Long.
 OREGON CITY, Or., Aug. 12.—(Special.)—Henry Long died Saturday at the mineral springs on the Upper Molalla River, and his body was brought to Marquam for burial. Mr. Long, who was well along in years, had gone to the springs in the hope of the waters affecting a cure for rheumatism. His niece, Mrs. Thomas, resides in this city.

Mrs. Hannah Mary Feathers.
 OREGON CITY, Or., Aug. 12.—(Special.)—Mrs. Hannah Mary Feathers died yesterday at her residence near Damara. She was 63 years old. She had been ill only a few days and is survived by a husband and four children.