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THE FAIR AND THE SABBATH.

The people of the city of Portland, confident of receiving the national financial assistance essential to the success of the Lewis and Clark fair, have determined to settle among themselves a question that should have arisen—Shall the fair be open on Sunday?

If the fair is open at all it certainly should be open on Sunday.

There is always something doing in the Oregon metropolis to agitate the public mind, and we have an idea this Sunday-opening bubble will soon burst, just as other similar bubbles have burst. At the present time, however, the controversy is being merily waged, and the argument is yet to be won by one side or the other.

Sunday is a day of recreation and rest and prayer. It is a day of prayer for those who make up the church-going element; it is a day of recreation and rest for those who have no particular religious scruples and who sometimes attend church but more frequently spend the Sabbath in quest of quiet mental entertainment. Each of the two classes is entitled to due consideration. It would be just as reasonable for the non-church-going element to say the churches should not be open during the fair as for the church-goers to insist that the fair should be closed on Sunday.

This does not imply that the work of the churches is to be discredited in any way. Religion has made the world—has blazed the way for civilization. Since Charles Martel drove back the Moors at the battle of Tours, Christianity has directed the march of civilization, and its relation to enlightenment has not since been changed. The churches are powerful factors for all that is good in this world and well-nigh indispensable in preparing us for the next.

It is not clear that the fair is a thrust at religion, as would appear from the agitation now in full swing in Portland. Quite to the contrary, it is primarily intended as a great agitator. Should it prove to be anything else, it would be a dismal failure. The demand, then, that the fair be closed on the Sabbath is itself a direct blow at education, and as such will doubtless be ignored by the gentlemen in authority.

So far as the church-goers are concerned, they are actuated, of course, by a desire to elevate the moral tone of the community. They believe implicitly that the average man and woman will accomplish more for their own mental advancement by spending the Sabbath at church than by viewing the attractions of an exposition of the wares of the nations of the earth, or by assembling at the sideshows for vaudeville or other entertainment. On the other hand there is a very considerable element that clings to an opposite opinion, or else is so indifferent as to give but little heed to religious advancement. Closing the fair on the Sabbath would not bring this last-named element to the churches, but rather would send it strolling about the streets of the city, out into the country or down to the sea shore to seek such entertainment as one would naturally expect to enjoy when visiting an exposition city. Practically, Sunday-closing would accomplish little for religion, to say nothing of the theoretical error of one class proscribing against the legitimate amusement sought by another.

Those fair visitors who are church-goers will attend church on Sunday, whether or not the exposition gates are kept open; and, no matter what the decision reached by the fair management, the other element will remain away from the house of worship. Sunday closing of the fair will merely keep down the number of visitors to Portland—for the reputation of which we need, should the decision be against Sabbath closing, have no fear.

AVERAGE LIFE IS LONGER.

Statistics from all the principal cities of our coun-

try bear out the statement that eventually there will be little or no disease—at that period of the world's existence when there is proper observance of health regulations. Vital statistics show that the average age of persons who die is rapidly becoming greater which bears out the theory that we are becoming better prepared to cope with disease. Parents are enabled by modern means to properly rear their children, and, as proper rearing means less disease, the danger of contagion is thereby reduced.

From the Chicago Tribune we learn that the average age of the 10,203 persons who died in Chicago in 1872 was 15.2 years. The average age for the 28,353 persons who died in Chicago last year—the victims of the Iroquois theater are not included—was 32.1 years. This is a remarkable showing. There has been a prolongation of the average period of life in every civilized country. Greater cleanliness, the extended use of antiseptics and antitoxins, the more intelligent care bestowed on the rearing of babies have worked together to bring down the death rate. Nowhere have improved sanitary and medical methods been more effective than in Chicago.

The birth rate is declining in many parts of this country. That has alarmed some persons and has occasioned the cry of "race suicide." A lower birth rate is not so terrifying when it is accompanied by a lower death rate. The one is more than offset by the other. It is certainly to be preferred that eight children be born of whom only two die in infancy than that twelve should be born, six of whom die in the cradle. The population increases as rapidly in one case as in the other. Though the average term of life of Chicago decedents has been lengthened so greatly in a generation, there is room for still greater improvement. There are still too many lives sacrificed through ignorance or indifference to sanitary or other precautions against disease. If the health department could fill all of the inhabitants of the city with its own knowledge of the arts of prolonging life the Chicago record, fine as it is, soon would be much more surprisingly good.

President Roosevelt is by far the youngest of the presidential aspirants. He will be 46 on October 27; Alton B. Parker will be 52 on May 14; Richard Olney will be 69 on September 15; Grover Cleveland will be 67 on March 18; Senator Gorman will be 65 on March 11; David B. Hill will be 61 on August 29; George Gray will be 64 on May 4; John Hay of Ohio, will be 66 on October 8; Senator Hanna will be 67 on September 24; William H. Taft, of Ohio, will be 47 on September 15; Mr. Bryan will be 44 on March 16. Washington was 67 when he died; John Adams 90; Jefferson 83, Madison 85; Monroe 73, John Quincy Adams 80, Jackson 78, Van Buren 79, William Henry Harrison 68, Tyler 72, Polk 53, Taylor 65, Fillmore 74, Pierce 64, Buchanan 77, Lincoln 56, Johnson 66, Grant 63, Hayes 70, Garfield 49, Arthur 56, Benjamin Harrison 67, and McKinley 58.

Mr. Bryan received the democratic nomination in 1896 because he used an expression that aroused intense enthusiasm in his behalf. If he were still in the running he might again have captured the nomination this year with an expression employed during an impassioned, impromptu speech at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York, where he said: "A man who is fit to die for his country ought to be permitted to live for it." That sentence would make an admirable campaign cry.

American marines were the first to reach Seoul, the capital of Korea, where troops are being sent by the different nations to guard their respective interests in the hermit kingdom, in case of a conflict between Japan and Russia. It is not only to Panama that American marines are sent in preparation for an emergency.

The Texas congressman who declared that Senator Gorman was a "slick politician" has revised his opinion since the Maryland senator tried to lead his colleagues in opposition to the canal treaty.

The Salem Statesman cries out for peace among republicans. Editor Geer should remember that the primary war in Multnomah is an essential forerunner to harmony.

Having failed to build a new city hall, the Astoria council will now put in its time at what promised to be an unsuccessful effort to provide a dumping ground.

When thousands of Europeans are wearing American shoes, it is not right for them to kick against the American invasion.

The White House would be painted yellow if a representative of that colored journalism should become president.

Murderer Harry Egbert "died game." Had he killed game, his finish would not have been so sorrowful, perhaps.

Ferris Wheel Going South

Axle Being Shipped on Two Flat Cars to Site of World's Fair

Chicago, Jan. 30.—The giant axle of the Ferris wheel, one of the principal attractions at the Chicago World's fair, has started on its trip to St. Louis, where this summer the monster ring of iron will be exhibited at the Louisiana Purchase exposition. A great part of the wheel is already in transit to St. Louis, but it will be several weeks before the last of the huge structure has left the city of its birth. The axle, which is one solid piece of steel and iron, is more than 40 feet long and almost three feet in diameter. Its weight is 76 tons and it will be carried on two flat cars.

When Midshipmen Graduate. Annapolis, Md., Jan. 30.—The standing of the class of midshipmen who are to be graduated on Monday will be made out for the whole four

year course. First honors are won by Midshipman David McDougal-Le Breton, of Washington, D. C. His nearest competitor was Andrew C. Pickens, of Alabama.

Bad Streets Destroy Horses.

New York, Jan. 30.—Unless something happens before long to give the horses a better foothold in New York streets, this city will be in danger of a horse famine because of the destruction of hundreds of valuable animals suffering from broken legs. Already many apartment houses and hotels are short of coal and inquiry among leading stables show that more than 10 per cent of the work horses are incapacitated. The continued freezing and thawing has coated the streets with ice, so that even when dealers can deliver goods, the loads drawn by the teams are only about half the usual number. The animals in the fire department have also been laid up and the acting chief has applied for funds to purchase new ones.

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LEAVE	PORTLAND	ARRIVE
8:00 a m	Portland Union Depot	11:10 a m
7:00 p m	Portland Union Depot	9:40 p m

ASTORIA		
7:45 a m	For Portland and Way Points	11:30 a m
6:10 p m		10:30 p m

SEASIDE DIVISION		
8:15 a m	Astoria for Warrenton, Flavel, Stevens, Hammond and Seaside	7:40 a m
11:35 a m		4:00 p m
5:50 p m		10:45 a m

6:15 a m	Seaside for Warrenton, Flavel, Hammond, Fort Stevens & Astoria	12:50 p m
9:30 a m		7:30 p m
2:30 p m		9:25 a m

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