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TERMS SUICIDE A COWARDLY ACT

REV. W. H. SELLECK PRAISES AGAINST THE TAKING OF ONE'S LIFE AND SAYS THE GROWER OF THE EVIL IS DUE TO LACK OF FAITH IN GOD.

"Shed no tears for the contemptible cowards who take their own lives, after due deliberation, but rather mourn for those whom they leave behind to continue the struggle for life," said Rev. W. H. Selleck, pastor of Sunnyside Methodist Episcopal church last night. His subject was "Suicide." Despite the unusual warmth of the day, a large congregation was present to hear the minister discuss the theme.

Taking his text from Acts xv:26-27, where the jailer of Philippi, charged with the safe-keeping of many prisoners, among them Paul and Silas, alleged disturbers of the government, was about to end his life with his sword because he thought a wholesale escape had taken place, Mr. Selleck enumerated instances down to the present time where men of eminence, as well as women, have committed suicide.

Mr. Selleck charged that the alarming growth of suicide is due first to a lack of faith in God, then to the feverish interest in temporal matters; also to strong drink, disappointment in affections, gambling, the social evil and fear of exposure.

"There has ever been a tendency to end life by committing suicide," said Mr. Selleck, "but never in the world's history has there been a time when so many such deaths have been recorded as now. Some voice, loud enough to be heard by every one, ought to be raised against this cowardly act. Last week in a single issue of a local paper there were accounts of eight suicides in Oregon. The only remedy for the epidemic is the salvation of Jesus Christ, for that gives sunshine and cheer, while unbelief gives the opposite."

WORKS FOR WORKERS.

Rev. A. J. Montgomery Makes Appeal for Church Aid Society.

Work of the board of church erection was set forth yesterday morning by Rev. A. J. Montgomery in his sermon, his text being from Hebrews, x:25. The object was to arouse a special interest in the people on the subject of church building. Mr. Montgomery gave a brief account of the origin of the church erection board, and said that Dr. Knox was the first to suggest it about 60 years ago, in a strong address on the subject. Mr. Montgomery told something of the practical workings of that organization, and said its object was to promote and see the completion of meeting houses in places where the membership was not strong enough to do it themselves.

"The congregations raise a considerable per cent of the cost of the buildings," said Mr. Montgomery, "and then the board of church erection makes a grant of enough to complete the building without debt, the same as has just been done in the East View Presbyterian church, on the Mount Scott railway, taking a mortgage on the property and charging a nominal rate of interest. In this way the church erection board has helped to build 100 churches throughout the country. The money is paid back into the treasury and is reloaned and is kept building churches."

SEKS SERVICE AT WHITE TEMPLE.

There was a great gathering at the White Temple last night, the occasion being a special service attended by the members of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Rev. Ray Palmer spoke on the principles upheld by the order. Special music was rendered by the choir.

The speakers' text was chosen from Rev. 12:10. "Those that are faithful unto death and I will give them a crown of life." Rev. Mr. Palmer stated that the Order of Elks is misunderstood by many people and for this reason is opposed by them. "The principles of the order," said he, "comprise the fundamental principles of church, home and state. The seven jeweled crown means a great deal. The stones in turn mean charity, justice, love, fidelity, protection, good cheer and faith."

TELLS OF TENEMENT WORK.

"If anyone is inclined to doubt the practical value of Christianity, one of the many incidents in the field would be indisputable," said Miss Clara Webb of Portland yesterday evening at the Central M. E. church. Miss Webb has spent the past year in Chicago, where she attended the Baptist Missionary Training school.

The speaker described the various departments of the work from the thorough study of the Bible to conducting sewing classes, visiting crowded tenement houses. "Numerous incidents of the latter kind of work could be given," said the speaker. "It is most frequently found upon several flights of rickety stairs at the furthest ends of corridors. Ink is not blacker than their darkness, and one must be guided by a hand along the walls of dark passages ways to many a hovell home. Yet thousands of human beings live in such places in all the larger cities of our own country—too frequently in distress."

OPEN NEW CHAPEL.

The Presbyterian chapel at East View on the Mount Scott railway was used for worship for the first time yesterday. At 3 o'clock there was preaching by Rev. D. A. Thompson of Sellwood Presbyterian church, and at 4 o'clock Sunday school services. The chapel will be consecrated Sunday, July 24, when Rev. William S. Gilbert, pastor of Calvary Presbyterian church, will preach. Rev. Andrew J. Montgomery, pastor of Third church, and Rev. E. F. Hill, pastor of First church, will also be present.

The chapel was erected at a cost of \$400. Church organization will be effected in the near future. The Sunday school is in a thriving condition. The Evangelical church has secured ground for the erection of a church and a new school building will be ready for occupancy in the fall. There will be four rooms with as many teachers.

WELCOME NEW PASTOR.

Cordial welcome was given Rev. C. H. Shafer, who preached for the first time in his new charge at the First United Brethren church, East Morrison and Fifteenth streets, yesterday afternoon. Mr. Shafer comes from Hood River, where he has just closed a successful pastorate of four years, taking

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FIFTH AND ALDER STREETS

SECEDES DO NOT LIKE THEIR LETTERS

MEMBERS WHO WITHDREW FROM THE GRAND AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NOT SATISFIED WITH LETTERS OF TRANSFER THEY RECEIVE—TROUBLE AHEAD

The communicants of Grand Avenue Presbyterian church, who recently signed a petition asking the Presbytery to release them from further duties as members and give them letters of recommendation to other churches, have received their letters, but are not satisfied with them and many have been returned. The letters were issued and signed by Rev. Mr. White, superintendent of the board of home missions, and here is where the trouble comes in. The retiring members assert that Mr. White has no power to issue any such letters, and if they cannot have them from the Presbytery now, they will await its next session, which will be held in September.

Members of the church who have attended these meetings of Presbytery predict a stormy session. It is assured that the question of termination of the present pastorate will be settled, then, once and for all. The retiring members say that Mr. Gibson is now holding his position contrary to the laws of Presbytery and therefore is nothing more than an intruder. In the books of the governing the proceedings of Presbytery it is explicitly stated, so they say, that the pastor receives his appointment for a year at a time, and only receives a re-appointment when his services have been in every way satisfactory.

The number of church members, which formerly was more than 100, according to Mr. Gibson's annual report, has now dwindled down to a mere handful. It is said, some of the most influential members have withdrawn and have already joined other churches, so that if the church is ever reorganized and another pastor is called, they say it will mean an endless amount of labor to get the church back to its former prosperous condition.

BELIEVES TURNER WILL BE GOVERNOR

SPOKANE CONTRACTOR CONSIDERS COMPLIMENTARY VOTE FOR VICE-PRESIDENT GIVEN TURNER WILL GIVE HIM THE LEAD IN WASHINGTON STATE POLITICS.

"Now that the St. Louis convention is over and ex-Senator George Turner has been given his complimentary vote for vice-president of the United States, there is no doubt in the world but that he will be the next governor of Washington," said Charles Ferguson, a big contractor of Spokane, who is a guest of the Perkins, today.

Mr. Ferguson, aside from carrying on big enterprises in his own interest, has had time to devote to the political affairs of eastern Washington, and at one time he has been able to deliver more votes to a candidate than any other man in Spokane. Although he insists truthfully that there is nothing in politics for him, he has always watched the interests of the other fellows.

In commenting on conditions in Washington politics he said a large faction of the Republican party east of the mountains is unalterably opposed to any platform or any candidate that is not out for a railroad commission for that state, a tendency that was shown last year by the Republicans of Whitman and other counties in endorsing the national ticket, but not the state ticket.

Mr. Ferguson is in the city for the purpose of getting together the supplies which are to be used on the two new O. R. & Co. railroad bridges, one at Meacham and the other across Burnt River. All of these supplies are to be bought in Portland. Deeks & Deeks, St. Paul contractors, who are Mr. Ferguson's associates, got the contract for building the bridges two weeks ago, and Mr. Ferguson will have direct charge of the work. A large force of men will be employed during the rest of the summer, work to commence immediately.

Excepting a few Short Line spurs, there is no railroad-building in the northwest this year. Mr. Ferguson says, and the year is destined to prove the quietest in that line of improvement for several years past.

IS AMAZED AT PORTLAND'S GROWTH

E. S. Hubbard of the Hubbard Investment company of Salt Lake and Butte is at the Imperial en route to the Mormon city from Coos Bay. Mr. Hubbard is interested in Portland real estate and states that even the wonderful improvement of Salt Lake does not compare with the progress that is being made by Portland.

"I have been here many times before," he said, "but I have never seen as much building and general improvement as are being carried on in this city at present. Real estate men in this city ought to do a thriving business in anticipation of the Lewis and Clark Fair. The people of the Rocky mountain country are as much concerned in that event as are the people of the northwest. They regard it as something they are as deeply interested in as any one and their pride is at stake to make it a success."

DEATH OF PIONEER PORTLAND PASTOR

In the death yesterday morning of Rev. John W. Skans, pastor of the Immanuel Swedish Lutheran church, Portland lost the pastor who had served one church longer than any other minister in the city. For 21 years Mr. Skans looked after the spiritual welfare of the congregation of Immanuel church.

Besides being pastor of one of the liveliest congregations in the city, he was also moderator of the conference of his church in the Columbia River conference in recent years. When the Ministerial association was formed he immediately became one of its most active and earnest members, a work that but increased the admiration of his fellow members of the ministry for him.

About a week ago the malady that ended the life of Mr. Skans, a stroke of apoplexy, came. Although up to that time he had been in his usual health, he did not recover from the attack.

John W. Skans was born in Sweden 22 years ago to American parents. He was 15 years of age, was injured in a mill while a very young man and, while convalescing, studied for the ministry, entering the Lutheran college at Rock Island, in 1876, and from which institution he was graduated. He leaves a widow, two sons and three daughters.

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CHORALS AT WORLD'S FAIR.

(Journal Special Service.)

St. Louis, July 11.—During the week beginning today one of the principal attractions of the world's fair will be the choral contests to take place in festival hall. Ever since the contents were projected singing societies throughout the country have been training with a view to capturing one or more of the large money prizes offered, which amount to the aggregate to something like \$20,000. Among the competitors will be singing societies of Washington, Philadelphia, Topeka, Kansas City, Salt Lake, Emporia, Pittsburg, Chicago, Denver and Columbia.

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BISEKOP CRANSTON AT GRACE.

Yesterday morning at Grace church Bishop Earl Cranston delivered an able sermon upon a text taken from St. Matthew x:34: "I Came Not to Bring Peace, But a Sword."

Bishop Cranston spoke of the time when new ideas of Christianity and religion came into the world and dispelled the former set principles and ideas of that age. In explaining his text he referred and quoted freely from Christ's sermon on the Mount and particularly upon the fact that the Christian idea has ever been in opposition to the ideas of the world.

Bishop Cranston's ideas were strongly set forth. He will speak once more in Portland before he leaves for Washington.

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