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IGNORED STATUTES

LAWS THAT ARE NO LONGER ENFORCED.

Would Create a Revolution if Literally Applied—The Public and Not the Officers to Blame.

The fight against wide-open towns in Portland, and at other points in the state has brought out the discussion of enforcing the laws generally. It is found that there are a number of "ignored" or obsolete laws on the statute books, and still a greater number of ordinances under this class in every city and town in the state.

Many advocate the plan of enforcing the laws to the letter or repealing them. Many oppose this plan and claim it is better to keep them on the statute books as a sort of whip over offenders. They claim that were such laws not on the statute books, violations would become so flagrant that conditions would become intolerable, and that while the laws are on the books the minute an offender steps beyond the ordinary he may be punished, and that the laws are beneficial for this reason, even if they are seldom applied.

"We have as many laws on our books for the preservation of the morals of the community and the enforcement of the observation of the Sabbath and the general moral up-building of the community as any state in the Union," said a prominent lawyer Sunday, "but there is a long list of them that are completely ignored and have become practically obsolete. And town ordinances, any councilman or citizen can get most any ordinance passed along these lines without a dissenting voice. But after they are passed, they are forgotten or ignored, and many of them are dead letters.

"The officers are not to blame. The community is responsible. The majority in this country rule. What the majority desires or says must go. The public pulse is examined by the officers with all of the care of that of a patient by a skilled physician, and officers who are elected by this public, try to carry out its desires and necessities. If they should not, the public, which rules, would find officers that would do its bidding.

"It is true that many of the public would have the whole matter changed, would enforce the laws to the letter, would purify the community at any cost and enforce the laws if it should revolutionize the whole community, but a majority look upon the matter from a different point of view, or are careless, or are weak-kneed, or are out and out in sympathy with a wide-open community.

"And it would revolutionize the community should all of the laws on the statute books be put in force tomorrow. Here are a few of the laws that are ignored, some of them wholly and some of them in a way:

"The Sabbath laws, laws against the social evil, laws against gambling, laws against bribery, laws under which licenses are issued to saloons, laws governing prize-fighting, disturbing religious worship, selling lottery tickets, selling liquors and firearms to Indians, election laws, selling liquors near fair grounds, disorderly conduct or obscene language in presence of women, destroying trees, fences and breaking windowpanes, cruelty to animals, and a dozen or more others.

"City ordinances also cover these laws and include many more that are ignored.

"Suppose that all of these laws and ordinances were enforced to the letter tomorrow," said the legal gentlemen. "Only druggists and restaurants and hotels would be open on Sundays. Every man guilty of any of the social evils would be placed under arrest. The houses of doubtful character would be closed with a firm hand. Every man that entered a rooming house, save for the purpose of spending a virtuous night of repose would be arrested. Every saloon that should fail to close its doors, both rear and front, and all side entrances Saturday night at 12, and remain closed until Sunday night at 12 o'clock, would be pounced upon and the proprietor or person in charge arrested. Every person caught playing cards in any room or adjoining any room where liquors are sold would be escorted to the jail, provided he did not give ample security.

"Any merchant who should sell as much as a collar button within these hours would meet with like fate. The drug store could remain open, but could only sell medicines. The sale of a cigar or a toothpick would subject the proprietor to a fine. The restaurant men and hotel men could only serve a meal where good wholesome food was required. No wine, no beer, no cigar after the meal.

"Every man who should use obscene language within the hearing of a woman would be immediately arrested. It matters not whether he should know she was near or not. If he should use such language on the street while she should chance to be passing he would be subject to the fine.

"If the letter of the law was enforced," continued the gentleman, "such a waking up would take place as has never been experienced here before. The restrictions in granting saloons license are such that should they be enforced two-thirds of the saloons in Pendleton would be closed

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THE BIG BOSTON STORE

tomorrow, for their licenses would be revoked. Prize-fighting is absolutely prohibited in this state, though we frequently have "boxing contests"—to a finish. The sale of lottery tickets is absolutely prohibited, yet one may purchase a hundred a day in most cities if he so desires. The sale of opium is prohibited, yet hundreds go to their graves annually the victims of 'dope.' Carrying concealed weapons is prohibited, yet there is scarcely a 'young blood' that has not a gun in his pocket at times. There is a statute against injuring trees, breaking fences and windows, yet this law is violated with impunity every day. The law against cruelty to animals is a dead letter.

"There is a statute against selling liquors and firearms and ammunition to Indians, yet if the offender is not prosecuted by the government for the first offense, the state never looks after it. And there has never been a prosecution against any one for selling Indians firearms or ammunition.

"Any one guilty of selling liquor, or giving it away on election day violates the law. Any person guilty of disorderly conduct near the election polls violates the law. If all who are guilty of these offenses were arrested, the day after election would find a large portion of the population in jail, and some of the officers-elect with it.

"The most stringent of all of these laws is the one requiring officers to enforce them. They are required to take an oath before entering upon the discharge of their duties that they will enforce all of these laws. Any violation coming within their knowledge, they are required to investigate and make arrests. They are not required to wait for complaint, but must look after the matter themselves.

"Suppose the officers should do this? They generally know everything that is going on. Suppose that the officers next Sunday should place under arrest every man that opens a place of business except the ones enumerated in the statutes? Suppose he should arrest today every man guilty of any of the violations of the statute regulating the social evil? Suppose he should arrest every person guilty of any of the offenses enumerated in these 'ignored' statutes? Would it not create a revolution in social, business and court circles?"

"Yet the officers are not to blame," continued the gentleman, "the public rules, and whatever it says must go. If it demands that certain laws must be ignored it must be obeyed. There is no other tribunal to which to appeal. The time may come when all of these laws may be enforced, and more stringent ones, besides, but it is evident that that time is in the future."

A Scenic Production.

"Down Mobile," a melodrama which has met with signal success throughout the country, will open an engagement at the Frazer for one night, Tuesday, October 14. "Down Mobile"



THIS IS OLD DR. KESSLER

One of the World's Greatest Specialists, Who Has Kept Hundreds From an Early Grave or the Insane Asylum.

Now, look here, young man, don't be so careless. Don't put off any longer; have your case attended to today, for your looks tell on you. You may conclude to get married some day, and to live happy you must be a man rugged and strong physically and mentally. So many divorce cases we hear of, if an investigation was made, would disclose the fact that physical and nervous weakness of the husband causes the wife to finally hate him. Women love a manly man, just as much as men love beautifully developed, healthy, red-checked women. Blisters and pimples show something wrong. All kinds of diseases are cured by this old doctor. It is not necessary to go to see him; in a few diseases where surgery is required or caustics, and ulcers and such, it is better to see him, but all weakness and private conditions can be cured at home. He has a perfect system for home treatment; he always answers your letters in a plain envelope and keeps every case a profound secret. Pay no attention to the little books you find on streets, but trust yourself to an old doctor who has been curing cases like yours for over a quarter of a century in this city. Always inclose 10 2-cent stamps when writing for consultation, and send small bottle of your urine if possible. Address,

J. HENRI KESSLER, M. D.

Manager of the St. Louis Medical and Surgical Dispensary
Office Hours, 9 A. M. to 9 P. M. Corner 2nd and Yamhill Sts., Portland, Ore.

is just the sort of play that finds full sympathy with an audience, being a scenic production with enough comedy introduced to make it light and bright. It is arranged in four acts and tells a story of life in the South. As the name indicates, the principal scenes are laid in the vicinity of Mobile, Ala. One mechanical effect to which particular attention is called, is the burning of a large cotton warehouse. This is said to be

a purely mechanical effect in which neither red fire nor chemicals are used—not even the scratch of a match. Nevertheless, the scene is most realistic and wildly exciting. Another unique scene is that of the dismal swamp in the third act, with its weirdly beautiful hanging mosses and its pool of stagnant water, while the noises of the squawking frogs and night owls make up a picture that is not easily forgotten.