

# The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN  
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## TWO-THIRDS UNTAUGHT

The editor cannot resist the inclination to quote further from Charles M. Sheldon's article in the Atlantic this month telling how large a percentage of our young people have no religious teaching whatever. He says:

Here is the remarkable situation that confronts education in the United States today. There are 32,000,000 children attending the public schools of this country. In thirty states there is no prohibition of Bible-reading, but custom bars the discussion of religion by the teachers, except the historical discussion or teaching of the religions of the world, like Islam or Buddhism, as they are a part of a history course. In twelve states the use of the Bible in any form is forbidden. In six states Bible-reading is a part of the school course. And the common reason given for all this is that religion cannot be taught with safety—that it is a thing for the home and the church. It is a principle, say the objectors to the teaching of religion in the schools, that Church and State must be separated. This principle, as it was intended by the framers of our Constitution, seems sound. But, while it may be good statesmanship to separate Church and State, it is poor education to separate a human being from religion. And it is a pitiful fact that in this republic there are, according to the census, over 27,000,000 American children and youth under twenty-five years of age who are not enrolled in any Sunday School and receive no systematic religious instruction. In other words, 66.5 per cent. of all the youth in America are not enrolled in any religious schools, either Sunday or week day.

But if the Bible or parts of it should be permitted or compelled as a part of our educational system, what would prevent the teachers from interpreting the teaching according to their own sectarian or doctrinal bias? The whole matter seems to come back to the teachers, as in fact it would have to come. But I have been wondering what sectarian interpretation could be put upon the Ten Commandments, or the Beatitudes; or for that matter, upon the entire life of Christ. It is a most astonishing fact that the great majority of people do not object to sending their children to the modern Sunday School, where in very many cases the most tremendous religious subjects are discussed by teachers who have had little or no training, and the ideas they put into the children's minds are not always what they ought to be and in many cases are not true. And yet, as the years go by, the average citizen who has attended Sunday School in his own boyhood, and afterward sent his own boy, does not feel afraid of the influence of the Sunday School teaching. It is also a very significant fact that all over this country thousands of fathers and mothers are sending their children away to state schools and colleges where some teachers of philosophy and psychology are putting instruction into the minds of the students that undermines the religious teaching the children have had in the home and the church. But we do not hear of an uprising against the danger of indiscriminate teaching of these subjects by professors whom we should not allow to teach our children even the most elementary lessons of conduct based on the Golden Rule.

Our system of public education covers about every subject of human knowledge except religion. We have long courses in science, mathematics, history, philosophy, psychology, language, and in all of these courses error is taught. I was compelled in my university course to study the lives of Caesar, Napoleon, Alexander, Frederick the Great, and take exhaustive courses in the translation of the pagan poets and dramatists, some of whose writing would put me in the penitentiary if I were to try to send the English translations through the

post office. I was taught by my teachers in history facts which I have since found out were the statements of violently biased nationalists or misinformed historians who described historical events from the standpoint of the man who tells about a dog fight where his own dog whipped the other, but does not tell the truth about how the fight began. As long as I live I shall have a very confused batch of so-called knowledge in my mind about certain historical events, because I have been finding out after getting away from the school-room that a good many things I was taught are not so. I was taught to believe that Napoleon and other killers like him were great men. I have had to make new definitions for myself about some of the so-called great men of history. I have had to take many of them down off the pedestal and bury them in the gutter's field. And yet, in the midst of all this emphasis put on the material and militaristic side of human life, the only religious education the schools ever gave me was confined to a few chapel talks and the voluntary religious organization we ourselves started in the academy and in the university.

If it had not been for the religious instruction given me in my home and my church, so far as the public school and university courses were concerned I might as well have studied in Peking or Constantinople the sciences and philosophies and histories as I was compelled to take. I hope I am not hypocritical about our educational system, but I am quite sure that the students of my time were more familiar with, and those of this present time are more influenced in the schools by, the lives of pagan men and women than the life of the Best Person who ever lived. I should not like to say how many books I was obliged to read about the scandals and liars and depraved personalities of the human race in the different centuries, beginning with Nero and coming on down to Benedict Arnold. I had to study these and their abnormal careers—but not a word about Jesus or His matchless teaching. That would be too dangerous. And in fact the study of Jesus and real obedience to what He taught is a very dangerous thing. If our educational system should sometime put Him into the course, and if the students should somehow become really interested enough in Him to put His teachings into everyday practice, it would lead to a revolution which would be dangerous to established authority in the market place and even to century-old doctrines which have given the human heart a blow instead of a cure, and have made to stumble millions who otherwise would have walked joyously into the beauty and happiness that pure religion and undefiled always imparts.

## BRYAN'S FIRST CONVENTION

We note that in his article about democratic national conventions published in last Sunday's Oregonian, the late William J. Bryan tells of his experience at different democratic national conventions, beginning at St. Louis, Missouri, in 1876, when he was a mere lad, and first got into the hall by a friendly boost at the hands of a policeman, where he heard John Kelly, the famous Tammany hall leader, make his speech against Governor Tilden, of New York, who served as friendly to the Tammany crowd. This Sentinel writer was at that convention and being at that time the editor of a Galva, Illinois, newspaper, he didn't find it as difficult to get in as Bryan. All he had to do was to get a word with one of the delegates from the Rock Island district, who was as we recollect it, another newspaperman, and he was all right from that time on.

Before that though, we called on the delegate from the First New York district at his hotel, Hon. Henry A. Reeves, publisher of our home newspaper, for which we wrote our first political article on "State Sovereignty" while a boy of thirteen.

The old man of the Sentinel was younger by half a century in 1876 than he is now, but his most vivid recollection of St. Louis at that time was how hot it was. We had been there about six years earlier, when on a trip home from Texas, where we had gone with the idea of starting in the newspaper business there, but had abandoned it after finding how raw things still were there.

At St. Louis, however, we not only had the pleasure of hearing the Tammany boss, but also Henry Watterson, the famous editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal who was temporary chairman of the convention, and Phoebe J. Couzens, the great suffrage leader who pleaded vainly for a word in favor of votes for women in the platform to be adopted there. No more than the Tammany schemer did she swing the convention, however.

her him as a very distinct feature of the St. Louis convention of 1894, which we attended twelve years later, and where we were on the ropes sufficiently to get a front seat in the gallery almost directly above the platform. At this 1894 convention we had the pleasure not only of hearing President Cleveland, who was there re-nominated for President, but also of seeing him at the exposition grounds accompanied by Mrs. Cleveland, whom he had recently married.

It was at Chicago in 1892, four years before that, that we had attended the national convention that first nominated Cleveland for the presidency and heard him bitterly denounced by Thomas F. Geary, another Tammany leader.

When Cleveland was elected the second time in 1892, we had been among the throng at San Francisco that received the news with such demonstrations of rejoicing.

## FOREST TIMBER RECEIPTS RISE

Breaking all records in the history of the Forest Service, receipts for the sale of national forest timber for the first quarter of this fiscal year amounted to \$1,855,145, according to a word just received from the chief forester by the Portland office of the Forest Service.

Receipts from the sale of timber from the national forests of Oregon and Washington alone for this quarter total \$278,064.22, the largest ever received for any quarter. For the same period in 1931, local receipts from timber sales were \$174,212.29, the highest official state. The total annual timber cut from all the national forests in Oregon and Washington averages only about 3 per cent of the total annual cut from private lands in these states, according to the forest service.

This is the first time, forest officials point out, that timber-sale receipts for any quarter have ever topped a million dollars for the Forest Service as a whole.

It is not expected that any of the remaining three quarters of the fiscal year will touch this high level, since the summer is the loggers' busy season in the west. Timber sales on the national forests have been increasing and now bring in the federal treasury over \$2,000,000 annually.

The above is from a news bulletin sent out by the Forest Service of the United States. Due to the peculiar conservation ideas, now held by the bureau in Washington only 25 per cent of the revenue received by these timber sales in Oregon reach county and state treasuries, where they rightfully belong. Can anyone tell how much Coos county taxes would be reduced if these vast forest tracts were still on the tax rolls, or if, as Senator Standfield suggested last week, 70 per cent of the timber sales found its way into the county and state treasury?

If Oregon received what it should from its timber lands the boggy of high taxes could not be used to scare investors out of the state.

## SAY SALOON GONE FOREVER

Maj. Gen. Sir Frederick Maurice, director of military operations on the British Imperial General Staff in the Great War, in an article in the London Daily News, entitled "Prohibition in America," says that after his recent five months' visit and observation in the United States he found general agreement that the "saloon had gone forever and that many persons of moderate views held that the result alone has justified the experiment."

Commenting on the enforcement difficulty on the Atlantic coast, he says: "It is somewhat of a shock to an Englishman to find the law openly disregarded by people of the highest respectability. The crimes of violence are mostly perpetrated by immigrants who have arrived comparatively recently, and who do not come from a class in which one would expect to find respect for the law, prohibition or no prohibition."

The prohibitionists point with pride to the undoubted increase in savings bank deposits. Every factory owner or manager in the land, with whom I discussed the question, was in favor of prohibition, on the ground that it had improved both the capacity and the general well-being of the workers and that there is less drunkenness.

"The general conclusion of my observations is that prohibition has been done in certain parts of the country; that almost anywhere the rich are able to get as much drink as they want; but that in a great part of the United States prohibition is effective, as far as the workers and persons of moderate means are concerned."

## RUN RIVER BOATS BY RADIO

Radio is playing a part in bringing commerce back to the rivers and inland waterways of the United States, we are told by Archie Richardson, writing in The Manufacturers Record (Baltimore). With the newer method of communication, two freight boats are now hauled like railroad trains. The Federal barge line on the Mississippi River is a striking example of the possibilities of river transportation under the newer ideas of management. The system is described as follows:

"Every towboat and express boat on the river, whether at New Orleans, St. Louis, or at intermediate points, is in constant touch with a radio land station at Memphis. Each boat is required to call every three hours in the day and give its location and other information. In addition, both the land and the boats are subject to call at any time from 5 o'clock in the morning until 10 o'clock at night.

"Here is an example of what radio communication means to river traffic: 'A few weeks ago a towboat was carrying a tow of barges loaded with a trainload of sugar from New Orleans to St. Louis when the steering of a boiler tube tied the boat up. It was many miles across trackless marshes to the nearest telephone, and without radio it would have been necessary to wait with the valuable cargo until a passing boat could have relayed a message. But with wireless equipment on the boat, the extent of the damage had scarcely been obtained before the operator at the land station in Memphis was writing out a detailed report of the accident. A boilermaker was engaged, a launch was commandeered, and in a few hours the repair work was under way. This is one of many cases where radio has prevented delays that would have cost hundreds of dollars and broken down the confidence of shippers."

"In the many efforts made by commercial and other organizations to bring commerce back to the rivers of the South, the lack of confidence on the part of the shipper has been the stumbling block. His goods must be delivered at a specified time, and he needs certainty of delivery. The shipper is usually willing to pay the higher freight charges of the rail carriers. But the Federal barge line has made its service just as dependable as that of the railroads, and has convinced the shippers of the fact. A shipper can at any time learn the exact location of the boat, and by using his freight, and can judge almost of the hour when it will arrive.

"Radio also has greatly reduced the cost of handling freight at the terminals. Heretofore it was necessary to make a guess at the time of arrival of a boat and have everything in readiness, perhaps many hours in advance. If the boat came in before it was expected, it had to be held until later for handling it could be rounded up."

If all your Ford cars turned out at the same time with every seat in your cars occupied, you could take one-third of the whole nation on a gigantic joy-ride, says a recent advertisement.

It looks to the writer as if most of the people now riding in automobiles would be still without modern means of travel if Henry Ford had not taken a hand in the manufacturing of these vehicles. We often hear it said that God must have loved the plain, common people. He made so many more of them than He did of the other kind. Now do we see how it would be possible for Henry Ford to have accumulated such a fortune as he did if he had not made a cheaper automobile than the rest did—costing less than a horse and buggy did when this writer was a boy, and much less to keep it running.

In the inventory of the estate of the late Felix Garcia filed in the District court at Santa Fe and valued at \$105,000, there were more than \$100,000 worth of bills and unsecured promissory notes, which gave a side-light into the character of this man, who was one of the last remaining Spanish Deeds in New Mexico and one of the State's most prominent storekeepers and ranchers.

Don Felix was never known to turn a hungry man away from his door nor to pass a debtor, and in cases where great need had visited families he sent their bills to them marked, "Paid in full by God."

In a recent Los Angeles dispatch, we note that California is preparing for a population of 30 millions in the next few years. That would be about a third as great as the present population of the United States. And yet having lived in both states, this Sentinel writer much prefers Oregon to California.

Five radio broadcasting stations powerful enough to make trans-Atlantic radio-telegraphing of programs possible have been built during the past

## MEN'S FALL AND WINTER CLOTHES

Woolen Underwear	\$1.95 to \$6.50
Silk and Wool Underwear	\$3.00 to \$6.50
All Wool Shirt	\$1.95 to \$6.00
Wool Blazer Shirts	\$5.25 to \$7.50
Heavy Sweaters	\$3.98 to \$12.00
All Wool Overcoats	\$14.95 to \$45.00
Mackinaws	\$7.25 to \$13.50

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summer. Of these stations two are located in the United States—one at Round Brook, N. J., and the other near Schenectady, N. Y.—one is in England and two in Germany. All of these stations will be connected by "land wires" to Metropolitan broadcasting studios where these international programs will be "put on the air."