

# Columbia-Register

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R. H. MITCHELL, Editor and Publisher.  
We originate—others imitate.

## RAINIER SALOON QUESTION.

The apology for the saloon's existence is that it furnishes revenue for the town. That it lessens the taxes. This is all very well, but let us see whether it always applies. In the town of Rainier, for instance, there are five saloons. These pay a license of \$400 each. Therefore the town realizes a revenue of \$2,000 from its drinking houses. As soon as one is apprised of this fact, he wonders in his heart, where does this money go? To improve the streets—it is supposed. That cannot be. Only a casual observation is required to satisfy one's mind in this regard.

To be candid the streets of Rainier do not look as if the sum of \$2000 had ever been spent upon them.

As to the saloons paying the taxes, we fail to see it. What is the population of this town of Rainier? about 1,000. And the saloon revenue is what? \$2000. That is \$2 per head for the people of the town. And the people pay it too. Therefore this license-system is after all but a system of tax-gathering. How long will the people of Rainier be humbugged?

One word more. There is a lawless element in the little towns for which the saloons are responsible in a great measure. Who will say that the 'open town' especially as the term applies to the open Sunday saloons, is it not the cause of so much confusion and obnoxiousness? Is not the obnoxious Sunday base ball the out-growth and foster child of the lawless saloons of the towns and cities?

The saints and sages may be all under ground, but there still remain, even in Rainier, some peace-loving and law-abiding citizens, who insist on the enforcement of the law, all law, and especially that law which has to do with so dangerous and treacherous an institution as the American saloon.

When will the public begin to treat saloon keepers as they should be treated? Why should men be regarded as fit to associate with those whose daily business it is to make men worse than beasts? We have in mind several men who live in this county, they never go to town and never have a payday, but they get beastly drunk, while there are several old soaks who never get sober. This is well known to the saloon-keepers, and yet it is no trouble for these men to get liquor, if they have the price. Can men who do this kind of business be classed as respectable? Columbia county has many men worthy of honorable mention, but alas we have representatives in the asylum, the poor house and penitentiary. A close inspection brings to light the fact that the first mentioned are not patrons of the saloon, and in nine times out of ten the latter class came to grief through the influence of the saloon keeper.

Several franchises have recently been asked for of the Rainier Town Council and a few words editorially by the county paper may be of benefit to that thriving city. Parties from outside points, wishing to put in electric lights and water, have presented their requests to the town council. Franchises are public utilities and belong to the public, and should not be given away recklessly. If private enterprise can make lights and waterworks pay, so can the town itself when equal prudence is used. Take for instance our present water system. We are told that the whole plant, and the land the water comes from cost but little more than \$2,500 and is paying a monthly return of about \$200 if not more. It has paid for itself several times over. This plant is inadequate, as has been several times demonstrated. The town pays for hydrants and yet no effective water in case of serious fire. Then again in the summer season the water gets very low, and after rains it gets muddy and tastes bad. These conditions are getting worse as the land is being cleared at headwaters of the creek from which the supply comes. The legislature has given the town authority to put in water. Let this be done, and almost from the beginning it will pay. This will result in better water and more of it, better fire protection and lower insurance rates, and in time lower water rates, for the profit that now goes into the pocket of one man, would go into the public treasury or the public would get the benefit in reduced rates for water. We trust that no franchise will be given away at all, but if granted at least for a period not longer than ten years, and even then the Town should keep a string on the franchise so that if desired it could be bought at cost at any time after five years. The council should protect the public against franchise grabbers, as it will be easier to make conditions or refuse than get back a franchise after it is once given away. The people of every city, have learned this lesson to their loss.

How many United States Senators are on the payroll of the great insurance companies? Senator Depew was.

## PEN, PASTE AND SCISSORS.

So far nothing but trouble has been dug up in Panama.

Will the loss of \$20,000 a year 'retainer' remind Mr. Depew of a funny story?

To date we have received no report of Fourth of July casualitis in the Philippines.

The Wisconsin law compelling perodical distribution of the surplus is a wise one.

The heads of the big insurance companies were strenuous defenders of the nation's honor in 1896.

The reign of graft seems to about over. The people once aroused can accomplish any needed reform.

The administration is being very much suprised at the appearance of some Panama canal difficulties that the general public was Well aware of all along.

The old saying that "you have to die to beat the insurance insurance company" is out of date. Many eminent gentlemen have been beating the insurance companies while still in flesh.

The Czar's attention is called to the fact that "A Republic is the strongest form of government because" according to Bancroft, "discarding the implements of terror it dares to build it's citidel in the hearts of men."

President Roosevelt is very anxious to know why the Chicago grand jury has not done more in the beef trust case. Probably for the same reason that the man who went gunning for ducks with a brass band and came home without a feather.

It must be mortifying to Senator Hill to have the public to know that his Equitable retainer was only one-fourth as great as that paid to Senator Depew. It might be interesting to know wether Senator Hill was drawing that salary when he was opposing the Income tax in the senate.

Secretary Shaw is now quite sanguine that if he can collect more money than the government spends during the next twelve months the deficit at the end of the next fiscal year will be materially reduced. The secretary is rapidly depriving General Grosvenor of his reputation as the champion "figgerer."

If the stockholders of the Equitable have a right to control the company it might be a good plan for the state of New York to buy a majority of the stock and run it as a state company, and limiting new risks to citizens of that state. A state company could furnish insurance at actual cost, and not only save the people an enormous sum in premiums, but give the policy holders absolute security.

A week from Saturday will be Columbia County Day at the Lewis and Clark fair. Everybody in the county should attend the fair that day. Go early, get a ribbon from the Columbia county booth and make a good impression the easterner with the money. Point with pardonable pride to the fact logs in "Big Log House" were grown in Columbia county. An excellent program has been arranged. Judge McBride will be speaker of the day. Remember the day, Saturday, July 29.

An evil spoken of in the report of the last Grand Jury has not been remedied as yet. At the last session of the commissioner's court several of the road supervisor bills were allowed and warrants ordered in payment notwithstanding the bills were made out in a lump sum without itemizing. There is no business man, not even the commissioners, would allow bills of this kind in his private affairs. The bills should give each item. If work was by rod the bill should give the number of rods, or if by the day the number of or hours should be given. This is probably an oversight and will be corrected in the future.

The Town Council of Rainier held a very late session last Monday night. One of the objects of meeting was to accept the resignation of the Town Marshal, and to appoint some one else to fill the place. There were a number of applications. But the Marshal did not resign, the \$50 or more per month being too great a temptation for holding on. The salary should be cut to \$25 in full for all that the Marshal does, including the lighting of street lamps. That is more than the job is worth and is more than any other marshal has ever received. Including fees for arrest, the marshal draws out of the town treasury about \$60 monthly or \$720 per year. Here is a leak that can be stopped, and the town would have a few more dollars for lights and streets. Our informant who is an ex member of the town council says "by all means cut the salary to \$25, and do it at once, there is no reason why the Marshal should get nearly one half of the town's income."

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