

The Silvertown Journal

Published every Friday morning at Silvertown, Oregon, by
J. E. HOSMER, Editor.

Entered at the postoffice at Silvertown, Oregon,
as second-class matter.

Subscription, 50c per year, in advance. Single
copies, 5 cents.
Advertising rates made known upon applica-
tion.

This paper stands for freedom of thought, free-
dom of the press, freedom of speech, equality of
opportunity and the religion of righteousness. It
is radically opposed to every form of superstition
and tyranny, or licensing or permitting any form
of evil.



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

If the people who profess to believe in the doctrines of Jesus really believed in them in a practical, working way, instead of in a lump-sum, theoretical way, the world wouldn't be in such a criminal, miserable, fighting, unrighteous condition. Jesus didn't believe in policy. He struck right from the shoulder. He didn't just advocate one reform at a time. He wasn't afraid of offending the hypocrites in the churches of his time. He said what he honestly thought and willingly died for it. What's the matter with you, you pussy-foot, soft-pedal Christians? Are you hiding your talents? Do you know things, or honestly believe things, that you are too much of a coward to tell in church or Sunday School? Are you afraid that the Catholics will boycott your business? Say, do you know that it will be no harder for a rich man to go to heaven than it will for a fellow who has done everything he could to become rich and been a cringing hypocrite besides? If you want anything like heaven, here or hereafter, brace up; be honest and help your fellow men to be outspoken and free, even as was Jesus, the carpenter's son.

ROMAN CATHOLIC BOYCOTT

The "mother church" accomplishes very much by a quick and complete boycott. A relic of this is also found in some of the Protestant churches which have almost ceased protesting against this inquisitorial principle. "If you don't advocate what we think, down you go," is the motto of the old beast and those churches which prove by their conduct that they are her whelps. But it is very pleasing to know that many of the Protestant churches in all the denominations are broad enough to believe and preach the doctrines of the brave men who founded this republic. "The dictates of one's own conscience" should be the guide, and to boycott a man because his conscience dictates differently than any set ideas of other men is to put a premium on hypocrisy. There is enough of this in the world now. Step back and look at the liars, hypocrites, Scribes and Pharisees! Let us be honest and let's help the other fellow to be honest also. Don't be a Roman and boycott, but be a Protestant and protest. Use the Silvertown Journal. Some of the writers are saying things you do not believe; protest; show them their mistakes; this is an opportunity to help them and many others; help them bring out their best arguments, and if you think they are wrong, smash them with better arguments, and all readers will be converted to your way of thinking. You may possibly learn something in this way also, unless you are infallible like the pope of Rome. Don't be a fool and act silly. We are not living in the 10th century and we are not yet entirely under the control of the "inner circle" of the Roman Hierarchy. A free press is needed as much as anything in this world. Help us to have at least one in the United States of America.

EUROPEAN WAR WHAT FOR?

A well known Socialist of Silvertown says that, over twelve years ago, it was predicted that war would be precipitated when Socialism became so strong that the rulers could not keep it from getting control in any other way; and "The American Socialist," printed in Chicago, declares that the present European war is to halt Socialism. A prominent republican of Marion County, one who has held high office in this state, in speaking of war, very recently said that he was that much of a Socialist. Now it is an undeniable fact that Socialism has become very strong in nearly all the European countries, and if this great war with Italy, Austria-Hungary and Germany on one side and Russia, France and England on the other, with the chance of Canada taking a hand and even drawing the United States into the hellish maelstrom of molten lead with the probable destruction of Belgium, Denmark and other smaller countries, what a criminal charge must history record against the rulers of those European countries and the system which has produced them and for which they stand. But we do not believe that the war will amount to much. The people are surely better civilized than to go and shoot down their brothers whom they have no reason to hate or no cause to murder. With a modern gatling gun a whole regiment of men can be killed in a very few minutes and the work of an air ship loaded with high explosives is horrible to think of.

But will the men fight? It is to be hoped that they will only take an outing, shake hands with their new found friends, the enemy, and go home to their sweethearts, wives and babies. We can at least hope that the European monarchs will look in vain to the United States for recruits to their human slaughter house. Uncle Sam should see that no victim crosses the seas in the mistaken hope that he is helping himself by going to his grave fighting the battles of a lot of stubborn European capitalists.

A VISIT FROM FATHER KANE

Father Kane, the Catholic speaker who was here last week with the Catholic Extension Car, honored us with a visit at our office. Mr. Kane proved to be a very genial and pleasing man with whom to talk. After a few jokes regarding our last week's picture of the extension car, etc., the conversation turned on to more serious principles, and the little time our reverend (?) friend had to devote to the humble (?) editor was filled to the brim and running over. Mr. Kane freely confessed that very many things in his church were parasitic and relics of a more barbarous age. He mentioned the counting of beads as one, said that many (including himself) wished to make many changes, but that the people were in ignorance, undeveloped, etc., etc., and asked, "What can we do?" This was our opportunity and we rapidly explained our attitude in its great difference to the Roman Catholic idea. The Catholic church keeps the people in ignorance and superstition by the priests letting them, the people, believe that the priesthood really think all those foolish things about purgatory, the virgin mother, the relics, the healing and the thousands of other stultifying superstitions are really true. This is the reason for their being ignorant. Their teachers do not tell them the truth, but treat them as underlings and even print what they know to be lies in their magazines, papers and catechisms. Now we believe in telling the people the truth—even if they crucify us. Can you see any difference? We did all we were "able" to convert our dear brother Kane to the religion of righteousness and liberty which has been recorded as the wonderful revelations of Jesus. We pointed out the evils of the celebrate oath of their priests, showing him that prominent priests in this country and all over the world were noted for adultery, and that the worst crimes known to man have been committed right here in Oregon by priests, mother superiors and others high in Catholic circles. With the purchase of two copies of the Silvertown Journal, a hearty hand shake and the promise to return, our Roman rounder departed, we hope, a wiser and a better man.

WARS AND RUMORS OF WAR.

Nobody but crazy people fight. There is no sense in it at all. In self-defense, to save his life, a man will get excited (an unbalanced or crazy condition) and fight like a wild beast, and no one blames him. But what will we say of war which is nothing but premeditated butchery of the strongest, best specimens of our race—getting other men to fight for that which could be only settled right with reason, arbitration, real statesmanship. The men who are the cause of the European demonstration of this wholesale murder ought to be locked up and treated by the best scientific doctors obtainable. Perhaps an operation would be necessary on some, while to read Kirkpatrick's "War What For?" might be sufficient for others. The following, from that wonderful book, is appropriate to close this subject on which our feelings are so intense that words utterly fail to express them:

Can you use, do you prefer to use—your developed mentality like a brute, like a savage, or like a truth-seeking socialized man? Are you "not only willing, but anxious to fight," or are the business and the methods of the brute disgusting you? What o'clock is it in your personal evolution? Do you prefer a library to an armory, books rather than bayonets? Is a fight natural, or necessary, or helpful in your personal development? If a fight, actual part in a fight rifle-in-hand, is not necessary to the preacher, the senator, the professor, the banker or the manufacturer, why should it seem necessary in your case—and why should you permit these "better class" citizens to have you ordered and led around like a prize-winning bull-dog to fight in the international prize-ring called the struggle for the world market? War as a developer and a civilizer is a flat failure in your case if the capitalist class can seduce you for fifty cents a day to fight for a foreign market for American porterhouse steak while you and your father and mother are fed on third-rate meat, beans, cheap syrup and mock-coffee without cream. Brother, you may indeed be a "brave boy," and a "good shot," and you may have heroically stained your hands in other men's blood; but, really, the "upper class" have marked you as an easy victim, a useable cheap "guy" of the "lower class."

HEN-HUZZIES AT WORK

The world is full of snoops and soreheads, and so the editor expects nothing better than personal attacks on his character. The work of downing us personally is not confined to the Catholics and the influence that they can exert, but criminals who have no more morality than a hog and no more real religion than Catholic priest Schmidt are at their work, trying to help stop the free press that isn't afraid to speak out. We do not profess to be perfect. Who is? But we do profess to want to do exactly right and we are working with every ounce of our ability to help the world to become a better place in which to live, for we fully realize that "the night cometh when no man can work." But why talk about our self so much? The enemy will soon be using this fact, calling us self centered, bigoted and say we are trying to build up our business and care nothing about what the Catholic Church and other evil institutions are doing. So why do we put this weapon in their hands? Well, they are forcing us in self-defense to do so. Letters are coming in that we have not the time nor the stamp money to answer and we must answer in some way and this is the easiest way possible. Here is a sample letter from a dear brother in the work who really wants to know what kind of an animal the editor is:

Glencoe, Ky., July 29, 1914.

Mr. HOSMER

Dear Friend and Brother:

I have read the "Journal" and very emphatically endorse your strong stand point against the Roman Hierarchy and against the Liquor Traffic. Now I wish you to answer this important question:

As I see the column in the "Journal" devoted to Materialists, will you be so kind as to tell me honestly: "Are you a Materialist, believing that there is no God?"

Yours Cordially and Patriotically,

In answer to this question we wish to state that the word "Materialist" and the word "God" has different meanings and instead of saying "yes" or "no," we will endeavor to define just what we do believe, and before we begin we want our readers to notice that we start out with a vital principle which is one of the cornerstones of our complete salvation as a people, if we are to be saved from the hell of sin and the devil of evil—this principle is honesty in saying just what we do believe, or in other words, the editor of the Silvertown Journal is not a hypocrite. Now listen! What is called "gross materialism" we have no use for whatever. We believe in the intellectual, moral and what some call spiritual life and not in the low, materialistic, sensual and animal life crowding out the higher life—the real beauty and sunshine of the ideal. But this higher life will not come from error or from an idealism not founded on truth, and therefore we believe in the study of material science and in reducing whatever of the higher ideals we may possess to a practical, working religion. In this way we might be called a materialist. Calling every thing that really exists material and its actions and attributes spiritual we have the attractive force, or the affinity of matter, overcoming chaos and forming suns, systems, living forms and finally blossoming out into love. This love principle is really and scientifically the great creator not of matter, for that is, as far as we can think, eternal with this principle or action of affinity and its sister power of repulsion. Love is the great creator or builder of suns, systems, living forms, with man at the head of the creation. Yes, we believe in this great God of Love and we hope that it may fill our hearts or minds so full for our fellow men that we will be able to let our light so shine before men that they will see our good works and glorify this Love that heaven may finally be the lot of the millions that are now in darkness. One who believes in a man-like God would not call us orthodox and yet we number among our very best friends ministers of the different denominations. How we hope and labor for the time when the God of Love will really take hold of these preachers with such a grip that they will forsake all and follow it into a great Protestant Union which will forever destroy the blighting dogmas of an ignorant past which still blights and damns us through the Devil's own cult, "The Roman Catholic Church."

Call us what you wish, dear brother, but be not deceived by enemies of freedom of thought, freedom of speech and freedom of the press. The editor is not intentionally a bad man, and perhaps it may please you to know that one of the most vital parts of his religion is the belief, practice and aggressive teaching against the saloon and the habitual use of all stimulants and narcotics. We never smoke, chew, drink tea or coffee, whiskey, beer, wine, brandy, absynth, opium, cocaine, morphine or carboic acid. We are proud of this, not ashamed of it. We are anxious to convert people to the religion which we most sincerely believe in—the religion of Love, which is also a religion of Liberty, a religion which will save us to the uttermost.

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