

Thanksgiving Sermon.

Thanksgiving day in Tillamook passed pleasantly in this city last Thursday, notwithstanding that it was somewhat of an unpleasant day owing to the rain, which continued all day. The day was generally observed by the business men the fore part of the day. The usual united Thanksgiving service was held in the United Brethren church, where the pastor, Rev. J. E. Connor, preached a sermon that was in every way suitable to the occasion. Amongst other things he said:

"Oh! That men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men"—Ps. 107, 21.

Let us note the emphasis the inspired penman places upon praise and thanksgiving. The language of the text is the outflow of a grateful heart; out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks, and expresses itself in a longing desire for this gratitude that he himself feels to flow forth as fragrance from humanity to its Creator. It is still further emphasized, that five times in this same chapter this language is repeated.

One of our greatest sins is our base ingratitude to our Creator. We feast upon the bounty of our God, who loadeth us daily with benefits, but there is no acknowledgment of the Giver. The language of this text is also suggestive of a deep heart love; there can be but little thanksgiving where there is only a small measure of love—and where thanksgiving is lacking love is lacking.

Real thanksgiving to God is deeper than feasting, dancing and revelry, which too frequently is its leading expression on this national day. One of the first things that suggests to us a cause for real thanksgiving, is because it is a national day. The noble words of our chief magistrate declares it to be "eminently fitting that once a year our people should set apart a day for thanksgiving and praise to the giver of all good," and while they express thanksgiving and praise for abundant mercies received, they should "manfully acknowledge their shortcomings and pledge themselves solemnly and in good faith to strive to overcome them." These words of our chief are not mere empty words, but spring from the heart of a noble soul, that in the north and south has endeared himself to his people, and again in this man's life has been verified before a nation the divine promise, "Them that honor me I will honor."

President Roosevelt has also demonstrated to the young men of this nation, and the civilized world as well, the possibility of leading a clean life while standing at the head of a great nation, surrounded with all the attractions and corruption of earthly courts and public life. As a servant of his country he can be clean, and we honor him today and the nations of the world do him honor because we believe he is clean.

And his message emphasizes "cleanness" to his people, as he asks that while we pay tribute to the day, by thanksgiving and praise, we also "consecrate ourselves to a life of cleanness and honor." And we call your attention as another reason for thanksgiving today, to the spirit of reform so manifest every where—in government, in state, in municipalities, in corporations, in public and private life. Every where gigantic frauds are being exposed. These false guardians of our welfare are being punished, and the public conscience is being aroused and quickened into new life.

Another reason for great thankfulness to God is that, as a nation, we are living in a time of peace. Our ears are not shocked with the murderous thunder of the battle field, and the moans of the wounded and dying. Our eyes are not greeted with the sickening sight of our nation's brightest and best gathered to hate, and smite and slaughter his fellow, followed by widow's tears and helpless orphans in the wake of the conflict. These sights and sounds give place to cheerful song and pleasant smiles and merry laughter and happy greetings in millions of joyous homes today in the most blessed country and nation upon which God's sun ever shone in a time of peace.

Then we ought to be grateful that we live in such a time of progress that marks the present day as the most marvelous of history. The means of travel and communication between nations which our God is opening up to us in these days stands before us without a parallel. Our improvements in agriculture, in science, in mechanism, literature, art and educational facilities and opportunities stand forth as the marvel of the ages. We stand today on mountain peaks with waving banners of progress, where no man or woman has ever had the opportunity of standing before, with the rising sun of a Christian civilization glowing in such splendor as past generations have never beheld. I know there are a thousand things to mar our peace and happiness, I know there are a thousand things that ought to be righted in our national civic and personal life. I am not ignorant as a minister of my Lord and Master of these things, but on this national day we want to turn our faces from the shadows, and uncover our heads in gratitude to our maker for the dawn of the brightest day in human progress and civilization that the world has ever known.

Another cause for gratitude which appeals to every man, woman and child in this audience is this: In a short time you will sit down before a table spread with such luxuries and comforts as kings and rulers would have envied a few centuries ago. And as you sit at this table think for one moment of ten thousand homes in other lands where the gaunt form of hunger and famine hold their ceaseless vigil; and if there springs forth no response from your dead, empty soul, of gratitude to your Creator, it is because you are out of harmony with this national day and God as well.

Then it's worthy of great praise to our God (at least so thought our fathers), that we have religious liberty. There is set before this nation an "open door" for the worship of his God, that no foul demon has been able to close since the birth of this republic. It is worth something to live in America, to stand under the folds of a flag that represents liberty, enlightenment and protects you in your home and duties to your God. Where the iron heel of autocracy grinds not out your life's blood and feeds not upon your children. Where the voice of the people, high, low, rich or poor is heard in the enactment of such laws as make for his well being, highest happiness here and eternal welfare hereafter. And though there may not flow through all our veins the blood of the Anglo Saxon, that is conquering the world for truth and liberty, but as you left your fatherland and sought a home with us, the first sight as you gazed upon this new world was the Statue of American Liberty with outstretched arms welcoming you to a home, a place in the heart of this great nation as a son or daughter of a great family. A home where you can do your own thinking, your own praying and your own voting.

But how can we best show our gratitude? Shall it be most fitting that our gratitude shall only be expressed in sacred and soul thrilling music? Shall it be that its highest expression be found in pampering our appetite and feasting on that which his rain, his sunshine, his seasons, his wisdom and beneficence has provided—The vilest wretch, the most savage cannibal could do the same.

Surely a true and noble manhood can bring a better sacrifice. A sacrifice that we owe to ourselves, our home our country and our God is, right living, and right living brings happiness—and "Righteousness exalteth a nation but sin is a reproach to any people."

The highest note of thanksgiving is not praise of one's country, our valiant heroes, our splendid statesmen, our fertile soil, our glorious climate, our magnificent scenery, our intellectual progress, our happy homes, our loaded tables, our million churches with spires pointing heavenward, our care for the needy and helpless, our humane and educational institutions, our beautiful cities, our art, our culture and our refinement. But above and beyond all these true gratitude sees the Giver—and looks above the creature to the Creator.

"Render unto God Thanksgiving and pay thy vows unto the most high."

A Word of Praise.

TO THE EDITOR TILLAMOOK HEADLIGHT.

DEAR SIR,—It may be thought presumptuous in an octogenarian and a non-resident of the town to say anything about town matters; but as no word of approval or sympathy has, as far as I know, been uttered by any of the resident ministers to aid or encourage you in your fight against the wrongs of the county and town, I, as a humble follower of "Him who went about doing good," and who is an admirer of your course in opposing the doings of the gamblers, the saloonists, et al, wish to let you know that you have my earnest and hearty prayers that your efforts may not be in vain. Is it not strange that any person, especially a minister of the gospel, seems to be afraid or ashamed to stand up by the side of one who is, almost perhaps, alone in this fight? Is a minister's work done when he leaves the pulpit on the Sabbath? Can he not attempt something more and a little different, perhaps, between the Sabbaths to show his love for souls, and his zeal for the Divine Master who has a work for each to do? By doing his part, he may stimulate some one else to try to do something also. More anon, if you will.

OSERVER.

[We felt a little reluctant in consenting to publish the above letter, for the reason we do not think we are entitled to very much commendation for doing what we think is right. The HEADLIGHT has endeavored to fill its proper place in the community and remain true to its constituents. We are not courting any praise, never have and never intend to, for some people will praise a newspaper man for one thing while other will abuse him for the same thing. Such is life in a country newspaper office.]

Iowa missed 30,000 of her people and thought for a while that her farmers were being drained to the Canadian Northwest. The alarm, however, soon subsided when it was found that they were all there, only the census enumerators had failed to count them.

Indiana seems to have beat 'em all in the matter of corn crop percentages this fall. The government crop report sent out on October 19 rated Indiana 99, out on October 19 rated Indiana 99, just one point below perfection, and several points ahead of foremost states in the corn belt. What's the matter with Iowa, Missouri and Illinois?



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Defends the Jury and Judge

TO THE EDITOR TILLAMOOK HEADLIGHT.

SIR,—Having noticed an article in each of the last two issues of your paper in reference to the poor industrious farmer who set a fire and was sent to jail for it and also about the poor fisherman being fined, we would like to explain a little which we think will put a little different light on them from what the Headlight sheds. In the first case the man Felitz had absolutely refused to get a permit, and when asked by the fire warden to obtain one, said he did not need it. He just wanted to test the law and see if it was any good, he said. The fact that the fire did not spread or do any damage made no difference in the case, and with such evidence by two witnesses we can hardly see how the grand jury could do otherwise than to return an indictment, nor could we see how the Judge could fail to pass sentence. When a man will get up and plead that he set the fire but is not guilty, we can readily see that there is something wrong, but don't think it is with either judge or jury, and for one we don't think he deserved much sympathy, except for not knowing better than to be so stubborn.

As to the poor fisherman being fined, we are told by a person living in the vicinity at the time, that he positively said he would not pay a license. If so, he certainly deserved all he got. If not, we have been misinformed. But one thing is sure, and that is the law abiding people get very tired of the class that won't pay dog tax and are going to bust the city charter and all this sort of thing. If they don't like the laws, let them go to some other country or else labor to get the laws repealed. As to some of the other cases you mention as deserving prosecution, we certainly agree with you, particularly as to the illegal voting, and there were other cases in which we believe an indictment should have been found, but as there was not five of the jury of the same mind, it could not be done. But we do believe that every one of the jury was honest in his decisions, but for all that may have made some mistakes, but because some that we believe should have been and were not sent to jail or fined does not go to prove that other guilty parties should not have been.

Yours respectfully,
ONE OF THEM.

[Our correspondent is laboring under a wrong impression, for we did not try to cover up the guilt of the parties referred to, nor did we cast any reflection on the grand jury or judge, who are to be commended. What we wanted to impress upon the minds of our readers was, owing to the laws not being equally enforced, the men with money who commit wrong were not sent to jail, and in that way drew a comparison with the poor men, who, after they found they had done wrong, took the most honorable course in pleading guilty.]

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Leave	ASTORIA	Arrive
7:45 a.m.	for Portland and	11:35 a.m.
6:19 p.m.	way points.	10:35 p.m.

SEASIDE DIVISION.

Leave	ASTORIA	Arrive
11:35 a.m.	for Seaside Direct	5:20 p.m.

Leave	ASTORIA	Arrive
8:15 a.m.	for Warrenton,	*10:45 a.m.
5:50 p.m.	Hammond, Ft.	7:40 a.m.
	Stevens, Seaside.	

Leave	SEASIDE	Arrive
4:30 p.m.	for Astoria Direct	12:30 p.m.

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6:15 a.m.	for Warrenton Ft.	9:25 a.m.
19:30 a.m.	Stevens, Ham-	7:20 p.m.
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