

1508 W. 5th Ave., Eugene, Ore.
February 6th, 1936.

Dear Bob:

Haven't heard from you, I guess, since you went to California. Guess I have not written, either, but then I have a good excuse, for I've been so busy, holding meetings 12 miles north of Salem, besides keeping up the other work in the state, that I have not been able to get my mind onto writing letters or sending in reports. Have tried to keep a few reports going in to Bro. Dugger for the N. A. on progress of the work, but that is about all. You know I have a single-break mind, and cannot carry but one thing on it at a time, and the campaign up there, together with the work of the radio, and Eugene and Jefferson churches, with Roy Dalley trying to get all he could from both, has kept my mind pretty fully occupied.

I intended to hold a three weeks' meeting at Eldridge school, but we had such a good attendance and interest that I extended it to six weeks, and am continuing to preach there every Sunday night. Had a great deal of opposition there, however. It is a Catholic hotbed. Nearly every family north of there is Catholic, getting into these Catholic communities of St. Louis, Servais, and Saint something else, where they have big Catholic churches. Also several families south of the school house are Catholic. One member of the school board where I held the meetings is a Catholic.

I had the rowdiest gang of boys to contend with there I ever met up with. Boys the size and age of Tommy Day, Bill Evans, and the McGill twins—all around 6 feet, and of high school age—grown up in body, but about 5 or 6 in mind, and ill-behaved. They whispered, talked out loud, and moved around in a general noisy way during meetings. But at the end of the first or second night, several told me to do nothing about it. They warned me others had tried to control them, and failed, and the older folks and parents would resent it if I attempted to control them, side in with them, and quit coming to my meetings. They said they didn't want anything said or done about it. Well, I decided I could stand the confusion if they could. The youngsters always sat at the extreme rear, so that the rest of the audience was between me and them. But by the fifth or sixth week the people began to get their fill of it. They began to want it stopped. Then after I had preached on the Beast, and the Last of the Beast in the 5th week, bringing out the rottenness and filthiness of the Roman Catholic Church doctrine and actions plainer and more straight from the shoulder than I ever did before, there was a meeting of the Catholics in the neighborhood. The following Sunday night about six big Catholic boys, all around six feet, came with the express purpose of breaking up the meeting. Some of the toughest and noisiest of the protestant boys got wind of the scheme, and after coming to meeting went home rather than be mixed up in it and accused. Well, I had to change my entire sermon, and turn it into one of flaying these young fellows, and this time I went after them good and plenty. Each time I fired a volley at them, it sobered them up and they would be quiet about five minutes, then the disturbance would gradually be worked up again. Then the school house was broken into during the week, twice; once by smashing out a rear window, and another time by cutting a hold in the glass of the front door so they could reach in and unlock the catch-lock from the inside. Some books were stolen. The next Sunday night, Fern Luncorn, son of Bro. and Sister Luncorn, chairman of the school board there, came to me and said the Catholic member of the board had gotten the other member, who has no religion and never came near our meetings, to join him in forbidding me farther use of the school on the grounds that I was the cause of stirring up this trouble that was resulting in destruction to school property. I promptly put it up to the audience, and asked them if they, as tax-payers, wished to be denied their Constitutional right to free and ~~peaceful~~ peaceful assembly. Of course they were stirred up, knowing a Catholic was trying to deny Protestants the right of assembly in the school. The result was a good-sized committee of tax-paying citizens was appointed to meet at 10 next morning and go to these board members and demand their rights. They went first to the non-religious member, but he refused to get independent of the others, and insisted a board meeting be called for that evening on the matter

could be presented to and decided by all three board members together. Two of us then called on the Catholic member, but he refused to come to the board meeting, and said he absolutely refused me permission to meet there any more. He was not pleasant and I saw nothing could be done that way.

So next I got a leading citizen of the community to go with me to Salem, and we called on the district attorney, and demanded he order police protection for the school property, and I asked to find out just what protection the law would give me in conducting meetings. I found out the law is back of me in enforcing peace and quiet in a religious meeting, and anyone disturbing the peace of a meeting commits a misdemeanor, and is subject to arrest immediately. He called the sheriff, and told him to give us protection and immediate action. We then called over there, and the sheriff promised to attend the meeting, and watch the school property before and after meeting. He also said that if any one disturbed my meetings and no officer was around, to just tell them if they were not quiet a warrant would be sworn out early next morning for their arrest, and he said his office would do the rest. So then I went back to see our Catholic director. I ~~told~~ told him I had no intention of backing down. Told him what I had done, and the school property would be protected. First, however, I asked him what his objection was, and of course he said it was danger to the school property. So I told him that matter had been taken care of, and if he now objected to continuing meetings the people would think it was religious bigotry and intolerance, simply because he was a Catholic and we protestants, and I told him how stirred up the people were and suggested that of course he would not want to start a religious war in the community, or have all the tax-payers and his neighbors against him or his re-election on the board. He said no, he wouldn't want that, and so I said, "Thank you for your permission to continue holding the meetings. That now makes it two to one in favor of the meetings, and I'm sure the other member will now make it unanimous." Well, that's an old salesmanship trick, as you will readily recognize, but I felt it was right, in the Lord's service, to use it in this case. He couldn't back down, so I left and then the other member backed down and said he guessed he might as well go along with the other two, and so we forced unanimous consent to continue. Then I announced to the meeting the police protection, and that I proposed to have absolute quiet, and anyone causing any disturbance whatsoever would be promptly arrested and thrown in jail. Well, I've had quiet and ORDER ~~since~~ since, except for Mary Emma Runcorn, and I had to call her down pretty sharp once in front of all, for I cannot be a respecter of persons in this, and if I permit her to cut up and whisper and play I could not shut down on the older boys.

Now another incident occurred along in connection with this. Charlie Henion, the most promising young man in Jefferson church to take more of a part in the work, as you know was engaged to Alice Benight. They were married a week ago tonight. Well, just the week before this climax at Eldridge, Sister Henion came to me and told me Benight had gotten Charlie into a number of Bible studies on pork, and convinced him pork is clean, and induced him to give up the nice little house and farm he had rented for himself and Alice, and to move in with Benights after marriage, and to invest what money he had saved up in pigs and go into the hog business with Benight. Charlie's money was spent, and the little farm given up. Sister Henion was just sick. They kept Charlie away from home most of the time, and when he was there Alice came with him and kept so close Charlie's folks never had a moment alone with him to talk to him. She didn't know what to do. I told her I thought the Lord could solve it. Then it occurred to me that Charlie was the one logical man to follow up the work at Eldridge. I told her to tell Charlie that we would be organizing a new sabbath school there, and since I could not meet with them on the Sabbaths, that Charlie was the only one who could do it, and to tell him I wanted him to go with me the following Sunday evening to the meeting and spend the week with me up there, visiting in people's homes, getting acquainted, and helping to organize the Sabbath School. She put it up to Charlie as a call from the Lord, and of course he could not refuse. So I had practically a whole week ALONE with Charlie, away from Alice and all the Benights. We stayed nights at Runcorns. He was with me thru all the excitement I have recounted above, and the experience sure had his eyes popping before we got thru, but also it

solidified him with us in the work. When he went back home, he went convinced he could not go into the pork business, and determined to give it up. Also, that it would never do for them to live in with Benights, or any of their folks. He went back and put his foot down. He gave Alice her way in just one thing—he gave in to let Roy Bailey perform the marriage ceremony. He said he'd never feel really married, and it would seem like some little boy marrying them, but Alice insisted on Roy (tho she has pretended to be with us and has acted as Secy. of the Sabbath school at Jefferson.) Of course you can see that the whole trick was to get Charlie over to Benights, and then away from our church. But Charlie is now active in our work, and will take charge of the new Sabbath School, and Alice will come along with him into the Salem organization, or go alone. But then, she will have to go along with him up to Eldridge every Sabbath, so I guess instead of their trick working, it has turned out that Alice won't have much chance to meet with the Stanberry Dover church. Renton's translation of Isa. 66:18 refers to hog asters thus: "For I know their plans and their tricks,"—says the Lord. Isn't that the truth? Full of schemes and tricks. Sister Johnson has been working hard since Roy got back to tear down the Eugene church and get our people to attend at Roy's place, but has not succeeded, and Johnson's still come back to Eugene church every now and then.

"Red" Roy Henderson and Hazel Henion were married a week ago Sunday afternoon, setting that date so I could stop off on the way to preach Sunday night at Eldridge. They requested Lona and Beverly to sing, Beverly using Claude's guitar. They sang "I love you Truly." Florence Curtis and Deroy McGill also went up with us, and on the way someone started singing "The Fight is On," in the car, and everyone laughed at the significance of it, going to a wedding, so Florence, Dee, Bev, and Lona got busy and composed a parody to that tune as we rode along. Dorothy was with us too. So after the wedding, they all sang their song in unison:

The Fight is on, O Red and Hazel,
For you just got "hitched" today;
With red hair flying, and Hazel crying—
They all turn out that way.
The Fight is on, but be not weary;
Be strong, and to your rights hold fast.
Don't give up, children, just keep your courage,
It'll ~~all~~ come out all right at last.

Of course they were encored, and had to sing it over again. Poor Red was so nervous he didn't know whether he ought to put his coat on for the ceremony, or be married in his shirt-sleeves, and came to ask me which.

We are getting young people's meetings established on a new and more interesting basis again at Eugene. Claude Ellis is now taking an interest, and we are shortening the lesson, and devoting about 30 minutes to music, training a choir.

Will probably start another meeting at West Salem in a couple weeks. Had intended to hold a two weeks' meeting again at Alvadore, but decided to wait until Bro. Conn, Spires, Day, and some of them can inquire around a little and see whether there really is enough interest. Hazelbaker said several there wanted another meeting, and to hear the Sabbath question over again. If they really want it and will attend, I will hold the meetings.

The car has been doing heroic service. Have had to drive it ~~about~~ over 2,000 miles a month, and it is standing up splendidly, but I am travelling so much more, handling the work over such a wide territory, that it is costing a lot for gas. Dickey is staying home from school this afternoon, with fever and a headache, and is now complaining that this typewriter noise makes him "nervous." So I better stop. Teddy just recovered from an attack of acute appendicitis. Could not even drink water for three days. A doctor would have insisted on an immediate operation,

and he came thru all right, and is back in school again today. Otherwise we are
all well. When are you coming back to Oregon?