

SUNDAY CLOSING.

To the Editor of THE VICTORIA HOME JOURNAL.

SIR—It did me good to read in your issue of two weeks ago an article on Sunday closing. At the same time, I regretted much that you did not go more fully into the subject, which is an important one, striking as it does a blow at liberty of conscience and of action and placing another stone under the structure of bigotry and intolerance with which even Victoria is cursed.

What moral right any body of men have to restrict the liberties of any other body of men does not appear, no matter what is urged in defense of this Sunday closing movement. The only arguments so far put forward are: first, it is the so-called holy day of the Christians; secondly, that man and beast require a rest one day in seven, and, thirdly, that a few employers are anxious to possibly go driving, or do a little gardening, on that day. In all probability, they are acting more through a spirit of jealousy than through a desire to leave off work, for the main idea of the movement appears to have been swallowed up in the attempt to compel the one dissenter to fall into line.

In order that all may be equally dealt with, and that none may have an opportunity of complaining in regard to this Sunday closing, I would suggest that the by-law brought in by Ald. McKillican be amended so as to embrace the following clauses. By this means, the movement would be carried to its legitimate conclusion, and the observance of "The Lord's day, commonly known as Sunday," would be effected, bringing the many thousand blessings in its train, as expected by the Christians:—

That any person who is engaged as a cook, waiter, dish-washer, housemaid, chambermaid, or any other position to which daily duties appertain, who follows his or her said daily avocations on Sunday, shall be punished by a fine or imprisonment, or both;

That any druggist who shall open his store, sell, give, or otherwise dispose of any of his stock, or mix prescriptions, shall be summoned and fined; that any physician known or suspected to have visited, or to have been consulted, or have given medical

advice, to a sick or any other person, shall be punishable with a fine;

That every person or persons known or suspected of having given food to horses, cattle, or other animal or animals, or having harnessed or driven any animal or animals upon Sunday, or harbouring or attempting to harbour those who have so done, may on conviction, be punished with a fine or imprisonment;

That no Chinamen or other person shall deliver, wash, or take away, any articles which may have required, or which do then require washing, under pain of fine, or imprisonment, or both;

That any minister, clergyman, or other person accepting pay for his services as spiritual teacher or adviser who preaches or attempts to preach on the said day while under salary, gifts, or remuneration of any and every kind whatsoever, shall be deemed to have infringed the provisions of this by-law, and shall be punished with a fine, or imprisonment, or both;

That every engineer, fireman, coal-passer, captain of a vessel of any kind, brakeman, signalmen, oilers, switchmen, bridgekeepers, or any other person or persons in the employ of any transportation or other company, who does any work whatsoever kind upon the said day, shall be subject to a fine, or imprisonment, or both;

That no janitor, sexton, or other person in charge of a church, or churches or other building, or buildings, shall under any circumstances whatsoever, ring any bell do any work of any nature or kind in respect of his duties as such janitor or sexton, upon pain of the penalties imposed hereinbefore for an infraction of this by-law;

That every electric light company, tramway company, express or transfer company, telegraph company, telephone, or other company or companies permitting the business of such concerns to be conducted or carried on, or permitting or requiring their employees to do any work or perform any services for them upon that day, shall be subjected to a fine of not less than \$250, and not more than \$500;

That any police officer or officers reporting for duty on the said day shall be either promptly discharged or subjected to a fine, and any civic official working upon that day shall not only be discharged at once, but

be fined a sum not exceeding \$25, and not less than \$10;

That any grave-digger or other person or persons digging a grave, or assisting in so doing, shall be punished with a fine, and any undertaker or other person preparing a body for burial, conducting, or assisting to conduct, or being in any way connected with, or instrumental in, the burial of a dead body, shall be punishable with a fine, or imprisonment, or both;

That the caretaker of all public works, buildings, and water works must, under pain of the penalties imposed hereby, cease his duties upon the aforesaid day.

That any milkman or other person delivering, selling, peddling, or otherwise engaged in handing or disposing of milk who supplies, delivers, gives, or otherwise disposes of milk, butter, eggs, or any other article of dairy or farm produce upon the aforesaid day, shall be punishable with a fine, or imprisonment, or both;

That any of the Fire Departments, or any man or men engaged therein as fireman or firemen, who do not upon the said day abstain from their daily avocations, or who answer an alarm of fire, shall be deemed guilty of an infraction of this by-law, and shall be fined either as a whole or individually;

That any Custom official granting, signing, giving, or in any way assisting in signing, granting, or giving a clearance to any vessel, shall be punishable with a fine, or imprisonment, or both;

That any post office, civil service, government or other official engaged in the collection, stamping, assorting, or despatching of letters, or any kind of mail matter whatsoever, who upon the said day performs any such work or service, or any person or persons who opens the doors, or lights any post office or other building upon the said day, shall, on conviction, be punished with the penalties by this by-law imposed.

That any lighthouse-keeper, pilot, boatman, or other person engaged in or about or in connection with the guiding or directing within the waters immediately adjacent to the said City of Victoria, of vessels who upon the said day carries on his usual avocations in respect of which he is paid, shall