

MINISTERS TO BE ON GUARD.

THEY WILL WATCH SALOONS VERY CLOSELY NEXT SUNDAY.

The Sunday Rest Association Begins a Crusade Against Open Saloons on Sunday—Preachers Will Look Behind the Screens and Investigate Matters for Themselves—The Mayor Will Be Urged to Enforce the Sunday Closing Law.

The little side door and the secrets which lie behind it will be investigated by the clergy and members of the various Christian societies of this city next Sunday. This was decided upon at a meeting of the Sunday Rest association held in the Y. M. C. A. parlors last night, and the crusade against open saloons on Sunday may be said to have fairly begun in earnest.

There were present at the meeting fifteen delegates, representing the Ministers' Alliance, Knights of Father Matthew, Retail Clerks union, Epworth league, Woman's Federation of clubs, Young People's Baptist society, Woman's Christian Temperance union and the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor. Resolutions from each of these societies commending the movement and pledging support and aid were presented.

A committee was appointed to visit saloons in every section of the city next Sunday and report at a meeting of the association to be held in Legg's music store at 811 Main street at noon next Monday. The association will then wait upon Mayor Cowherd, present the evidence it has collected, and urge that the ordinance against open saloons on Sunday be rigidly enforced.

There was considerable discussion on how convincing evidence that saloons do sell whisky on Sunday should be gathered and who should be selected to get this evidence. Mrs. H. G. Longan of the W. C. T. U. said that she doubted if the mere word of all the ministers in town would be sufficient to convince the Mayor and Board of Police Commissioners that the saloons kept open house on Sunday. D. A. Whitmore of the Y. P. S. E. said that last Sunday he played "Peeping Tom" on his own hook and he found, between the hours of 2 and 3 o'clock in the afternoon, ten saloons and one cigar factory open and forty-nine men and boys and one policeman playing cards and drinking. Mrs. Ira Lewis, president of the W. C. T. U., said that many a man had been hung on circumstantial evidence not so strong as that.

"Yes," replied Rev. Mr. Kokendoffer, "But you must remember that it takes more evidence to close a saloon on Sunday than to hang a man."

"I want to beg off from being put on this committee," said Rev. Dr. J. M. Cromer. "I was never in a saloon in my life, but I understand that they have chairs and tables in there and that's against the law. Now move that our committee keep their eyes open and make note of all they see." This motion was carried.

Dr. Horrigan moved that the committee go in pairs so that one could watch the other. This was voted down.

He then moved that a collection be taken up and given to the committee to buy drinks. This was not even acted upon.

Mrs. Longan thought it would be a good idea to have someone on the committee who knew the taste of beer so that he could buy a glass and taste it in each saloon, and thus get evidence that could not be disputed. This suggestion was not carried out for the reason that a tippling committeeman might overestimate his capacity for beer, and get too bewildered to give reliable evidence.

The secretary was empowered to appoint the committee which will do the personal investigation. The membership of the committee will be kept secret so far as possible.