

1883

The agitation concerning the Sunday closing law was brought over into 1883. In February, the editor of the Times-Union wrote:

“For months the saloons in this city have been reaping their great Sunday harvests, open to the eyes of all the world. Within a few weeks gulled Church people who have vehemently denied the palpable fact have been led to make for themselves the discouraging discovery”. The editor then goes on with a list of saloons found open and publicly doing business on the preceding Sunday, and concludes: “and the solemn chime of Sabbath bells mingles in unison with the gurgle of whiskey decanters and the chink of busy glasses; while the sun shines down upon worshippers thanking God that the Sunday law is obeyed, and upon scenes of Sunday violation and debauchery. Happy liquor dealers! Happy city government! Happy people!” On October 21, 1883, there was a wholesale raid by the police on the violators of the Sunday law. Many arrests were made and the violators were brought before the mayor and fined, generally \$10 each.

The agitation of the Sunday closing law was extended to include the city’s affairs in general. Criticism and comment on the part of citizens and newspapers were so persistent that an investigation was ordered by the council.

The financial report of the investigating committee revealed facts as follows:

DR.

Sanitary Improvement Bonds (1878).....	\$230,000.00
Old Railroads (F. A. & G. C., 1857).....	12,400.00
Old Warrant account	5,985.00
New Warrant account.....	19,373.11
J. M. Schumacher judgment.....	1,975.00—\$269,733.11

CR.

Cash on hand.....	\$ 11,393.65
Taxes and other sources.....	90,868.21
City property	3,000.00—\$105,261.86
Balance	<u>\$164,471.25</u>

A separate report was made for the waterworks:

“Our unpaid bills on the 30th of June (1883), amounted to \$1,511.46. They now (Nov. 15th) amount to \$2,102.05. If