

Charles Sheldon and His Rules for the News

When Charles Sheldon took over the Topeka Daily Capital with the idea of publishing only “good news,” he published the following “Rules for News” on March 13, 1900. Read Sheldon’s rules. Use the chart to list eight of Sheldon’s rules. Then imagine that you are the editor of the newspaper for the week. Write down your rules.

Topeka Daily Capital – March 13, 1900

It will be a news paper. The word “News” will be defined as anything in the way of daily events that the public ought to know for its development and power in a life of righteousness.

The front page of the Capital this week will contain what seems to the editor to be the most vital issues that affect humanity as a while.

The paper will be non-partisan, not only in municipal and stat politics but also in national politics.

On the liquor question the paper will advocate the prohibition of the while liquor business from Maine to California and all around the globe. By prohibition I mean the total extinction of the curse of making, selling, buying and drinking intoxication liquor...

The great social questions of the age will be given prominence. The selfishness of mankind in every form of greed, commercially or politically will be considered as of more serious consequences to us as a people than many other matters which too often engage the time and attention of mankind.

The paper will declare its abhorrence of war as it is being wages today not only in African but in the Philippines and everywhere else.

On matters of “finance” or “tariff” or “expansion” matters of public concern which have to do with measures of this character, the editor has personal opinions, which may or may not be voiced in this paper. If he gives expression to them it will be in no dogmatic or positive manner as if he knew what the whole Christian truth was concerning them.

The main purpose of the paper will be to influence its readers to seek first the Kingdom of God. A nation seeking the Kingdom of God first of all will in time

find right answers to all disputed questions and become a powerful and useful nation.

Editorial and other articles written by reporters, will be signed by the writers.

The exceptions will be small items and local and telegraphic news as in its nature does not require signature.

There will be so Sunday paper, but instead a Saturday evening edition suitable for Sunday reading.

| Sheldon's Rules | My Rules |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. | 1. |
| 2. | 2. |
| 3. | 3. |
| 4. | 4. |
| 5. | 5. |
| 6. | 6. |
| 7. | 7. |
| 8. | 8. |