

Such is, therefore, the system which should necessarily be followed by the authorities here, as in Great Britain, and in the United States.

Since this report of Committee of Fifteen was submitted and published, a merciless crusade has been undertaken in New York against vice openly exhibiting itself, as well as against gambling houses and bawdy houses. Dens and dives have been closed and districts formerly infected by low, debauched people and even by debauchees of the higher classes have been cleansed: everybody is satisfied, and the authorities are not reproached with having increased clandestine prostitution by suppressing the other,—that which is the most scandalous since it is public, and which is the most dangerous because it is a constant lure thrown among millions of human beings, and because it is accessible to all.

II.—OUR LAWS AGAINST PROSTITUTION AND PROSTITUTES.

Our Criminal Code considers as a vagrant, libertine, idler and debauchee, besides a large number of persons which it places in the same category, whosoever:

“Being a common prostitute or night walker, wanders in the fields, public streets or highways, lanes or places of public meeting or gathering of people, and does not give a satisfactory account of herself;

“Is a keeper or inmate of a disorderly house, bawdy-house or house of ill-fame, or house for the resort of prostitutes;

“Is in the habit of frequenting such houses and does not give a satisfactory account of himself or herself;

“Having no peaceable profession or calling to maintain himself by, for the most part supports himself by gaming or crime or by the avails of prostitution.” (Art. 207, par. i, j, k, l.)

This is clear and precise. The prostitute, whether found in the street or arrested in a bawdy-house kept by herself or of which she is an inmate, or which she is in the habit of frequenting, the man or woman who supports himself or herself by the avails of prostitution, for instance, the procurer, the supporter, the pander or whosoever habitually frequents such a house, come under this article of the Code. They are dangerous beings, and a nuisance to society; they are qualified as vagrants, idlers and debauchees, and may be arrested everywhere and apprehended at any place, in a house as well as on a thoroughfare and condemned (Art. 208) to a fine or to imprisonment or both. It is the condemnation of the *trade* itself. The *flagrante delicto* is not required. The qualificative if found applicable to them, is sufficient. Prostitution *per se* is therefore a criminal offence and is punishable accordingly, and its adepts, at different degrees, are delinquents.

Art. 2783 of the Revised Statutes of Quebec contains similar provisions, under the heading “Police and Good Order,” so that in the federal as well as in the local laws, the prostitutes and their clients, who have just been enumerated, are put under the ban of society and constantly exposed to be arrested, not by reason of a particular offence, but because they are . . . what they are.

Art. 195 of Criminal Code defines the bawdy-house: “It is a house, room, set of rooms or place of any kind kept for purposes of prostitution.”

Here, again, there is no possible equivoke, any premises whatever, even a single room in a house, must be considered as a disorderly place if kept for prostitution purposes.

By Art. 198, any person keeping a bawdy-house, as defined by Art. 195, is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to one year's imprisonment, and even any one who appears,