

Canadian Girls in American Brothels

Everyone knows that for many years a constant stream of Canadian girls have crossed the border to earn their living as writers, nurses, teachers, stenographers, ladies' companions, seamstresses, domestic helpers, etc. Success in unusual degree has crowned their effort. Their integrity and industry and ability have been rewarded with generous remuneration. Stories of their success are widely known. This makes the work of the procurer the easier. His promises of an easy life and otherwise incredibly large wages are believed. Deceptive advertisements are answered. The innocent victims go blindly into a bondage worse than Hell. Once within the door of the house of shame, escape is well-nigh impossible. Locked doors, barred windows, withheld street garments prevent escape, while drugs and brutality do their debasing, enslaving, crushing work. Even if the street could be reached, who will give refuge? To whom can a girl from the house of vice go? Who will believe her? She is an utter stranger. There are good Samaritans aplenty, but ere she can discover one such, her captors are on her trail, she is accused of stealing her employer's clothes, or brazenly branded as a daughter of shame, and cunning tempters besiege her. The chances are many to one against her escape and restoration. Will she in any case turn her steps homeward with a foul stain upon her reputation? Heartbroken, though free, many such have gone back to the evil life as the only thing open, determined now to go the pace and die, but never to let mother and friends know of their experience. Five years, on the average, ends it. Vice, drink, drugs, and disease do rapidly their deadly work. Quick, cold-blooded murder were merciful by comparison!

Others are first seduced, then half willingly go, this seeming to them a less evil than facing the shame at home. Still others are wooed, won and wedded in cold blood by heartless slavers, then inveigled or forced into the segregated colonies in the great American cities.

Mr. Clifford G. Roe, of Chicago, Assistant U. S. District Attorney, after investigating in Boston, Mass., says in *Woman's World*: "Taking the biography of one hundred girls in disreputable houses at random, it was learned that about one-third come to Boston from Canada, mainly Nova Scotia."