

have damned the East end by it." The homes in all the area around Alexander street are seriously affected. Men come to the doors of the houses demanding the accommodation that Alexander street is supposed to provide. To one home on Cordova street two men came recently and told the 17-year-old daughter of one of our best families that they wanted her. At another house on the same street some men asked a little lad of 7 where they could find women, and explained their purpose in language too vile to repeat. The children in the school which is only two blocks away, know what is going on, recognize the inmates, and discuss the whole question. They carry the information they get home, and talk about it there. The Japanese day school and night school are right beside that area, and their children and young men are exposed to its contamination. The missionary's residence is beset with characters who frequent Alexander street. There is a play ground near by where hundreds of young people congregate night after night and the atmosphere of this place injures them. The Strathcona institute bought a property on this street, intending to build, and now find it worthless for their purposes. Many of the families are moving away and more will move as soon as possible. Respectable women and young girls are constantly being annoyed on the streets by the low characters that infest the region. This is the testimony of the residents and it cannot be impugned. As the records of the police court show, the rest of the city is suffering as well.

So far from this area proving a safety valve that prevents this vice from spreading through the city, it is a distributing centre from which it spreads in all directions. As the following reports will show, this is the experience of other cities. This shows the futility of the police commissioners' policy of clearing out evil resorts elsewhere without at the same time cleaning up Alexander street. It is said that when a patient is admitted to a certain insane asylum they set him to bail the water out of a large tub into which a stream is running. If he turn off the tap first he is reckoned curable, but if he try to empty the tub with the water still pouring in, his case is considered well-nigh hopeless. Judged by that standard, there would be small hope for some civic rulers.

There is a constant siege laid to the morals of young girls here. No unprotected girl is safe. The committee has had numbers of complaints of such annoyances from all parts of the city. Young women of the best character have been thus molested constantly. The statement made by the police commissioners that the toleration of a vice area protects respectable women from annoyance is utterly disproven by the experience of Vancouver under a policy of segregation. The fact of the matter is that when a community tolerates the vice anywhere it puts a stamp of approval upon it and encourages it everywhere. Whereas a policy of suppression discourages it everywhere. Compare conditions in that respect here with those in Toronto where the evil is put down relentlessly. In an address delivered last year on "The Social Evil," Chief Inspector Archibald of that city contrasts its condition now when it has a population of 400,000 with its condition 40 years ago when it had only 45,000. Then the evil was tolerated; now it is suppressed, "with the effect that the number of indecent assaults upon girls and women of all ages is now reduced to a minimum which is certainly not one-half of the number reported when the population was