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Moral and Social Reform Council
Social vice in Vancouver. --



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SOCIAL VICE

IN

VANCOUVER

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Social Vice in Vancouver

This pamphlet is submitted to the citizens of Vancouver in order to arouse the conscience of our city to the menace of commercialized social vice. It is a report adopted by the Social and Moral Reform Council of British Columbia as prepared and presented by a special committee of professional and business men acting for the Council which worked for several months in studying the general question and investigating conditions in the city. The Moral and Social Reform Council of British Columbia is composed of representatives of the churches of the Province, duly appointed by the governing bodies of the different denominations.

We believe this pamphlet is particularly timely. The growing impatience among good citizens at the prominence of social vice in Vancouver, as shown among other things by the large and spirited delegation which waited on the Police Commissioners on May 21st and the refusal of the Commissioners to promise to abolish the segregated area, demand such a presentation of the case as is found in the following pages. Many are not aroused because they are not informed. An informed and aroused Vancouver will not condone this evil nor tolerate Commissioners who refuse to enforce in its entirety the criminal law of Canada.

We therefore submit:

A resume of present conditions in Vancouver with causes contributing to the evil.

A brief statement of the Canadian criminal law, which is absolutely opposed to toleration.

An authoritative presentation of the ravages of attendant diseases.

A sketch of the present day treatment of social vice by various cities showing that the latest scientific treatment is opposed to toleration.

We believe that a new day is dawning for the cities of the Pacific slope. The "wide open" town is becoming a thing of the past. Such cities as Spokane, Seattle, Los Angeles and Victoria have banished their vice colony and are rigidly enforcing the law. Vancouver must join this upward movement. As we are aspiring to be one of the world seaports, are planning many open spaces for parks and playgrounds, and are being urged to adopt as our ideal The City Beautiful, surely the time is come resolutely to clean out all vile nests that harbor social vice and degrade human beings for mercenary ends.

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1—Conditions in Vancouver

There is an area in Vancouver where social vice in its commercialized form is tolerated by the authorities. Late in 1911 a vice district that had long existed in the city was cleared out. At that time various statements were made in the local press to the effect that the police authorities could not permit the establishment of another. As this attitude is the only correct interpretation of the criminal law of Canada, the public rested in the belief that this blot on our city's name had been finally removed. Early in 1912, however, it became only too evident that another vice colony was being established on Alexander street in the 500 and 600 blocks. There was much activity in real estate there. Buildings, manifestly for purposes of prostitution, were being erected with feverish haste. Women of shady reputation began to move toward Vancouver under the impression that it was to be a "wide open town." The focus of their activity was the above-named section of Alexander street.

It is true that this has never been formally recognized by the Police Commission as a "restricted area." There is no resolution on their books authorizing it; but there is an understanding that the law against prostitution will not be enforced in this section. The police are on duty there to keep order in other respects, but not to interfere with prostitution. There is also a system of medical inspection that is supposed to afford a guarantee against disease.

As already indicated, evil-doers from other parts are attracted in this direction. A short time ago three professional procurers were arrested in Portland. They stated that they were heading for Vancouver. The immigration officials report that they have to be on the alert constantly to keep such characters from crossing the line. The very fact that so many cities in Canada and the United States are cleaning out their old vice areas is making more of these characters seek new fields in our city.

This section has become the rendezvous for the worst characters of the country. Those who have investigated this question affirm that when such people are allowed to congregate in a restricted district where there is nothing to restrain them and everything to encourage them to vie with one another in vileness, they go far greater lengths in wickedness than is possible in other circumstances. Vancouver's experience is no exception to this rule.

From this centre vice has spread in all directions. A neighboring town complains that women from this district visit their community after every pay day, until it has become a nuisance to everyone. We have evidence that men who will not go to this street send to it for women to meet them in other places. The whole district around Alexander Street is suffering from the effects. One prominent man expressed the feelings of all the residents in the locality when he says: "You

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

under 50,000 although at that time about 250 women were used for the gratification of depraved and brutal men as an excuse for the toleration of 50 houses of ill fame. No woman need be molested in any part of the city of Toronto, either day or night. The one way to safeguard the innocent is to drive this evil wherever it appears with the full power of the law."

Segregation attempts to isolate the vicious woman, but her equally vicious partner in crime runs at large to spread vice and disease among the uncontaminated. The only consistent policy of segregation is to confine both men and women of immoral character to the restricted district, and punish them equally when found practising their vices elsewhere. The manifest impossibility of this makes it all the more evident that it is impossible to control the evil by segregating one sex only.

The only scientific and effective method of dealing with the social evil as this report will show is a persistent policy of repression which deals impartially with all offenders against the law.

2—Causes Contributing to the Social Evil

There are many influences tending downward in the life of to-day.

1. One of the most potent of these is evil literature and immoral shows. Books whose sale is forbidden by law have been on the market in Vancouver. Suggestive and immoral pictures and post cards have also been found. Constant vigilance is necessary to keep out plays and other shows of a degrading character, and it is to be feared that many escape detection and do their work unhindered. Often the imagination of youth is hopelessly defiled in these ways.

2. The carelessness of parents and guardians in allowing young girls and boys to go out unprotected on the streets at night is responsible for a great deal of delinquency. Our Detention Home authorities say that 75 per cent of the cases with which they have to deal are directly traceable to neglect or evil in the homes. When we add to that the lack of boarding and rooming accommodation with proper safeguards for boys and girls who are earning their own living in the city, it is not surprising that great numbers go astray.

There seems to be an alarming increase of sodomy among boys. A number of men have been sent down with heavy sentences for this crime. Very young boys are being degraded in this way. Whenever evidence can be secured against such men they are severely punished, but the authorities feel that they are only touching the fringe of the trouble. We have learned also of too many cases of boys doing their utmost to initiate their acquaintances in vice.

Our detention officer says that there is an enormous amount of vice going on with young girls in the city. One magistrate is authority for the statement that there are from 40 to 60 young girls in the city who ought to be in an Industrial Home. They and their doings are passed over by the police because there is nothing that can be done with them. The new Industrial Home provided for by recent action of the Government will greatly improve the situation.

Such facts as the following have been brought to our attention. Girls of the age of 14 to 16 years have been known to leave home and stay away for days. Their employers have no means of knowing where they are residing. They register their home address, and when there is no home control they go where they please. The ruin in which such a course must end is only too evident. Then there are numbers of men who are only too ready to aid their downward course. A man of 49 years was recently sent down for nine months for contributing to the delinquency of a girl of 13. Within the last year four men have received various sentences for such crimes. And the Detention Home authorities feel that the great bulk of the trouble is still untouched. The only way of convicting such men is by the voluntary confession of the girls, and that can be obtained only by ministering to them and winning their confidence. As the Detention Home has accommodation for only three girls now, and when enlarged for six, one can see how inadequate it is to the need.

A most valuable improvement was made in the law when the government secured legislation for the new Industrial School. A girl can now be taken

into detention without having gone the length of actual crime. If the parents make a statement that she is beyond their control, and if that statement is verified by subsequent investigation, a sufficient case is made out to place her in ward. In any provision to be made for dealing with these conditions, young people must be protected from their own weaknesses as well as against the evil in their environment.

3. The ease with which rooms can be secured for immoral purposes is another encouragement to vice. By registering as man and wife such people can get accommodation in any part of the city. We recognize the jealous care with which many proprietors guard the character of their houses. Such people are rendering a service of untold value to the city. But too many in this business are lax, and seem ready to accept the rewards of vice. Two detectives employed by the committee were solicited by two young girls on Granville Street on March 14th, 1912, and told that they could go to any rooming house and register as man and wife, and no questions would be asked. Another detective found two quite young girls in a rooming house with two young men. They had been there for days. It would appear from the youthful appearance of the girls and their manner of life that any proprietor could have known that their relations were illicit. Sometimes men in charge of hotels have complained to the police of the difficulty of dealing with such cases, and have asked "Are we to demand a marriage certificate from every couple that comes in?" There is doubt about the difficulty involved, but it does appear that more care should be taken in renting rooms for a single night or part of a night to couples who come in without baggage. And where apartments are knowingly rented for such purposes, the proprietors should be prosecuted with the utmost rigor.

4. Economic causes have a great deal to do with this vice. All the reports say that poorly-paid girls are tempted to augment their income in this way. On one occasion in this city a young girl applied for a position in a well-known store. When she heard the wages offered, she said that she could not live on that amount, and the woman in charge flatly told her that she could increase the amount by the sale of her virtue. Great numbers of young women are above the temptation and preserve their honor even in grinding poverty, but many yield.

The wretched accommodation in many rooming houses where working girls must live is an encouragement to moral laxity. Many of them have no sitting room, and young women must receive their friends in their rooms or on the street. Prices are so high that it is often difficult to get rooms of any kind for the money which they can pay. On one occasion an officer told some young women of the shady reputation of the place where they were living. "Where can we go?" was the answer. And he knew of no place within their means. This is a problem which must be taken hold of by the moral leaders of the city.

One phase of this subject to which attention must be given is the number of women in domestic service who fall into this sin. Two of the Rescue Homes here gave the information that most of the unmarried mothers whom they received were of this class. Statistics from Germany and other countries point out the same thing. It is evident that the conditions that affect other classes of working girls do not apply here,

for these people have usually better wages and better homes. The reason given for the fall of so many is their poor opportunities for social life.

The housing problem and the high cost of living which make early marriage difficult is accountable for very much of our social vice. How to deal with this phase of modern life is one of our most serious problems, but its very gravity should drive our leaders to seek some effective solution for it.

5. Professional procurers of both sexes are responsible for the ruin of many. The money to be made out of social vice is so great that numbers of men and women go into it simply for gain. That these people have been operating in Vancouver is beyond doubt. One gentleman in this city, who has had exceptional opportunities for studying its life, informed the committee that men who live here for this purpose only are known, that they frequent the restaurants and other public places trying to get acquainted with young girls, and that if they can get these girls to go out with them, and above all to drink, their success in ruining them is assured. One of these men was tried on a charge of assault in our city and when asked if he had not served a term for procuring in the United States he refused to answer. Nor could he give any satisfactory account of his business here. In other parts of Canada these people have been found at work. Sometimes they use advertisements for help as the snare; sometimes the work is done through correspondence. A young woman was going into a Canadian city one night, and asked the conductor how to reach her destination in the city. She showed him a card which had only an address on it. He recognized it immediately as one of the worst resorts in the city, and sent her to the Y. W. C. A. instead. In an address given before the Purity League in Louisville on May 8th, 1912, Mr. Stanley W. Finch, chief of the bureau of investigation of the U. S. Department of Justice, said that these methods are in constant use, and that no girl whom these people wish to procure is safe.

It is the segregated area that gives these people their market and makes the White Slave trade a possibility. Our duty is first to close up the market; second, to make life in a Christian land intolerable for such traffickers in human beings; and, third, to warn people all over the land of the nature of their operations.

6. The segregation of the social evil in a certain section is a prolific source of corruption. The community thus puts a certain stamp of toleration on it. Young men start a career of vice here who would not begin elsewhere. Then as men are assured that they will not be interfered with in practising their vices here, they are given every encouragement to proceed. The pretense of medical inspection promises an immunity from disease which even the best medical science could not give. The atmosphere of the place taints the whole city. And the evil it generates attacks human life and character at their source.

3—Legal Aspect of the Situation

The offences with which this report has to do are criminal offences. The enactment of criminal law rests wholly with the Dominion Parliament. It is the duty of the respective Provincial governments to administer and enforce the laws so enacted by the federal authority. No Provincial authority may alter or suspend the criminal law of Canada.

Accordingly the Provincial legislature in granting the charter to the City of Vancouver does not and could not delegate to the city greater authority in the matter of suppressing disorderly houses and houses of ill-fame than to allow the city to pass by-laws not inconsistent with existing Dominion Statutes in this regard.

The powers vested in the Board of Police Commissioners of the city of Vancouver come in the first instance from the Provincial government. Needless to say the Board of Police Commissioners does not and could not possess wider powers in dealing with this question than the Provincial legislature which made possible the existence of this Board.

In consideration, therefore, of the above facts, the following extracts from the Report of His Lordship Mr. Justice H. A. Robson appointed in November, 1910, to investigate conditions as to social vice in Winnipeg are quite as applicable to the city of Vancouver as they are to the city of Winnipeg.

"Nowhere," says His Lordship, can there be found any suggestion of authority in the Police Commissioners or any member of the force for withholding the enforcement of any law in any area of the city as against any class of offenders.

"I can approach the matter and deal with the facts solely in the light of the law applicable to the matter as declared by the powers in whom that jurisdiction is by law vested.

"That law does not authorize anything but entire suppression of the offence; no policy by whatsoever name it may be known, which involves any conditional or unconditional toleration of this crime or immunity from punishment therefor has any recognition by the law of Canada. The Provincial and Municipal legislation on the subject in the present case both emphasize this."

Elsewhere in his report, Mr. Justice Robson points out that where any Board of Police Commissioners, in dealing with this evil, introduce such a policy as segregation, they thereby bring about a condition of affairs entirely at variance with the principles of Common Law, contrary to the Statutes of Canada, as found in the criminal code, and contrary moreover to the spirit of the Provincial legislation as found in the city charter.

The following statement of the Common Law of England on the subject is accepted as authority:

"It is clearly agreed that keeping a bawdy house is a common nuisance and it endangers the public peace by drawing together dissolute and debauched persons, and also has an apparent tendency to corrupt the manners of both sexes, by such an open profession of lewdness."

This principle is embodied in the Statute law of Canada, Sections 225,

228, 238 and 239 of the Criminal Code declare the crime and impose the penalty.

A common bawdy house is defined in section 225 Criminal Code as "a house, room, set of rooms, or place of any kind kept for purposes of prostitution or occupied or resorted to by one or more persons for such purposes."

It is important to note that it has been held that if a lodger let her apartment for the purpose of indiscriminate prostitution it is as much a bawdy house within the above definition as if she held a whole house.

It has moreover been held by the Court of Queen's Bench at Montreal upon a reserved case stated by the Recorder that a person who leases a house to another for purposes of prostitution renders himself a party to and guilty of the offence committed by his lessee subsequently to the leasing of the house, of keeping a disorderly house, although he was not himself the keeper and that he can be prosecuted, tried and convicted and punished for such offence in the same manner as the actual keeper. (See Queen vs. Roy, 3 Canadian Criminal Cases, 472).

Again in the case of Rex vs. Mercier (13 Canadian Criminal Cases, 475), it was held in a recent decision that a room in a hotel habitually resorted to by only one prostitute and her paramour for purposes of prostitution is a common bawdy house and that the hotel keeper who with knowledge of the facts permits the continuance of such use of the room is properly convicted as a keeper although the hotel keeper received only the ordinary room rent and made no direct gain from such use.

It is well settled, too, that "keeping" as applied to a house of ill fame has nothing to do with the ownership of the house, but solely with the management of it.

Section 228, Criminal Code, prescribes a penalty of one year's imprisonment for any one convicted of being a keeper of a disorderly house under the above definition.

This offence is further dealt with in sub-sections (i) to (l) inclusive of section 238 Criminal Code, wherein vagrancy is defined as applying to the following among others:

"Everyone who 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."

"Everyone who is a keeper or inmate of a disorderly house, bawdy house, or house of ill-fame or house for the resort of prostitutes."

"Everyone who is in the habit of frequenting such houses and does not give a satisfactory account of himself or herself."

"Everyone who 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."

Section 239 Criminal Code imposes the penalty upon conviction under the preceding section: A fine not exceeding fifty dollars or to imprisonment with or without hard labor for any term not exceeding six months or to both.

The above mentioned sections set forth the main body of the law as laid down by our Criminal Code in respect to the main offence treated of in this report. And the duty imposed upon the Police Commissioners of the City of Vancouver is that of enforcing this law, not some other law.

It is a matter of common knowledge that a policy of passive segregation obtains in the City of Vancouver in the matter of dealing with the suppression of houses of ill fame.

Mr. Justice Robson has this to say of such a policy: "The selection of such a restricted area is a conditional license to commit a continuing offence. In view of the law neither the Police Commissioners nor the Chief of Police have authority to permit such a state of affairs. Their duty is to see to an unremitting enforcement of the criminal law in all parts of the city."

4—The Medical Aspect of the Case

The Medical Profession must deal with the social evil. They are in a position to guide and protect the public as no others can. The conclusions of their experts on this subject must therefore command respect.

There are certain conclusions which the world's leading specialists in venereal disease have reached with practical unanimity.

1. **The Prevalence of Venereal Disease.** There are many sources of information to which we may appeal. Willson in his book on "The Social Evil in America," gives the following facts: There are 800,000 cases of gonorrhoea in New York. Prussia has annually 773,000 cases. The proportion in other countries and centres of population is just as high. All prostitutes may be said to have gonorrhoea, and it is estimated that every fourth one is in a condition to transmit syphilis. From these it spreads all over the land.

One of the things that the medical profession has to deal with is the suffering of the innocent from these diseases. The following statistics by Blaschko speak for themselves: "Of 67 syphilitic wives, almost all the wives of workmen, 64 were infected by their husbands; whereas, on the contrary, of 106 husbands, 7 only acquired the disease from their wives; the remaining 99 acquired it by extraconjugal sexual intercourse, either before or after marriage." Every medical practitioner has to deal with such cases, and often the sufferer does not know the source of her trouble.

Dr. Prince A. Morrow of New York states that 70 per cent of all women at New York Hospital for treatment of venereal diseases were respectable married women infected by their husbands. The law which makes such action on the part of the diseased a serious criminal offence ought to be enacted in every civilized country.

These diseases spread among children. Cases have been found in this city of children under 10 years of age suffering from gonorrhoea. And great numbers who are still in their early teens are infected by it. As the spread of this disease threatens the whole future of the race, one can easily see how dangerous a situation this creates.

2. **The Seriousness of Venereal Disease.** People have always recognized the danger of syphilis. But gonorrhoea has been generally laughed at as a trifle. Some have taught that it is merely a catarrh, while there is an old superstition to the effect that one may get rid of it by communicating it to a healthy person. Medical science now classifies it among the most difficult of diseases to cure. The attitude of many medical men is that they do not know that it can be cured. Its painful symptoms may be allayed, but long after it has ceased to trouble the patient seriously it still persists and may be communicated to a pure person.

German statistics show that 30,000 cases of blindness in that country are due to gonorrhoea. Their figures for 1894 show that 80 per cent of all children born with healthy eyes, who become blind, did so as the result of transmitted gonorrhoea. Wilson says between 10 and 20 per cent of all cases of infantile blindness are due to the same cause. Noeggerath states that 50 per cent of sterile women owe their sterility to gonorrhoea, while Neisser estimates 45 per cent. Price, of Philadelphia, says that of 1000 abdominal operations in women, 95 per cent were the result of conditions

due to gonorrhoea. Bloch in his great work on "The Sexual Life of our Time" sums up the results of the latest investigations in these words: "A remarkable change of views has in the course of the last 30 years taken place in respect of the nature and importance of gonorrhoea. Whereas formerly this was regarded as a comparatively harmless disease, we know today that gonorrhoea in the male, and still more in the female, gives rise to tedious dangers and harmful morbid phenomena, and is the source of unspeakable sorrows, and of the miserable ill-health of numerous women, and that it is the chief cause of sterility in both sexes. . . . The infection of a woman with gonorrhoea is a disaster. It is the immortal service of the German-American physician Noeggerath that, in the year 1872, he proved that the majority of the stubborn "diseases of women" were nothing more than the consequences of gonorrhoeal infection. Gonorrhoea in women . . . is a true martyrdom, a hell upon earth."

3. Another conclusion that scientific men have reached is that public prostitution is the main source of venereal disease. Many authorities might be quoted, but a few will suffice. Dr. Frederick Bierhoff of New York said recently: "It may be assumed that prostitution is the most common source of infection." He adds that in his own practice, out of 1329 cases of gonorrhoea, 74 per cent were infected by prostitutes.

Dr. Wm. T. Belfield of Chicago says: "Every prostitute, public or private, acquires venereal diseases sooner or later, hence all of them are diseased some of the time, and some of them all the time. The men who patronizes them risks his health at every exposure."

While Dr. Ludwig Weiss of New York affirms that "Prostitution must be regarded as the fountain head from which venereal diseases originate. It forms the main source from, through and by which courses in an unbroken, vitiated stream, the poison which inoculates the living, and contaminates the yet unborn. In comparison to this, all other modes of propagation are nil. In order to stamp out venereal diseases absolutely, prostitution must be annihilated first. No prostitution, no venereal disease. To prevent these diseases, measures must be instituted against prostitution. Any prophylaxis insituted against their spread must necessarily begin with measures directed towards either the suppression or repression of prostitution."

These testimonies, quoted from the Minneapolis report, are from American specialists. That the same opinion prevails in other countries may be seen from the following paragraph from Bloch's work: "The central problem of the sexual question is the suppression of prostitution and of venereal disease, the former evil being the principal focus of the latter. I say the principal 'focus' not the 'cause.' For, if all prostitutes were healthy, we could leave prostitution quietly alone—leaving out of consideration the moral depravity to which it gives rise—and venereal disease would spontaneously disappear." He quotes Blaschko as stating that "Of 487 syphilitic men, the disease was acquired by 395 (81.1 per cent) from professional prostitutes, officially inscribed or secret." Yet these are the people who are allowed to establish themselves in the heart of our city in defiance of the law of the land.

4. Still another conclusion reached by medical science on this question is that the attempt to regulate prostitution aggravates the spread of disease. It has often been urged that medical inspection can be made a guarantee

against contagion. In some cases it seems to have checked the worst effects of the vice, but taken as a whole it must be pronounced a failure.

The reasons are the following: (a) The difficulty of securing proper medical examination. The best physicians will not stoop to such practice. The inmates of such places use every pretext to avoid examination. For example, one authority proves that more than 50% of the medical examinations which ought to have been made on the 4,000 women under regulation in Berlin during the years 1888 to 1901, were in fact neglected.

(b) Only the women are examined. A prostitute may acquire the disease immediately after she is certified as healthy. Or one, herself healthy, may pass on the disease from client to client.

(c) It is impossible for the examiners to determine in all cases whether prostitutes are infected or not. Dr. Prince A. Morrow, a great authority on such matters, says: "Now the law in requiring a prompt report from the examining physician as to whether or not a prostitute is diseased, **demands what medical science and skill are utterly unable to furnish.** While it may be comparatively easy to recognize the presence of acute gonorrhoea, these women, for obvious reasons, seldom practice their vocation with the disease in this stage. The vast majority of infections originate from chronic or latent gonorrhoea. When the disease is localized, in the deeper organs, the clinical evidence and bacteriological proof of its existence are exceedingly difficult or impossible to establish, and yet the disease may be actively contagious. The testimony of all specialists is concurrent upon this point, that in these cases it is impossible to determine with certainty the presence or absence of contagious elements. Nothing is easier than the diagnosis of syphilis in the active stage or secondary eruption; but syphilis is not a disease of continuous symptoms. In the intervals between the outbreaks, when the disease is in the contagious stage, there may be absolutely no evidence of its existence, yet there may be an explosion of contagious elements a few days thereafter." A physician of our own Province who is medical examiner for one of the segregated districts admitted that it was impossible to determine whether a prostitute were really free from a disease or not, but defended his own action in certifying such people on the ground that he was only asked if there were any manifest symptoms of disease. A certificate on such grounds is worse than worthless.

(d) Medical inspection encourages men to frequent brothels with a promise of immunity which is illusory. Hence it facilitates the spread of disease. The experience of Breslau, as described by Dr. Stanislas Lapowski proves this: "The method of regulation was introduced in Breslau in a very scientific and Prussian manner. That means military regulation. Every prostitute was brought before the Department of Health, and if disease was not detected she received a certificate that she was well. The year after there was 13 per cent more gonorrhoea in Breslau than before the system was established. Why? Because every man asked for the certificate, and if he found it correct, he assumed there was no danger, and he got the infection. The main point is that the examination does not prove anything."

In Christiania, Norway, on the other hand, after the abolition of regulation, syphilis declined in frequency. The same, Bloch affirms, is true in London. The reason he gives in both cases is that men, now aware of the danger, keep away from prostitutes.

These considerations have led investigators the world over to condemn the system of regulating prostitution. For example, Bloch, who advocated the system strongly in a book published eight years ago, condemns it utterly in his most recent work. He says: "It is certain that regulated prostitution is more dangerous from the point of view of public health than free prostitution." Similarly the Minneapolis Commission quotes Neisser of Breslau, the discoverer of the germ of gonorrhoea and Blaschko of Berlin as opposing these measures with all their influence, and condemning them as harmful, pernicious and inefficient. Fournier, the French authority, declares that venereal disease steadily grows worse in spite of the regulations, and adds that there is the serious disadvantage about the 'reglementation,' as it is called, that it gives the government stamp of approval to the iniquitous traffic and promises immunity from infection which is but specious and illusory.

5---Methods of Dealing with Commercialized Vice

There are three: (1) License it regularly under the law, with the necessary restrictions and safeguards.

2. Tolerate it under a law that prohibits it. This means allowing the police authorities to use their own judgment in dealing with it as a necessary evil.

3. Suppress it. In Canada this means simply putting the criminal law into effect.

The method prevailing throughout British Columbia is the second of these methods, viz., toleration. The authorities do this in defiance of the plain provisions of the criminal law on this subject, as our legal report shows.

The chief objection to the segregation and attempted regulation of social vice is its absolute failure. It does not accomplish one thing that is claimed for it, and it brings into existence a horde of evils that could not live without it. Our Medical report shows that it aggravates instead of preventing the spread of venereal disease. The claim that it is necessary for the protection of virtuous women is rendered ridiculous by the fact that no woman is safe on our streets at night and that complaints crowd in from every quarter of constant interference with unprotected girls. No class of crime is more common than this. And in other respects its failure is equally glaring.

The method has come to us from Europe, where it is supposed to be at its best. In France and Germany the vice is tolerated by law, and is put under the strictest regulations. Yet the laws in these countries cannot keep the matter in hand. By the German and Austrian law brothels are prohibited, yet they abound in both countries. In Berlin this law is rigorously applied, yet the police have to deal with 16,000 to 18,000 cases annually of people who provide facilities for prostitution in contravention of the law. Dr. Arthur Shadwell, who gives an excellent review of the subject in the last edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, states that the experience of Berlin shows that even where the law is logically and energetically carried out it is quite ineffective. The police everywhere throughout Europe com-

plain of the amount of clandestine prostitution which they cannot control, and which tends always to increase under the system, while the roll of inscribed prostitutes dwindles. In Paris, which may be called the headquarters of Western vice, the disproportion between registered and clandestine prostitution has reduced the whole system to an absurdity. The number of women on the roll is not a tenth of the estimated number of prostitutes; nor is Berlin with about 3000 on the roll any better off. Many other statements to the same effect are given. Dr. Shadwell's position is strongly supported by Dr. Bloch's investigations. He condemns the whole system as a farce, and holds that the results of all recent scientific studies of the subject prove that the abolition of the brothel and of the system that tries to regulate it is the only way of deliverance from the evils now connected with sexual vice. The fact that this author is an ardent advocate of free love is sufficient evidence that he does not take this position out of any regard for the church's ideals of chastity.

The experience of American cities is in the same direction. The report of the Minneapolis vice commission gives the following examples of this failure. In Milwaukee there are disorderly houses and assignation houses outside of the regular district. Toledo, which has been referred to as a model, has two segregated districts, and the social evil exists outside the limits as well as inside, and street walking is distinctly bad. The Chief of Police there advised Minneapolis not to establish a red light district. Chief Kohler of Cleveland gave similar counsel. In the latter place the investigators found segregation and regulation at its best. "The police exercise rigid surveillance, and their regulations are extremely arbitrary. The sale of liquor and the use of lights and of music are absolutely prohibited. It is claimed by the police, and, from all information which we could obtain, their claim is well-founded, that the sale of liquor has been practically eliminated. There are none of the usual evidences of the character of the district, and a stranger would not know that he was in such a district.

The police are equally arbitrary in their handling of every phase of the social evil, including street-walking, assignation houses and sacons that harbor vicious women. . . . Of street-walking there is little or none that is visible. Yet, in spite of this strictness, there was strong testimony brought to the committee that the situation outside of these limits was not subject to regulation. A prominent citizen of Cleveland, one familiar with social conditions gave the information that "there were many assignation houses in operation in Cleveland, and a large number of women of shady reputation scattered through the city in flats and other places." In Cincinnati the segregation system has absolutely broken down. Mr. Leonard A. Watson, secretary of the Cincinnati Vigilance Society reported in May, 1911: "All kinds of degradation have developed within the so-called Red Light district and women and men have been allowed to conduct houses of assignation all over the city."

Canadian experiences with the system have been equally discouraging. Montreal had for years a policy of toleration, with medical examination and all the rest, but the Rev. Arthur French declared that the condition in regard to street-walking and houses of assignation were intolerable. His allegations were fully borne out by the judicial investigation held subsequently by Judge Weir. Vancouver's efforts at segregation had the same result in the past. In spite of the fact that prostitution was supposed to have

been confined to Shore Street and vicinity, complaints were constantly heard about the spread of the evil all over the city. Nor has the present attempt in the same direction met, so far, with any better success.

In a word, segregation does not segregate. The so-called restricted area has always been a distributing centre from which the evil spread all over the city and its environs.

All this is being done in our city despite the fact that other cities have abandoned the policy of segregation and find the most satisfactory results in the full enforcement of the law. Among our own cities, Montreal, Toronto, and now Winnipeg, have been driven to this course as the only logical and effective way of handling the evil. The Chicago and Minneapolis Vice Commissions entered on their labors with many of their members prejudiced in favor of segregation and were driven by the evidence to oppose it unani- mously.

Take such testimonies as the following from the Minneapolis Report: "Lincoln, Nebraska, has lately adopted the policy of suppression, and its Mayor, D. L. Love, wrote: "We find that the argument commonly used in favor of segregation that otherwise it will be driven into blocks in other portions of the city, is not sustained by experience. We do not have as much trouble with the vice in blocks and rooming-houses as we had when we had a segregated area. We do not find it a difficult matter to keep notorious characters out of the city now, and we can unqualifiedly recommend the policy of suppression."

Los Angeles put suppression into effect in 1909, and George Alexander, Mayor in 1910, wrote: "While we have some prostitutes do business in the rooming house here, the evil is much reduced. I believe the proper way to handle the question of the social vice is to do all that is possible to suppress it. If the prostitutes are chased from place to place and are more difficult of access, it will be much better for our young men."

Des Moines, Iowa, up to the fall of 1908, had two distinct Red Light districts. All classes of criminals congregated there. The proprietors, as well as the inmates, were exploited by business interests to the limit. Then the business was suppressed. After a thorough investigation the Minneapolis Committee agreed on the following conclusions of fact: "That segregation in Des Moines, under the old system **only partially segregated**. That from one-fourth to one-third of the public prostitutes in the city were living and operating outside of the district. That following the closing of the districts most of the inmates left the city and remained away permanently. That there has been a notable decrease in crime and disorder since the closing of the district and also a great improvement in the general moral condition of the city. That the new system of suppression has diminished the evil to the attainable minimum. Mayor Hanna testified that in his opinion there had been a reduction of sixty per cent. in actual prostitution."

The testimony of Boston, which also has lately introduced the policy of suppression is to the same effect. Conditions have improved in every way, and the evil is not scattered any more widely than before.

These facts convince your Committee that the only effective way of dealing with this evil is suppression. The opening of the new vice district on Alexander Street is an unmitigated curse, fraught with great dangers to all that is best in the city's life. All those who have investigated the sub-

ject unite in condemning the present system, and our authorities are going contrary to the opinion of the best modern authorities on the subject in tolerating it.

The Chicago Vice Commission was one of the most remarkable bodies of business and professional men ever brought together to work out a sociological problem. They entered on their labors with many of their number prejudiced in favor of toleration, they closed with every individual in favor of suppression. They state their conclusions thus: "That there must be constant repression of this curse on human society is the conclusion of this Commission after months of exhaustive study and investigation—a study which has included the academic with the practical; moral ideals with human weaknesses; honesty of administration with corruption; the possible with the impossible. It has sought to meet all question fairly; it has made every effort to work with intelligence; it has kept constantly in mind that to offer a contribution of any value such an offering must be, first, moral; second reasonable and practical; third possible under the constitutional powers of our courts; fourth, that which will square with the public conscience of the American people."

And their conclusion is thus stated: "Constant and persistent repression of prostitution the immediate method; absolute annihilation, the ultimate ideal."

Policy Recommended

After receiving and considering at length this report, the Moral and Social Reform Council of B. C. decided to recommend strongly the following course of action to the authorities in Vancouver:

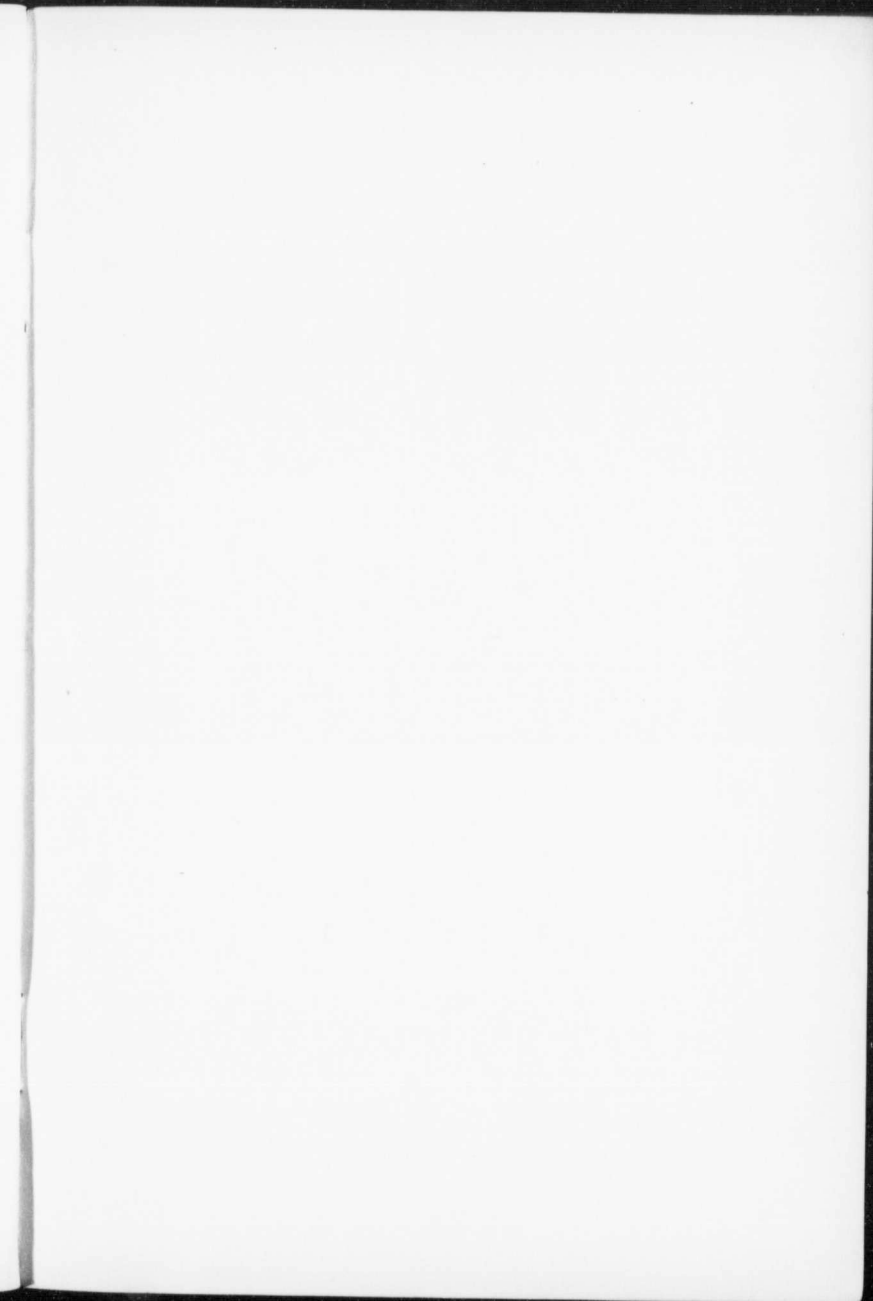
1. That they take vigorous measures to suppress professional social vice in all parts of the city, and especially in the segregated area on Alexander Street.

2. That the following course be followed:—

- (a) Co-operate with the Immigration officers to prevent undesirable characters from entering the country.
- (b) Co-operate with the same officials in securing the deportation of undesirable aliens of this class who are already here.
- (c) Offer the residue one of the following choices:—(1) Leave the city; (2) Go to jail; or (3) Enter one of the Rescue or Detention homes and accept the opportunity of a new start in life which they offer.

But no discussion of ways and means must turn attention from our demand that the criminal law be enforced in its entirety and that the present policy of tolerating the social evil be stopped.

NOTE—The following authorities have been consulted: Reports of the N. Y. Committee of Fourteen and of the Chicago and Minneapolis Vice Commissions; Encyclopaedia Britannica, Ed. XI.—Article on "Prostitution;" "The Sexual Life of our Time," by Dr. Iwan Block of Berlin; reports by Judge Taschereau and Judge Robson on the legal aspect, and a number of other articles.



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