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A CRIME AND VICE BREEDER.

# Wake Up! Montreal!

## Commercialized Vice and Its Contributories

By E. I. HART

Secretary, Joint Committee of Co-operating Churches.  
President, Prisoners' Aid Association of Montreal.  
President, Canadian Citizenship Association.

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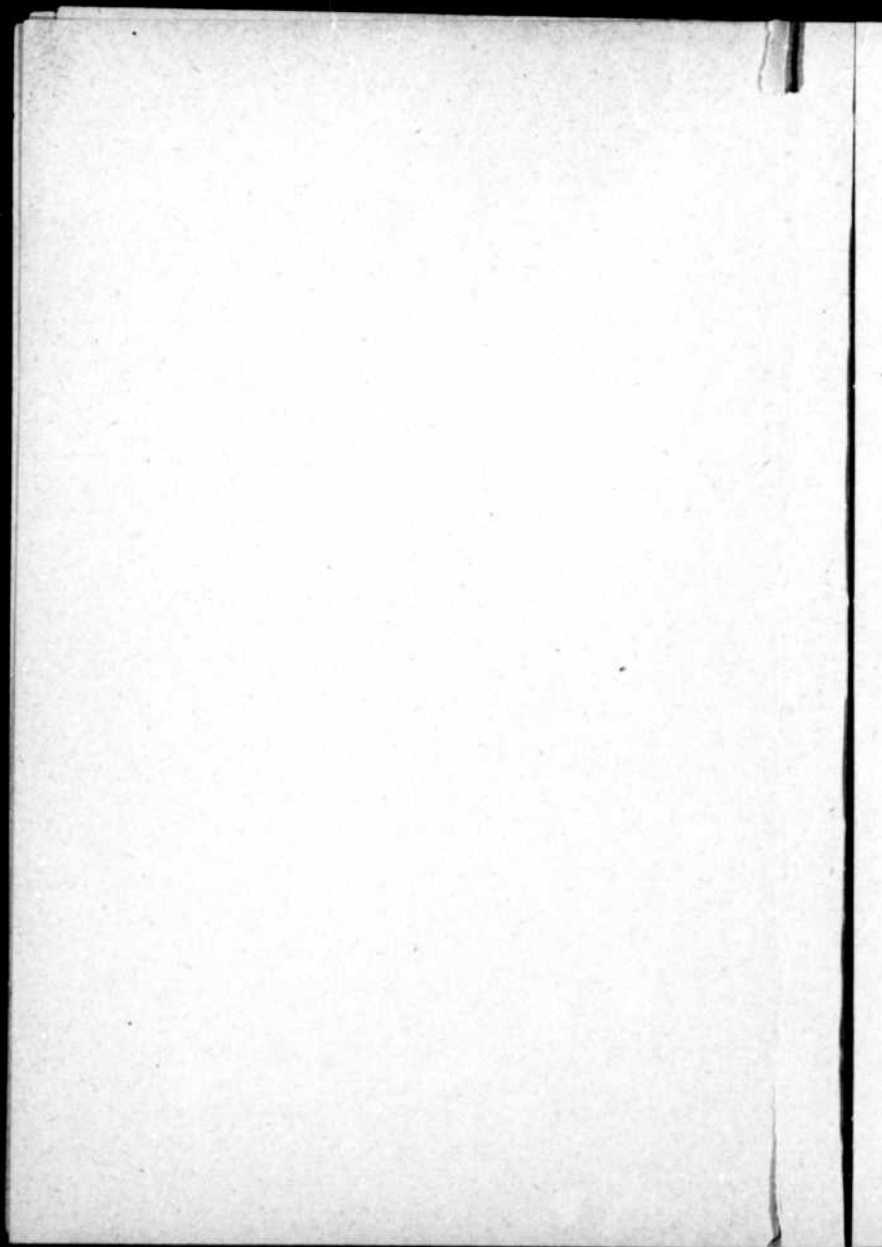
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**WAKE UP! MONTREAL!**



## INTRODUCTION

There is an important distinction between *VICE* and *COMMERCIALIZED VICE*. The former is a habit physically and morally injurious to the one who acquires it; the latter is an organized business through which unscrupulous persons seek to make money out of the vicious inclinations of their fellows. The former can only be successfully dealt with by moral and religious forces; the latter must be eradicated by processes of law, supported by enlightened and resolute public opinion.

If vice were left to propagate itself alone the problem would not be so difficult, but when there are joined to it great commercial interests, ready to back it up with immense capital, the work of restraining its effect upon the public is multiplied. Giant corporations are behind some of our popular vices to-day. Provincial and Federal legislatures may pass restrictive or even prohibitive laws, but they mean little while it is possible for the agents of these corporations to slip bribes into the hands of corruptible legislators and officials. It is a sad commentary upon our humanity that there is absolutely no vice so

deep, no sin so black, but that there are men and women who can be found to invest themselves and their money in its propagation.

There are at least *five vices* characteristic of modern civilization which have been commercialized and are causing untold havoc among multitudes in all classes of society. These five "*MASTER EVILS*" are entrenched in Montreal, so much so, that some social experts have declared that our city is "the rottenest city on the continent."

## FIVE MASTER EVILS

### I. *The CIGARETTE.*

The first master evil of which I shall speak is one that is not considered by a large part of our community as an evil at all. It is the innocent-looking, little *cigarette*.

In placing the cigarette in the category of vices, I fully appreciate the fact that, by the unthinking, the uninformed and the selfish, I shall be denominated an "intolerant," a "fanatic," a "Puritan," a "molly-coddle" or "the limit." I care not what I may be called so long as I am able to persuade some of our young people to accept and to act upon the scientific statement that the cigarette is one of the most insidious and deadly evils of the day; that it blights and blasts health and morals, arrests development, deadens the thinking faculties and makes successful achievement impossible.

*Dr. D. H. Kriss*, a physician who has made a special study of the cigarette evil, declares that it is as great a national menace as alcohol has ever been.

A writer in *Harper's Weekly* says: "Cigarettes are not mere rolls of tobacco. They are not drugged with expensive poisons as charged, but they have a peculiarity. The combination of burning paper and tobacco makes a compound which is neither tobacco smoke nor paper smoke,

but has a name which chemists know and a smell which everybody knows. There is not much of the new compound, but in what there is of it lies the idiosyncrasy of the cigarette. *Thomas A. Edison* may be supposed to know what he is talking about when he says: 'Acrolein is one of the most terrible drugs in its effect on the human body. The burning of ordinary cigarette paper always produces acrolein. That is what makes the smoke so irritating. I really believe that it often makes boys insane. We sometimes develop acrolein in this laboratory in our experiments with glycerine. One whiff of it from the oven drove one of my assistants out of the building the other day. *I can hardly exaggerate the dangerous nature of acrolein,* and yet, that is what a man or boy is dealing with every time he smokes an ordinary cigarette.'

In giving evidence before Mr. Justice Co-derre, in connection with a military exemption case in January, 1918, *Dr. J. E. Dube*, one of the best known French-Canadian medical authorities in this city, said: "This war has shown us doctors one thing that we feared, but which we never thought so appalling; the prevalence of diseases among the young generation. It is true that the fine flower of our manhood has already enlisted and responded to the call of voluntary service, but the situation as, we find it, is still very grave, and I express the wish that in the near future the problem will be tackled with energy by the Government."

Asked by His Lordship to what cause he at-

tributed most of the disease found, Dr. Dube unhesitatingly replied: "*To the cigarette habit.*" "I never could understand," he continued, "why tobacco companies did such enormous business. I do now, however. Our young men are perverted, not so much by the excessive use of liquor as by cigarettes. I have examined scores of young men who confessed to me that they smoked from two to five packages of cigarettes every day. In a very few cases, comparatively, I found disease due to the excess of liquor, but the ravages of the cigarette habit are beyond expression."

"*The Little White Slaver,*" as Mr. Ford, of automobile fame, calls it, must be held responsible for keeping out of khaki during the World's greatest war, thousands of young men in Quebec. According to one Montreal recruiting officer, twenty per cent. of those who were examined at one local recruiting station were rejected because of their overfondness for the cigarette.

*Mr. Owen Dawson*, late Secretary of the Juvenile Delinquent Court of Montreal, in his report for the year 1916, says: "Over eighty per cent. of the boys before the Court during the year were cigarette smokers." *Judge Choquet*, of the same Court, says that we cannot deal too severely with the evil. He stated not long ago that fully ninety-five per cent. of the cases of theft among the boys brought before him, were due to a desire either to go to picture shows or to obtain cigarettes.

So seized were the members of our Canadian Parliament with the harmful character of cig-

arettes a few years ago, that they unanimously passed an act making it a crime for any one to sell or give cigarettes or cigarette-papers to persons under sixteen years of age, and for any youth of that age to have cigarettes in his possession. That law is a dead letter in Montreal. It is so dead that boys, hardly out of their baby-clothes, can walk along any of our streets, stand in any of our public places and boldly puff away at cigarettes without challenging the attention of the police or even the rebuke of an elder.

Some idea of the alarming growth of the cigarette habit in Canada may be gathered from the following statistics: In 1876 the cigarette was practically unknown in our country; in 1900, 100,000,000 were manufactured; in 1915, 1,088,858,656; in 1916, 1,307,276,750 and in 1917, 1,664,709,973. In four years the manufacture of cigarettes has doubled. This tremendous increase is of course, due to the War, when in the name of patriotism, enterprising tobacco companies, supported by well-meaning individuals and organizations, fairly deluged our boys at the front with cigarettes. The popularity of the cigarette among our men in khaki has undoubtedly had its influence upon the small boy at home who always loves a soldier. He cannot understand why he should be denied that which so apparently adds to the happiness and comfort of his hero. To make him understand, is the dilemma of some of his anxious elders.

It is a wonder to me that every boy in Montreal is not a cigarette fiend. There is

enough to make him become such. Wherever he goes, wherever he looks—in the papers, in the magazines, in the street cars, in the shops, on the poster-boards, against the sky line in giant letters of flame by night, even in our churches, are compelling reminders of, and appeals to the habit. Our boys must be saved from this curse! The future manhood of Canada is in peril!

And not only is our young manhood in peril, but our young womanhood as well. The growth of the cigarette habit among girls and young women has already reached the dangerous stage. Among prostitutes, dance-hall and cabaret habitués in Montreal, the use of the cigarette has been common for years, but now it is becoming no strange sight to see girls and young women lounging about our first-class hotels, at teas, bridge-parties and musicales, puffing away with all the abandon of veterans. This very day, in the early afternoon, in passing through the tea-room of the Windsor Hotel, I saw three girls—one with her feet stretched out on the top of a chair—enjoying their cigarettes in company with a couple of young men. To one side was a table with empty wine glasses. What kind of mothers will such girls make? What kind of a race will spring from such a stock? And yet, these girls, if they were rebuked for the habit, would hotly and pertinently reply that they had as much right to smoke cigarettes as their brothers.

So alive to the evils of the cigarette habit have many in the United States become, that now even business firms look upon it as an enemy to good business. In Detroit sixty-nine

merchants have agreed not to employ the cigarette user—boy or man. Wanamaker asks this question of every applicant: "Do you use cigarettes?" Marshall Field and Company and the Morgan and Wright Tire Company have this rule, "No cigarettes can be smoked by our employees." Thomas A. Edison, in answer to the question whether he used cigarettes, says: "I never smoked one in my life and no man or boy who smokes cigarettes can work in my laboratory. In my opinion there are enough degenerates in the world without manufacturing any more by means of cigarettes!"

## II. THE DRUG HABIT.

My attention was first directed to this vice shortly after coming to Montreal some eleven years ago. Two drug habitues with whom I had become acquainted used to call at my house whenever they were short of cash or in some trouble—and that was not infrequent. One of these men had been a member of the Sunday School of my church as a boy and he had not forgotten the way back to it. Once he had been a clever and skillful mechanic, but drink and drugs got a strangle hold upon him, he lost position after position and finally became an emaciated, staggering wreck, aimlessly wandering about the city during the day and sleeping at night in some park or yard or down at the Old Brewery Mission. More than once I have found him in a dead stupor lying at my back-door.

Every effort was made by myself and others to cure the poor fellow of the habit. He was sent to a sanitarium and after a sojourn of several months returned apparently a new man. But though he was stronger physically his will was still very weak; he had not been back ten days before he had sold his clothes and was as bad as ever.

There is no person more to be pitied than the *drug fiend*, for there is no craving so intense as that which possesses him. To satisfy

that craving men will lie, steal and commit any crime, and women will sell their bodies and even their children. More than once in Canada and in the Orient have I witnessed the excruciating tortures of a man who had been deprived of his usual narcotic.

*Dr. Edwin F. Bowers*, in the last number of an American magazine in speaking of Drug Fiends says: "While of course, it is impossible to obtain accurate figures on the subject, owing to the veil of secrecy which mists and clouds it over, it is conservatively estimated that there are in America 1,500,000 victims of habit-forming narcotic drugs—more victims of narcotics than there are of tuberculosis.

"Men, women and even little children are enslaved by the insidious habit which is sweeping into its clutch each year an additional hundred thousand victims. Fifteen per cent. of all practicing physicians, and thousands of nurses and druggists are addicted to narcotics. Drugs are the common tragedy of the professional world—of doctors, lecturers, actors, writers, scientists, teachers and students—of all those who seek doubtful relief from the penalty of overwork, as well as mere sensation seekers, or those who are attempting escape from violation of moral law.

"Perhaps the most pitiful fact connected with the use of drugs is the extreme youth of a majority of the addicts. Narcotics are peddled sometimes within one hundred feet of a school-house and boys and girls of from fourteen to eighteen become enslaved to their effects. Dr. Jackson R. Campbell, city prison physician, tes-

tifying before the Senate Public Health Committee a few years ago, made the startling assertion that within a radius of a few blocks of Third Avenue and 149th Street, New York, more than one thousands school children had acquired the heroin habit, or were in danger of becoming 'joy riders,' because of their use of the drug."

"We are now consuming more habit-forming drugs than all Europe combined. Our consumption of opium is far greater, per capita, than that of China, long looked upon as the worst of all drug-sodden countries. . . . Since 1860 there has been an increase of three hundred per cent. in the importation and consumption of opium in all its forms in America as against only one hundred and thirty-three per cent. increase in population."

The article of Dr. Bowers is a startling and an appalling revelation of the drug habit in the United States, but what about the extent of the habit in Montreal? It is impossible to give even approximate figures in regard to it, but from what can be learned from various sources the habit is alarmingly on the increase.

The hundreds of gamblers who play night after night in our numerous clubs and who live upon their nerves must have their "dope;" the thousands of professional prostitutes, whose constitutions become weakened through vice and whose spirits naturally become depressed, are obliged, in order to continue in their business, to resort to something that will quickly revive them; the white slavers, the pimps, the crooks and all who exploit their fellow-men in our Underworld find their most potent ally in the

drugged drink—all these classes which form no small proportion of this metropolitan city will give one some shadowy idea, at least, of the ravages and abuse of drugs. In addition to these that I have named, think of the large, unnamed class who in clandestine and less revolting ways turn to them for rest or stimulation.

To provide these various classes of our population with drugs an illicit business is carried on which, according to experts, is at least two hundred times larger than the legitimate, and the profits made are anywhere from three hundred to three thousand per cent.

There is hardly a week that passes but some man or boy appears in Court to answer to the charge of selling cocaine or opium, or having it in their possession. At the Windsor Street Station, within the last week, a Russian was arrested with a suit case containing three hundred one ounce phials of morphine valued at \$5,000. A few weeks ago at the same station a trunk, shipped by a Chinaman for Toronto, was seized by the Canadian Customs officer. It had secreted between mattresses ninety-six tins of opium worth \$4,800. A year or so ago some sixty or seventy pounds of opium were seized by Inspector Belanger and his men in an old and lonely farm house near the Back River. In this house was a complete manufacturing plant, the largest plant ever raided by the police. It is not very long since when at one time there were brought before Judge Leet eleven boys and a young man accused of selling cocaine. Every one of the boys had plainly stamped upon his features the hall-marks of a dope fiend.

It has been declared by those who know Montreal's Underworld that members of our police force are interested in the traffic in drugs; that some of them even control it, while pimps, Chinese merchants and others are their agents or retailers. It is common knowledge in the "district" that a former police officer made a fortune out of dope.

### III. *GAMBLING.*

A third master-evil in our midst is *GAMBLING*. In every part of the wide world the gambling instinct is more or less developed. In some countries gambling is little more than a quiet affair between a few individuals about a table with cards or dice and for small stakes. In other countries it is almost a national habit, an organized system that is yearly driving thousands of persons into financial ruin, into embezzlement, into prison, into the asylum and into suicide.

Montreal is behind no other city in its devotion to gambling. In fact there is no city on the continent that has a greater propensity for it. We have our widely-known horse-races at the Blue Bonnets, Dorval and other race-tracks, patronized by Society's "best" and attended by huge crowds, where hundreds of thousands of dollars are won or lost in a short afternoon. We have our fashionable clubs where the idle rich while away most of the day and night in playing for prizes or money. We have our underworld dens and secret clubs with the most cosmopolitan lot of frequenters any city can produce.

One night, not long ago, in company with a police official and a friend, I made a tour of some of the gaming places in our underworld. Particularly were we interested in those that

we visited in "Chinatown," on Lagauchatiere Street. In one place we saw about thirty men, in another about sixty—all gathered around long tables, while at the head, the manager or the book-keeper was kept on the jump collecting the bets and drawing in the chips. The bets were anywhere from ten cents to five dollars. One Chinaman, the week before, we learned, had lost one thousand dollars on the game in one of these clubs. With a large number of our Chinese population, gambling is a mania. They will work in the laundry or shop all day and play all night. It is no wonder that so many of them resort to opium and cocaine. In close proximity to the gambling dens that we visited are opium joints, in one of which eight Chinamen were seen reclining on couches or bunks smoking away at the seductive drug. Adjoining one of these joints is the store of the Chinese "Doctor"—a big, fat fellow, with one of the hugest necks that I ever saw on a man. Cunning is written in large letters upon the face of the doctor and about him have gathered many strange tales and legends. His store is the most curious place in this city, weird in many respects, with dried snakes and other reptiles hanging from the ceiling and suspended from cases, with all kinds of bottles, boxes and jars, filled with powders made from snakes and the bones of animals—sure cures for various maladies.

Bad as are the Chinese gambling dens in our city, they are not one whit worse, no, not even as bad as many of the English and French clubs and pool-rooms which are licensed by the

municipality or the Provincial Government. Some of these places are veritable nurseries of hell where boys as well as young men congregate and learn the devious ways of vice and crime. I have in my possession the names of thirty-four clubs operating in Montreal, all licensed to sell liquors at any hour of the day and every day in the week. In every one of these places, gambling is going on, in some of them that which is worse. A side-light was thrown on one of our well-known clubs last November, in Court, when it came out in the evidence that several men spent the night in the place with a number of girls, all under twenty years of age. One of the men in the affair missed his diamond pin and charged a member of the party with its theft, or you and I would never have heard of this unsavory incident. At one of our fashionable clubs on Sherbrooke Street, within the last month, one man in three hours won \$23,000. In a large office-building on St. James Street, it is declared by those who know, that from two to three hundred bets are made daily at the tobacco stand on horse-races. A large proportion, if not all, of these races occur across the border in the United States.

During the last ten days our local newspapers have given full-page accounts of a Court case of fraud in which an elderly citizen was persuaded to part with \$125,000 on the ponies in Buffalo.

Since the crusade against horse-racing began in Canada the number of "handbook men" has considerably increased. It was reported a

few months ago that there were at least fifty such gambling agents plying a most lucrative business in the downtown district alone. No one knows how many are operating uptown. When our Police Department had a reform spasm last year, these handbook men, according to the newspapers, received instructions that they were well-known at headquarters, that no longer the "blind eye" would be turned upon them, but that they would be closely watched and severely punished if caught. For the information of the curious, I might say, in passing, that few of these handbook men, up to the present, have been caught.

One of the most baffling forms of gambling going on in Montreal at this time is through an innocent-looking, little machine, popularly known as the "Slot-Machine." It will be usually found in some pool-room, barber-shop, ice-cream parlor, tobacco store or shoe-shine stand, hidden away, generally, in some corner, unnoticed by the ordinary eye. This little machine is more than coining money for its owners who rent the space which it occupies.

Just what a serious menace the slot-machine has become in our city, may be gathered from the evidence of a witness, interested in the placing of these machines, who appeared one day last year before the Board of Control. He stated that he had received a profit from ten machines in six weeks' time of \$4,000, while a certain company, which he named, made a profit of no less than \$40,000 a month. As there are several companies engaged in this business, the annual sum expended by their patrons must be

enormous. The tremendous profits of these machines indicate that the chances against winning are very great, yet in spite of this fact, they are being played by an increasing number of boys and men. Children have been known to steal to gratify their passion. Complaints are being made continuously to the authorities from parents, teachers, ministers and others regarding this evil, and though frequent raids and seizures have been made by the police, the thing continues.

But alarming though the vice of gambling is in Montreal, it is made more alarming by reason of the fact that so-called Christian Churches are countenancing some forms of it in connection with their efforts to raise money. Under a refined name, in apparently innocent guise and for a supposedly good purpose, the Gambling Devil is accomplishing at bazaars and picnics what elsewhere is being accomplished by the crack of an ivory ball or the turn of a dice box. Across the face of a large and beautiful church on Bernard Avenue, a few weeks ago, I saw a huge streamer announcing to the public that a raffle would take place on a certain date in the interests of the church. One Sunday night, after service in a mission in Emard Ward, I was attracted by the brilliantly lighted basement of a church on Monk Boulevard. With my companion I went in and found the basement crowded to the doors with all kinds of things for sale. In a half-a-dozen different nooks, I saw young men and women and little children gathered about some wheel of fortune or other instrument of chance, paying their

coppers or five cent pieces for a try. When the Church stoops to such reprehensible means for augmenting its funds, is it any wonder that the vice of gambling fattens and thrives and is becoming uncontrollable in this city?

It has been repeatedly stated by denizens of the Underworld that Montreal is in the grip of a powerful gambling trust, the members of which are in a position to determine who and who are not permitted to carry on the different branches of the business. The trust has its collectors who gather toll from all kinds of sources, such as clubs, houses of prostitution and slot-machine companies. A percentage of the proceeds goes for police protection and the balance is divided among the members of the trust, most of whom, if not all, are residents of Montreal. How real and powerful this reputed trust is, time, we hope, will soon reveal.

#### IV. *DRINK.*

A fourth master-evil in Montreal is *DRINK*. Drink has been and continues to be the most flagrant example of commercialized vice. Were there no capital invested in breweries and distilleries, were not thousands of men in Great Britain, the United States and Canada vitally interested financially in the manufacture of liquor, it would be a comparatively easy matter to overcome the natural appetite for drink. But these men with their invested millions have stood squarely in front of every effort at reform and every piece of legislation passed to reduce the evil of the traffic. By intimidation, by persecution, by bribes, by violence and by murder they have sought to gain their selfish and cruel ends.

In the United States the day of capitalized drink is about ended, in many provinces of Canada it is ended, but in the Province of Quebec, in ninety municipalities—particularly the great municipality of Montreal, the traffic is "going strong."

For more than two hundred years Montreal has been the stronghold of the Liquor Traffic in Canada. Its breweries and distilleries are the oldest in the land. More liquor has been sold here and drunk, twice over, than in any other Canadian city.

The *saloon* has been during all these years, and is to-day, the social shrine and the municipal drawing-room where unprincipled men have gathered, shaped and controlled the destinies of the city. There is not a candidate for public office whom it will not seek to influence; there is not a police official, nor a public contractor whom it will not try to bribe and corrupt; there is not a soldier boy anxious to fight the battles of liberty and democracy whom it does not covet and aim to debauch. What does it care for victory or liberty or democracy? It cares only for self, for patronage, for dividends. There is hardly a crime committed in our city that it has not inspired or abetted. There is hardly a young man or young woman who has departed from the path of virtue, but who has done so under the excitation of its sparkling but deadly glass. There is not a house of shame but has its bottle. Those who steal virtue know that alcohol relaxes the morals while it stimulates unholy desires. The removal of liquor from houses of prostitution in Cincinnati a few years ago was followed by the closing of half the houses. The saloon and the brothel are twin partners in commercialized vice. But while the saloon is the greatest sinner as a liquor institution, the licensed club is not far behind. In some respects it is far worse. Many a young man who would not be seen entering a saloon will go into a "respectable" club.

Of these clubs there are many in Montreal and if their history were written the revelations would stagger our citizens. God only knows the number of tragedies that have been enacted

within their walls and the pitiful wrecks of once promising young manhood that they have turned adrift.

The David Club is still fresh in the memories of the residents of Maissonneuve. The orgies that went on in that place are incredible. Employees of a large company operating in the neighborhood, receiving high wages, were being continually inveigled into the club and as a result the business and the discipline of the company severely suffered. The club was owned by local politicians—an unscrupulous and powerful clique—and it was only after a long and hard fight last year, on the part of the company and the churches that it was closed by the License Commissioners.

Keep out the saloon, the licensed club, the brewery and the distillery and you keep out two-thirds of the crime and vice from which we have suffered.

We have talked much in recent years about reform in our civic administration; we have denounced in unmeasured terms graft and grafters, incompetency and fraud in connection with our City government, and no body of citizens ever had more abundant reason for complaint and protest than the citizens of Montreal. I do not hesitate to say that no matter how good a Mayor or Board of Commissioners we may have, we shall never have a clean and truly effective administration of civic affairs as long as we allow the liquor traffic to have a legalized and a recognized place among us.

Some idea of the wide ramifications of the Liquor Traffic and its tremendous hold upon

our community may be gathered from a recent article by *Professor Stephen Leacock* of McGill University in the Montreal Daily Star, under the caption, "Wet or Dry?" The article is a most illuminating and candid one for it shows that old John Barleycorn has not only many friends in Montreal's "Underworld," but that he has many friends in Montreal's 'Overworld,' In it he says:

"Nobody seems willing to bear witness to how widely diffused is the habit of normal, wholesome drinking, and of the great benefits to be derived from it. The University where I have worked for nearly twenty years contains in its faculties a great number of scholarly, industrious men whose life-work cannot be derided or despised, even by the salaried agitator of a prohibitionist society. *Yet the great majority of them "drink."* I use that awful word in the full, gloomy sense given to it by the teetotaller. I mean that if you ask these men to dinner and offer them a glass of wine, they will take it. Some will take two. I have even seen them take Scotch and soda. During these same years I have been privileged to know a great many of the leading lawyers of Montreal, whose brains and energy and service to the community I cannot too much admire. If there are any of them who do not "drink," I can only say I have not seen them. I can bear the same dreadful testimony on behalf of my friends who are doctors; and the same, and even more emphatic on behalf of all the painters, artists and literary men with whom I

have had the good fortune to be very closely associated."

Professor Leacock is in a position to know of what he is speaking. He is a popular and influential citizen, with an international reputation as an author, and naturally has a very large circle of acquaintances. When he states in an article upon one of the most serious subjects before the Canadian public that the majority of his professional friends in this city do not hesitate to take a "drink," it should lead every citizen who has the real interests of the city and the province at heart to pause and think.

This article was written to strengthen the cause of the "Wets." I imagine that it will have the very opposite effect and will put one more argument at the command of the "Drys." It certainly will tend to shake the confidence of many parents in the institution which he represents as being an absolutely safe one for the education of their sons and daughters. It will stimulate the desire among the sober and the more progressive elements of our community to see that in this age of light and efficiency only those who stand for the highest will occupy the highest positions of responsibility and influence.

It has already convinced many that the professor, though a reputed authority in Political Economy, is a back number in his subject. He is away behind the times and the spirit of the age and needs to take a post-graduate course in some of the many progressive parts of the world where prohibition has been honestly and

successfully tried. The article has shown that the professor is as far out of date in his Moral Philosophy as he is in his Political Economy. In referring to the drunkard class he says: "It is a pity to destroy the comfort of the home, and amenity of social life for the sake of so small and so worthless a fraction of humanity." Those words are a plain rejection of Jesus' law of the survival of the weak for the German superman's law of the survival of the strong. They are anti-Christian. How far they are from Paul's unselfish words:—"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."

God help us to open our eyes as citizens to the subtlety, the enormity and the iniquity of the traffic in strong drink. If our eyes were open we would not wait till next May for prohibition; we could not tolerate the evil another day.

It was humiliating to me to see all the other large cities of Canada under prohibition during those anxious, critical days, when the Dominion and the Empire needed every ounce of food and energy and man-power—and Montreal, the largest and most important city of all, with three hundred and more bar-rooms crowded as never before, and its distilleries and breweries running full blast.

Now as our boys are returning from overseas this traffic which did all that it could to prevent them from doing their "bit" for the Empire in its hour of need is doing its best to prevent them from doing their "bit" at home

in the great work of reconstruction.

Hardly do they put their feet upon Quebec soil when they are approached by "boot-leggers" who smuggle into their hands bottles or flasks of liquor, much of which has been "doped." The result is that, in many cases, not only do their victims lose their senses but their cents. Those who have just received their pay wake up to find it all gone. It is estimated that our returning soldiers will receive more than \$50,000,000. That is what the Traffic is after

An observant friend of mine, while two trainloads of returned soldiers were delayed for a few minutes in the Tureot yards witnessed twenty-five sales of liquor. For several months Dominion Square has been infested with female-fiends who have been systematically furnishing soldiers and sailors with flasks of whiskey.

A day or two ago Lieutenant-Colonel Marriott, O. C. Canadian Clearing Service at Quebec, in commenting upon the trouble which his staff is having with returned men under the influence of liquor, said, "The situation is becoming worse all the time. On Saturday night the C. P. R. refused to pull out the train as nearly half the party of three hundred and fifty men were "fighting drunk" and we had great difficulty in handling them later. Three of them were so badly drugged from the poisonous liquor that they drank that they narrowly pulled through." Colonel Marriott said that the whiskey runners brought the liquor down to the trains in cases, and sold it to the soldiers without any action being taken on the part of the city authorities.

It is stated that a number of returned men who had got liquor in this city, en route to Kingston a few days ago, were in such a pitiful condition of drunkenness that the meeting at the station with their relatives was heart-breaking. It is no wonder that the feeling in Ontario is becoming increasingly bitter against Quebec.

And yet on the heels of these dastardly acts committed by these paid devils of the traffic, and which are stirring to the depths every patriotic citizen throughout the Dominion, our English morning paper "*The Gazette*," comes out with a flippant and sarcastic editorial upon the "inquisitiveness and the relentlessness" of "Dry" Ontario officials to prevent the entry of liquor into that province. It says: "A hunt for dynamite could not be keener. The sleuths are on all trains and at every station. If a traveller shows concern about his suitcase, its contents are immediately inquired into. But the business is being carried so far that protests are increasing in number and vehemence. The result should be at least a checking of the too enthusiastic whiskey spotters."

Would to God that Quebec had a few of these enthusiastic "whiskey-spotters" denounced by the *Gazette*, and many a brave lad who has faced death for the *Gazette* and for me would have his scanty pay still in his pocket and many a wife and mother would have been spared the sickening sight of a "doped" husband and son.

The traitorous greed of the distiller, the brewer, the saloonkeeper, the owner of a house of prostitution; the thirst of the man or woman who want their drink no matter who may suffer thereby, must no longer stand in the way of the demand for a prohibition law. Only under such a law, vigorously enforced, are the people of Montreal and Canada safe.

The problems before us in Canada arising from the war, the increasing social unrest, the return of our brave boys from the front, the expected influx of multitudes from alien lands—these demand clearness of brain, brotherliness of spirit and the sinking of personal and selfish interests for the common good. Of these essential qualities to national success and happiness the organized Liquor Traffic, after a trial of years, has proved itself utterly devoid.

## V. THE SOCIAL EVIL.

There is a fifth master-evil in our midst to which I have already incidentally alluded, it is the *SOCIAL EVIL*.

So-called modesty, rather prudery, has compelled newspapers, the public platform and even the pulpit to be almost silent in regard to a thing that has been making fearful ravages in society. "Hush! hush!" the refined have cried at any public reference to it. That silence has been false, unpardonable and criminal. Under that policy the vice, in this and other cities, has grown and fattened until it has become a national peril.

I have spoken of gambling and drink as being organized vices, so is this evil. We were startled a few years ago to learn of the existence of a large, secret syndicate, operating both in Europe and America, for the procuring of girls and women for immoral purposes. We were told that it had large clearing houses and distributing centres in nearly all large cities. It had agents stationed at ports of entry such as Quebec, Halifax, Montreal, Victoria, Vancouver and New York. These agents watch the incoming trains and steamers, seeking to entrap innocent, unwary and unprotected girls and women. *The Hon. E. W. Sims*, the United States Attorney for Chicago, who has spent many years in investigating the subject, stated

in a pamphlet which he prepared that not less than fifteen thousand girls were imported into the United States as white slaves in one year, the majority of them guileless creatures, lured to this continent by the promise of various employments and good wages. Mr. Sims further stated that the girls that are imported are but a mere fraction of the number recruited for the traffic from the cities, towns and villages of America. In New York alone at that time there were some thirty thousand public prostitutes.

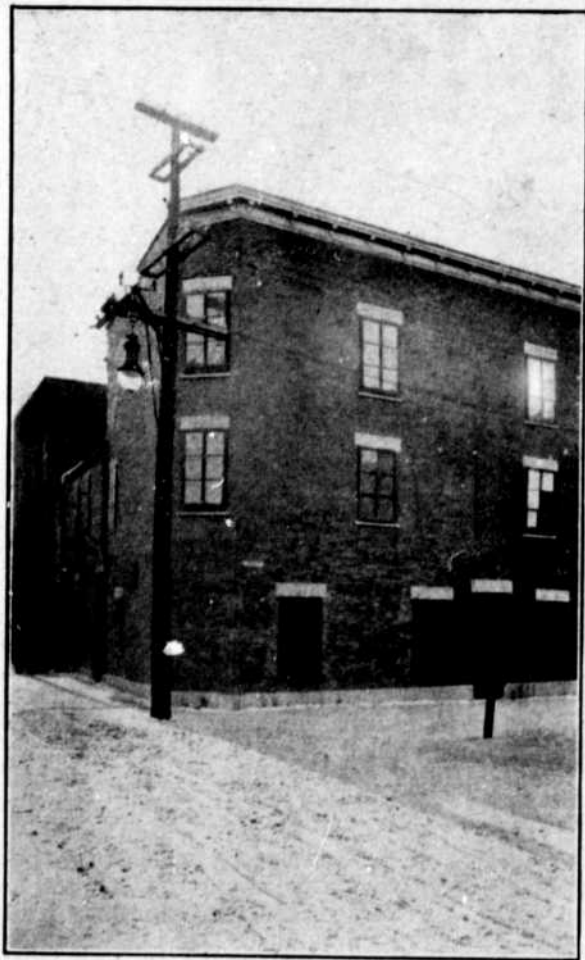
Montreal is a strategic point in this nefarious business. It is on the highway and girls are coming and going, from and to all parts of Canada and the United States. Employment bureaus, registry offices, massage and manicule parlors, moving picture places, millinery stores and other establishments are being used as recruiting stations. Men and women are patrolling our streets and entering public places on the lookout for material. The average life of a prostitute is about five years and therefore the supply must be maintained, and the daughters of the poor in this city are in large part helping to keep up this supply.

*Rachel Swartz*, a girl of sixteen, appeared before one of our judges not long ago and told a sad and revolting story. She went to a "movie" and there a man by the name of Danti became interested in her, entered into conversation with her, found out something about her life and work and told her that he could get her most profitable employment. Unsuspicious of anything that was wrong, the innocent girl

accompanied him to a house on St. Dominique Street. There she was locked into a room and kept a prisoner for a month, on the threat of death if she tried to escape. At the end of a month she was removed to another house where within a week or so she was found by her distracted father. That girl's experience has been repeated hundreds of times in the lives of other girls in this city. What heart-breaking stories our police authorities, immigration agents and social workers could tell if they were free to do so.

*The Rev. John Chisholm*, Presbyterian Immigration Chaplain, tells of the narrow escape which one young immigrant had in coming to this city. "One day," says Mr. Chisholm, "a beautiful Polish girl was among the immigrants. She could not speak a word of English, but I hunted around and got a cab driver who could speak Polish. She told him the address to which she was to be conveyed, and which I knew to be in the red-light district. I told the cabby to take her there, and if my fears were confirmed to bring her right back again. He returned in a short time, the Polish girl still with him. It was as I feared, and we found, upon investigation, that a procuress had given her the address, so we had narrowly saved her from ruin."

About three years ago I commenced a special study of the Social Evil as it relates to our city. I have discovered that the slimy trail of this serpent leads to the homes of the rich as well as to the poor, to the high as well as to the low, to well-governed Westmount as well



**THE MOST NOTORIOUS HOUSE IN CANADA.**

No. 6 St. Justin Street.

From the exterior it looks like an abandoned house, the windows are boarded, but within it is beautifully furnished and brilliantly lighted. Some twenty girls or more are employed. The owner has several other houses of the sort and all enjoy police protection.

as to the tolerated area, officially known as "District No. 4."

In my investigations I have come upon facts that have staggered me and beheld conditions that will haunt me to my dying day. I have visited the hospitals of this city and have seen the cruel havoc which it has wrought upon civilians and soldiers, upon little children as well as upon those poor, deluded creatures who have sold their bodies and souls to the devil. It is stated that there are at least three thousand public prostitutes in Montreal. God only knows how many clandestine ones there are!

In District No. 4, just to the North of our Court House and City Hall, there were, until very recently, from three to five hundred pest houses. Some of these houses have been closed of late owing to the pressure of the Dominion Government and the good work of members of the Committee of Sixteen, but their old occupants are still here, trying to do business in other parts of the city. Any hour of the day, in the open street, from the windows and doorsteps, boldly and brazenly the agents of these places have been plying their trade. Men could not walk a block some days without being approached a dozen times. But the agents of these institutions are not confined to any one area. They are to be found upon our great thoroughfares, in our squares, in the neighborhood of our large hotels, stations, and military barracks, searching for their prey. Not all of these agents are women. The cabman or the taximan whom you employ may be one, the barber who shaves you or even the policeman

upon his beat; he may have a part interest in some house, and to those whom he thinks he can trust the pass-word is given.

A few nights ago as I was waiting for a car on Dorchester Street at Dominion Square, I saw three fine-looking, well-dressed fellows coming from Mansfield Street. All three were more or less under the influence of liquor and trying to help one another keep to the sidewalk. I watched them cross the square to the Windsor Hotel corner. There they were accosted by two girls and after some conversation they returned with the girls and took a taxi on the corner of Metcalfe and Dorchester Streets. To all who had watched the scene the errand was too apparent. One night about eight o'clock on Windsor Street, between St. James and Osborne Streets I saw two girls accost twenty men in less than that number of minutes.

What is the result of all this organized immorality in our community? One direct result is *DISEASE*, hideous, loathsome and deadly. In an alarming degree it is spreading. "It is trebly pernicious in its effects for it strikes the vital forces with paralysis, it infects the innocent and the trustful and leaves a heritage of woe to generations unborn." Says *Secretary Daniels* of the United States Navy, who has carried on such a splendid crusade among the sailors and marines. "*It is deadlier than small-pox or cancer or tuberculosis.*"

A leading physician in this city told me that four-fifths of the operations performed upon women in our hospitals were due to this dis-

ease, as innocent or guilty sufferers. Three times a week clinics are held in the General Hospital for venereal cases and the average attendance at each of these clinics is from one hundred and fifty to two hundred. One physician, a specialist, informed me that he had, every week an average of one hundred new cases. This is the record of venereal cases treated by one physician in general practice in this city during the month of January 1917; in the first week of the month he had 17 cases, in the second week 18, in the third week, 22 and in the fourth week, 49. The total number of all cases treated by him was 439. Out of that number 106 were syphilitic—almost one in four.

One afternoon a doctor in one of our hospitals said to me, "Did you see that man and those two girls who just went down the corridor?" "Yes," I replied. "That man," said he, "was diseased before his marriage. His wife became infected after marriage. Those two girls, one ten years of age and the other six, are infected, ruined for life." In visiting the Social Service Department of the General Hospital recently, I saw coming out of the door a bent and worn creature, with pale and wrinkled face, scant hair, breath short and foul, groping her way along the corridor by touching her hands to the wall. I was told that she was married when she was fourteen to a diseased man. She herself soon became infected. Her child became infected and died in one of our hospitals. Her husband died and she worked for several years as a domestic—diseased, terribly so, and yet handling the food and the furnishings of

that home! Though she looked to be a woman of sixty she was only in her thirties.

Such are some of the effects of vice in Montreal. What is being done to check this foul thing? Practically little. More is really being done to encourage and protect vice than is being done to combat and suppress it.

Let me indicate as briefly as I can some of the things which are contributing to vice in our city and directly or indirectly protecting it.

## CONTRIBUTORIES TO VICE

### I. *THE POLICE.*

That the Police are quite cognizant of vice conditions in the city and that a large measure of protection is being afforded many houses of prostitution there is not the slightest doubt on the part of those who have given any serious study to the situation. - Apart from an occasional raid of which the keepers of the places are sometimes, given due notice and to which they have given their consent, the police are seldom seen in that part of the city where most of the crimes are committed and where vice is most rampant. For six years nearly, it has been my duty to visit No. 4 District very frequently in connection with my mission work, and during that length of time I am sure that I have not seen in that most needy of all sections more than a dozen policemen, and the majority of these have been standing in front of the General Hospital where they could do no harm.

With the guidance of an officer in plain clothes I have gone into some of the haunts of vice in that district, into gambling dens, opium joints and disorderly houses, and I have been struck with the ready recognition of the officer on the part of the keepers, the intimacy that existed between them and the cordialness of the reception. In a few of the places entered there

was a look of alarm on the faces of some of the inmates, but it was soon gone with a wave of the officer's hand and the significant remark, "Nothing doing tonight, go on with your fun."

My knowledge and experience of the Police have been confirmed by the searching report of the Bureau of Municipal Research and by some of the evidence given in recent investigations. In most scathing terms the report of the Bureau denounces the force as being inefficient, tolerating vice and protecting crime.

However much the police are to blame for the vice situation here, they, after all, only do what they are told or what is expected from them by those who are higher up.

## II. *THE BENCH.*

One of the last things that a citizen should do is to criticise those who sit upon the Bench, but the attitude of some of our magistrates in dealing with vice has left them open to severe censure. These men evidently possess the old Parisian notion that prostitution is a necessary evil and they, therefore, render their judgments accordingly. They fine when they should imprison, and dismiss cases when to the layman there is abundance of evidence to impose the maximum penalty. The only good that fines do is to augment the City Treasury. In fact it is freely admitted in official circles that many houses of prostitution exist because of their revenue value to the city. Those in the business can readily meet these fines out of the proceeds of a single day.

In the report of the Bureau of Municipal Research occur these words: "That hundreds of immoral places are permitted to exist is said by the Police Department to be due to the leniency of the judges of the Recorder's Court in that prosecutions in this Court invariably result in imposing a fine rather than more drastic punishment." "That the keepers of these houses have no fear of any punishment other than a fine, and no fear of anything but a temporary interruption of business is evidenced by the fact that with but few exceptions they pleaded guil-

ty, notwithstanding the fact that in addition to being charged with the offense of keeping and maintaining disorderly houses they were in many instances complained of as having sold liquor without licenses, and having kept liquor on their premises for purpose of sale."

I understand that the raids made by the City Police upon disorderly houses are carried out under the authority of the Recorders who sign the warrants and who also append a signed order to the warrants that men found in these houses may be released on a ten dollar cash bail. Hundreds of men are found each year in the houses raided by the police and the large majority of them rather than face the Court and the publicity connected with it forfeit their bail. Ten dollars is a pretty cheap price to pay for deliverance from so embarrassing a position. If the Recorders were really determined to suppress vice would they not fix a considerably higher bail, a bail that would not be so readily forfeitable? Would they not, too, insist upon the publication of the names of male as well as female offenders?

One of the reasons why the social evil has such a hold upon our city is that the Bench recognizes and applies the double standard. There is one law for the woman, another for the man. The man, almost invariably, is shielded, though he is equally guilty with the woman, often very much more so. Equity demands that both sexes be treated alike, for the buyer as well as the seller in this nefarious business is a moral and physical menace to the community.

The Secretary of the Montreal Juvenile Delinquent Court in his report for the year 1918, in commenting upon the startling fact that the number of girls arrested had doubled in two years, makes this serious charge: "A large number of these girls have been leading immoral lives, either as inmates or frequenters of disorderly houses; but *I cannot recall a single instance in which a house-keeper has been punished for permitting the defilement of girls under the age of eighteen years.* I have called attention in my previous reports to this, but there appears to be little improvement in the situation.

The editor of our largest daily asks, "What possible answer can the police or the courts give to this truly terrible indictment? So serious a situation calls aloud for special enquiry by the Attorney General."

Given a strong and aggressive Police Department, supported by a fearless and uncompromising Bench there need not be in Montreal a single disorderly house, gambling den or street solicitor. What New York, Chicago and other large cities in the United States have done Montreal can do.

### III. THE LAW.

So faultily framed are some of our laws that the culprit and the criminal could not possibly have better friends. Keen and alert lawyers can readily find loopholes of escape for their clients in them, cases are dismissed on technicalities, and gross miscarriages of justice result.

The phrase "*liable to a fine or imprisonment*" which appears in almost every paragraph of the Criminal Code often leads to nothing worse than an apology of a penalty or a few words of cheap advice.

That word "*knowingly*" inserted in the law dealing with owners of houses of prostitution has saved many a scamp from his just desserts. The harboring of prostitutes and the white slave traffic are impossible without a house, and one of the things sorely needed in Canadian law is a measure that deals directly with the landlord and makes him suffer until he feels it when his house is used for immoral purposes.

We need such an enactment as the "*Injunction and Abatement Law*" which has been so effective in eighteen States of the American Union and which has proved such a powerful weapon in Chicago in dealing with commercialized vice. The operation of this law is exceedingly simple. When evidence is secured

that is deemed sufficient to prove a case if it goes to Court, an informal notice is sent to the owner of record that his or her property is being used in violation of the law and if the allegations are proved to the satisfaction of the Court, the Court may issue an order closing the place against its use for any purpose for a period of one year, unless the owner gives a bond that he will of his own motion abate the nuisance. If no attention is paid to this informal notice, a formal one is sent stating that if the nuisance is not discontinued within a certain number of days a writ of injunction will be issued. So effective is this law in Chicago that during the first ten months of its operation, out of two hundred and five cases where notices were sent, only four cases were brought under the ban of the law by means of an injunction.

*Mr. C. M. Goethe*, of Sacramento, California, a Military Welfare Commissioner, and a prominent philanthropist, in recent letter to me says: "I do not know what we would do without the Redlight Abatement Act. You know under this we sue the property, not any individual, and also all trial by jury is eliminated. In this way we obtain many more convictions."

The *Protestant Ministerial Association* of Montreal, at a meeting held early in 1918, passed the following recommendations made by the Vice Committee in regard to the control of the social evil.

(1)—The enactment of the Injunction and Abatement Law.

(2)—The raising of the age of consent from fourteen years to eighteen, and the age of seduction from sixteen to twenty-one years.

(3)—Such changes in the Health Laws as to compel physicians, under heavy penalties, to report to the Local Board of Health, every case of venereal disease dealt with in their practice, and that no such case be dismissed without a certificate of health from the Health authorities.

(4)—That persons contemplating marriage must furnish to the issuer of licenses, the priest or minister, a certificate of health, specifically indicating freedom from venereal troubles.

(5)—The early establishment by the Provincial or Civic Government of a Woman's Reformatory and Industrial Farm in the neighborhood of Montreal, similar to the one now in Bedford, N.Y., for delinquent women and girls, on the cottage plan.

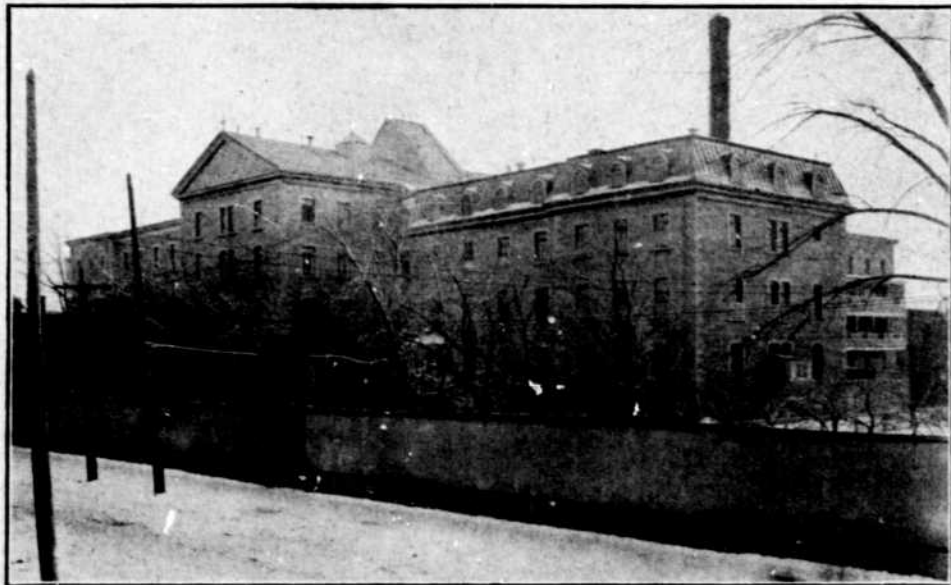
(6)—The establishment of redemptive homes for the more hopeful cases of female delinquents.

That is a most drastic and progressive program. However slow some of us may be to accept it in full at present, it must all be carried out, I believe, if we are to deal adequately with the situation as it confronts us in this city and province.

#### IV. THE DEPLORABLE LACK OF REFORMATIVE INSTITUTIONS.

Raiding houses of prostitution, fining the keepers and inmates, segregation and regular medical supervision are no solutions of the problem of the Social Evil. Prostitutes need to be committed upon an indeterminate sentence, to some institution where they will not only receive correction, but opportunities for reformation. Our jails are no places for them.

*The Protestant Jail* for delinquent women in this city is a disgrace and a shame to us. It comprises two floors of a wing of a building owned by a Roman Catholic sisterhood, containing the Roman Catholic reformatory and redemptive home. I found the walls of the Protestant Jail dirty, the plaster cracked and broken in places, the furniture scant, old and decrepit. The kitchen range and the sideboard are curiosities worth travelling miles to see. Not a second hand dealer in this city would offer such furniture for sale in his shop. It is the most gloomy and depressing place imaginable. In one large room I saw twenty or more prisoners, old and young, all huddled together doing a little sewing—the only bit of occupation for them except to gossip, eat, drink, sleep and think. No tea or milk is provided except for the sick, meat and soup are furnished three times a week. The inmates are not permitted to go out and



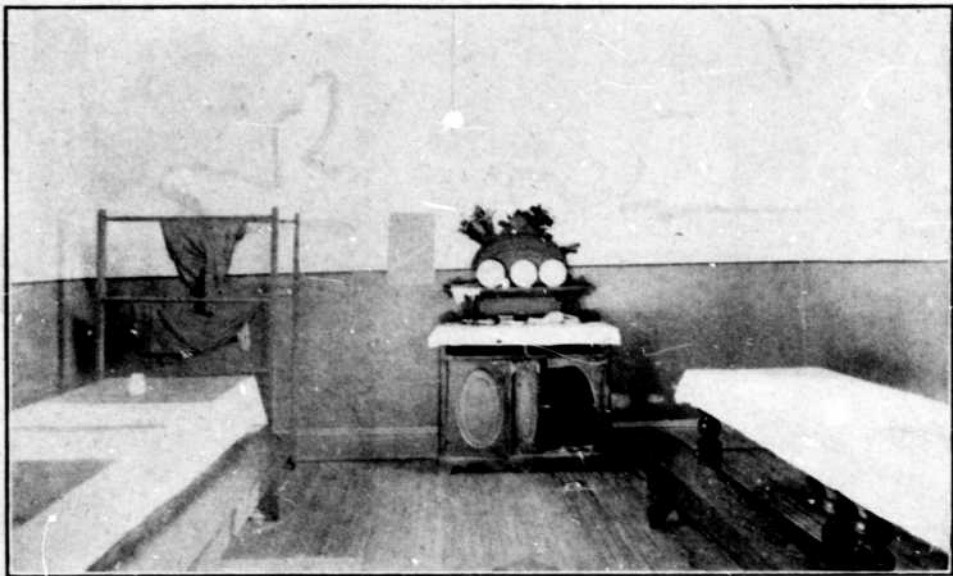
THE FULUM STREET JAIL.

The Protestant Department is on the first and second floors of the right wing. The little porch is the Entrance.

take the air—there is not even a verandah to walk upon. These women and girls cannot come out of such a place the better for their stay. They come out worse, more hardened and more ready to return to their old, sinful ways. The only place for such poor creatures is in some institution like that at Bedford, N.Y., where there is a farm of two hundred acres, an industrial school and graded cottages, where the delinquents are studied scientifically and all engaged in wholesome occupations, receive instruction and have spiritual supervision.

But a reformatory and industrial farm do not meet, wholly, the institutional requirements of the vice situation. We must not forget that fully fifty per cent. of the girls who go wrong are feeble-minded. While their bodies may be sixteen or twenty years of age, their minds are only six or ten. Look at the face of the average girl or woman in our penal institutions or in the houses of shame and hardly a trace of intelligence may be seen in it. She is a stupid lump of animal flesh, putty in the hands of designing and unscrupulous men. The jail or the reformatory is not the place for such people. One of the crying needs of the Province of Quebec is a feeble-minded institution. It would have to be a large one for there is no province in the Dominion that has such a large proportion of the feeble-minded as Quebec.

In addition to a reformatory and a feeble-minded institution we require a number of redemptive homes under direct Christian auspices, similar to those in Truro, Toronto, Winnipeg and Edmonton, in which the Anglicans,



**THE DINING ROOM IN THE PROTESTANT FEMALE JAIL.**

Note the hole in the sideboard and the stains upon the wall.

Methodists and Presbyterians are interested through their Social Service Departments. So little is being done by Christian people in this city for the reclamation of fallen women, and yet there was no class in society in which our Lord was more interested and whom He treated with greater tenderness and consideration. It is exceedingly difficult work, but it is far from being fruitless. Over one hundred and fifty girls have been cared for in the homes to which I have just referred, and led to return to a life of virtue. One of these girls who came to the Edmonton home with the reputation of an incorrigible was soundly converted within a year after her arrival. For a year or more past she has been in Toronto qualifying herself for Christian service. May the hearts and purses of some of our good Montreal people open wide so that soon we may have such institutions here and see similar work being done.

It is gratifying to know that the Joint Committee of Cooperating Protestant Churches of Montreal, is now planning for a redemptive home and farm in the neighborhood of the city.

## V. LACK OF PROPER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES FOR YOUNG WOMEN.

We have been speaking of the need of corrective, reformatory and redemptive institutions, we must not overlook the greater need of *PREVENTIVE* institutions. The old proverb is as true to-day as it was when it was coined, "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure."

In every one of us there is a longing for companionship and entertainment. That is a natural longing and through seeking to gratify it thousands of girls in this city are annually led astray. It is true that many girls sell themselves through direct or indirect economic stress—their wages are shamefully small, and they love dress and want to look pretty and they cannot afford it—but for one girl who sells herself for a ribbon, ten girls sell themselves for what a ribbon means, company and pleasure.

The people of this city have done much for the social life of boys and young men. For them there are all kinds of clubs and organizations, but the young women have been neglected, and we are paying the price of that neglect now in abnormal conditions of vice. A large proportion of those who go wrong are domestics. The average domestic is not treated as an intimate or a friend, she is just a piece of household furniture, a menial. The smallest, the

most unattractive, the most inaccessible room in the house is given to her. As a rule she cannot entertain her friends in her employer's home and so the only place for her is the street, the park, the "movie" or the dance-hall. It is said that ninety-five per cent. of the working girls of New York go to dance halls. No one knows the proportion of working girls who attend these places in our city.

One who has made a tour of some of our popular dance halls gives the following vivid description.

"The orchestra started to play. From the refreshment room hurried the dancers, the girls, flushed with liquor, their eyes shining with a strange light that betokened heightened vitality, quickened their steps. The young men, some reeling, exchanging coarse repartee, followed on into the dance room with its multitude of electric lights reflected in a multitude of mirrors.

The dancers threw off any effects which liquor might have left and away they glided, every step attuned to the music. A girl fainted. She was dragged to one of the benches that line the walls and cognac was forced between her teeth. And the dance went on. That was four o'clock in the morning."

"At a table directly overlooking the floor in a hall the other evening sat two women, two women who are notorious in the city. During the whole evening they never left their seats. Beautifully gowned, wearing large picture hats, their wondrous furs cast carelessly on nearby chairs, they sat and waited.

Men in evening suits joined them. There

were more bottles opened at this table than at any other. And despite all the liquor the women seemed to watch keenly the figures of the dancers as they swept before them. It was a masquerade, and the great majority of the girls in costume wore short skirts.

After a waltz a man who had indulged too freely led to the table a girl not more than seventeen. Under a mask her eyes sparkled brightly. She moved with grace and freedom in her short skirt, and the long hair which fell below her waist seemed to lessen the number of years she had known. Immediately the two women turned their whole attention to her. They complimented her on her beauty, praised her costume and offered her wine. The girl seemed embarrassed and at the same time pleased. The wine was accepted, the glass refilled. Then she was importuned to remove her mask. For a long time she resisted. Meanwhile another bottle had come and the party was becoming boisterous. She raised her mask slightly and when I looked again it had disappeared. Shortly after, when the liquor had taken effect, she willingly gave herself up to the public embrace of the men. Why do women attend the dances and never dance? Why do men flirt with the girls, dance with them, then lead them to the little table in the corner where the women wait and watch?"

"Why do you come here?" was the question asked of a girl who was a regular frequenter of the dance-hall. "Why," said she, "the music is good, the floor is better than any other that I know of or can afford, and every one I

know comes here. I danced Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday nights till after two o'clock. Tomorrow afternoon I am going to take part in the waltzing contest.

This girl is a waitress in a restaurant in the downtown district. She is at work at seven o'clock in the morning, and leaves at eight in the evening. On Sunday afternoon, while the dancing contest was being held, she fainted, and it was three hours before she was sufficiently recovered to be taken to her home.

That is but one incident. The same girls and the same men are seen every night. For hours they whirl under the low ceiling of a poorly ventilated room. Their tired bodies are kept going by liquor. And then they step out of the overheated atmosphere into the bitter, cold air of morning. A few hours sleep and then to work.

The majority of these dance-halls are wide-open door-ways to places of prostitution. Some are in convenient proximity to a bar-room or so-called hotel; others enjoy a special license from the Provincial Government which permits them to sell intoxicating liquors at all hours of the night, seven nights in the week. The profits in one night's sale sometimes are enormous.

But while every moral reformer sees so much to denounce in the popular dance halls of Montreal and in other places of amusement and recreation, I fear that many of us are forgetful of the fact that they are the only places that are open and convenient to thousands of our young people, the majority of whom I believe

do not attend them from any improper motive. They go to these places to secure that relaxation from toil and care which their nature craves and which others, more fortunate, satisfy in beautiful drawing-rooms, in golf and other clubs, in the round of gaiety at the seashore and the mountains. The best way to abolish these low and vicious places of amusement is to substitute for them resorts as near like them as possible, only leaving out those unnecessary accompaniments which are essentially evil.

Every public dance hall in the city should be licensed by the civic authorities and put in charge of a properly qualified police matron, with full power to see that decency and order are preserved. It should close early and no liquors should be allowed upon the premises.

The Church, the Y.W.C.A., and other philanthropic organizations cannot too soon get behind a large and earnest movement to afford adequate recreational facilities for the young women of this city.

## VI. THE "MOVIES."

The "MOVIE," in a little more than a decade, has become the greatest educational factor in the life of many nations. More persons are being taught by it, many times over, than by any other institution. It is the "People's University."

In the United States there are close to twenty-thousand moving picture places with a daily attendance of over ten millions, and with hundreds of millions of dollars invested in the business.

The *Montreal Witness*, in an interesting article a few years ago, stated that there were then sixty picture shows in Montreal, accommodating thirty thousand people. There were from three to nine shows a day, Sunday included, and in the evening the houses were crowded to the doors. The estimated attendance was half-a-million a week, a little less than the total population of the City. Five times as many people went to the movies as to the theatres. The figures of the *Witness* if brought up to date would show a very marked increase.

Miss *Kate Davis*, one of the best known social workers in the United States, says: "This country and every other country invaded by the motion picture show faces one of the greatest problems that has ever been dealt with by any nation."

No existing institution is so fraught with tremendous possibilities for good as the "movie" but, unfortunately, it has in too many cases fallen into the hands of unscrupulous managers who care not what appears upon the screen or takes place between pictures on the stage so long as the door receipts are satisfactory.

All motion pictures are supposed to be carefully censored, but what shall we say of the work of the censors when *Warden Simpson* of Jackson Prison, Michigan, in a recent address in Detroit, declared that although there were about fifteen hundred moving picture shows in Michigan he found it a hard task to get films clean enough to show to his prisoners. He said that most of the films had suggestive and harmful representations of crime.

Our Juvenile and Police Courts are crowded with boys and girls often accused of unbelievable crimes such as arson, burglary, street-thieving, hold-ups and murder. Crime is increasing two-and-a-half times faster among children than among adults, and judges and social workers agree that the crime-creative film is in no small degree responsible for this condition of things. In the annual report of the Juvenile Delinquent Court of Montreal for 1918 we read that the increase of juvenile crime over the previous year was seventeen per cent. and the number of girls arrested has doubled in two years.

*Judge Ben Lindsey* found a gang of girl burglars in Denver some time ago. They were Sunday School girls, born in respectable families, aged eight, ten and twelve. They told the

Judge that when they did not know how to commit a crime they went to the "movies" and studied films until they got the idea. Equipped with this knowledge success attended their efforts. When the girls were captured they were trying to pass twenty dollar bills for candy.

*Judge Choquet* of our Juvenile Court has again and again denounced the moving picture theatres of this city. On one occasion he said, "Permit me to say with what regret I have noticed the bad influence of moving picture shows upon children. In every case without exception the children brought before me whether Protestants or Catholic were in the habit of attending these shows, and I have found in several cases that this had been the cause of their downfall."

While the censorship of the films shown in our local theatres has considerably improved in late years, there is still much room for improvement. Scarcely a day passes but films representing domestic unfaithfulness, burglary, abduction, suicide and murder are exhibited. These representations of evil-doing are seeds of crime and like deadly poison are finding their way to the imagination and heart of many an onlooker. And when with such pictures there are associated the various incidents of cheap vaudeville it is not to be wondered at if many of our youth are becoming morally callous.

On Friday night, February the Seventh of this year, while returning from a mission for foreigners, I dropped in to the *Maple Leaf Palace* on St. Lawrence Boulevard, just above St. Catherine Street. The film that was being shown



ONE OF OUR "PUBLIC" SCHOOLS ON ST. LAWRENCE BOULEVARD — "THE MAPLE LEAF PALACE."

as I entered contained an elopement, a bank robbery, a murder and an attempted lynching. The vaudeville between pictures was of the tawdriest kind. Two men dressed as hoboes entertained the crowd with coarse jokes, profanity and revolver shooting. A burlesque marriage was performed by one of the hoboes decked out with a silk hat, a huge white tie and a long-tailed coat. The marriage ceremony was parodied much to the enjoyment of the crowd. Painted girls appeared at intervals in dances with the minimum allowance of clothing required by law and with songs and gestures decidedly suggestive. One young woman who sang and danced alone was particularly revolting. Her main purpose seemed to be to play upon the sexual susceptibilities of the young men present. Behind me sat two little girls under twelve years of age in the care of a young woman, watching with keen interest the proceedings of the evening. I could not help asking myself the question as I looked upon that crowd of young people, "What shall the harvest be?"

## VII. THE PREVAILING IMMODESTY OF FEMALE ATTIRE.

For several years now it has been the fashion for women and girls to appear in public with as little above their waist line as the police authorities will permit.

The time was when society women restricted the use of the decollete to the ballroom and the drawing room, but now it is almost the exception to see a woman or girl, whatever her rank in society, with a high necked dress even upon the street or in church. The modesty of our mothers has been flung to the wind by their daughters and as a result we are reaping the whirlwind.

The demoralizing influence of such immodesty upon young men can only be imagined and it has placed all young women who follow such a senseless fashion in the moral "danger zone."

A friend of mine handed me thus appropriate bit of poetry a few days ago:

"When every pool in Eden was a mirror,  
And unto Eve her dainty charms proclaimed,  
She went undraped, without a fear of horror,  
Or thought that she had need to feel ashamed.

It was only when she'd eaten of the apple  
That she became inclined to be a prude,  
And found that evermore she'd have to grapple  
With the much debated problem of the nude.

Thereafter she devoted her attention, her time,  
And all her money to her clothes;  
That was the beginning of convention,  
And modesty as well, we now suppose.

But changes came about in fashions recent;  
Now girls conceal so little from the men;  
It seems that in the name of all that's decent  
Someone ought to pass the apple "round again."

### VIII. THE DELINQUENT HOME.

The deepest, the basic cause of crime and vice next to an unregenerate heart is a *DELINQUENT HOME*.

*Miss Katherine Day*, the late Superintendent of the Maritime Home for girls in Truro, N.S., says that bad home conditions are primarily responsible for seventy-five per cent. of the cases found in that institution. These girls have lacked the protection and guidance of wise and good fathers and mothers. They have been allowed too much of their own way, permitted to choose their own companions and pleasures and left to run the streets while their mothers, perhaps, were compelled to go out and work to supplement the family income. Thus these girls from babyhood have been doomed to a life of sin and shame.

The Juvenile Courts of our cities, with their multiplying cases, are the modern indictments of the incompetency and failure of the modern home. *Chief Justice Russell* of New York, says that three-fourths of the cases which congest the calendar of the Juvenile Courts of that city are the direct and obvious result of improper guardianship. What is true of New York is true of Montreal.

In the report of our Juvenile Court for 1918 we notice that there were 106 cases of desertion of children and 80 cases of neglected children. Fourteen per cent. of the delinquents

were unable to read or write and forty-two per cent. were unemployed. "Idleness," states the report, "goes hand in hand with delinquency, and it is regrettable that the law enforcing school attendance is not in vogue."

Not long ago there appeared in the Juvenile Court four children of Old Country parents living in Verdun. They were all of school age and yet were not attending school. They could neither read nor write. The mother was slat-ternly and immoral and the husband did not seem to care whether she was or not.

Yet in the face of these Court figures and the deplorable illiteracy of Quebec, there are those in this province, leaders in Church and State, who are absolutely opposed to compulsory education on the ground that the State by such a measure interferes with the rights of parents. The idea that a father or a mother may do what he or she will with his or her own has long ceased in progressive countries to be officially recognized as either good law, good morals or good sense. When parents are unable to govern their children properly and give them that preparation for life which they require, then it becomes the duty of the State, for its own protection, to undertake the charge.

A court that is very much needed in Montreal is one for *DELINQUENT PARENTS*, a court that will stop the manufacture of the material which the Juvenile Court tries to patch up into something which may ultimately develop into a good citizen. Nine out of ten of the children who appear in court are not the real culprits, *the real culprits are the parents*. By

the bad example of the father or the mother or of both, by their folly, negligence, ignorance and lack of discipline the child has become a criminal, or a victim of vice.

Mrs. J. A. Henderson, Superintendent of the Hervey Institute, at the last annual meeting cited this case illustrating the condition of the homes from which some of the children in the Institute were drawn: Two girls aged six and eight years were admitted to the Institute two years ago. On the day of their admission the older girl said "I have two daddies. One is overseas and the other lives with my mother." "These children," said Mrs. Henderson, "had been virtually left on the street by the woman who called herself 'mother.'"

The Church has its part in the training of the children of our city, the School has its part, but the great responsibility rests upon the parents. One ounce of good father or good mother is worth a pound of school teacher or parson.

These are heart-searching times. Never were young people subject to such temptations. Never was there greater need for intelligent and consecrated parenthood and of homes buttressed by devotion, good example and prayer.

But the vice and the crime of the children of our city cannot all be laid at the door of parents. No small part of the blame must be laid upon society itself because of *its continued toleration of vice and crime-making conditions*. Think of the homes that thousands of our population are condemned to dwell in because of their poverty, small, cramped, poorly-constructed, poorly-lighted, poorly-ventilated, cheerless

rookeries, facing lanes and streets into which God's sunlight seldom comes. We have slums in Montreal that have no parallel on the continent, housing conditions that are a disgrace to Christian civilization.

At a meeting of some citizens interested in Montreal's housing problem, held a few nights ago, *Mr. U. H. Dandurand* stated that a study of 342 houses in various parts of the city, made recently by the Housing Committee of the Charity Organization Society, showed that 15 per cent. of these houses had damp rooms, 32 per cent, unsanitary plumbing conditions, 30 per cent, inadequately lighted rooms. There were 24 houses in which there were three and more persons per room and 106 in which the investigators found two or more persons per room. There were cases of tuberculosis in 52 of the houses.

One of our newspaper men became interested in a lad who had appeared in court charged with running away from home. When he first saw him he was at home in bed. His home was up a dirty flight of stairs that led from a filthy street. In bed with him were his four-year-old brother and his five-year-old sister. The room in which they slept had no windows. No fresh air or light could enter it directly. There were three other rooms and there were three other children, the parents and two boarders—ten persons in a small four-roomed house! Do you blame a boy for trying to run away from a place like that? That home was a menace to the health and the morality not only of its occupants, but a menace to the



The Ward with the greatest number of dots contains the Redlight District. It shows thirty per cent more juvenile delinquents than any other ward. The housing conditions are very bad.

health and morality of the whole community. No punishment is too great for landlords who can draw rent from such death-traps. Some of these landlords live in beautiful homes, on broad avenues in the suburbs. If I were a judge, I would be tempted to compel these landlords, if they came up before me for sentence, to exchange residences with their tenants for five years. This would either cure or kill them.

## IX. THE WANT OF A CIVIC CONSCIENCE.

Montreal has considerable conscience, but unfortunately for the city, it is put up in small quantities. It appears in individuals and in groups, but it has not yet crystallized into strong public sentiment, conviction and action.

Once only during the last decade has Montreal shown the semblance of a civic conscience and that was shortly after the appearance of the Cannon Report when the city rose in its might and put out of the Council nearly every one of those aldermanic grafters who had helped to make the name of our city a byword on the continent.

If Montreal had a civic conscience, the number of its electors who take the trouble to go to the polls in important and critical times would not be so shamefully small. At the last civic elections, when great issues were at stake out of 150,000 possible votes only 75,000 were polled. With such indifference and apathy we cannot hope for much better things in our civic administration and life. The curse of this city is the bad citizenship of good men.

The forces of evil among us are alive, awake, persistent and organized. The forces for righteousness must too, be awake, persistent and organized. *ORGANIZED VICIOUSNESS* can only be met by *ORGANIZED RIGHTEOUSNESS*. With organized righteousness the police would do their duty, the judges would feel that public sentiment was

behind their decisions, the law would be rightly interpreted and enforced, and a new spirit would pervade the life of the city.

Let us as citizens forget our creeds, our racial distinctions and prejudices, and unite and cooperate in a forward movement in the cause of good citizenship, and Montreal will be redeemed from the thralldom of *VICE*.

The use of the striking cartoon on the cover of this booklet and the map-chart has been kindly given by the *Montreal Daily Star*.

A *Literature Fund* has been formed for the publication of works similar to this on Civic, Provincial and National betterment.

Any reader of this booklet desiring to help the Fund is asked to communicate either with the author or Mr. C. W. Baker, 91 Commercial Union Building, Montreal.

OTHER WORKS BY THE AUTHOR

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*The Challenge of Montreal.*

*The Unchurched Masses.*

*The Missionary Statesman.*

*The Son of A Missionary.*

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