

OLD SEATTLE VICE DISTRICT MORALLY MUCH IMPROVED

Vice Cribs Are Poor Men's Lodging Houses, Dance Halls Are Stores or Vacant and Half Saloons Gone.

(Special to The Journal.)
Seattle, Wash., Jan. 8.—Has Seattle reformed?

To answer this question one must wander through the old restricted district where during the late regime of Mayor H. C. Gill crib houses, dance halls, indecent shows and gambling flourished under the benign protection of Chief of Police C. W. Wapenstein, now under a penitentiary sentence. Now the district is different. Physically it may not be the most attractive part of the city but morally it is adjudged clean. The houses once used for illegal purposes are now lodging houses for the poor man, the former dance halls are either vacant or occupied by merchants and about half the saloons have retired from business.

Has this reform injured business?

Pay Well as Cheap Lodgings.

It has hurt the owner of property formerly dedicated to vice, it has hit the gambler and grafter hard but Jess Russell, proprietor of three or four lodging houses for the poor man, says he is satisfied. He is authority for the statement that the eradication of vice has not killed this district and he values the assertion that business is good and is continually improving. After the reform wave swept the district out of existence as a cesspool of vice, Russell rented several of the former crib joints, fitted them up as cheap lodging houses and he is now said to be on the road to wealth.

However, the greatest transformation is to be seen at the old Arcade theatre. This was one of the most notorious resorts under the Gill-Wapenstein administration. It is now the Seattle Brotherhood League Club, Inc., "An Open Door for the physical, moral, social and religious uplift of homeless men."

A Transformation in Mottos.

"Jesus Saves," "Jesus Died for You," "Take It to the Lord in Prayer," "When Have you Written to Mother?" are some of the signs now displayed on the walls where formerly were such announcements as these: "Furnished Rooms Upstairs," "All Drinks Two Bits," "Open All Night," and "Take Your Partner to the Bar."

"I believe Portland has adopted the right system in providing work for men out of employment" is the statement of Joe Cronin, the manager and handy man about the club. "That's what we need here. If work is offered, you can soon tell the fellow who's on the square from the professional hobo."

Terror of Panhandlers.

Incidentally Cronin is worth knowing. Every professional panhandler in this part of the country knows him and those who haven't met him know of him by reputation. Cronin is well versed in the wiles and schemes of those who prey on society. He can talk in the most approved hobo language and knowing the pitiful stories which usually bring the heart of the unsophisticated, he soon has them willing under the severe fire of his cross examination. Cronin calls it giving them the third degree and many a "ho" would rather endure a session in the rough hands of the police than to suffer loss of dignity and prestige among his own class by being exposed under Cronin's merciless questioning.

It doesn't take long to weed out the undesirables," said Cronin to The Journal. "If a man's on the square his story will stand investigation. If he's lying you can soon mix him on his dates."

Apple Story Falls Down.

"Just the other day we had a fellow in here who told a heartrending yarn of being destitute because after working 110 days planting apple trees in eastern Washington his employers had failed to pay him. Well, it is hard to know anything about orchards myself. I showed him where orchard men do not plant trees more than 30 days thus showing the falsity of his statement. Then he altered it to state that he had worked the balance of the time caring for the orchards—irrigating the trees by buckets. Likely story that, especially when he said this kind of land was selling for \$1200 an acre. It didn't take long to puncture his story so full of holes that it looked like a piece of cheese. After telling him his yarn wouldn't hold water, I told him I'd give him his supper but I added that he wouldn't enjoy it and it would do him no good. Why? Because he felt badly at having his disguise unmasked and he couldn't go out and tell his pals that he had slipped one over on us."

How Spraying Machine Works.

"You know you can always tell a fellow whose clothes are unclean. We have a spraying machine here and when we suspect that some man needs it on his person we give him a dose when he isn't looking. If he doesn't need it he always takes it as a good joke but if it's the other way he'll make an awful fuss and in a loud voice protests that he's the last man in the house who needs that kind of attention."

The club opened November 10 and since then it has been housing between 75 and 100 men nightly. There are now 60 cots and the overflow sleeps on the benches in a well ventilated and warm room. A kitchen is now in operation serving about 100 meals a day. In both instances about 90 per cent of this is given gratuitously to the needy all these who go to the club are "broke." However, no worthy man is turned away and the club doesn't care how a man has lost his money, how low he has sunk if he will only take advantage of the opportunity to brace up and be decent.

Raising the Unfortunates.

Among the club's activities are the lodging house, the kitchen, the dispensary, free medical attention, operating room, reading room and supply room, where clothing is given to the worthy. Eight physicians give a portion of their time and service to these unfortunates. Among these are several high priced specialists. An isolation room for suspected cases of contagious diseases, an operating room and other quarters are conveniently provided.

In the general assembly room, each night at 8, is held a religious service conducted under the auspices of the various churches supporting the institution. These meetings are well attended. Since the club opened only one drunken man has disturbed this meeting. He apparently thought he was again in the Arcade dance hall.

Everyone Is Roused at 6.

At 10 each night the doors are locked and admittance is denied after that. This is to keep out the "stew bum" or "chair warmer" who sleeps off his peripatetic "jag" in the saloon until he is thrown out at closing time. This class

is welcome at the club as long as an inclination is shown to brace up but there is no glad hand for those who refuse to make an effort at reformation. Early closing is also the rule because those in the house at that hour are not subject to police suspicion and the house is not disturbed by officers searching for "sticker" men and petty thieves which is a common occurrence in the open all night lodging house. At 10:30 every man is required to be in bed and all are routed out at 6 in the morning.

Every effort is made to keep the house free of vermin. Each morning every cot is sprayed and floors and walls scrubbed. A shower bath is provided and any man who refuses soap and a towel is not wanted. Cleanliness and Godliness go hand in hand at this club.

COL. ROOSEVELT HAS TAFT CAMP GUESSING

(United Press Leased Wire.)

Washington, Jan. 8.—Colonel Roosevelt's roundabout message to President Taft that he would "have an important announcement to make within the next two weeks" is generally taken here to mean that the rough-rider intends to definitely announce that he will not be a candidate for president under any circumstances.

The message was conveyed to Taft by two congressmen, whose names have not been given out. Roosevelt's promise, it was learned, came as a result of Secretary Hilley's recent visit to New York when, it is said, he put the question straight to the colonel.

Roosevelt, if he were coming out for the presidency, would not make an announcement at this time. Every politician is sure of this. But if he does not intend to run, if he has made up his mind not to run, he can do more by making a definite announcement now to that effect. Reasoning thus, the Taft managers are jubilant today.

1-25 MILL STATE TAX PROPOSED FOR NORMAL

(Salem Bureau of The Journal.)

Salem, Or., Jan. 8.—In making up various tax estimates it was found that one twenty-fifth mill on all the property of the state for Monmouth Normal school would yield that institution \$35,625.75, which is about the estimate of the needs of school. The tax commission asked the attorney general for an opinion whether this was to be levied on the counties according to the assessors' valuations or on the entire equalized valuation of the state as fixed by the tax commission. The latter was sustained. The total equalized valuation of the state is \$890,644,164.

GRANTS PASS PROMOTER CHARGED WITH FRAUD

(Special to The Journal.)

Grants Pass, Or., Jan. 8.—Fred G. Cutler was indicted by the grand jury Saturday for obtaining money under false pretenses.

Mr. Cutler bought a large ranch near here last spring and organized a company known as the Fruit & Land company. A first mortgage was placed on the crop by this company, Mr. Cutler signing as president of the company, which office he held. He afterwards placed a first mortgage on the crop, signing the mortgage as an individual, from it alleged, securing the money from the First National bank here. The holder of the original mortgage took the crop, hence the proceedings. Mr. Cutler held the large majority of the stock of the Fruit & Land company.

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