

DRUG EVIL HOLDS 2500 FOLLOWERS IN CITY, ESTIMATE

Investigations Disclose Methods of Peddlers, Means With Which Traffic is Handled, Also Cost.

That the drug habit is slowly and insidiously invading Portland, going even into the home and taking children hardly in their teens, is the evidence brought out by the investigations of R. H. Burdick and W. G. Shaffer, members of the police force who have been detailed on special work in combating the traffic in narcotics.

These officers, who have been in the work for more than two years, declared Saturday that more than 2500 persons in the city are known to be addicts to some form of narcotics.

SOLUTION SOUGHT FOR

"The problem of stopping the narcotic traffic is a serious one," Burdick said. "The fight against narcotics has been taken up by the federal government and by cities and communities wherever the scourge has spread. But little headway has been made, as any enforcement officer will testify.

"Few realize the extent of it, but when one stops to consider that 1 per cent of the population of the city are addicts, a partial comprehension is possible. The habit does not confine itself to any one class but is spread among all alike. It does drag those who participate down to a common level."

Burdick told of a mother who went to the police station and asked for help with her 13-year-old daughter. The girl, she said, was in grammar school and for two or three days had seemed to be nervous and then drowsy. A search in her pockets revealed a hypodermic needle and a few bundles of cocaine.

PREY BY VICTIMS

"The addict is not the criminal," Burdick said, "but the peddler most certainly is. These peddlers in narcotics are easy and shrewd in evading the law. Because an addict dares not tell them, their combinations are such that should an unfortunate tell of their operations it would be impossible for him to get more of the drug that is destroying his manhood and yet it is so essential in stilling his tortured nerves."

Importation of the narcotics to Port-

land is carried on largely by ships coming from the Orient, Burdick says. Large quantities are brought in and distributed from Chinatown. It is known, he went on to say, that the Chinese dealers in drugs have regular routes, the same as a milkman, grocery man or fishman. **CHEMICAL PEDDLERS CRAFTY**

"With extraordinary care they plan the work on their routes," he explained, "covering it thoroughly. They do not make their trips at the same hour two days in succession for they know that such a mistake would be fatal for their scheme. One time they will make the rounds early in the morning; the next time at a different hour and so on."

The Chinese, however, he says, have monopolized on the traffic, for porters on trains and white men are also in the game. From Canada a large amount of narcotics of all sorts is smuggled across the line and brought here for wholesale selling.

"Four grams of cocaine sells to the peddler for \$2," he said, "while an equal amount of morphine brings \$5. The peddler takes the drug and dilutes it to such an extent that he doubles his money on every deal. Many start operating on a 'whore string,' buying a quarter or four grams, at a time. By doubling the money they soon branch out on a large scale."

HOW STOCKS GROW

The common method of diluting cocaine is to use either Epsom salts, finely powdered, or boric acid. For morphine, sugar of milk or ordinary baking powder is used. By taking an equal amount of the dilutant to the drug the profit in selling the narcotics is high.

"The new addict not knowing the difference between the pure article and the dilutant will take the latter," Burdick continued. "The old timer, however, is wiser and will refuse the mixed stuff and with good reason. The dilutants cause all manner of sores when the drug is taken hypodermically and when snuffed causes abscesses of the nose."

When asked how the habit is ordinarily started, Burdick replied: "Well, now if you ask the addict he will tell you he has been in a hospital and the doctor gave it to him. That is not so, for no doctor administering a narcotic will tell his patient what he has used."

DRUG ARMY RECRUITS

"The start is usually at some party where a few 'hopeheads' are present. Say, for instance, two couples are on a party, three of them addicts. The three will take their 'favorites' form of drug and persuade the fourth to try it. The next day, perhaps, the novice will meet one of the old timers and tell of the terrible headache and lack of pep that followed the party. The old timer will then advise the use of the drug again and then the vicious habit is started."

Cocaine parties are a common thing nowadays. For some reason individuals seem to think they have to jazz up their

existence, and will stop at nothing to get a little exhilaration. Such parties are often the downfall of some youngster or younger member, who does not realize what he or she is doing."

Burdick said he knew of several families in the city where every member is a drug addict. The loathsome habit, he said, is found in the most unexpected places.

"Why, a drug addict told me she could go into many clothing stores in town and get some drugs," he said. "The big things have been broken up but the small dealer, each operating by himself, is still reaping the harvest. That is one of the things that makes the apprehension of peddlers so difficult—there are so many of them and so few officers on that sort of work."

At the request of Mayor Baker, heads of the various law enforcing organizations of the city met last week for the formation of an association to check the narcotic traffic. This meeting resulted in the organization of the Narcotics Control Association of Portland.

The association will meet regularly to discuss ways of dealing with the peddler and helping the addicts regain their health. Dr. George Parrish, city health officer, is preparing a plan for the creation of a state institution for treatment of those in the clutches of the habit. The plan will be submitted to the association soon.

U. S. Department of Interior Approves Reclamation Bill

Washington, Jan. 7.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL.)—Senator McNary has received a report from the interior department approving his last bill for reclamation, embracing irrigation and drainage, under a plan for advancing \$50,000,000 for the work and the creation of a revolving fund for development of approved projects so long as any remain that are economical.

Assistant Secretary Finney, in approving the bill, wrote: "I heartily favor action which will transform waste, arid, swamp or over-flowed land into farm homes, and believe this measure will furnish a basis for such legislation."

One feature of the bill is to eliminate interest charging on entries by former service men. The bill has been endorsed by the western governors and by the Oregon and other western legislatures recently in session.

THREE VISIT PORTLAND

Baker, Jan. 7.—Dr. C. L. Blakeley, T. G. Montgomery and William Crawford have gone to Portland, where Dr. Blakeley will attend a meeting of scaled rulers of the Elks lodge of the state and Crawford will transact business for the American Express company.

OPEN VAULT IS HEALTH MENACE, PARRISH INSISTS

Covered Cesspool Only Solution, Says City Physician, Specialty Referring to Lents Problem.

Proper supervision of public health demands that the use of open vaults give way to covered cesspools, not only in the Lents district, but in all parts of the city, Commissioner John M. Mann declares.

An order was recently issued by the health department that all open vaults be discarded and in their places cesspools built. From the Lents district, which was the district most affected by the order, a protest was made to the city council. The residents stated that cesspools were not needed as the Lents trunk sewer, which will make the Foster road sewer a sanitary sewer, as well as drainage, when it is completed, is being planned and will be built within two or three years.

Mann answered the argument by saying that, even after the completion of the Lents trunk sewer, there would be a considerable lapse of time before the necessary laterals could be laid to all parts of the district. That open vaults should continue to be a menace to the health, not only of this district, but of the entire city, was, he said, unthinkable.

"Contrary to the belief of some of the members of the council, this is not an added burden on the people of Lents," Mann said. "The cesspools are needed in many of the old houses, where they are not already installed. It will be from five to 10 years before all of the laterals can be built. Do you think for a minute it would be wise to allow the use of the open vault in a thickly settled district where once an epidemic started it would spread throughout the city?"

"Such a policy to me seems utter folly and lack of foresight, for it is known what a menace the open vault where human excreta is exposed to the air, flies and other insects is in a city. It may be all right on the farm, but it most certainly is not in a town the size of Portland."

Mayor George L. Baker was the only member of the council who voiced opposition to the order of the health bureau. He stated that his stand was that the order placed a double burden on the people of the district at a time they could not afford it. He said that they had used the open vault for years "and could see no reason why they should

not continue to use it until the sewers were built."

Commissioners Bigelow and Barbur concurred in Mann's opinion that if the cesspools were a question of public health they should be installed no matter what the cost. Pier made no comment for or against it other than he thought the district was bearing heavy burdens in improvement assessments at the present time.

Mann pointed out that the building of a cesspool, such as passed the inspection of the health bureau, would cost from \$30 to \$50. This, he said, could be reduced considerably if the residents dug their own pits.

"One of the things we have done," Mann continued, "is to be as easy in our requirements as possible. If we have notified a man to build a cesspool and he comes in for additional time we allow it. Then, too, we have not issued the orders for places along the course

of the trunk sewers where connections can be made with a reasonable time."

"It would not be fair for us to allow ramshackle buildings that are being erected to continue the use of the open vault when all new buildings are required to install a cesspool. Suppose that a new house were erected next to an old one that used the open vault. Imagine in the summer time what the effects of this open vault would be."

Mann pointed out that despite the position that was sent the council, protesting the order, some of the petitioners appeared at the meeting held last Wednesday. An investigation is being made of the conditions in the Lents district and a report will be made to the council.

ASSESSMENT NOTICES OF TWO PROJECTS SENT OUT

During the last week notices of proposed assessments for two street improvements and one sewer construction project were sent out by George R.

Funk, city auditor. The total of the three assessments is \$11,282.43. Remembrances must be filed in the auditor's office before January 15.

The assessments were for the following projects: Improvement of Bryant street from Albino to Congress street, \$3552.25; improvement of Hudson street from Tioga to Buchanan street, \$1090.38, and the construction of the sewer in East Eighty-third street from Stark street 220 feet north, \$621.

INSTALLATION AT LA GRANDE

La Grande Star encampment No. 51, Odd Fellows, installed officers Thursday night, as follows: F. R. Suydam, C. P.; Charles Westde, senior warden; Alfred Harvey, junior warden; Glenn H. Forward, H. P.; R. P. McCall, G.; Frank Lule, first watch; J. M. Kokenbarger, second watch; John Sigge, third watch; Charles Chadwick, fourth watch; Elmer Houston, outside sentinel; Albert Lamb,

inside sentinel; M. E. Egan, G. of T.; Clifford Brack, G. of T.; Eugene Clark, scribe; H. E. Coolidge, treasurer.

WOMAN TO AID PASTOR

Corvallis, Jan. 7.—Mrs. Olive Metcalf Hask, formerly of the teacher training department in the Salem high school, is the new pastor's assistant to the Rev. I. H. Wood of the First Methodist church here. Mrs. Hask did similar work in Astoria several years ago.

SCHOOL BOARD REORGANIZED

Hoquiam, Wash., Jan. 7.—Fred T. Dean was elected chairman and Hubbard Tuttle secretary of the Hoquiam board of education Friday night. Reorganization followed resignation of Mayor W. A. Jacks as a member and election of L. W. Taft. Other members are Mrs. A. F. Peterson, Ralph D. Emerson and Dr. A. J. McIntyre.

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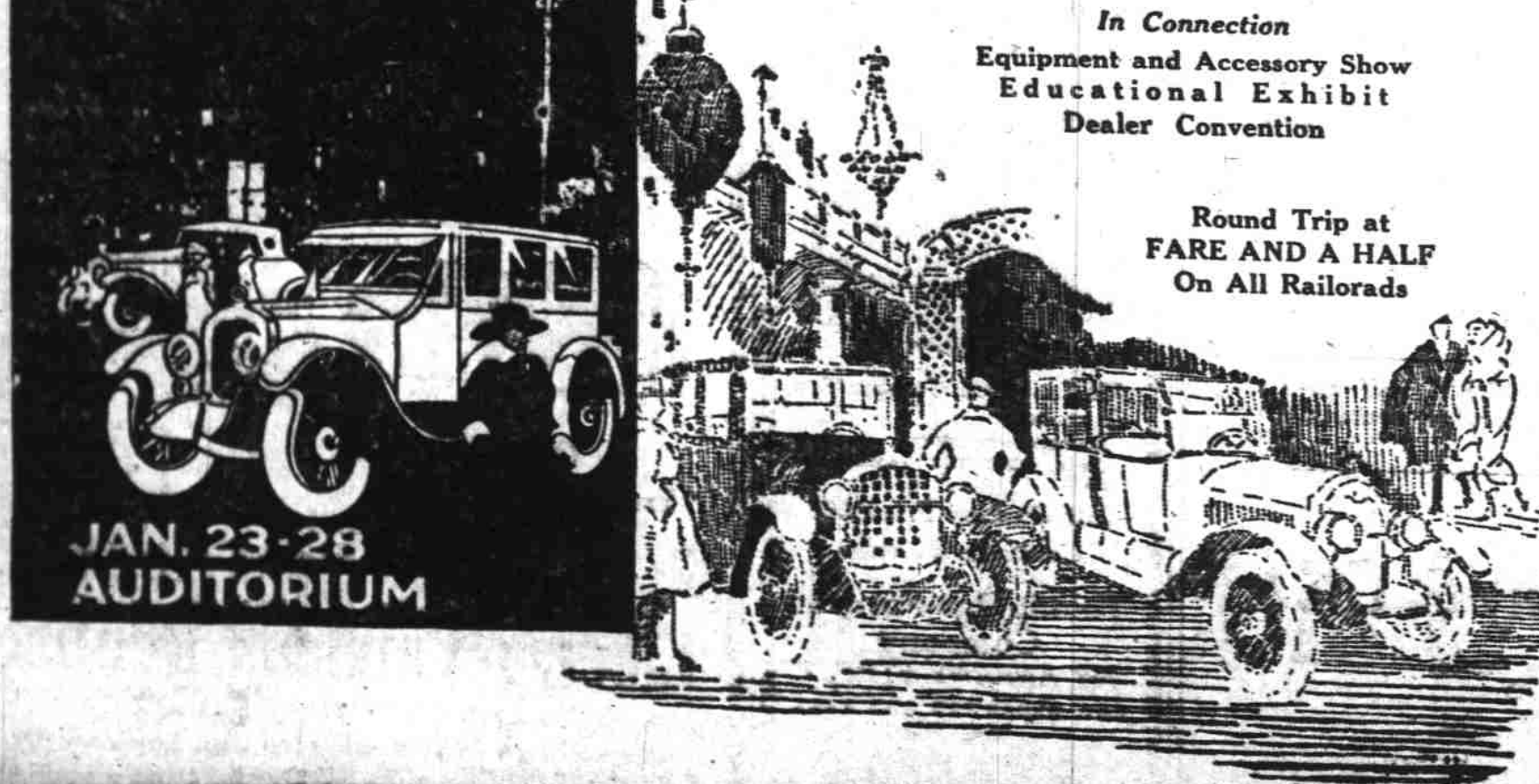
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