

The Evening Herald

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Tuesday, April 6, 1926

STAGE CLEANING NEEDED

THE stage of New York has reached an alarming state of degeneracy. Something ought to be done, and done quickly, to reform it, else drastic censorship will be inevitable.

The Hearst newspapers have made a long fight against censorship, believing that the people themselves would censor immoral plays, but apparently this is not to be hoped for.

Plays about negro harlots and Chinese harlots seem to be the most popular in New York today—they could not have been produced a generation ago. They should not be produced now, because they are not only an indication of a degenerate tendency in our people, but they are a stimulus to further degeneracy, a bad influence on the rising generation.

We do not want our country to rot and fall to pieces because of its rottenness.

The theater is an educator. It either educates for good or for evil. It is, perhaps, not as important as it used to be because moving pictures have largely taken the place of the speaking stage; but it, nevertheless, has a considerable effect on the moral standards of a community.

For years the stage in New York has been steadily deteriorating, and its effect has been more and more demoralizing. The habit of the degenerate stage is like the dope habit, or the drink habit, or any other demoralizing habit.

A play vile enough to make a sensation soon ceases to make a sensation, and something viler must be devised; and so the degeneracy of the stage increases in geometrical progression, and the degeneracy of the audiences progresses with it and is expressed by it.

Of course, not all cities of the country are as demoralized as New York is in theatrical tastes. The other day in Los Angeles a play was closed and all the actors were dragged before the court and penalized.

It is gratifying to think that in some parts of the country the public still has a typical American standard of morals. But how long will these morals remain wholesome if they are continuously to be vitiated by the kind of play which New York supports and sends out broadcast across the country?

There is little complaint now in the movies. The salutary influence of Will Hayes, the judgment and influence of the big producers, and the effective censorship which, though often foolish and narrow, is on the whole beneficial, have made the movies models of propriety compared with the stage.

The reform that is now needed is stage reform, and influences similar to those which reformed the movies should reform the stage. — Washington Herald.

LIQUOR HEARING AMUSES CROWD

(Continued from Page 1)

Tells of Discharges

General Andrews said that where an employee was suspected of dishonesty he sometimes was discharged for another reason.

"You know you can find many reasons to fire a man," he said. "You could find a reason for firing me before nightfall."

"It certainly could," returned Senator Reed.

The general said his men were subject to great and constant condemnations.

"How many of the 375 dismissed for causes have been prosecuted?" asked Reed.

180 Sentenced

"One hundred and eighty have been committed." When the dry enforcement officer said it would be "an unpleasant duty" for prohibition agents to have to drink liquor to get evidence, the crowd roared and the general himself smiled broadly.

"It's so poor, most of it, that no man drinks it willingly," he added.

"Unless I am misinformed, they did considerable drinking in the Mayflower hotel case here," said Codman.

"That was a rare instance," returned the witness.

How Aid is Secured

Replying to Senator Reed, General Andrews said recommendations as to prospective employees come from the W. C. T. U., Anti-Saloon League, Ministers and others. The monitor kept after the witness for

details and finally Andrews said: "If you refer to Wayne B. Wheeler, he never made any recommendations to me."

"You stopped it, didn't you?" "He never tried to start it."

Question Legality

Before questioning any witnesses today the modificationists laid down a preliminary barrage of oratory, which brought in the question of whether a national referendum on the subject would be legal.

Senator Edge, republican, New Jersey, a wet leader quoted the democratic platform of 1924 proposing a national referendum on the league of nations.

"Then you don't think the democratic national convention could make an error?" asked Senator Reed, democrat, Missouri.

"Not in this instance," retorted Senator Edge.

Senator Walsh, of Montana, who was permanent chairman of the 1924 democratic convention and who is one of the dry leaders on the committee, sat silent during the talk.

Rob Spooners in Parked Car

EUGENE, Ore., April 6. — (AP) — A young man and a girl, students at the University of Oregon, were held up by a masked man as they sat in their car on Charnelton street, parked on the hill overlooking the city, they reported to the police last night.

Only a few pennies were found on the youth when the masked holdup searched him, but the girl had a purse containing \$4.15, which the mystery man took.



PARK SALE TO ROADS APPROVED

(Continued From Page 1)

representing the Oregon Trunk railroad, have been accused in Klamath Falls of engineering a delay of the sale of the park.

"I am sorry that such a statement was made. I came here last Monday with the power to offer to purchase the entire city park. I fully expected the park sale to come up before the council. The matter was not brought up. I returned to Portland with the bid for the entire park in my pocket."

No Delay

"The Oregon Trunk at no time has been a party to delay of the sale of the South Riverside park. On the

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contrary, we are anxious that the matter be expedited and if it is possible to complete the purchase tonight, let us do so."

R. C. Groesbeck, local attorney, representing the Southern Pacific, had little to say in regard to the city park sale, except that the S. P. was willing to go ahead with the transaction.

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