

LAW FOR ABATEMENT OF COMMERCIALIZED VICE ENDORSED BY MEETING

Opera House Is Crowded To Hear Leaders In Fight For a Clean City Score Segregation As a Failure In Dealing With the Business of Prostitution and Defend Eradication As Real Solution of the Problem

Plain Terms Mark Discussion

ALLIANCE to the support of the proposed abatement by injunction law now before the legislature, men and women of Honolulu crowded the Opera House last night to hear leaders of the community discuss in plain terms the problem of commercialized vice in Honolulu and the means that must be taken to eradicate the evil.

Straight from the shoulder, without mincing of words, the speakers dealt with the business of prostitution, exposing the rotteness, the evils, the dangers of the so-called segregated district as a solution of the problem and driving home fact after fact in support of the proposed law.

The five speakers in support of the bill, selected by the vice investigation committee of the chamber of commerce under whose auspices the meeting was held, were W. F. Frear, former Governor; Dr. W. C. Hobdy, S. C. Huber, United States district attorney; Wallace E. Farrington and James A. Rath, head worker of Palama Settlement.

Judge Dole presided at the meeting and introduced the speakers. In calling the mass meeting Judge Dole said that it was to be free for discussion on both sides of the subject and invited anyone with views in opposition to the proposed law to express them. Dr. F. H. Schurmann was the only one who read a brief statement in favor of a segregated district as the solution of the commercialized vice problem.

Objections to Law Answered

Governor Frear, the first speaker, defined the issue in the question as one between segregation and eradication, and after pointing out the evils of segregation, ably answered many of the objections that are usually made to complete eradication, and especially to eradication by means of an abatement by injunction law.

Dr. Hobdy dealt with the subject of segregation as a means of dealing with commercialized vice from the medical point of view, and showed the failure of segregation as a means of controlling disease.

Mr. Huber explained the workings of the abatement law and then referred to no measured terms the statement of Doctor Schurmann that red blooded men required a restricted district. His speech was an eloquent one and punctuated by frequent applause.

Mr. Farrington spoke on the text "What Are We Going To Do About It?" and Mr. Rath quoted eloquently from statistics showing that abolition of prostitution as compared with segregation greatly bettered health conditions.

Before the close of the meeting F. J. Lowrey made a motion, which was unanimously adopted, that the mass meeting endorse the action of the business community in recommending to the legislature the passage of the abatement by injunction law now before that body. Governor Frear in opening the discussion on the proposed law, said:

"There should be no misconception of the issue involved in this problem as we discuss it and it is best at the outset that we define the issue. This is not a problem of sexual intercourse. The problem of sexual intercourse is a problem of a higher order and a larger significance, an issue relative to but distinguished from the present problem, and one that is solved rather by personal and private effort through moral and religious education than by public effort, a question for the individual to grapple with."

"This is a problem of commercialized vice, of prostitution as business. It is a practical problem, a public problem that involves the health, the order, the improvement and the fair name of our city. The two problems are closely related and often confused. But the present problem, that of commercialized vice, stands clearly before us, definitely outlined on definite issues and productive of two concrete plans offered for its solution."

Issues Unclouded "The solution does not involve a difference of opinion as between the idealist, the moralist, the religious, as some call him, on one side and the so-called practical man of affairs on the other. There is no clouding of issues in this matter. Both sides of the issue in the problem before us are men of affairs, practical men with a practical purpose in view and both agree on the fundamentals of the problem. The issue finds both sides clearly agreeing that the conditions are that must be met, what the dangers, what wrong from these conditions and what the end is that is sought. But they disagree on the method to be followed in solution of the problem."

"Tonight, in considering the abatement by injunction law now before the legislature, we are weighing the merits of the two sides of the issue on method. For it is on the method of combating the evils and the danger of commercialized vice, of prostitution as a business

commercialized vice outside the former segregated districts. They have more efficient officers of the law more efficient by providing them better means of enforcing the law and a better law to enforce and they have forced inefficient and dishonest officers of the law to live up to their sworn duty under the law by the pressure of public opinion based by an efficient law.

"They have forced the landlords to take a lively interest in their property and become familiar with the names and the businesses of their tenants and see to it that their property is not used for immoral purposes. Without the abatement laws it was easy for landlords to escape this duty and the landlords were notoriously indifferent as to who their tenants were provided they could get a high rent with no question asked."

"It is frequently said that the abatement by injunction law affords every opportunity for blackmail, but under the law as it is proposed for Hawaii, a citizen must secure the permission of the attorney-general or the city and county attorney before he can start suit and the permission of the court must be secured before suit may be dismissed by the plaintiff. And the experience of every state where such a law is in force refutes this argument."

"There are three courses open for this community in dealing with the commercialized vice problem. It may hide its head under the rock and refrain from stirring up the foul depths of the subject for fear of dirtying its hands in the destruction of the evil. It can pursue the policy of segregation, as has been pursued for many years, without advancing, retaining all the present evils without removing the real evil. Or, it may adopt the policy of eradication by the passage of the abatement by injunction law now before the legislature."

Two Methods Offered "Two distinct methods are offered as the solution of the problem of commercialized vice—eradication and regulation. Which of these is right? Twenty years ago both sides of the discussion over eradication versus regulation, could give plausible arguments, citing concrete facts, describing specific conditions and drawing therefrom conflicting conclusions.

"Today the facts and the conditions are the same; but our knowledge of the facts and of the conditions has changed and our conclusions tend all toward eradication as the solution of this problem. "For there have been countless commissions investigate this problem in the last twenty years and every one has reached the same conclusion. Every scientific, every civic, every commercial, every religious, every medical organization that has dug to the roots of this question, and the studies have been deep, thorough and impartial, have unanimously reached the same conclusion, but one answer and that answer is: "Eradication."

Methods That Fail "That segregation does not segregate; that regulation does not regulate. "The figures of every investigation of this problem show that not more than between five and fifteen per cent of the prostitutes are reached by the so-called regulation of commercialized vice. "In Honolulu we have had regulation of the business of prostitution for many years. A few years ago we gave regulation a special trial; we enforced segregation as best it could be forced; we made a fair test; and at the end of a year it was shown that only twenty-five per cent of the prostitutes had been reached and brought under the system of regulation."

"Far from controlling commercialized vice, segregation improves and builds up the business of the prostitute. It centralizes vice and advertises it. It gives to the community a false sense of security, false by the very fact that it segregates but a small percentage of the prostitutes of the city. It provides easy access to sin for the youth. It affords an open and free display of women for the curious, the indecent, the passionate or the degraded man. And it provides an ever open market and a ready demand for the pimp and procurer to vend his stock in trade of human bodies."

Promotes Disorder "In the third place segregation promotes disorder instead of maintaining order. Segregation affords an opportunity, an opportunity universally taken advantage of, for corruption of the law enforcing authorities. It brings viciousness together and affords a congregating place for the criminal class. "Segregation does not diminish but extends contamination and spreads general moral degradation throughout the entire community."

Governor Frear then related facts to show the failure of segregation in European cities and cited many nations in which it had been given up and stated that in the balance of European nations that the theory of segregation "was on its last legs."

"In recent years," he said, "eradication has come to the fore as the real solution of the problem of commercialized vice and the abatement by injunction law has come to be recognized as the most effective means of accomplishing eradication of the business of prostitution."

Shows Law's Workings He then explained briefly the working of the usual abatement law specifically mentioning the details of the law before the legislature. In explaining the advantages of the proposed law for Hawaii, he pointed out that it accomplished its end by simple procedure and characterized it as "about as mild a bill on this subject as can be found anywhere." The validity of such laws, he pointed out, had been thoroughly tested. Among the features of the law, he mentioned, were that it is essentially a civil procedure, and not a criminal action; that it need not go before a jury and was therefore not hampered by the delays of jury trial; that it provides for action against the business, and not directly against the persons engaged in the business, either prostitutes, pimps or landlords. He added that the proposed Hawaii abatement law was distinguished from most such laws in that it provided that before a citizen could institute proceedings for an injunction against an alleged house of prostitution, he must obtain the consent of the attorney-general of the city and county attorney. In citing the number of States that have adopted such laws, twenty-six and congress, the latter of the District of Columbia, Governor Frear said:

Laws Proved Effective "These laws have been effective. They have cleaned out the segregated districts and the houses of prostitution outside the former segregated districts as well. They have diminished instead of increased the amount of com-

mercialized vice outside the former segregated districts. They have made efficient officers of the law more efficient by providing them better means of enforcing the law and a better law to enforce and they have forced inefficient and dishonest officers of the law to live up to their sworn duty under the law by the pressure of public opinion based by an efficient law. "They have forced the landlords to take a lively interest in their property and become familiar with the names and the businesses of their tenants and see to it that their property is not used for immoral purposes. Without the abatement laws it was easy for landlords to escape this duty and the landlords were notoriously indifferent as to who their tenants were provided they could get a high rent with no question asked."

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There are three courses open for this community in dealing with the commercialized vice problem. It may hide its head under the rock and refrain from stirring up the foul depths of the subject for fear of dirtying its hands in the destruction of the evil. It can pursue the policy of segregation, as has been pursued for many years, without advancing, retaining all the present evils without removing the real evil. Or, it may adopt the policy of eradication by the passage of the abatement by injunction law now before the legislature."

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and let the men free to roam about the streets. Would there be any more if I should discover a family afflicted with cholera and quarantined the woman and let the men free? Would we not, to follow the same principle, have to send only women to Molokai? "Segregation that is an outrage and a failure, and medical examination that is a farce in the basis of regulation of commercialized vice. Yet that is what the opponents of the present abatement law offer as their solution of the problem of commercialized vice."

Doctor Schurmann was then introduced by Judge Dole and in opening his talk, the sole opponent of the abatement by injunction law said:

Negative Side Presented "What I have to say in the negative of this question is contained in a letter that I sent to the Star-Bulletin last Tuesday, but which was returned to me unpublished. "I have read the letter, which defended the need of a segregated district on the ground that the young men "with red blood" must be provided with a means of satisfying their natural desires. In pointing out that man was not made to live alone, he laid stress on the fact that present economic conditions were such that most young men could not afford to get married. He read statistics from a medical journal to show that the percentage of venereal diseases among uncontrolled prostitutes is fifteen times as great as amongst those in segregated districts. He also read an article from a magazine which reviewed the recent crusade against vice in San Francisco, led by the Rev. Paul Smith, which has resulted in closing up both the upper tenor of uncontrolled vice and the so-called Barbary Coast district, where vice was segregated. Mr. Huber was then introduced by Judge Dole.

Huber Explains Law United States District Attorney Huber was the next speaker. He explained the working of the Iowa Vice-Abatement Law at length, producing facts and figures based on the actual operation of the law, which stamped it indubitably as a practical success in almost every case where adopted. He said that the operation of the law in vice-ridden States and pointed out with force eloquence that, thanks to this law, States which prior to its introduction were a hissing and a by-word among the States of the nation, had solved the terrible problem which had confronted them and had today records to show pointing to greater community happiness, enhanced State and municipal affairs and a tranquillity in the mire of the hydra-headed head of vice.

Among sovereign States which have adopted the vice-abatement law or a measure based on similar lines and found it good, the speaker instanced Arizona, California, Colorado, District of Columbia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. He asked whether the Territory of Hawaii with all its enlightenment, prosperity and culture should align itself with these States or take rank with others in which vice was permitted to reign rampant and the sanity of mankind and the welfare of the State was a matter of but trifling account.

The speaker then turned his attention to the argument of a previous speaker, Dr. F. H. Schurmann, who had stated that red blooded men required a red light district, restricted or otherwise. He scored this view of the matter unmercifully.

Secrns Schurmann's Statement It had been stated, said the speaker that the high cost of living had militated against marriage. "I don't believe this for a minute," he passionately declared, "but on the other hand, I don't for one single moment believe that the high cost of living in this enlightened country will prevent any young woman from getting married and by so doing affording the young man of her choice the happiness which it is in her power to bestow, and the inestimable God-given privilege and praiseworthy ambition of becoming the head of a family. If it comes to a matter of personal sacrifice I am certain that the young women of this Territory will not be found in any whit wanting."

"The women of Honolulu are in favor of a purer city, a purer community and a purer Territory, of that I am assured," remarked the speaker. "I feel certain that no woman here wants her sister to become a habitue of the red light district and, as was the case with the ill-fated steamer 'Titanic' sent down in the Atlantic, I am positive that their slogan in the campaign at present under way will be 'Women and children first,' and that they will do all in their power, through their great influence, to make Hawaii not only the most prosperous place on God's footstool, but also the cleanest, purest and most attractive place on the world's map."

Chairman Dole at this juncture invited any person in the audience who might have something to say on the negative side of the discussion to address the meeting, but the invitation failed of response.

Wallace R. Farrington was the next speaker, and he said that what the audience had heard was all well and good, but that the question which arose and would not be downed, was "What are you going to do?" He pointed out that there had never been regulation at Iwilei and that the place had bred prostitutes and harassed pimps. The back-and-forth in the territory, he declared, had been the headquarters of Jew pimps from San Francisco. The police, he said, had refrained from meddling with the noise district because they felt assured that the city favored its existence.

He stated that, while Iwilei was closed, "Blood-touting" at Wahiawa, was today running full blast and was a blot on the scenery and the good name of the community. The pest spot, he exclaimed, was populated by the laws of manhood and womanhood. Law Only Real Remedy "The soldiers, the speaker went on, didn't want a restricted district. The proposed vice-abatement bill, he said, would effectually close these places, and experience has shown that the

only real remedy for the evil was that furnished by abatement by injunction. Farrington stated that he was assured that the community as a whole was in favor of vice abatement, but that without hard work and united effort it would be impossible to put into effect any lasting measure of reform. James A. Rath quoted a number of statistics showing that the health of the British army was better under abolition of the social evil than was the case when purely remedial measures were adopted.

He also stated that he had yet to find any man wearing the uniform of the United States Army who was in any respect a worse man or citizen than anyone wearing civilian clothes. F. J. Lowrey, in conclusion, proposed the following resolution, which was carried unanimously: "That this mass meeting endorse the action of the business community of Honolulu in recommending to the legislature, at this time assembled, the passage of the abatement by injunction bill at present before it."

The dullist following week in March has at least five arriving mail vessels, but the calendar has to be searched far ahead for a week in which there is only one. There will be a number of irregular vessels arriving, in all likelihood, including the tank steamers Atina and Lyman Stewart which are due this week. The schooner Helene is, about due as are three or four vessels from the canal for coal.

BEST MEDICINE MADE. A better medicine can not be made than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It relieves the lungs, opens the secretions, aids expectoration and assists nature in restoring the system to a healthy condition. Besides, it contains no opiates and is perfectly safe to take. For a list of all dealers, see Smith & Co., agents for Hawaii.

Honolulu Wholesale Produce Market Quotations

ISSUED BY THE TERRITORIAL MARKETING DIVISION March 2, 1917.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Island butter, Eggs, Ducks, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Beans, string green, Beans, string wax, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Beans, Lima, Beans, Maui red, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item and Price. Includes Beans, Maui white, Beans, dry, etc.

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THREW TIES OVER TO RIGHT VESSEL

Captain Peter Johnson's Old Command Arrives In Port In New Guise

Coming up with such a list to port that she was at first reported to harbor officials as being in distress, the schooner Harvester yesterday arrived under command of Captain Rhodes. She has a cargo of redwood ties from San Francisco for the Oahu Railway, which she will discharge at Pier 18.

The Harvester is the last word in resuscitated ships and a prime example of what will be sent to sea in these booming days of top tariffs. Captain Rhodes' experiences with her from the Coast do not seem to have been pleasant, and at one time he had to throw overboard between 400 and 450 ties to get the schooner righted.

On rounding Koko Head yesterday morning with as much sail set as he had dared carry the entire voyage down, the schooner was so close to being on her beam's end that her condition was hurriedly reported to the harbor. Captain Rhodes shortly afterwards took in most of the sail and managed to get the boat partially upright, but the list to port is still pronounced, even at the wharf.

The vessel's deck load had to be partially shifted several times, stated Captain Rhodes yesterday. The vessel had great difficulty in righting herself at the best of times and after a severe blow she would lay over on her side and stay there until the weight was thrown to the opposite side. After that, if the wind veered to the opposite quarter, the schooner repeated the performance to the opposite side.

The Harvester has had an interesting history which, under ordinary circumstances, would have been ended some time previously. She was formerly one of the early fleet of Captain Matson, and incidentally at that time the first command of Capt. Peter Johnson, senior captain in the Matson Navigation Company's boats. The Harvester was then a bark.

She was eventually sold, and passed through numerous hands until she was finally taken by the Northwestern Fisheries and converted into a large, doing duty as such in Alaska for some time. Then she was sold to a new lumbering concern at Port Angeles that started operations about three years ago and since "busted." Charles Nelson, of San Francisco, who happened to be largely interested in the Port Angeles prospect, fell heir to the remaining, which happened to include the Harvester.

It was on his initiative that the Harvester was re-rigged, this time as a bald-headed schooner. She is now making her first trip as such, and is expected to pay for her alteration in several voyages. Captain Rhodes is making his first voyage here as master, having previously been here as mate of the Repeat and on other vessels.

MURDER MYSTERY IN KOHALA CLEARED UP

Death Not a Crime Although One Man Is a Fugitive

(Mail Special to The Advertiser) H.I.O. February 28—For nearly a week there has been a mystery over in Kohala which the police believed for a time would lead to sensational charges of murder, but this mystery has now cleared up and on Monday afternoon Sheriff Sam Pun received word from the deputy sheriff at Kohala which convinces him that, although one man is dead and another is a fugitive from justice, the dead man came to his death through his own foolishness.

According to the story which the police have gathered from the two Porto Ricans who are now in jail, there were four of them originally who, on Monday of last week, went to the beach to dynamite fish. They shot off a charge which killed a number of fish and all of them went into the sea to gather up the game.

The sea was unusually rough and just after they had got into the water a large wave came along and one of their number was washed away and drowned. The remaining three men became panic stricken and ran away. On the Wednesday following, some Hawaiian boys found the clothes of the drowned man on the beach and notified the police.

Following an investigation two Porto Ricans were arrested and locked up on suspicion, but the third man has disappeared. The body of the man who was drowned has not been found and it is supposed that he was eaten by the sharks, which are large and ferocious along that coast. The two prisoners are now being held on charges of dynamiting fish, for which the penalty is from \$25 to \$50 fine.

HAWAII APPOINTMENTS AWAIT SPECIAL SESSION

Special By Marconi Wireless To WASHINGTON, March 4—The senate adjourned today without confirming the appointments of Colonel Fawkes, as secretary of the Territory; Mr. MeAdam as postmaster, or Judges Kemp and Heen. It is likely that all of the nominations will be made again to the senate in extra session this week, and probably will be confirmed soon.

WALKER.