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The Vice Problem.

Three official agencies and one voluntary committee are now engaged in serious study of the conditions under which the industries of gambling, prostitution and the illegal sale of liquor are carried on in New York.

The interdependence of these three illegal trades is now universally recognized. Not all the patrons or dependents of each patronize or depend on the others, but the three flourish together because they are supported by the same weaknesses of human nature.

The difficulties to be encountered by the inquirers are obvious. Of the officials involved the District Attorney and the Commissioner of Excise have the easier tasks.

The citizens' committee may perform a most useful function, or it may prove to be an unmitigated nuisance and a positive hindrance to any improvement in conditions.

In the opinion of some students it would be worse than useless to enact more or severer laws than are now on the statute books directed against gambling, prostitution and the sale of liquor in unlicensed places and hours.

As for the terrifying predictions that have been made with regard to the effect of a parcels post on country and suburban merchants, let us await their non-fulfillment with complete patience.

When the world was startled by the report of the window smashing episode in London THE SUN characterized it as a type of hysteria and ventured to suggest a new medical term, Pankhurst Disease.

Herein lies the problem: Has the Legislature enacted laws that promote blackmail and corruption to a degree more injurious than that in which they conserve public morals?

of perfect virtue. We scarcely expect that. But the citizens' committee if it can point the way to a step in advance will have performed a service entitling it to the thanks of a puzzled and sorely troubled town.

Whither Are We Drifting? By its vote yesterday permitting postal employees to unionize, the Senate advanced to a position which is ludicrous. It openly encouraged Government employees to set up an organization which has for its avowed object antagonism to the Government.

How Our Honorable Congress Promotes Commerce. At the time of the passage, on June 29, 1902, of the Spooner act, under which the Panama Canal was built, the nation had generous and as it seemed justifiable hopes of the expansion of American commerce, of wider and new markets for American manufactures.

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Of the advantages arising to the United States from the work thus undertaken, what glowing pictures were painted. Our boards of trade and transportation, our commercial and mercantile associations of many names, looked forward to new and richer prosperities when this giant enterprise should be completed.

The building and the builders of it have been watched with national pride. Their skill in construction, their mastery of details, their patience under setbacks, the physical beneficence of their sister work of sanitation, all have shared in the good wishes of the American people and have enriched the national consciousness with a fruitful and salutary sense of well used power.

At the end of a little more than eleven years, the end of the work in sight, will the nation that builds it make it a monument of shame, a stone of falsehood, the record of a broken treaty?

There are politicians, it seems, who gag at no disgrace; those Washington Solomon bankers for it as an antepast and shoehorn to their doddypate delight in attacking the railroads, which they imagine to be isolated monsters and not vital part and parcel of the well being of the whole country.

Such canal shall be of sufficient capacity and depth as shall afford convenient passage for vessels of the largest tonnage and greatest draft now in use and such as may be reasonably anticipated.

Unless owned by the railroads, the great transcontinental systems most nesting and best provided with or most able to provide the vessels of the largest tonnage and greatest draft must stop at the water's edge, water and land communication must not be continuous.

Still in the flush of the Panama Canal excitement, Congress passed in February, 1907, the bill creating the Department of Commerce and Labor. New vistas of business at home and through the world were dazzling the country.

Foster, promote and develop the foreign and domestic commerce, the mining, manufacturing, shipping and fishery industries, the labor interests, and the transportation facilities of the United States.

For "foster, promote and develop" substitute "hamper, retard and injure," and we have a competent description of the methods and objects of the present Congress.

It is unlikely that Senator BORNE's scheme for a parcels post, now included in the post office bill, should it become law, will prove entirely satisfactory in operation.

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turbulent hysterical women by means of that well tried remedy the cold douche delivered skillfully upon the obdurate creatures. Recent events appear to justify our diagnosis. Self-inflicted cruelty is one of the manifestations of the severe type of hysteria; the determination to starve in prison illustrates this phenomenon in some of these women.

Even when this often estimable planet drips with mugginess and the souls of the good are sore, to hear the command of a friend is to obey.

The Progressives or Rooseveltians have progressed beyond the Constitution. They want to nullify the Constitution by a popular referendum of court decisions on matters of "social justice."

It is gratifying to note the alacrity with which the free love affiliation of some suffrage women was repudiated in THE SUN by one of the most enthusiastic and intelligent advocates of woman suffrage.

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British Cabinet members who are leaving London under guard to escape the assault of the suffragettes may well read the reports of the Bull Moose convention with envy and regret.

Woman kills twenty-eight snakes. Rochelle despatch in yesterday's SUN. Thus late but ruthlessly is the beguiling of Mother Eve avenged.

Reducing the American soldier to the condition of the Turkish is hardly an inspiring example of the profound wisdom of Congress.

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It seems a substitution of an indirect and artificial route for a shorter, easier and more natural waterway. But the international aspect will be the subject of comment and anxiety in London and Paris quite as much as it is in The Hague.

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THE EPICURE'S LAMENT.

Is the Art of Civilized Eating in Its Decline and Fall? To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: "If there is anything sadder than unrecognized genius," says Honoré de Balzac, "it is the misunderstood stomach. The heart whose love is rejected—this much abused drama—upon a delirious want. But the stomach, nothing is so sad as the complaint of its sufferings, for we must have life before everything."

And Charles Monsielet goes further and to the point in saying: "The man who pays no attention to the food that he consumes is the contractor of his own ruin, a pair of old braces, a newspaper and a set of dominoes are equally welcome."

Where are the epicures of yesterday? I am invited to dine out and the man who pays me this compliment has nothing more original to offer than a planked steak.

Longs for a Steak. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In behalf of two hundred wretched people I implore your aid. We are located here for the summer. Our proprietor has gone to the Bull Moose convention in Chicago as a delegate from New Jersey to nominate Mr. Roosevelt.

Garlanding the Grand Young Man. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Speaking of the party ambrosia, the bull moose is a trifling suggestive of coarseness, not to say brutality. Why not Beverage rampant encircled with a wreath of peach blossoms?

Beef and Breakfast Poogs. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Only a month ago I was a guest at the home of a well known hostess in England. My hostess, knowing how I had fared in some of the heathen lands on my travels, set before me a beautiful portehouse well garnished with fresh mushrooms.

Genius Langquishes Unappreciated. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Your correspondent H. G. Hornor deplores the lack of ability in American writers and composers. They lack, he says, the untiring energy of such men as Dumas, Danté, Cervantes, etc.

Richardson's Chop House. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have read with great interest your correspondent's reminiscences of the old downtown chop houses. None of them, however, has mentioned Richardson's, that old time chop house in the basement in lower Nassau street and William street.

The Pronunciation of "Giadlious." To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have read the letter by "His pronunciation of the word is correct, the lady is mistaken. I think some people carry their pronunciation of the 'i' too far. Giadlious is a Latin name and should be pronounced in the Latin way."

The Pipe of Jonathan. Washington correspondent once Boston Advertiser. Senator Bourne of Oregon has introduced the bill for the purchase of bonds. These are bonds for chambers to which Senators have recourse when they want to talk more with other Senators than the presiding officer will permit on the floor and to which they can go when they want to smoke, usually a cigar or cigarette.

Wily Egypt. Cleopatra dissolved the pearl. Knickerbocker would make it more valuable. This we see she read the trust prosecutions.

A Saw Adaped. Knickerbocker has come out for woman suffrage. Mrs. Knicker's best to look a gift mouse in the mouth.

THE CAMPAIGN.

Opinions About the Politics and Politicians of the Hour. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: He claims to be or that his friends claim him to be the greatest, best and ablest man that ever lived (and that is as much as his supporters can fairly ask), it is evident that he cannot live forever. While it might be desirable to turn the Government over to Mr. Roosevelt on account of his unparalleled fitness, the difficulty is that in the nature of things he could only rule for so long a time, after which would come the deluge.

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HEALTH BOARD ADMITS BROOKLYN HAS TYPHOID

Authorities, However, Deny That Disease is Prevalent in Manhattan. Dr. Bense! Does Not Think Outbreak is Caused by Water or Milk.

That there is a typhoid epidemic on in Brooklyn was admitted yesterday at the Board of Health, although all rumors with regard to Manhattan were pronounced unfounded.

"There are actually fewer cases in Manhattan this year than last," said Mr. Lakeman, Dr. Lederer's secretary.

"Figures for cases since August 1 show 279 for 1912, as against 304 for 1911. Rumors of an epidemic in Wall street, due to the use of bottled spring water, are unfounded as far as our investigations show. In the first place the fact that a water is sold on the market is prima facie evidence of its purity, since the Department of Health holds itself responsible through its laboratory tests for all such waters and would prohibit the sale of any not meeting requirements to all the tests."

"The department has so far taken notice of the reports, however, as to make a special investigation. It finds that out of a number of Wall street banks and institutions accounting in all for 3,000 employees, there were five persons actually sick from typhoid. Three or more may have recently recovered, but of these the three had been in Croton in question. Two of the five were commuters."

"The water itself, moreover, which has been the subject of criticism on account for those rumors, is now being specially analyzed by the department, and the results when completed will gladly be given out. All waters are examined as a routine matter. There have not been any examinations of the water in question since August 1, 1912. The records for Brooklyn on the other hand, show since August 1 126 cases, as against sixty-nine last year. Of these sixty-nine persons live in the Eighth and Thirtieth wards, where the outbreak began two weeks ago. From Queens comes the record of seventy-four cases for the same period. Of this number Woodhaven and Jamaica have the greater part."

Comparisons between the figures for this year and other years in Brooklyn show that typhoid in the last two weeks has been far more prevalent than for a number of years past. In June there were sixty-one cases in the borough, in July 103 cases. In the week ended August 3 there were thirty-eight cases in Brooklyn, as compared with an average for the same week of twenty-one.

Dr. Walter Bense!, sanitary superintendent of the Board of Health, said yesterday that despite the large number of cases the epidemic in Brooklyn is pretty well spent itself. He thought the outbreak in Brooklyn was local.

"In Brooklyn the epidemic in the Eighth and Thirtieth wards might be due to one of three causes: water, milk or flies. The water appears to me to be good and I think can be dismissed from consideration. The milk is still being investigated, but I do not think the impression is created that it is at all faulty. If it is our report will not hesitate to say so, but at present they are quite complete."

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