

THE PUBLIC FORUM

BRANDEIS AND NATIONALISM.

—Will Mr. Cochran please answer this question: Did nationalism have anything to do with the interference before Louis D. Brandeis because a supreme court judge?—H. S.

Cochran's Answer. — I think the fact that Brandeis is a Jew had something to do with the fight to prevent his confirmation by the U. S. senate, although it was not the big factor. If Brandeis had been a money-mad, reactionary, commercialized Jew, Big Business would not have opposed his confirmation. As he happened to be a progressive, liberal and humane Jew, however, Special Privilege feared his mental bias in favor of justice rather than his ancestry—and used the fact that he was a Jew only where they thought that argument would make votes against him. Race prejudice operates against the Jew more socially than commercially. He is barred from membership in most clubs, but he is not barred from banks, markets and business. He is not barred from the advertising columns of newspapers, though he can't break into the inner circle of high society. He isn't barred from politics in cities where there is a big Jewish vote. And the Jewish vote in this country is so big now that politicians in the United States senate don't dare oppose the confirmation of a Jew like Brandeis on the sole ground that he is a Jew. — N. D. Cochran.

VICE.—Am interested in your articles for and against this so-called vice. Especially The Public Forum. Will you please publish the following in the above-mentioned columns:

Mr. P. Hansen certainly is not afraid to express his opinion openly on this so-called segregation of vice, and he hit the nail on the head when he said the vast majority are driven to it through poverty, wishing to

have luxuries, good clothes, etc., or from dire want of food to keep body and soul together. I will go still farther.

I cannot speak from experience, but from honest observation and study I have found, and it is my opinion that as long as you (Mr. Business Man) offer girls rags and poverty for honest labor and luxury for the sale of their virtue, you will not do away with prostitution.—Hal R. Makelim.

THE LOOP CONGESTION.—Mr. Miller's suggestion as to enlarging the loop is a good one. It will tend to widen the business district, so that fewer people will be obliged to go to the congested center.

But, in the meantime, the population of the city will be increasing, and, present conditions continuing, the spacial limit of the loop district near the river will continue overcrowded. Present facilities carry more people there than earth space can accommodate. Skyscrapers add to the accommodations overhead. Adding facilities subterranean or celestial still leaves congestion on the surface.

Instead of building more skyscrapers and more facilities to get to the center, we should limit the height of buildings and guide the transportation facilities so that business will be forced to spread over the territory outside the loop.

Landowners in the loop will object, of course, but land owners in other places will welcome the change. We would take rent from the loop owners and put it in the pockets of land owners in other locations. One set would swear at us and the other praise. But how about the great mass of the wage earners? They would not be any better off. Population constantly increasing in the city would increase rent (the price of using the land) and decrease wages (the price paid to labor that uses land).