

GAMBLING AND GAMBLERS

Scarcely had the grand jury closed its eyes in final sleep before the city authorities showed their utter disregard for the observance of both the laws of the state and city by immediately giving of their permission to the hell holes of the city to throw open their doors for business. For three long months, while the grand jury was in session, the chief of the police saw to it that not a "chip" nor a wheel was turned. His face took on a sanctimonious look and it was double its usual length, so repentant had he become under grand jury chastisement; but no sooner had that body adjourned to meet no more than his face became wreathed in smiles and the vicious classes of the city needed not a word from Chief Sullivan and his superior officers to announce to them that they would again be protected by the guardians (?) of the law while they plied their damnable devices to rob and hold up those men and women who dared walk the streets either by day or night.

Prior to the sitting of the grand jury highway robbery, sure thing robbery and even murder were of a nightly occurrence, all of which suddenly ceased, and continued in that state, so long as it met each day, but the final adjournment of that body was the signal for the immediate resurrection of the thugs and murderers, and they celebrated the event by the killing of three human beings in a saloon broil the very next night. When such characters are assured of police protection, why wouldn't they pay and pay big for it. What care they for a few hundred dollars monthly to give over to their benefactors when they can secure twice the amount that they give up in one night's operation? Why wouldn't men who give ample official protection to the vicious grow wealthy in one let-alone two years? What a condition? The final report of the grand jury telling of the vice common to Seattle was blood curdling in the extreme, and it hardly seems possible that such a state of affairs could be practiced in a civilized Christian community. Certainly that superior civilization of which so much has been said and written about must, like the deceptive mirage of the desert, be still ahead, and this is but a delusion and a snare. Were the officers of the law in any community ever more determined to surrender their city to criminals than those of Seattle? Being indicted for high crimes and misdemeanors seems but an incentive to spur them on to still greater crimes in the same line. The indicted openly declare they will never be even tried, let alone convicted, and they treat the whole affair as a huge joke.

The act passed by the late legislature making gambling in certain forms a felony is being discussed so generally at present that it might not be out of place to quote the statute bearing on the subject in full, and for the benefit of those of our readers who are effected by this gambling act the

same is given space. "Any person who shall conduct, carry on, open, or cause to be opened, either as owner, proprietor, employe, or assistant, or in any manner whatever, whether for hire or not, any game of faro, monte, roulette, rouge et noir, lansquenette, rondo, vigt-un (or 21), poker, draw-poker, brag, bluff, thaw, tan, or any banking or other game played with cards, dice, or any other gambling device, whether the same be credits, or any other representative played or operated for money, checks, or thing of value, in any house, room, shop, or other building whatsoever, boat, booth, garden, or other place, where persons resort for the purpose of playing, dealing, or operating any such game, machine, or device, shall be guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in the penitentiary, for the period of not less than one nor more than three years.

In discussing the gambling situation in this state the following version of it from a gambler is taken from a Spokane paper:

"Well, what are you going to do about it?" queried the Spectator. "I'll tell you what we are going to do about it," said he, with solemn emphasis; "we are going to take that \$8,000, or what is left of it, and go into the courts for a fight. We hope to be able to stave off the order to close up for at least a year by appeals and supersedeas. If we get beat then, it

will only be a year until the legislature convenes again, when we will go in with our forces organized for a repeal of the existing law. The sentiment against gambling will have about worn itself out and there will not be the hue and cry against it that there is now."

"In case the gambling houses are compelled to close up Spokane will suffer from the blighting effects of the shut-down much more than is now anticipated," remarked a well known official to the Spectator. "This talk about the pay rolls of the gambling establishments is only a drop in the bucket. It is said that the gamblers distribute from \$250,000 to \$500,000 throughout the city every year. This is perhaps true, but that does not include the money that is brought here by the mining men who come to Spokane for no other reason than that they can gamble. The money that they bring is left in Spokane in lodging and boarding houses, in restaurants, clothing stores and laundries. They come here and spend the winter because they can find some amusement. They leave at least a million of dollars here every winter. We will not get this now. Where will it go?" It is currently reported the gamblers were thrown down by the legislative lobbyists and certain members of the legislature. One of their spokesmen from Seattle, it is claimed, appeared on the scene with \$15,000 to distribute among the faithful to

prevent the passage of the bill, whereupon he was gently informed that \$15,000 would not buy a white chip in the game that was then being played, and if his backers could not open up with \$50,000 they could not even get a hand in the game. The gamblers, so goes the story, declared they would not be help up for any such amount of money, and so far as they were concerned the bill might be passed, and it was. This story can hardly be believed, especially as to the amount, for \$50,000 would be but a mere bagatelle for the gamblers of this state to raise in order to continue open gambling. If reports be true, and they can hardly be doubted, \$50,000 could be fleeced from the cattle, who frequent such places of vice, in one night, that is if a united effort of all the gamblers in the state would have been made, and, if it be true, that the gamblers refused to dig up \$50,000 because, forsooth, they thought they were being held up, there's where they showed themselves to be damn-fools. But the bill run the gauntlet of both houses, was signed by the governor and in ninety days from the time of his signing it the law will become operative, but their only show to continue the vice, if the gambler's in the Spectator ideas prevail, is to use the amount collected, and even other moneys, if need be, to corrupt the courts if possible, and if not to corrupt the courts to dilly dally with the law until the next legislature meets, with the hope of repealing the law.

PERSONAL

Dr. H. S. Bell, of Cincinnati, Ohio, is in the city and the guest of Mr. and Mrs. William Taylor.

Mrs. W. J. Gudger, who has been sick at the Providence hospital for the past two months or more, died last Monday and was buried Wednesday.

Mr. Oliver Anderson, after spending a few days in the city with his daughter, Mrs. Will Taylor, returned to Newcastle last Wednesday.

Rev. J. Gordon McPherson will preach his first annual sermon next Sunday evening at the Mt. Zion Baptist church. At 11 o'clock the annual covenant meeting will be held. All are invited.

Rev. Francis J. Davidson, of Tacoma, will preach at the Mt. Zion Baptist Church next Sunday afternoon. Dr. Davidson is recently from New Orleans, where he was a prominent member of the Baptist connection of that state.

Rev. Freeman, of the A. M. E. Church, organized last Friday evening The Twentieth Century Building Club. His aim is a good one, which is to be given the collection of a fund with which to build a new church. He hopes to obtain one hundred members, and each member raise \$12.00 per year.

There is no reason why such a man as Rev. Freeman has so far proven himself to be should not meet with grand success. This is a worthy attempt to erect a living monument on the only public property owned by the Afro-Americans of Seattle, and it is hoped that these young men will show their appreciation of his efforts to add to this district the older settlers of Seattle have given them and their race.

The friends of Mr. Eugene H. Butler and Miss Sammalla Cecil are extending congratulations on their having been made one last Wednesday evening. The young folk are well and favorably known in this city, where Mr. Butler has resided for a number of years. The young miss had only turned her fifteenth summer and could not marry without the consent of her parents, but the mother gave her consent to the match and the license was therefore issued and the ceremony performed.

A number of the young ladies of Seattle have organized a Charity Club, with Miss Alma Clark president, and Miss Maggie O'Brien, secretary. Such an organization should receive much encouragement from the general public, as there is no kind of a public

institution more praiseworthy than "sweet charity."

The beautiful spring, with its sprinklings of rain, its warm and glowing sunshine, its bright skies and its green fields of beautiful and fragrant flowers, cannot contribute to the pleasure and enjoyment of the sick and needy as truly can "sweet charity," and it is hoped that the efforts of the young ladies to do good will meet with flattering success.

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