

TELL OF DISEASE SPOTS IN SLUMS OF CAPITAL

Vivid pictures of the wretched, disease-breeding, and utterly indefensible conditions prevailing in the inhabited alleys of Washington were drawn today before a subcommittee of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, of which Senator John Walter Smith is chairman.

Strong pleas for legislation to remedy the situation with respect to these slum alleys, which were characterized as breeding places of disease and crime, were made by District Commissioner Siddons; Dr. W. C. Woodward, Health Officer of the District; the Rev. John Van Schaick, jr., Mrs. E. E. Woods, Philip S. Henry, and Mrs. Ernest P. Bicknell.

The subcommittee, apparently, was impressed with the gravity of the problem. It is believed that from the subcommittee will come recommendations for legislation, though just what form that will take is not yet indicated. The subcommittee consists of Senators Smith of Maryland, Jones, Hollis, Pomerene, and Dillingham.

TELLS OF DISEASE SPOTS.

Commissioner Siddons was first heard and made a lengthy statement about the slum alleys. He said that his attention had first been called to the facts about ten years ago. At that time, about 25,000 persons were living in alleys, principally in the older parts of the city. They were wretchedly housed and the places were "disease spots."

Mr. Siddons enumerated several laws which had been passed which had helped conditions, one being the law for condemnation of unsanitary buildings. He recalled that as a member of the House Commission, appointed by President Roosevelt, he had looked into alley conditions there. He declared that in some of the houses people were found "packed like sardines."

"We want to end the living of human beings in the alleys and courts," said Commissioner Siddons. He pointed out that the police census showed that about 11,000 persons are now living in the alleys and courts of Washington. This is a reduction of 14,000 from what the alley population was at high tide. There are 88 alleys or courts which are inhabited. In some cases only three or four persons live in an alley. Among other things, he brought out that President Wilson and Mrs. Wilson were deeply interested in remedying the alley situation here.

"It is a matter of public knowledge that the President is interested in this matter, and I think it is my duty to confidentially inform you," said the Commissioner.

Is Not Committed.

Questioned by members of the subcommittee, he said the President is not committed to any particular bill.

Commissioner Siddons discussed the profits made by some of the owners of property in the alleys, and said they netted in some cases 12 to 15 per cent. Commissioner Siddons outlined the bill which the Commissioner had agreed on. It would give the Commissioners authority in a period of ten years to get rid of every alley, court or building which is not fit for habitation. It would also give the Commissioners authority to convert many of the alleys into minor streets, subdivide property involved with the existing scheme of habitation and courts into lots.

An interesting phase of the statement of Mr. Siddons related to building of houses. "Speaking for myself personally, and not for the Commission as a whole, I favor the building by the Government of military houses," he said.

This led to interjection of remarks by

Senator Smith, who thought it too broad in a scheme for the Government to engage in.

Commissioner Siddons admitted it was broad, but reminded the subcommittee that much had already been done in this line in Berlin and various European cities.

Might End Evil.

Senator Jones, who has a bill of this kind, asked if a measure was passed to prohibit residence in alleys after a certain date, if the crime and disease and the other evils were not to end.

Mr. Siddons admitted it might do so. Senator Jones thought property owners had no right to seek to have buildings in alleys inhabited.

"Local public opinion is strongly in favor of this reform," said Commissioner Siddons.

Senator Jones thought the bill of the Commissioners too lenient to the property owners who owned the inhabited houses and shacks in the alleys.

"Instinctively we rebel against living under these conditions," said the Commissioner. "Wherever we find them, this crime and disease and a heavy mortality."

"These evils" questioned Senator Jones are evils that affect the state and should be taken account of in considering the cost of living."

Higher standards of living among the people themselves had been caused by going out of these alleys, the Commissioner said. Gradual degeneration was caused by life under alley conditions.

"It was never intended the alleys should be a place of residence," said the Commissioner. "It really began as one of the results of the war. A great influx of refugees occurred at that time, and many of them settled in alleys."

Decrease Was Gradual.

Health Officer Woodward discussed many phases of the alley problem. He brought out the fact that the diminution of alley population had been very gradual. He indicated it had been more gradual than the figures of Commissioner Siddons would indicate.

In 1872 or 1873 it was 25,000, and it had taken all these years to reduce it to 11,000. He said the figures were approaching "zero point," he said. "It is going to be more and more difficult."

He emphasized the higher death rate in the alleys, caused from diseases such as tuberculosis, whooping cough, and diseases of infancy.

He pointed out the death rate from tuberculosis among colored persons outside of the alleys was 48 per 100,000, and in the alleys 69 per 100,000. He said the Government should build of sanitary homes, and told what was being done abroad.

Mr. Henry advocated the same idea.

FOURTEENTH WHITE HOUSE WEDDING



Excuse Me! Five Minutes to Tie the Knot.

HARRISON CAUGHT NEAR ROSSLYN, VA.

(Continued from First Page.) The detective placed the prisoner in an automobile and drove away as Rosslyn, where he entered a protest against being taken out of the State and into the District until the necessary legal formalities had been complied with.

Advised to Come Peaceably.

Deputy Sheriff Johnson also the Alexandria county jailer, and informed Harrison that he could take his choice between going back to Washington or being put in a cell at the county jail. Harrison then communicated over the telephone with his attorney, Raymond B. Locke, who advised him that he had not been arrested.

Was Long Journey.

Harrison was not disposed to talk when first brought back this morning. Smilingly, he told how he had slipped through the fingers of the police of Pittsburgh, and how he "bluffed" the St. Louis police into releasing him after he had placed him under arrest. He had not heard of his mother's death until several weeks after it occurred, he said, and intimated it was because he wanted to see his wife that he had come back to the outskirts of the District.

Miss Malone Financier.

Miss Malone is about fifty years old. She was well versed in financial and brokerage matters, and at one time was director of a local bank. She is said to be the only woman who ever held such a position in Washington. For years she had been employed in banks and stock brokerage offices.

From the fact she was never any intimation that the couple had gone away together. Detectives working on the case, as well as members of the brokerage firm, were convinced that the two employees had simply become involved by means of poor investments, and that the money they had used to buy a house was lost in the hope of recuperating their losses. The detectives say they are convinced that Harrison is telling the truth about having no knowledge of Miss Malone's whereabouts.

Photographed and Measured.

As soon as Harrison had communicated with his attorney over the telephone from Rosslyn, he was taken to the first precinct station, where he was locked up until 9 o'clock, when he was brought to headquarters, photographed and measured, and then turned over to the United States marshal's office. At headquarters the prisoner declined to make any statement or answer any questions. To a reporter for The Times, he said: "Under the circumstances I have decided that the best and only thing to do is to keep my mouth shut."

Harrison Caught.

where he purchased a motion picture theater. He had only been running the theater a few days when a detective recognized him from the pictures in a heavy mortality.

The detective placed him under arrest and took him to the station house, and grilling him for several hours. Harrison put up such a convincing story that he was not the man wanted in Washington that the police were convinced it was a case of mistaken identity. He was released.

Did Not Return to Theater.

Fearing an investigation might be made of the stories he had told regarding himself and that he might be re-arrested, Harrison said he did not even return to the motion picture theater which he had just purchased, but took a car for East St. Louis, and the next day started further West. Except to tell of having been in Pittsburgh and St. Louis, and deny that he was in Mexico about six weeks ago, where the police thought at the time they had him located, Harrison declined to make any further statement regarding his movements.

No Trace Found of Missing Consul.

Officials Here Deeply Worried Over Possible Fate of John R. Silliman.

Though the State Department has exhausted every source of possible information no word has been received as to the safety or whereabouts of Consul John R. Silliman, of Santiago, Chile, who disappeared on his way to Vera Cruz, Mexico, on May 4, 1914.

COLUMBIAN LOST BY FIRE IN RAG CARGO

Franconian Lands Thirteen Survivors of Burned Leyland Liner—Seventeen Missing.

BOSTON, May 7.—The Cunard liner Franconia, bearing thirteen survivors and the body of Chief Steward Matthews, of the ill-fated Leyland liner Columbian, burned at sea off Cape Cod, was spotted at the Cunard pier, in East Boston.

Most of those rescued were in a serious condition from burns and exposure, and have been under the care of the Franconia's hospital staff since being picked up.

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Similar efforts have been made from Vera Cruz by Consul Canada and by communication with other consuls, but without result. So far as is known the missing consul cannot be found in any of the refugee groups.

Consul Gaston Schmutz, one of the Americans arrested at Agua Calientes, and imprisoned in a smelter a few days ago after Vera Cruz was taken, is on his way to Washington to report and confer with all the refugees in southern Mexico.

Consul Phillips reports today that the 185 refugees who sailed from Guaymas have arrived safely at San Diego, Cal.

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DENOUNCES WILSON'S STAND FOR REPEAL

Senator O'Gorman Says Positively Will Condemn President's Judgment on Issue.

"I shall never furl the standard of the United States and lay it at the feet of a foreign power," declared Senator O'Gorman of New York, chairman of the Senate Inter-oceanic Canals Committee, in a speech this afternoon, attacking the tolls exemption repeal bill.

"The President is discharging his duty as he sees it. He has his duties under the Constitution to perform, and I have mine. No one impugns his honor or patriotism. I simply challenge his judgment. It cannot be vindicated, and posterity will condemn it."

"The American people, not the British government, restored the Democratic party to power," he declared. "But it will be by the favor and confidence of the American people, and not by the stroke of a pen."

"If we prove recalcitrant to our trust the American people will render a verdict whose lesson will be a warning to the people of the public men of the future. A party platform should be regarded as a confession of faith by the party and should be held sacred and inviolate."

Cannot Be Excused. "How can we hope to retain the confidence of the American people when we have no respect for our party pledges? To whom should we expect the people to attribute this duplicity on the part of a great political party? It is no defense to say that delicate foreign relations justify a repeal of the tolls. There can be no condition in our foreign affairs that can excuse the abandonment of vital national rights."

He hoped to establish that the exemption of our coastwise vessels constitutes a wise economic policy and is not affected by the repeal of the tolls. He said that if coastwise vessels fall within the terms of the treaty, the exemption of our coastwise vessels is a violation of sovereignty, while the canal contemplated by the treaty was to be built on the Isthmus of Panama, and the Hay-Pauncefote treaty is inapplicable.

Traces the History. Senator O'Gorman then traced the diplomatic history of the negotiations. He declared the Clayton-Bulwer treaty of 1850 to have been a blunder, in which the United States gave up something for nothing. He said that this treaty did not include Panama, but only Central America, of which Panama was not a part. Speaking of the inclusion of Panama in the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, he said: "This diplomatic blunder can be explained only upon the theory that our negotiators did not know that Panama was not part of Central America in 1850, although the records of the State Department would have disclosed that fact."

Pointing out that there would be, according to estimates, a deficit of \$17,000,000 annually from the operation of the canal, which had cost the United States \$40,000,000, O'Gorman asked: "What is our status? Do we own the canal, or do we only have a right to defend the canal and preserve its neutrality? Is our only reward the glory of the achievement? In the history of recorded time did any nation ever act so imprudently as we have acted according to the view of the British advocates?"

Attitude Is Shocking. The British contention is an shocking to one's senses of justice, so abhorrent to every principle of equality and morality, that it needs more to establish it than the doubtful ambiguity and highly technical interpretation which is the sole reliance of those who defend the British position.

Every ton of freight carried through the canal at \$1.20 a ton will enable the competing railroads in the United States and Canada, as well as at Telemaco, to charge at least that amount as additional freight; and on a freight car carrying 40 tons of goods, the cost of the railroads will receive 50 more than they would if the ships went through without the payment of tolls. It would be just as fair to cry railroad subsidy under these circumstances as it is to charge ship subsidy."

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Billard Reveals Finance Methods

Magnate Admits He Made Millions in Stock Transactions of New Haven Road, But Denies Any Official of Line Had an Interest in His Corporation.

"High finance" related to the affairs of the New Haven railroad were revealed today in a remarkable statement in the Interstate Commerce Commission inquiry by John L. Billard, of New Haven, Conn., president of the celebrated Billard Company, and a former director of the New Haven railroad.

Billard admitted making profits running into millions in transactions in stock of the New Haven railroad and its subsidiaries. But he denied the railroad or any official had any interest in the Billard Company. He said his stock deals, except one, and the Billard Company were strictly private enterprises.

Before he became New Haven director in 1910, Billard said he bought 100,000 shares of Boston and Maine stock for \$1,750,000, at \$17.50 from the New Haven company, and sold them back at \$15 a share, netting a profit of \$2,750,000 to the Boston and Maine company, organized by the New Haven as a subsidiary.

"But in the purchase and resale of this stock," Billard said, "the negotiations between me and the railroad company were absolutely free from any secret arrangement or misrepresentation."

Took Over Gold Notes. He admitted agreeing, however, in view of his profit on June 23, 1910,