

THOUSANDS VOICE PROTEST

Citizens Unite in Earnest Petition to the Board of Supervisors Not to Curse the City by a Revival of Ingleside, Its Gambling and Attendant Crimes

THIS city was the scene yesterday of a series of demonstrations without rival or precedent in the history of San Francisco. Thousands of people of all classes and creeds, representing every phase of reputable social life, met in their sanctuaries to voice a protest against the revival of racetrack gambling and the rehabilitation of Ingleside as a field of crime and shame and death. In solemn assembly one congregation of men and women, merchants, professional men, artisans, the heads of families, the preservers of homes and of social purity, the representatives of all that is best in this city, adopted resolutions pleading with the Board of Supervisors not to inflict again upon the city the curse which once wrought such havoc.

Ingleside, so fresh in its dreadful reality to the people of San Francisco, was reviewed. The sad recital of homes wrecked, lives lost or ruined, manhood debauched and womanhood destroyed, was made to people who knew its meaning and who then pleaded with those authorities which have the power to decide whether or not the thieving gamblers of Ingleside shall be let loose again as swarming birds of prey upon the city.

In other churches pastors spoke words of warning to their people, counseling them of the menace of public gambling and of its dire effects upon all classes, old and young, rich and poor, experienced and inexperienced. Men were urged to use their utmost endeavor to persuade the Supervisors not to take the step which means so much of evil to the

people of San Francisco. Mayor Phelan was denounced for the extraordinary position which he has assumed in this matter, which may be one of public welfare or public injury.

In some churches the regular services were abandoned in order that on the eve of the day when the gamblers will ask the Supervisors to license them for a season of crime nothing should be left undone by the reputable people of the city to prevent the outrage and save themselves from the menace of an evil which once had been destroyed. The character of these widespread protests could not be mistaken. It was not the opposition of a single class, clerical, political, social or commercial, but of all united in one common cause and moved by the knowledge and dread of experience.

It was the protest of merchants who had been robbed by their employes, or parents whose homes had been de-

spoiled of their purity or upon which the stain of dishonor had been placed. It was the protest of men and women who knew what price in death, disgrace, flight, suicide or prison stripes others had paid for what Mayor Phelan is pleased to call that dissipation to which the people of San Francisco must be educated if they do not already indulge.

It seems incredible that such a protest, earnest, general, honest and representative of all that is best in San Francisco, should be ignored by the Supervisors of this city to whom it was addressed. But the gamblers are confident, and to-day, at the meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the public will know whether or not any member of that body, in the face of a universal public opinion, dare introduce an ordinance which means so much of deadly harm to the city, its reputation and its people.

NOT for many years has a church been the scene of a more denunciatory address than that delivered last night at the First Methodist Episcopal Church on Powell street by Rev. Dr. Frank K. Baker, who spoke to a large gathering on "Anti-Gambling" and the proposed legalizing of the vice at Ingleside racetrack by the Board of Supervisors.

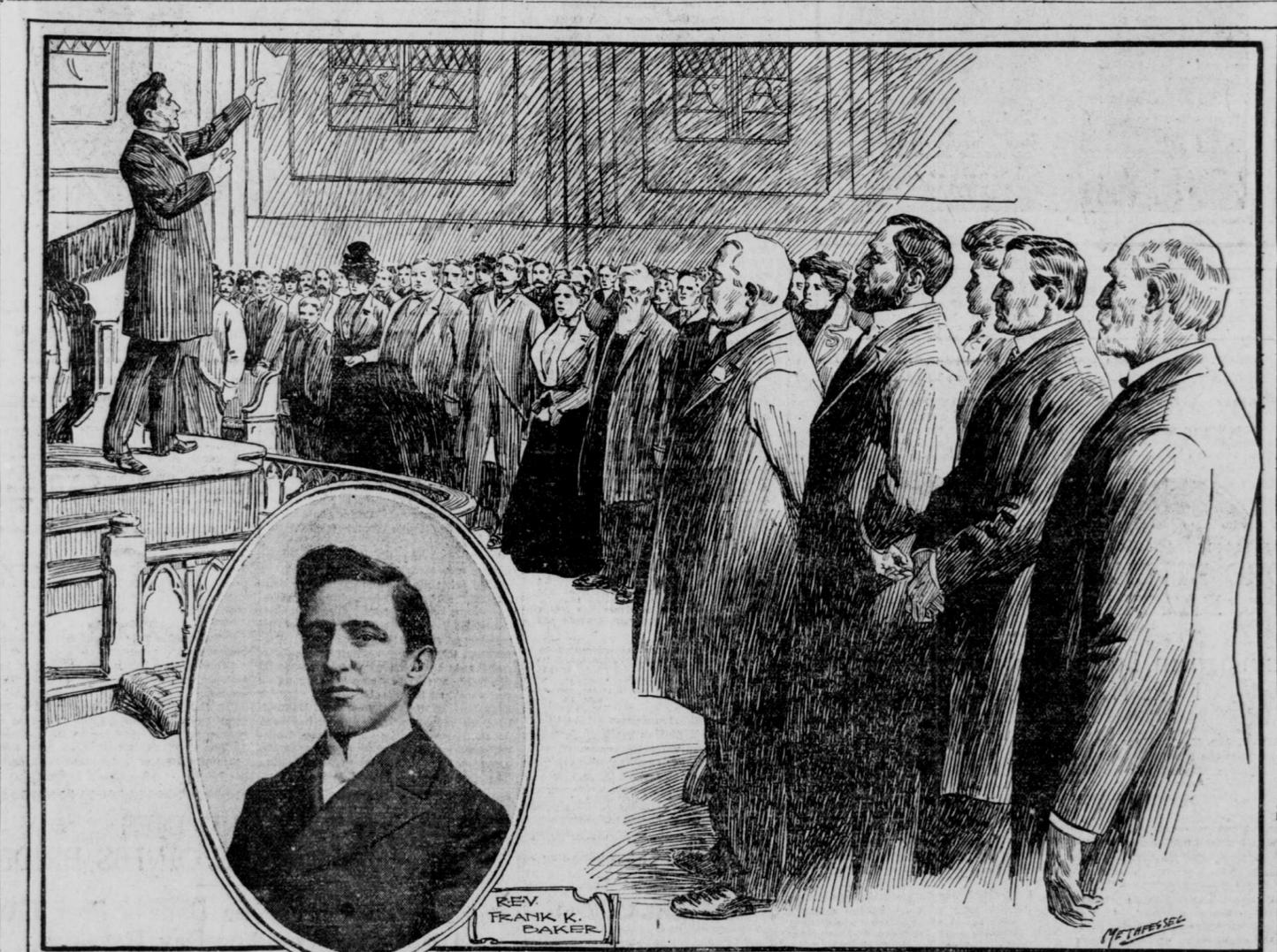
Rev. Mr. Baker not only dwelt on the terrible evils of racetrack gambling and the poolroom vice, but also spoke on the open gambling as seen in Chinatown and other portions of the city. For some days past Rev. Mr. Baker has, in company with two friends, visited the lottery rooms in Chinatown and had no difficulty in purchasing tickets. When he expressed to the business lottery dealers his fear of taking the tickets he was told that he need not be afraid, as they paid "the same as a license."

In his address on racetrack and poolroom gambling the reverend gentleman drew an appalling picture of the evil and the facts and figures he presented constituted the strongest plea that the gamblers, hangers-on and riff-raff who follow in the wake of the Ingleside races should not be legalized to carry on their carnival of crime at the hands of the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor.

Although but little time was given in announcing his address, the First Methodist Episcopal Church was well filled. Not only were the regular worshippers present, but people came from all points of the city to help by their presence to protest against the monstrous evil which the Mayor desires to consummate.

When Rev. Mr. Baker read the resolutions against the proposed action of the Supervisors and asked those in favor of the resolutions to rise in their places, the entire congregation, moved as by one impulse, stood erect. At the close of the address the pastor was heartily congratulated by hundreds who had listened to him. They shook him by the hand as they left the sanctuary and assured him that he could count on their loyal support in preventing the fame of San Francisco being smirched by an official act.

This morning Rev. Mr. Baker will present the resolutions to the meeting of the San Francisco ministers and later on the documents will be presented at the session of the Board of Supervisors.



REV. FRANK K. BAKER

A People Robbed and Spoiled.

The Rev. Mr. Baker in opening his address took his text from the twenty-second verse of the forty-second chapter of the book of Isaiah, as follows: "But this is a people robbed and spoiled. They are all of them snared in holes and they are hid in prison houses; they are for a prey and none delivereth."

In dwelling on the text the Rev. Mr. Baker spoke as follows: "The Prophet Isaiah is picturing the degradation of Israel. The spoiler and the robber were not satisfied with having invaded and spoiled the Israelites of their possessions; they continued their depredations until they took the Israelites themselves, root and branch, for a booty and for a prey. The conditions to which they were reduced are a very good illustration of the condition in which San Francisco has been and shall be if the horde of gambling spoliators and robbers shall be permitted to carry on their diabolical work under the ordinance. If it shall be passed by the Board of Supervisors, gambling is a black species of sin. In whatever way you look at it it is a highway of wreck and ruin. And those who travel this road are many. I would not attempt to give you the names of all the travelers in this way, but I know of a few, such as the politicians and the hoodlums and what is commonly termed among some as the skin, as the stool pigeons, and many others, but I am not versed enough with the terms to mention them all. The largest class who come under this monstrous, this insatiable Moloch, are those commonly known among gamblers—pardon the phrase—as suckers. It is to the ravages of this spoiler and robber of the people of this fair city that I call your attention tonight."

"We would be aroused if our lawmaking body should permit the overrunning of our city with an unlawful horde. We are all well informed that an attempt is on foot to license the gambling robber and despoiler who will wail the unsuspecting in our city and sink into our homes and wreck and ruin them and destroy all that makes home pure, destroying our fathers and husbands, our promising sons and even our daughters. There is an attempt on foot to turn loose upon the people of San Francisco the hordes of countless gamblers and racetrack hangers-on."

Throttle Iniquity to Death.

Rev. Mr. Baker then referred to the defeat of a gambling ordinance by the earnest work of the press, and, continuing, said:

"I did not know until yesterday, when I learned of it through one of our leading dailies, that an attempt was being made by the organized gamblers of the racetrack association to have passed to-morrow by the Board of Supervisors an ordinance restoring them to the privilege of running the gambling hell at Monte Carlo, and said: 'I don't know how much the gamblers here will pay for their privilege. In this case gambling is a gentle name for robbing; while it exists in different form, it may be and it is productive of the worst results. It four-

DRAMATIC PROTEST MADE LAST NIGHT BY THE PEOPLE OF THE FIRST M. E. CHURCH.

PLEAD TO THE SUPERVISORS FOR PROTECTION.

WHEREAS, We, the congregation of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of San Francisco, are reliably informed and believe that an effort is about to be made before the Board of Supervisors, supported by his Honor James D. Phelan, the Mayor of this city, to reopen the race course at Ingleside, re-establish bookmaking, poolselling and other forms of gambling; and

Whereas, This latest attempt of the gambling and criminal classes to debauch our city, renew among us their carnival of crime and disgrace, is of dangerous moment because of the semi-official sanction it has received; and

Whereas, The people of this city have suffered deeply from racetrack gambling by its wrecking of homes, its dishonoring of the youth of this city, its debauchery of trusted clerks, employes and merchants; and

Whereas, The dread record of our courts and prisons, of death and disaster, stands as a warning to protect the people of the city and guard against the encroachments of men who live by dishonest gain; therefore be it

Resolved, That we, the people of the First Methodist Episcopal Church in meeting assembled, do earnestly and unitedly petition the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco not to reopen the Ingleside racetrack by repealing the law which prohibits bookmaking and poolselling in this city; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Board of Supervisors as our deep and solemn protest against any licensing of this formidable species of vice and breeder of misfortune and crime.

things at the close of the century is the grand stand which the right arm of power, the daily papers, are taking in moral reform.

"We are here to-night to arouse you from the fearful robbery and spoliation which thousands have suffered in the past and which thousands shall suffer if the Board of Supervisors, encouraged by the Mayor, shall pass this ordinance. This terrible iniquity must be grappled with and throttled to the death. God Almighty never intended that any evil should be licensed, and a city is far from an ideal city of this century which would dare to license such an evil as racetrack gambling. The people must be awakened to the enormity of this dreadful evil."

Gambling a Name for Robbery.

The Rev. Mr. Baker, then quoted statistics showing the enormity of gambling in the world. Among other things he dwelt upon the princely sum paid for the privilege of running the gambling hell at Monte Carlo, and said: "I don't know how much the gamblers here will pay for their privilege. In this case gambling is a gentle name for robbing; while it exists in different form, it may be and it is productive of the worst results. It four-

you please, of the ruined in the San Francisco Call of last Saturday, the result of the race course gambling at Ingleside. Truly, then, gambling is a breeder of crime. A daily paper recently contained an editorial giving an account of the sentencing to the State's prison of a number of State officials in various parts of the country, all of whom owed their downfall to the race track. Race track gambling and poolroom gambling are the most heartless things a man can do, and to sanction them is a criminal thing. A gambler has no heart; he would play at his brother's funeral or gamble on his mother's coffin.

"I want to say to you something that you know, but I want to refresh your mind in regard to it: Gambling is in politics. It won't stop short of the highest men in office. The barroom and poolroom men are wide awake. They exert a great power over courts and juries and legislators, and over municipal governments and their officers. The pool men some years ago bought out the City Council over in Oakland, and the whole city arose in righteous indignation. The poolroom men were driven out of San Francisco and went to Oakland, but public opinion there drove

them out and they located at Emeryville, where they are to-day.

"Now, I want to tell you one thing that gambling does. It not only bribes Judges, juries and officials, but it puts handcuffs on the police, and it does it right here in San Francisco."

The reverend gentleman then presented figures to show the enormous expense of maintaining racetracks and poolrooms, and continuing he said:

"The racetracks cannot pay without gambling, and racecourses are a network of gambling under the pretense of bettering the breed of horses. The racetracks are breeders of crime. They are the worst breeders of crime that we have to deal with. Racetrack gambling is a terrible menace to the public safety and to the public morality. Nearly \$3,000,000 was stolen in a single year by men who had lost their money playing the races."

Victims of the Racetrack.

The New York Times a year ago contained a column article under the heading "Victims of the Racetrack," which gave a long list of forgeries, embezzlements and other crimes, all attributable to racetrack gambling. The Superinten-

paper was handed to me and my attention was called to the fact that there was a strong article in it against this vice. It is headed 'Vultures Feeding on the People.' Read that article and you will have some idea of the cost of running the races at Ingleside. This is the form of the evil, then, which we are especially protesting against to-night."

"I want to say just a few plain things to you, and I wish I could say them to thousands of the citizens of San Francisco. I have done a little personal investigation myself, and I declare to you, after having spent several years in some of the Eastern States and in some of the large cities there, that I have never seen gambling run so wide open, even when not prohibited by the law, as it is in San Francisco. While I believe that men will gamble in spite of the law, at the same time I believe that the man who will gamble ought to be driven under cover."

Some One is Receiving Money.

Now, I want to know, beloved friends and fellow citizens, whether this thing is to be licensed or not. If these men are doing this thing, then we have licensed lawlessness, but who is getting the revenue? Is the City Treasury getting it? Where is this money going? I think it is high time for the better element of San Francisco to unite and to declare that the right thing shall be done. The right thing will be done whenever the better element awakes from their lethargy and indifference. The greatest curse of the age is the indifference of the better thinking people in regard to this and kindred evils.

I am sorry, but I don't know why our honorable Mayor has taken the stand that he has assumed in this matter. But I am going to tell you this, that as long as gambling is open there is no man who is safe. I don't know why this is going on. I don't dare say. I won't dare to accuse anybody, but I suggest to me the old threadbare story of the man who was charged in court with stealing bacon, was tried, confessed that he was guilty, but the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty. The lawyer turned to his client and said, 'Why, how is this?' At first he had refused to take the man's case because the accused had told him that he was guilty, but he finally took the case out of pity for the man's family. Said he, 'Why is it? You say you are guilty. You said it before the court, but the jury says you are not guilty.' 'Well,' said the man, 'I will tell you. Eleven out of that jury had a piece of the stolen bacon.' I won't say that that is the case in this instance, but I will tell you this: When the gambler is about to make his safe, he carries the hoodlum that does the dirty work so often of bribing men, even some times men of standing. But enough has been said on this line.

Ingleside Must Not Open.

"The great reason why we are here tonight is to utter our protest against the opening of the Ingleside track. That is what we are here to protest against."

"In his message Mayor Phelan says, according to this article which I have taken from The Call: 'Public gambling is a great evil, leading to poverty, disgrace, defalcation and death, which the records of the city abundantly prove, and its practice should be discontinued and suppressed.' This was taken from the message of Mayor James D. Phelan delivered to the Board of Supervisors January 8, 1900, and ere he left his office he signed the ordinance that the Board of Supervisors passed at that time. Now, I want to show you where the great danger comes in, and I want to show you the great necessity of this meeting to-night, and of meetings like it all over the city to-night and even on the morrow. Here is his attitude to-day: 'I am in favor of a limited season of horse racing.' Now, if a thing is wrong, it is wrong any time and in any place, it is wrong all the time. The Mayor says: 'I am in favor of a limited season of horse racing, say, thirty days, in San Francisco. I do not believe that we should give the gamblers of Oakland an opportunity to have an exclusive privilege to pick pockets simply because we have a moral crusade on in this city. God hasten the moral crusade.'

Phelan Favors Dissipation.

"I believe that we should permit a racing season of thirty days in San Francisco, simply as dissipation for our people. Just as if San Francisco people did not dissipate enough. Just as though some needed some other or new kind of dissipation. I would therefore approve of a city ordinance providing for a limited racing season in San Francisco." Now I am not going to read all of this article. But he suggests here: 'While I admit that the Legislature should adopt some restrictive measure, I also admit that if it does not an ordinance adopted by the Supervisors of San Francisco fixing a limited season will be effective. Unless we give the gamblers here as many days' racing as another city we will not accomplish the purpose I have in view.'

"So this is the attitude of the highest official in our city! I have said enough, and I thank you for your earnest attention."

"I am going to read a set of resolutions, and if you are in sympathy with me I want somebody to move that we adopt them by a rising vote, and I will take them in person or we will send them by somebody to the Board of Supervisors."

To Cure a Cold in One Day.

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