

The Daily Herald

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MONDAY EVENING, JAN. 10, 1916.

A FOOLISH LAW.

Among the measures which have been widely heralded as reforms are the general primary law, the presidential preference primary, the initiative and referendum, and the commission form of government.

Some of the presidential preference primary laws, for instance, contain perfectly absurd provisions, as that of Minnesota, for instance, which is said by the Minneapolis Tribune to require the candidate for election as delegate to his party's national convention to declare in his nominating petition that he is a supporter of some presidential candidate whose petition has been filed with the secretary of state.

That is quite possible. Or suppose that although among the candidates whose petitions have been filed the candidate for delegate has made no absolute choice. He must make a choice or he cannot qualify.

To create a parallel between this case and that which exists between this country and the other great nations we must suppose a condition in which the other countries are willing to bring themselves into approximately that of this country, namely, the reduction of their armament until it does not exceed our own.

Under those conditions there would be no excuse for greater preparedness on our part. We could, and we would, without question, gladly accept any arrangement of this kind. Let the other nation agree to sink their ships and disband their armies, retaining only a sufficient force for police protection, and it may be depended on that we would do likewise.

REFUGEE IN THE OFFICE. "What makes Bliggins in such a hurry to get to work in the morning?" "He isn't getting to work. His family has moved and they're fixing up the house. He's getting away from work."

THE REASON. "Why do Indians seem to fear death so much less than white men?" "If you suppose it is because they are used to dying."

IMPOSSIBLE. "I am positive I could succeed as a photographer." "How can you be when it is such a negative business?"

QUITE SO. "Did you see how red those four young women got when you detected them trying to get in on a bogus pass?" "Yes; it was a regular case of four flushing."

THE LESSON OF NEIGHBORLINESS. "That war is unnecessary in anything like an ideal state of society most of us will agree. The theory of some German philosophers that war is a biological necessity finds acceptance

with but a very few. On the general desirability of avoiding war there is little disagreement between the most pronounced pacifists and those who feel certain that the United States needs, for its own security, a big army and a big navy.

There is a difference, however, on two points. First, there are those who are for peace at any price, who believe that anything is to be preferred to war. Tolstoid was perhaps the most conspicuous advocate of that doctrine. He held that physical resistance was inexcusable under any circumstances.

It needs little argument to prove that the policy of disarmament is the correct policy for the nations. The trouble is that the nations do not adopt that policy, and the problem for our nation to solve is not as to the theoretical value of disarmament, but as to what this nation shall do when its neighbors do not disarm, and show no intention of doing so.

It is now more than a century since the United States was at war with Great Britain. During that time peace has been maintained without the use of a fort, a battleship or a gun along the three thousand miles of frontier which separates the territory of the United States and that of the British possessions to the north.

And yet some of the laws on these subjects seem to have been the products of a diseased imagination, for they are simply clumsy and unworkable monstrosities. Visionary people have seized upon principles which are excellent enough in themselves, and with those principles as a basis, have concocted some of the wildest laws ever submitted, yet, because of the principle to which they are attached, to oppose them is sure sign of political corruption.

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GRAND FORKS CAN LEARN MUCH FROM MARYLAND'S VICE REPORT, SAYS PASTOR IN SUNDAY SERMON

Grand Forks can take many lessons from the report of the Maryland vice commission. Rev. A. H. Thompson, pastor of the First Methodist church, declared in a sermon Sunday. He discussed at length conditions revealed by Maryland's vice report, and maintained that Grand Forks could take lessons from the findings.

Mr. Thompson said: "Jane Addams has written a book entitled 'A New Conscience and An Ancient Evil.' What that evil is she explains in her analogy 'in every large city, she says, 'throughout the world, thousands of women are set aside as contrasts from decent society that it is considered an impropriety to speak the very word which designates them. Lecky calls this type of woman 'the most mournful and most awful figure in history.' He says that 'she remains, while creeds and civilizations rise and fall, the eternal sin of humanity, blasted for the sins of the people.'"

This figure stands as the type of the social evil; an evil so old and powerful that it has been regarded as hopeless. Recently, however, the teaching of eugenics, insistence upon a single standard of virtue, the instinct of self-preservation aroused by a knowledge of the fact that this evil is making on the race, together with religious conviction have brought about a complete change in sentiment. No longer do we regard the social evil as inevitable, but as reprehensible; not as something that must be endured, but as so hideously abnormal and vile that it must be destroyed.

In obedience to this sentiment Governor Goldsborough of Maryland some three years ago appointed a vice commission to make an investigation and report to him. The commission was composed of Dr. J. M. T. Finney, Dr. W. H. Howell, Dr. Geo. Walker and others hardly less distinguished. The investigation extended over a period of nearly three years, cost \$12,000, and the report fills 5 volumes, containing 300,000 words.

Who Are Guilty. "Every class of society is involved. The worst organs of the so-called 'best people' would put those of ancient emperors of licentiousness to shame. 'Some of them,' said one member of the commission, 'would like Nero look like Nero.'"

Exposure Would Mean Revolution. Thousands are shaking in their boots. The only thing that reassures them is that the key book with the actual names is secured in a safe vault and the members of the commission say they will go to jail rather than reveal what they know. A high tribute is paid to telephone companies who take the utmost care of their girls. They are not allowed to listen to conversations. If caught making a date they are discharged. Any evidence of immorality is a sufficient reason for dismissal. The supervisor has a way of listening in without the operator knowing it.

The important thing in eliminating the immoral employe is seen in the case of the factory girl. Contrary to the general opinion there is nothing in the method of conducting the factory to demoralize the girl. But she is exposed to the corrupting influence of women and girls whose morals are not good. Some of these swear like troopers.

Store girls are exposed to great temptation because of her contact with male customers, traveling men, floor walkers and other men employes. The pretty girl in the store is exposed to the corrupting influence of men until her powers of resistance are broken down. "Wages do not pay the part in vice that has been suggested by the commission found go wrong because of inadequate pay. Many, however, keep wrong to supplement low wages. One firm paid its girls \$5 and \$6 a week, declaring a dividend of 100 per cent.

Moving picture places are not condemned. Now that they are better lighted and air conditioned, they can be said against them on the ground of immorality. The theaters, however, are sharply arraigned. Many, says the report, are as vulgar as the police would allow. "Appeal," continues the report, "is constantly made to the sex instinct, boys are allowed to attend. The plays in some of the theaters are more veiled, but beneath the disguise the same purpose is apparent."

Office buildings were the deadliest places of all. Attractive girls are in greater peril there. In the case of the river resorts they were shocking. Little unprotected girls were sold beer. And one investigator said that what she saw there rivaled scenes she had witnessed in Africa. And this carnival of vice was made possible by politicians who connived at it and profited by it.

Segregation as a remedy is not on the list. "The public—what is all the trouble here at Panama about?" "The Entines—'tis those darned hills—blast 'em."

DESCRIPTED. "Pa, what is meant by 'pernicious activity?'" "That's when your mother cleans up my desk, son."

It is not necessary, says the report, it is in fact, only reaching ten per cent of those involved. It has been abandoned almost entirely on the continent of Europe and in most of the large cities of this country. It commercializes the evil making it a regular business, and thus hardening thousands into monsters of cruelty. With coldly calculating spirit they deliberately ruin their own souls and then hold them in a bondage more bitter than African slavery.

Despite the Mann law, men sell girls for from \$10 to \$50. Women keep in their homes making annual visits there and inducing girls to return with them under the promise of work at high wages. Three of these women have retired worth \$75,000, \$100,000 and \$150,000, respectively.

It is because it eliminates the third party that the commission opposes segregation. The most appalling revelations were made in connection with institutions which separate mother and child at birth. The mortality in these institutions varied from 75 to 92 per cent. The mortality of infants that remain with their mothers is 10 per cent. The city charges sent to the institution most highly recommended by doctors, nurses and those in authority in five hospitals had a mortality for five years out of seven of 100 per cent. In other words not one baby sent there by the city lived.

In a little plot of ground back of this institution the bodies of dead babies are thrown into a hole and loosely covered with dirt. At least 5,000 are so buried. Multitudes are engaged in this business, even some ministers and religious workers are involved. Some do it to save the girl from the family. But nearly all are moved by greed for gain. The price demanded ranges from \$50 to \$300.

In one instance a nurse suggested that strangulation was easy and for \$50 she would see to it that the baby did not live. After describing in detail a large number of cases and interviews the commission gives it as its deliberate judgment that the "well nigh universal object is money."

We do not narrate these facts to expose the shame of Baltimore. Baltimore is to be commended for the high courage which investigates and exposes its own immorality. But we give them as typical of what exists everywhere on larger or smaller scale. The social evil is a fact. How shall we meet it?

1. By Publicity—Let investigators go on. Give the facts to the people. Turn on the light. Show the danger to the morals of our children, and the menace to the health of the race.

2. Legislation—Law has been invoked. The United States government is pursuing White Slavery. The police force of Baltimore has wrought havoc in the city. A municipal commission has set corrupt politicians into retirement, thus making county law operative. The commission recommends that municipalities see that public amusements are not detrimental to the moral welfare of immature citizens, to strictly supervise the shore park, and censor theaters and moving picture houses where the appeal to sex is present.

3. Substitution—The commission also recommends municipal dance halls efficiently supervised, throwing open parks and playgrounds and encouraging play and athletics in every way possible; municipal moving pictures run by the city and the opening of school buildings and churches in the evening for entertainments.

4. Education—The majority of the girls who go wrong are ignorant, many are mentally deficient. Every effort should be made to excite at the earliest possible age a mental ambition. More to think. Crowd in God and wholesome thoughts. Give the girl a sense of purpose. Here lies Edison suggests to make education attractive and overcome evil with good."

5. Home Restraint—It was found that thousands of girls who go astray had been brought up as they were from childhood. Lax discipline and a bad example at home, made moral life easy. In the last analysis, moral, economic and political problems are home born. Here lies the basis of all evil as well as all good.

6. Last and most important of all is religious. This the commission did not mention, but Jane Addams does. More and more reformers and social workers coming to recognize that there is no permanent moral change possible by the law of the land. When men choose the right they are righteous, and never until then. No laws will restrain men and women from sinning except the "law of the Lord which converteth the Soul." Vice is but a symptom. The real disease is a corrupt heart. The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it? I the Lord search the heart.

The heart must be changed, as David recognized in his self-loathing when he prayed, "create within me a clear heart O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

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ONLY MAJORITY VOTE IS NEEDED TO PASS STATUTE Manitoba's Liquor Legislation Introduced Today—Vote March 15. (Herald Special Service.) Winnipeg, Man., Jan. 10.—Prohibition of the sale of liquor in the province of Manitoba is provided in a bill introduced in the Manitoba House of Representatives today, which measure has the support of the Norris, or liberal government, and which will submit the legislation to the people of the province at a special election March 15.

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Hotel Astor. Residents of North Dakota registered at Hotel Astor during the past year. Single Room, without bath, \$2.00 to \$3.00 Double - \$3.00 to \$4.00 Single Rooms, with bath, \$3.00 to \$6.00 Double - \$4.00 to \$7.00 Parlor, Bedroom and bath, \$10.00 to \$14.00. TIMES SQUARE At Broadway, 44th to 45th Streets—the center of New York's social and business activities. In close proximity to all railway terminals.