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THE ILLINOIS ISSUE

The Church in Action Against the Saloon

Vol. I

Chicago, Illinois, May 18, 1906

No. 18

Straight Tickets and Straight Candidates

No party has any right to ask a Christian voter to vote the ticket straight unless every candidate upon the ticket is a straight man.—American Issue.

People Believe in Law Enforcement

The result in Ohio, in practically overcoming a quarter of a million, demonstrates that the people believe in the enforcement of law, and resent the dictation of saloons that claim a special privilege in law-breaking.—Joseph W. Folk.

Girls Driven to Cash Checks in Saloons

Vicious System by Business Firm Arouses Citizens of Chicago

Not satisfied with entrapping young men the saloon ring has gone into conspiracy with factories to get girls into the coils of drink and the devil.

Evelyn Campbell, who has done much to create sentiment against wickedness in high and low places writes in the Chicago American as follows:

"The knowledge that young girls are being compelled to go into a saloon to receive the pittance due them for their daily toil has aroused all classes in Chicago.

"Vigorous protests have followed the publication in the Chicago American of the story that the women employes of the boot and shoe factory of J. P. Smith & Sons, southeast corner of Erie and Franklin streets, cash their checks each pay day in the saloon of J. Chambers, at the northeast corner of Erie and Franklin streets, where an agent for the Northwestern Brewery Company brings the money down each pay day from the offices of the brewery to cash the checks of the Smith employes.

Firm Defends its Action

"The firm of J. P. Smith & Sons admitted today that it paid its employes in checks and that an agent of the Northwestern Brewery cashed its checks in Chambers' saloon.

"The firm denied that the employes were compelled to cash them in the saloon, claiming that any grocer or butcher with whom the employes had a business acquaintance would cash the checks.

"Both Chambers, the saloonkeeper, and B. F. Srichow, the agent of the Northwestern Brewery, admitted that the brewery agent came every pay day with money for the cashing of the checks, but denied that there was any commission deducted from the checks for the cashing.

Facts Condemn the System

"But with all the palliation, all the whitewashing, all the denials of minor details, which are gladly accepted, these things remain true:

"That J. P. Smith Company pays its employes in checks, not cash.

"The payment of the checks comes at 6 o'clock at night.

"The workers need every cent of the too small wage that is theirs. There are pressing wants for it at home.

"True, there is a grocery store and a butcher shop in the neighborhood, but only one of each.

"Either or both places would be swamped if any number of these men and women should ask to have their checks cashed.

"A few favored customers either merchant will accommodate, but the majority of the workers cannot get their checks cashed there, simply because neither store can arrange the payment of money on so large a scale.

"Therefore the saloon accommodation where a man with piles of money sits behind the bar and with lightning like rapidity cashes the checks so that no worker need delay more than a few seconds is a convenience that through necessity is practically forced upon the employes.

"There may be no commission exacted by the brewery agent or the saloonkeeper—I am willing to take their statements on this—but I am assured by the girls who cash their checks there that the men at least are expected to buy drinks.

"The harmful features of the scheme are these:

"The bringing of young girls into the public bar of a saloon and there keeping them in line to cash their checks, while men at their elbows are drinking and carousing and inviting them, nay, urging them, to drink.

Boys Linger in the Saloon

"The presence of young boys in the saloon upon the same errand. These boys, although Chambers declares they cannot get liquor at his establishment, still linger as long as they dare in the beery atmosphere.

"The fact that men, grateful to the brewery for its prompt cashing of their checks, show their gratitude by imbibing large quantities of the company's liquid products, sometimes taking home no penny of the money received from the pay check.

"Both Chambers, the saloonkeeper, and Srichow, the brewery agent, say the practice of paying by check is a bad one, and that they wish all companies would pay in cash."

It will be easy to associate this system of check cashing in saloons with the campaign of "education" which the liquor dealers are carrying on among the boys all over the country.

It is not always certain that firms who fall into the snare are conscious of the fact that underneath is the idea that boys and girls who get used to wicked places are more easily lead astray.

If the saloon is not of the devil, of what is it?