

him it seems to be as it was with the Arkansas gentleman. As the story goes, a gentleman stayed over night with the Arkansas man, and getting up in the morning and looking around, he said to his host: "My friend, this is a beautiful country, but when you have to have a few dollars, how do you get it?" "When we have it?" was the reply. "Yes. In the case of a funeral or of sudden sickness or an accident or any other emergency, in which you positively must have a little money, how do you raise it?" "That's easy," said the Arkansas man. "We just brace up and get along without it."

**An Unpleasant Subject**

THERE has been a great deal too much said about the "Red Light District" in this city. It is not a good thing to try to make political capital out of. It grew up where it is when the chiefs of the dominant church had control of the city. The men who owned the land and houses knew what they were about, the city government knew what was going on, and never interfered, except that when Frank Armstrong was mayor he tried to break up the business, and succeeded only in distributing it over the whole city. That was the only interference ever attempted in the old days, except when, for purposes of their own, the high priests of the church hired and equipped a few houses with the design of bringing shame and disgrace upon people whom they designated as enemies. In those days it was the habit of the authorities to collect from them an irregular license monthly, but otherwise those creatures were not disturbed. The property-owners in the district were in part Gentiles and in part Mormons; they knew for what purpose the property was being used, and with that record clear in the knowledge of the people, it is idle for any party to try to make political capital out of the situation.

In the meantime many denizens there have purchased or taken long leases on property in the district.

When there is a proposition to move the district, there are several features to be considered. Where did the cry for removal originate? Was it not from the owners of the property there? If so, were they ever much disturbed by the presence of the people there until the thought struck them that with the recent advance in realty, they could realize great profits now, could those denizens be removed?

If this is the case, then it is reasonably clear that no special sympathy should be wasted on them. People generally have understood the situation, and have not built residences in that neighborhood. But they have built in other places, and surely no city government has a right to decree that this district shall be transferred to any spot where men have their families. Then no infringement on the property rights of these people can be suffered. If they own property or have valuable leases they cannot be robbed.

Of course, the government can order all those places closed, but with that done, what then? Mayor Armstrong tried that, with the result stated above.

Again, is there any section of the city where this district would be less offensive than where it now is? Is there any place where this district can be moved without inflicting a mighty worry and loss upon innocent people? Is the city prepared to condemn a tract somewhere else and lease it to the denizens of the present district?

Or, suppose those people are ordered away on pain of fine and imprisonment if they remain, will that abate the evils? The oldest and wisest city governments have tried all kinds of experiments, and have finally placed such districts under strict regulations to avoid flaunting the busi-

ness in the faces of the public and permit nothing that can offend the eyes of children. In seaport cities such districts are looked upon as a necessity for the protection of innocent women.

The foregoing is written not of choice, but with the thought that the bandying of the matter back and forth in the papers daily is altogether unwise; that it is nothing to try to make political capital on; that it is a matter of business which those who have the good morals of the city at heart, should consider dispassionately, and that whatever may be done must be done in absolute justice.

**The President's Mistake**

THE PRESS in all the states is lost in wonder at President Roosevelt's denunciation of the court that sent back Judge Landis' decision in the Standard Oil case for rehearing. He took upon himself to say that the decision of the court was wrong, that the defendants were guilty, and would have been punished had they been less strong. We do not suppose that in his reckless way he thought of the insult he was offering the circuit court; we do not suppose that he had an idea of the mischief that would follow. The President of the United States denounced a court that on a careful review of a decision had reversed it. We do not suppose he thought for a moment that what he was saying, if said by an ordinary newspaper, would subject that paper to a summons to answer why it should not be punished for contempt, and were the same charge to be made against him that he made against the court he would want to fight, but if there was no chance for him to fight, he certainly would have used his old prerogative in declaring that the man who had repeated the words was a liar. It was a grave offense on his part. The United States' courts are as exalted in their province as

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