

clerks, ballins and policemen stood suddenly very still. She came forward with hesitating steps and downcast eyes, as a little girl comes for a scolding.

Judge Hopkins leaned over. "What's the case, officer?" he asked.

There was a note of sympathy in the officer's voice as he answered.

"We got her in a raid at 3029 Vernon avenue," he said shortly. "It's a joint."

An involuntary shudder passed over the girl at the word "joint." She turned away.

The judge beckoned to the girl. And his tone was very tender when he spoke to her.

For once the old question usually put to the defendant, "Well, what have you got to say for yourself," was forgotten. There was a deeper interest in this case. "How did you come to be in this sort of a position," the judge asked. "Tell me something about yourself."

There was a short struggle to keep back the telltale tears in her eyes. "The way I got into this position may sound like a very weak way to you," she said, "but I worked in a laundry. And I was forced to work long and hard for \$6 a week. I couldn't live on \$6 a week. I tried hard to do it decently. I failed. And I'm before you now."

It was a stinging charge to make against the low wage system. The judge was silent. Then he turned to Reker.

"Well, Mr. Prosecutor, what do you want to do with her?" he asked.

But Reker was thinking hard. And when he spoke he was no longer "Mr. Prosecutor." He was a man who had seen the unjust manner in which life and society had handled the girl before him.

"There will be no prosecution in this case," he said finally. The historian Buckle in his "History of Civilization" says crime increases or decreases in proportion to the ratio of increase in the price of food. No sane

man will steal if he can get his living in an easier way. If this girl chooses the easiest way because she can't live on \$6 a week then the crime is not her's, but society's, because she has been robbed of a chance.

"I am reading Buckle myself lately," said Judge Hopkins, "and the more I sit in this court and listen to the cases which are brought in here the more I believe what he says."

The girl was turned over to the adult probation office. Society will be given a chance to give this girl enough to live decently on without "going to the bad" again to supply the difference.

This was only one of many cases of laundry girls, according to Reker. They are becoming so frequent that the laundry trust is up in arms lest the fire of criticism be leveled at them as it was at the department stores during the O'Hara investigation. But they haven't seemed to realize that one way to curb this criticism is to pay the girls living wages.

Laundry owners are now fighting hard to keep the girls from organizing. But in spite of this the Laundry Workers' Union is making great gains.

"The girls who work in laundries are up against a hard proposition," said John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago Federation of Labor. "The average Chinese laundry owner is a better employer than the members of the laundry trust, who force the girls to slave for miserable wages. But the girls are beginning to see a light and I predict that before long they will be all organized and they'll demand and get living wages."

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Major Funkhouser must defend censorship of movies before council committee. Hearing Friday.

Society women demand abolition of wine rooms.

Harold Earl Juul, son of State Senator Juul and pitcher for Brooklyn Federals, married Miss Hilda Johnson, 2736 N. Potomac av.