

First Article on the Editorial Page of
"THE SACRAMENTO BEE."

(SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY EVENING,
FEBRUARY 26th, 1919.)

[Reproduced as nearly as possible in facsimile from the Newspaper
Cuttings sent by Dr. KATHERINE BUSHNELL.]

An Outrage And An Infamy Upon Innocent Women.

An outrage and an infamy upon twenty-one innocent women and a probable breach of an American citizen's Constitutional rights, was the recent arrest by the police "Moral Squad" of the twenty-one suspects seized indiscriminately in lodging houses and hotels and on the streets of this city.

But one of the twenty-two was found to have a social disease, the eradication of which is given as the reason for the raids of the Moral Squad upon orders by Commissioner of Public Health and Safety Simmons.

Sixteen of these women were held incommunicado all day at the City Isolation Hospital. They were compelled to submit to a humiliating test by the hospital physician.

The other six were kept in jail overnight. They also were deprived of their Constitutional rights to establish their characters at once by communication with their friends.

The methods used in this outrage would do credit to Prussia in the heyday of its imperial despotism, or even to Russia where there is so much liberty that there is no law.

Even a citizen hobo arrested for vagrancy in this country has Constitutional rights. He is entitled to communicate with those who might prove him not a vagrant.

But from "Canary Cottage"—where social disease victims are held—it seems that the protecting arm of the Constitution is fended away. The innocent with the guilty under the city ordinance permitting the taking in of venereal disease suspects, are held as in a Mexican cuartel.

One woman, the wife of an oil foreman in Richmond, and her sister, with whom she was walking to the meat market at 11 o'clock in the morning, were arrested by the Moral Squad and forced to submit to almost unbelievable tyranny.

This woman offered to give the officers all the identification needed to prove her right to respect, but was refused a hearing. She told the police of her little boy at school here who would need her attention.

But they dragged her to the isolation hospital and compelled her to submit to as humiliating a degradation as could be imposed upon a respectable woman. And they kept her there all day with an order to report in Police Court the next morning. This she did, but found

she could not publicly defend herself because no charge had been lodged against her.

The assault upon such an innocent woman's reputation is almost as damnable as the outrage upon her self-respect.

And the only possible iota of a reason for such Czaristic methods was that her sister kept boarders and lived in a quarter of the city regarded as perhaps not so high-toned as other residence quarters.

❖ In other words because this ❖
❖ woman was not obviously rich, ❖
❖ she was subjected to this shame. ❖

As in El Paso, Texas, where working girls were forced to be examined or quit their jobs, those of better means, and supposedly higher social standing here, thus far have been exempt from such nefarious insults.

And yet it is a known fact that since the scatteration of vice the Phrynes, Aspasia, Sapphos and the scores of demi-mondaines of lower degree, have invaded even the most elite of the residential districts of this city.

And this brings up another phase of the latest Edwin E. Grant-ian outrage.

The Redlight Abatement Law has resulted in this scatteration of professionalized social evil throughout the hotels, lodging houses and residential regions, while clandestine prostitution of the unprofessional type is as prevalent as ever before a segregated district was abolished.

Had the redlight pest not been so spread throughout the community, there would not be the need of any such raids as this Moral Squad has been perpetrating of late under orders from deluded and fanatical Federal Party.

Decent women could walk the city streets in broad daylight even in the less elegant districts, and be immune from coarse accosting by the minions of law enforcement, from third degree ordeals impugning their purity, from injury to their reputations, and from outrageous Mexican methods of incarceration in such an unsavory haunt as "Canary Cottage."

That the infamy of the methods adopted is realized by the head of the Department of Public Health and Safety is proved by his order that the arrests hereafter shall not be made until backed by proper "evidence."

But this eleventh-hour repentance does not make reparation for the injury done these innocent women.

France & England Involved.

The Editor of the "Sacramento Bee" puts in framed black type, in the same issue, the statement in the paragraph reproduced herewith as nearly as possible in facsimile. This has since been denied at Washington, but it must be remembered that analogous official statements were made again and again in our British Parliament in the agitation against 40d., with regard to an alleged alliance between England and America in these matters.

American Army Helps France and England Fight Social Evil

THE United States is to send army officers to France and England for the purpose of inaugurating a campaign against prostitution, similar to the one which has been inaugurated in this country about all training camps. The officers were asked for by the two nations.

This was the announcement made to-day by Assemblyman Albert A. Rosenshine of San Francisco, who is the author of the bill proposing an industrial farm in California for fallen women. The bill has received the support of the Government and army officers are now here supporting the measure.

In commenting on the desire of France and England for United States aid in abating prostitution about their army camps, Rosenshine said:

They have seen what a success it has been in this country.

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ARRESTS HALTED AFTER INNOCENT WOMEN TAKEN

Out of 22 Suspects Detained in Anti-Disease Campaign Only One Afflicted; Suspicion Ex- cuse of Police

MARRIED WOMEN AMONG THOSE HUMILIATED

Visitor From Richmond Hurried to Hospital While Boy Is in School; Is Refused Chance To Identify Herself

Using suspicion as their only guide in an effort to clean up the city as ordered by Federal authorities, the moral squad appointed by Chief of Police Ira Conran at the instigation of Commissioner of Public Health and Safety G. C. Simmons, brought twenty-two women into the Health Office yesterday, indiscriminately picked up in lodging houses and hotels in the city.

Sixteen of these were kept at the hospital all day for examination by Dr. C. A. Nahl and all were discovered to be free from disease. The other six were held over until to-day for examination, and only one woman was found afflicted. In other words, out of twenty-two suspects subjected to an examination, the police were justified in arresting but one woman.

Simmons Stops Raids.

Commissioner Simmons early to-day said he approved of this policy of the police, but this afternoon he gave an order to Chief Conran to discontinue the arrests until the officers had evidence.

The six women detained over night were not allowed communication with any one, and regardless of the findings in their examination to-day, they were lodged in jail all night. Many of the accused have already obtained attorneys to look after their interests.

Married Woman in Round-Up.

Proof of the statement that the suspicion of the moral squad gathered in many innocent women who had to submit to the humiliating examination at the "Canary Cottage," as the isolation hospital has been termed, is found in the indignant protest of Mrs. Margaret Hennessey, wife of H. J. Hennessey, a Standard Oil Company foreman at Richmond, who has been visiting in this city.

Not only was Mrs. Hennessey taken into custody but the officers who arrested her, she says, would not listen to her story or permit her to prove her identification. Neither would they permit her to get her 6-year-old boy who was attending a convent here.

Mrs. Hennessey was kept at the hospital from 11 o'clock in the morning until about 8 o'clock at night when she was released as not having a suspected disease. She was told to show up in Court this morning at 9.30 o'clock and she did so to take this opportunity of protesting against the attack on her reputation. Then she was informed there was no case against her.

Makes Indignant Protest.

"I think it is a terrible shame," said Mrs. Hennessey, "to be submitted to such an indignity as I went through yesterday. I have been staying with my sister, Mrs. M. Bradich, at 1616 Fourth Street, expecting to recover from an attack of the influenza in this city. I was walking with my sister to a meat market yesterday morning at about 11 o'clock when we were stopped by the police and told we were under arrest as suspicious characters.

Little Boy at School.

"I tried to explain who I was and offered to give the officers all the identification necessary, but they refused to listen. They said I would have to go to the hospital. I told them my little boy was at school and I wanted him looked out for. They paid no heed, but took my sister and I to the hospital.

"At the hospital I was forced to submit to an examination just as if I was one of the most degraded women in the world. I want to say I have never been so humiliated in my life. My reputation means something to me and I am going to defend it.

"Why the police stopped us is more than I can say, unless it may have been they were suspicious of the premises. They are doing an injustice if they take that view, as my sister is conducting a proper place. The only lodgers she has are four young men.

"I welcomed the chance to go into Court this morning and defend myself, but found I would have no chance. I am in this position now. I dare not venture on the streets for fear I will be arrested again."

Simmons Defends Police.

In reply to the complaints that many innocent persons were taken during yesterday's vice raid, Commissioner of Public Health Simmons made the following statement to-day:

"In every raid these complaints come in and, to my knowledge, they are groundless, because in every case in which suspicious persons were held, there were circumstances surrounding the case which warranted the suspicion.

"The city ordinance gives the police power to detain anybody who is suspected of carrying contagious disease, and the health officers were acting under instructions.

"Examinations were conducted as quickly as possible, and by 7 o'clock sixteen of the twenty-two persons taken had been released as free from disease. All the city is trying to do is to protect the public at large from disease."

Chief Admits Injustice.

Speaking of his responsibility for the method in which the raid is being conducted, Chief Conran said:

"I know that the method in which the squad is carrying on its arrests is practically ridiculous. Probably many innocent women have been and will be caught in it, simply because they reside in lodging houses or hotels, but I am simply carrying out orders from Simmons.

"I asked him to give me some foundation to work on, to give me a few specific cases or definite instruction where to send my men, but Simmons insists that the Federal officers just want a general clean-up, and he doesn't know where any of the trouble is. So I send the men 'shooting at the moon,' as it were.

"I think the town is clean, or at least as clean as it is possible to make it. It isn't in the power of any man to stop the clandestine meetings of 75,000 people by the handful of men that we have in the Police Department. But as far as organized vice is concerned, I am ready to swear that I think it has been stamped out.

"There are two specially detailed officers, J. B. McKinney and Henry Lohmeyer, who are subject to Dr. Hanna's orders, who have worked along this line for months. They start to work at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and work until midnight every day.

Indiscriminate Arrests.

"McKinney told me yesterday that he recognized at least half a dozen of the women brought in here, as ones who had absolutely refused to sell him liquor when he had visited their rooming houses. He also said that as far as he could find out these women were not engaged in any immoral practices. **But the clean-up squad had to make indiscriminate arrests of this sort to show that they were trying to do something that was asked of them.**

"If I had been consulted in this matter I would have strongly advised against any such raid as this. Lieutenant Sturges has been to everyone around here, to the Health Department, to the Judge, to the Prosecuting Attorney and all the rest, but I have received no orders from him at all.

As to Communication.

"It is absolutely not my fault that innocent women are held in jail over night and denied communication with friends or relatives. They were turned over to the Health Department just as fast as the officers brought them in, and there the Police Department's authority over them ended.

"Had they been charged with vagrancy or some other police charge they would have been allowed all the privileges the code admits, as they always have been. When a person is once turned over to the Health Department, Dr. Hanna is supreme, and they are subject to whatever he wants to do. I don't know what happened after they were turned over to him, at Dr. Simmons's orders. They didn't even get a blanket from the Police Department."

Three Women Escape.

Gathering together all the sheets they could find and tying them into a rope, Jean Pollock, Helen Wilson and Billy Fuller, three charges at the Isolation Hospital, across from the Hall of Justice, dropped to liberty from the second floor of the building. They made their getaway some time during the night at the height of the storm, although their escape was not discovered until this morning. The drop was about a twenty-five-foot one.

A search is being made for the missing girls, but up to late this afternoon no trace of the trio could be discovered.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 27th, 1919.

[Reproduced as nearly as possible in facsimile from News Cutting supplied by Dr. KATHERINE BUSHNELL.]

OPPOSITION TO VICE FIGHT AT CAPITOL OPENS

Minister and Doctor Head League Against Plan of Clean-Up

Special Dispatch to The Chronicle.

CHRONICLE HEADQUARTERS, SACRAMENTO, February 26.—Right in the midst of the Federal vice campaign in the Legislature, when khaki lobbyists are trying to put over the home for delinquent women; while police, under military direction, are cleaning up hotels, rooming-houses, cafes, resorts and streets of the State capital—right in the midst of all this activity a bombshell dropped today. It came from the Union to Combat the Sanitation of Vice, which is said to be leading the fight against the Government's hygiene reconstruction programme.

The union is located at 831 Oakland avenue, Oakland. Rev. M. Collins Green is vice-president, Mrs. J. A. Fraser is secretary and Mrs. E. A. Wilson treasurer. Dr. Katharine C. Bushnell of Oakland is organizer and the prime mover in the union. She claims to have "cleaned up" vice conditions in various parts of the world and spent many years in India and other foreign places.

ONE-SIDEDNESS CHARGED

Dr. Bushnell's main objection to what the Government is trying to do to stamp out social diseases is that the whole trend of the work is to condemn the women and protect the men. She points to the capture, examination and treatment of women taken from Mason-street dives in San Francisco, from cafes under the noses of legislators in Sacramento, as proof of her statement, because, she says, the men are allowed to go.

Major Stanley F. Coar, who is in Sacramento cleaning up for the Government in its systematic purification campaign against vice, is visibly worried over the opposition put up by the Union to Combat the Sanitation of Vice.

Mrs. A. E. Carter, president of the Women's Legislative Council, is in Sacramento helping Major Coar lobby for the appropriation of \$250,000 for a home for delinquent women. A meeting was held today, at which time a discussion arose over the question of submitting many other bills of a hygienic and chemically pure nature.

MARRIED WOMEN ARRESTED

While Major Coar was steering the legislative end of the Government's vice campaign, subordinates were in conference with the police of Sacramento over complaints that have followed vice raids.

It appears that a number of women arrested by Army officers and police were respectable married women who happened to be out when the vice raids took place. Out of twenty women arrested and taken to jail, nineteen who were forced to submit to medical examination were found to be innocent of infection.

This caused G. C. Simmons, Commissioner of Public Safety, to order Chief of Police Conran to defer further arrests until more evidence was obtained against the women.

VERY CAREFUL ATTENTION
IS ASKED TO THE APPENDED PAPERS.

Dr. Katherine Bushnell has sent the American newspaper cuttings which are reproduced here as a warning to English workers, who have been trained in the principles of the late Josephine E. Butler, of what is going on in the United States, since the signing of the Armistice.

Laws embodying the principles of our 40d. Regulation have been passed under pressure from Washington in quite a number of States, and in others the system has been worked direct from Washington.

For good or otherwise England and America are coming into closer and closer fellowship, and a knowledge of the facts as stated is therefore of vital importance.

The "Sacramento Bee" is a paper of influence in the political capital of the State of California, San Francisco being the commercial capital. Outrages of the character indicated have taken place in both cities, as well as in other parts of the State.

Recent European women visitors to the United States have brought back news of equal injustice being perpetrated in other parts of North America. It is thought best, however, not to publish anything that does not come directly from American sources.

Maurice Gregory,
26 Devonshire Chambers,
Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2.

Three respectable Socialist women whom the authorities chose to suspect of "Bolshevism" were arrested under the American 40d. system, and were each supplied with copies of the card here reproduced as nearly as possible in facsimile. One of the women was married, and a journalist well known in newspaper circles, and this obtained her release and those of her two younger companions, one a girl of sixteen, who were employees at a library, where they were arrested.

Josephine Butler often insisted, from her wide experience and correspondence, that much of the incendiary Anarchism and Nihilism of the Continent in the 19th century was due to the outrages on mothers, and wives, and sisters, and daughters under the Regulation system. The same causes will produce the same results in America.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Circular of Warning to women arrested by Morals Squad

Notice!!!

☞ SAVE YOUR MONEY ☜

You are in quarantine and cannot be released on bail.
The Health Department recognizes no influence or "pull."

If you are found ill with Venereal Disease you go to the Hospital and stay there until found negative.

When discharged from the Hospital you will be tried upon the charge for which you were arrested, and the Judge will fix your bail; until that time no lawyer or other person can obtain your release.

You are therefore advised to wait until your case is called in Court before spending your money.

WILLIAM C. HASSLER, M.D.,
Health Officer.

This is a fac simile of the card given to working women arrested, treated as prostitutes, and bail refused.