

THE KANSAS CITY ANTI-VICE SOCIETY

To the Directors:

I am much pleased to report that there is a marked improvement in vice conditions of Kansas City. A personal survey of the locations of the old-time haunts of vice in our city reveals no public appearance of solicitation for immoral purposes.

A great many shacks of houses formerly used for disreputable purposes are torn down and many others are in a dilapidated condition or vacant. Other fairly good buildings are occupied by apparently respectable families and a good many of this class of buildings are unoccupied. The vacancies in all classes of buildings indicate a decided slump in population which will doubtless be revealed in the U.S. census of 1940.

Credit for these improved conditions is due to the state control of the police department and to Governor Lloyd C. Stark's excellent appointees on the police board. The present police board consists of Edgar Shook, Chairman, Russell Greiner, George Fiske, Milton Schweiger and Mayor Bryce B. Smith, Ex-officio.

Lieut. William H. Tobener, Chief of the vice squad, deserves especial commendation. His faithful, energetic and persistent warfare on vice, gambling, and illegal sales of liquor is bearing much fruit. As stated, the prostitution situation is greatly improved; public gambling houses are closed and low dives are subjected to repeated raids. Laws against drinking places are not yet fully enforced.

Indecent shows are receiving the attention of the vice squad but the vice squad has not the cooperation of the courts. Recently the actors and manager of the notorious Gillis Theatre were brought into Police Judge Anderson's court. Photographs of nude women, the reports of vile language and stories were in evidence but those charged were dismissed.

The most effective law for the suppression of prostitution is the Injunction and Abatement act of 1921, passed by the state legislature, at the insistence of our Society during four successive legislatures. But the county prosecutor refuses to use this weapon. His removal from office is now before the supreme court.

The annual meeting of the Society will be held in October when further reports of work now in progress will be made. You will be notified well in advance of the date and

place.

Sincerely yours,
Nat Spencer, Secretary,

September 28, 1939

519 Ridge Bldg., Kansas City, Mo. Call Phone VI 8863.