

KANSAS CITY

Society for Suppression of Commercialized Vice

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“Our own task is absolutely simple and clear. It is that of turning on the light, and of guiding the present hopeful movement as wisely as we can. To an enlightened public opinion and a growing conscience this ancient evil is rapidly becoming ‘a moral affront and an utter impossibilit. ”

JANE ADDAMS.

“I have reached the conclusion finally that my ideas of the vice question have been wrong. I have no hesitancy in subscribing now to the general indictment of the segregation plan. I have come to the conclusion that any effort to regulate the traffic, instead of eliminating it, is futile. The city cannot afford to go into partnership with any such scheme. It cannot license it, or can't condone it. There is no such thing as regulation. You either protect it or stamp it out. What we've got to do is to stamp it out

CARTER H. HARRISON,

Mayor of Chicago—July 28, 1914.

THE Society for Suppression of Commercialized Vice is chartered for 50 years. During its first year, just completed, it has accomplished much good and has developed a definite policy for the future. Its objects are:

- (1) To subdue commercialized vice by the enforcement of law.
- (2) To promote education for the highest standards of public and private morality.
- (3) To secure the enactment of legislation that will bring commercialized vice under the best known methods of suppression.

Law Enforcement

The Society has closed the 63 immoral houses in the north side police fine list. It has acted on 333 cases. Some of these have been referred to the police and many have been taken to the owners of the buildings used for immoral purposes. In most cases the owners cooperate in removing objectionable tenants. During the last three months the Society has caused 30 immoral places to be vacated. It is exerting a constant pressure for the enforcement of law.

Education

Public addresses have been made by John B. Hammond of Des Moines, Bishop W. T. Sumner of Chicago, by Dr. Jenkin Lloyd Jones of Chicago and by various members of the Board of Directors. The recent Purity Congress came to Kansas City on the initiative of the Society. Aside from the direct benefit of the meetings about 30 columns of newspaper publicity was given by papers having an aggregate circulation of more than half a million copies, and sixty addresses were given on higher standards of morality in the pulpits of Greater Kansas City. While the effects of the Purity Congress cannot be measured in figures it will have far reaching influence on Kansas City's standards of morality.

Legislation

The five societies for suppression of Commercialized Vice in Missouri are organizing to secure from the legislature an injunction and abatement law, a woman's reformatory, and a law by which public officials who do not perform their duty may be discharged.

Expenses

During the first year the Society spent \$4300. To carry on this work and meet the necessary expenses of securing legislation we need at

least as much for the coming year. No officer of the Society receives any pay for his services. Experience has shown that a regular monthly income is the most satisfactory way of maintaining the finances of the Society. We therefore ask those who believe in this work to make monthly payments towards its support. These subscriptions should be made payable to Julius Davidson, Treasurer, 313-14 American Bank Building.