

VENEREAL DISEASE

Is a Major Public Health Problem
Back the Campaign to Stamp it out

Mussallem's Economy Store

PRINCE RUPERT, B.C.

SOCIAL DISEASE HITS--

ONE out of ONE THOUSAND
in Sweden

SEVENTEEN out of ONE THOUSAND
in Prince Rupert

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ONLY A KNOWLEDGE
OF THE TRUTH
ABOUT DISEASE

Can make a healthy Prince Rupert

LEARN THE FACTS

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What do you know about

Social Hygiene?

- Read these pages thoroughly.
- Attend one of the public meetings during the week.
- Listen to CFPR Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

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EXPLOITATION OF VICE--

Case Against the Red-light District and Commercialized Prostitution Defined Plainly

Prostitution is the oldest profession in the world. "You can't change human nature. You might as well face the facts. There's always going to be prostitution in the world, so isn't it better to keep it under control and make it sanitary by forcing all the girls into one district and having them examined by a doctor so they will be safe?" That's one argument of the underworld.

What truth is there in it? It has proved impossible to get all, or even most, of the prostitutes in a community inside of any district.

Many a city thinking it had a model red-light district, found out that 80 per cent. of its prostitutes were operating outside the recognized district.

Today it is generally accepted as a fact throughout the world that for every prostitute in a segregated area in any city, at least five prostitutes are at the same time active outside the area.

Far from controlling prostitution in the sense of limiting it, the existence of a segregated district, with licensed or tolerated brothels, makes it easier to induce new girls to begin a career of commercial prostitution.

Here is provided an insatiable market for the procurers who recruit prostitutes. Here is furnished an ideal business background for the exploiters who live on the earnings of prostitution. Investigations conducted by the League of Nations of the Traffic in Women and Children in most of the civilized nations throughout the world confirm these conclusions.

EASY SUPPLY MAKES DEMAND

Moreover, when prostitution is easily accessible, men form the habit of seeking it with frequency, and of course a red-light district employs every device for increasing the demand for women for prostitution purposes. Demand in turn, increases the supply.

Awaiting his turn to patronize a prostitute is a sordid experience. A man avoids this if he can, but his appetite for prostitution being artificially stimulated.

What are the facts? In the study of the old "Barbary Coast" of San Francisco, 97 per cent. of the prostitutes were found to be infected. In the old Baltimore "district" it was found that 96 per cent. of the inmates had a venereal disease. Only recently a Southern city abolished its district because it found that over 90 per cent. of the inmates were diseased. And so it has been found in hundreds of studies all through the years, down to a small town with twenty prostitutes in three houses. Each had a physician's "certificate of freedom from disease," but careful examinations and laboratory tests showed eighteen had syphilis, he seeks a clandestine prostitute or may form a temporary alliance with some girl who is drifting toward prostitution.

In all these ways the red-light district, the licensed and tolerated brothels and all other forms of commercialized prostitution are constantly making prostitutes from girls who might otherwise never enter the life, and customers from boys who might otherwise never patronize the brothels.

The underworld asserts that the segregated and regulated prostitute does not spread disease. It is alleged that "she knows her business well enough to take good care of her stock-in-trade." The underworld spreads the idea that all the gonorrhoea and syphilis cases come from the free-lance prostitutes and the "amateur."

ALL PROSTITUTES BECOME DISEASED

Since practically all prostitutes may be counted on to become diseased sooner or later, the amount of harm they do is measured roughly by the number of men they expose and the damage to themselves and community which own infection causes. The most promiscuous "charity" girl rarely has sex contact with more than two or three men in any week, whereas the prostitute in a brothel is trained and aided to contact sexually twenty-five or more a week, and frequently as many as twenty-five in one day.

The facts are clearly against

PROSTITUTES SYPHILITIC

MONTREAL, March 11.—Blood tests for syphilis performed on 84 women arrested on prostitution charges in wholesale raids on Montreal rooming houses, showed that not fewer than 33 per cent were syphilitic, it was revealed in police court.

Women who pleaded guilty, but were not found diseased, were released on payment of fines of \$40 and costs. Women who admitted their guilt and were found diseased, were also fined \$40 and costs, and then committed to jail for treatment until cured.

commercialized prostitution as a method of safeguarding the health of either the men or the women concerned.

No city, by any system of medical inspection, has yet been able to safeguard prostitution from spreading the venereal diseases. The requirement of mechanical and chemical prophylaxis in brothels is not practical for either the men or the women, because it cannot be enforced. The voluntary use of such measures by a prostitute is difficult and is against her business policy and her claim of freedom from infection; while for a man it is often not easy to apply at the time of the sexual contact or immediately thereafter, even when he knows what to do and is sober.

The underworld is fond of repeating the age-worn excuse that prostitution—"the business"—is based on human nature, and cannot be stopped.

Take the profit out of the organized prostitution "racket" and it dies as a "business." What is left are extra-martial sexual alliances and contacts which men and women seek without the exploitation of third-party promoters.

When organized prostitution exists in a city, it exists because public opinion consents to it.

And don't forget this—it is organized prostitution that is responsible for much physical and moral degradation as well as economic loss to society.

The underworld often tries to justify itself by claiming that the existence of a segregated district safeguards respectable women and girls against annoyance, insult, and rape.

What has been the experience of cities that have extinguished the red lights?

LESS RED LIGHTS, LESS RAPE

A careful study of these cities shows that in almost every case there is less rape after the segregated district was closed than before. In no case is there evidence that the repression of prostitution has resulted in a "carnival of crime."

The segregated district does not lessen crime; and it breeds not only offences, but extortion, blackmail, and other forms of crime and exploitation.

In times of national emergency, when the efficient effort of large numbers of men in both military and civilian population is essential to the successful prosecution of the war, the illegal business of disease-dispensing commercialized prostitution constitutes a "Fifth Column."

The costs to Canada of the "business" are tremendous in time lost through venereal disease, in treatment costs, and in money misspent.

The greatest cost of all, which no amount of money can redeem, is the loss of health, happiness, and self-respect by those who are victimized by this vicious traffic.

The Criminal Code of Canada permits no toleration of commercial prostitution. In no place where illegally-operating, disease-dispensing commercialized prostitution has existed, has it contributed anything but sickness, misery, corruption, and degradation. The volume of venereal disease resulting from this community fester can be greatly reduced by the simple expedient of enforcement of the Criminal Code of Canada.

Spread Of Infection

A physician in a middle western city asked the State Health Department to trace the source of infection in three cases of newly acquired infectious syphilis in his practice. The infection of all three was traced back to one woman, a prostitute. Then the inquiry turned to persons whom these men might have infected. It was discovered that one man had infected one girl, and another man nine girls, of whom six were under 18 years of age. Of these four girls in turn infected four other men. In all 24 persons were examined and 18 were found infected and placed under treatment.

Examination Is Required For Marriage

Apparently few persons are aware that there is a section of the Marriage Act which requires a health examination by every one before applying for a marriage license. The onus is placed on the issuers of the licenses and those performing the ceremonies, such as ministers, magistrates. The section merely awaits proclamation before going into force.

Section 49 of the Marriage Act, paragraph 1, distinctly states that the issuer of the marriage license must see the health certificate of each of the contracting parties before he can issue such a license, and the official performing the wedding ceremony must make certain that such a health examination has taken place by the couple before he can sign the marriage certificate.

Careful fulfillment of this law by all those officials concerned would do much to control the spread of suffering caused by venereal disease in the wife or husband.

The marriage act also requires that the full details and results of the examination of the one is known to the other.

The rate of sex delinquency and the rate of venereal disease in a city run parallel.

SIX EDUCATIONAL PATHS

To the Control of Venereal Disease in British Columbia

Factual Information About Venereal Disease

Uninformed or misinformed persons do not recognize readily the dangers associated with syphilis and gonorrhoea. It is essential, therefore, that the facts be made known to them. This is being accomplished by the use of literature, lectures, films, radio, newspapers, and other educational methods. By such means it is hoped to create not only a better understanding of the facts about venereal disease, but a desire to assist in the solution of this problem.

The Diagnosis and Treatment of Venereal Disease

Without adequate diagnostic and treatment facilities it would be impossible to stamp out venereal disease. British Columbia has such facilities, through its private physicians and Provincial Government clinics. A continuous educational effort is required to make sure that these facilities are made known to and used by infected persons.

Suppression of Commercialized Prostitution

Commercialized prostitution is the greatest reservoir of venereal disease. Because so much fallacy and misinformation has surrounded this vicious racket, it is understandable that some well-meaning citizens take the stand that prostitution should be "regulated" under "medical supervision." Although this plan seems logical, IT DOES NOT WORK IN PRACTICE. Public Health authorities, progressive law-enforcement agencies, private citizens and organizations who value the health and happiness of their communities, and the Criminal Code of Canada all demand that commercialized prostitution be suppressed vigorously. By educational means, the Provincial Board of Health seeks to extend this enlightened public opinion.

Premarital Blood Testing

The importance of routine premarital blood testing as a measure of mutual protection is gaining wide acceptance. While the discovery of syphilis by this means, before marriage, would be disquieting, it would be less serious than such a discovery after marriage. The further education of the public will create a sound attitude toward this important public health aid.

Prenatal Blood Testing

The detection and early treatment of syphilis in expectant mothers can prevent the tragic infection of babies in 95 per cent of all cases. It is imperative that this hopeful fact be widely publicized.

Abolition of Quackery

Only a physician is qualified to diagnose or treat a venereal infection. The "quack" (any unqualified person) who purports to diagnose, treat, or cure syphilis or gonorrhoea does so illegally and with complete disregard for the welfare of his "patient." Through education, this form of exploitation will be more easily recognized and avoided.

JOHN DOE'S TRAGEDY

Fate of Young Man Who Took Syphilis From Prostitute

John Doe's case is important because it provides a clear picture of the tragic and costly effects of venereal disease. Here are just a few of the known results:

(1). This man did not know that he had syphilis until twelve years after date of infection. A routine physical check-up (including a blood test), or a blood test prior to marriage would have revealed this condition. Medical care could have been started in time to save him.

(2). His wife was infected innocently, thus adding a burden of personal suffering to the strain of caring for a hopeless invalid.

(3). His period of useful employment ended when he was only 38 years of age. As a skilled logger his services would have been invaluable today.

(4). He and his wife were supported entirely by public assistance for six years at a cost of not less than \$3,500. His wife continues to be a public charge.

(5). His hospital costs were paid by the taxpayers. These amounted to more than \$750.

(6). There were no children from this union, thus contributing nothing to the future.

(7). He acquired his infection from a prostitute. Had commercialized prostitution been suppressed at that time the chances are he might have avoided infection.

To summarize, this man suffered greatly; his wife also suffered; industry lost the services of a skilled worker, and the taxpayers footed an expensive bill.

Sure Way To Keep Clean

The man who wishes to keep free of syphilis and gonorrhoea will shun prostitutes and "pick-ups."

Anyone who becomes infected should see his doctor at once. Above all avoid the mostly and dangerous "quack." One should not treat himself. The hospitals and mental institutions see many persons who "knew what to do" or followed the advice of friends. And lastly, no one should expose anyone else to infection.

WORTHY TASK--

We are glad to express our appreciation the work of the Prince Rupert Health Unit and the campaign by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Northern British Columbia Power Company Ltd.

DID YOU KNOW?

The number of reported cases of Venereal Diseases in Prince Rupert during 1943 was

5 times greater in proportion than the 1942 average for all of B.C.

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