



MENACE TO PUBLIC MORALS INCREASING IN OUR LARGE CITIES AND KEPT ALIVE BY THE GREED FOR GRAFT OF THE POLICE AND POLITICIANS

THE fight of the forces of law and order against the pool room evil throughout the United States shows signs of increasing activity. There are many persons who hold that no vice is so productive of injury to society as that of betting on horse races. The percentage of those who visit the tracks and make bets through bookmakers is small in comparison with those who patronize the pool rooms. They are in touch with the race tracks by telephone or telegraph. Men who follow the races as a business are numerous enough, but the vast majority of bettors work hard at some trade or other occupation and earn money to play on the ponies. It is not possible for these unfortunates to be regular attendants at the tracks, but they find it easy enough to lay bets at the pool rooms in town. Most of these gamblers have families dependent upon them, and therein lies the tragedy of pool room betting.

To take a concrete instance, there are in the city of New York about 300 pool rooms. The pool room operators themselves say that there are \$20, but the district attorney's office places the total at 300. All of these places, of course, run in direct violation of the law. They are cages of criminality. It is estimated by a student of the evil that these pool rooms take from the pockets of the deluded gamblers \$25,000,000 a year. The great subway street car system now in operation in New York cost for the building of the tunnels about \$40,000,000. With the money poured into the pockets of the criminals who operate these places another subway system could be built in less than two years. The New York police force of approximately 10,000 men costs the city only about half the sum. It is a pretty stiff tax to pay for the privilege of taking possible chances to win, with the certain result of starving wives and children, ruined homes and suicides in many instances.

Pool Rooms Protected.
It is quite pertinent to use the police force as a basis of comparison in cost, because the police of New York protect the pool room evil. Without the organized system of police protection the pool rooms could not stay open an hour. It is estimated by District Attorney Jerome that the pool room people pay the

police \$750,000 every year for the privilege of being permitted to keep their places open. The police receive from each pool room from \$50 to \$100 a week. The amount to be paid by each is fixed. There is no variation from the police. The sum depends upon the size of the pool room's patronage. When the operator pays the price, he is insured against police raids or other interference. There's nothing like system. It pays—both the police and the pool room.

New York has a population of about 4,000,000. The money cheerfully turned over to the pool room operators would split into \$7 a year for every man, woman and child in the great city, but there are a great many children in New York and a vast number of older persons who do not gamble. The average sum "blown" by the bettors no doubt is a very considerable part of the average income. The man who ventures and loses his money is not the chief sufferer. In many instances his wife and children play that role. They take the tragedy part in the play.

Those Who Are Victims.
Who plays the pool room game? Young men of seventeen, old men of seventy and men of all intermediate ages, but the majority are young men. They are clerks, mechanics, laborers and small shopkeepers. It is declared by the chief clerk of the New York district attorney's office that more young men of respectable antecedents are sent to the reformatories and the penitentiaries because of losses to the pool rooms than from any other cause. When they have lost their small earnings, they suffer from their employers and lose the pifflings. No doubt they fully expect to win and pay back what they steal, but such expectations are seldom fulfilled. Even when a man does win with pilfered money the temptation to play it again for bigger stakes is strong. It is said that the mere love of gambling is responsible for all this pool room betting. Some men gamble because they have a mania for it. Others do it because they foolishly hope to make big winnings and put their families on "Easy street." They read about the enormous winnings of some of the race track blunders who follow anything but a marked propensity for getting into trouble. At the age of fourteen he was taken from school and apprenticed to a Newcastle merchant. This was not to his taste, and he learned the printer's trade, becoming the editor of a small country paper, the Northern Echo, in 1871. Nine years later he was an assistant on the Pall Mall Gazette and in 1883 secured control of that paper. Under his vigorous administration the Gazette began to develop into something really worth while, but it did not grow rapidly enough to satisfy its new editor. He was too keenly alive to the possibilities of the situation to be content with the rewards of ordinary journalism. After two years of conventional journalistic work, varied, it is true, by occasional outbursts into what was regarded by his fellow editors as very yellow journalism indeed, he started in England and all civilization as well by the publication of that series of revelations concerning the moral state of London that made him the man of the hour. He threw down the gauntlet to home, school, church and press, accusing each and all of that silence which is equivalent to being accessory to crime.

He insisted on being taken seriously and procured a committee to investigate. At the head of that board of investigation were two of the most powerful ecclesiastics in Great Britain—Cardinal Manning and the archbishop of Canterbury. Stead reserved nothing,

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BRIEF MENTION.

Mohammedans use the lunar year, which is ten days, twenty-one hours, fourteen and two-fifths seconds shorter than ours.

Cholera has not been epidemic in England since the year 1866, when it appeared in both London and Liverpool.

The "cut bird" is a member of the thrush tribe, common in Florida, whose

note precisely resembles the mewling of a half grown cat.

Sweden and Spain have fewer resident aliens than any other European countries.

Albion, as a name for Britain, is probably derived from "alb" or "alps."

The golden crested wren, the smallest British bird, is so tiny that it would



Breaking Into a Paddock

tually turns up in shabby quarters on the Avenue Despair.

Here is a sample letter received by District Attorney Jerome from a despairing woman:
"My husband works steadily and gets good wages, but nearly all the money goes to the place over a saloon at Hester and Essex streets. I have tried several times to get my husband away from there, only to be ill treated. I went to the police. They laughed at me. Our rent is not paid, and we do not have enough to eat."

The place mentioned is a pool room. Here is an extract from another letter, the woman having mentioned a certain pool room:

"My husband, who is the father of eight children, loses all his wages there. He is kind to us in every other way, but the pool room has such a hold on him that he lets us go hungry so that he can use his money to play the races."

Still another woman writes that her husband is in business, but he loses nearly all his money and neglects his business by going to the pool room. "He will have to give up his store," she says, "if he doesn't give up the pool room."

Backed by Politicians.

Back of the police in protecting the pool rooms stand the politicians. It is said on good authority that a few years ago a New York police official appointed a bartender to collect the "revenue" from pool rooms and other gambling places. In four years these two men actually divided \$4,000,000 between themselves, most of it being pool room graft. How much went to the politicians back of them is not known.



Burning Pool Room Outfit

The situation in New York is similar to that in several other cities, though perhaps the graft system elsewhere is not so perfect. One may ask, Why don't the higher authorities require the police to close up the pool rooms? There are things that are more easily said than done. Why do men still commit murder, though murder has been outlawed for ages? A recent investigator of the situation in New York says:

"While it may be practically impossible to convict the real owners of pool rooms and to establish the relationship of the certain political interests with them, there is not the slightest possibility that the recognized pool rooms can be closed and kept closed if the police were disposed to enforce the law. District Attorney Jerome has shut them up for the time being by making a few raids."

The police could shut up every gambling place in New York without making a single raid. It would be necessary only to send the owners word to close up and keep closed indefinitely. The police cannot enforce such an order. This has been proved time and time again. Many an honest man has tried with all his heart only to be convinced that the opposition is too strong.

The police commissioner cannot enforce the order. I believe that most people have confidence in General Bingham's honesty and sincerity. He is very much at the mercy of his subordinates, who deceive him constantly, but not so thoroughly as they could wish. This is proved by his refusal to make inspectors of certain captains who headed the civil service eligible list. Don't jump at the conclusion that a police commissioner who may be fooled evidences weakness or lack of capacity. When President Roosevelt was a police commissioner in New York he was so thoroughly bamboozled by subordinates and associates that when he realized it toward the end of his term he was



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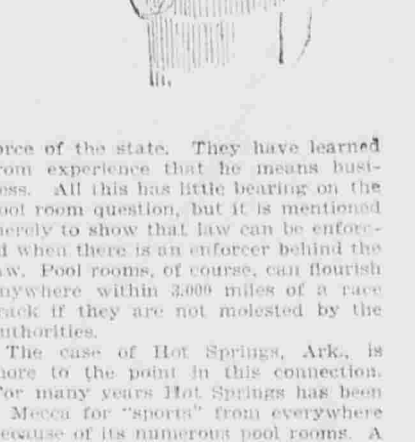
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The Greatest Modern English Editor and Reformer; He Claims to Be Responsible For the Russian Douma

If the average well read man were asked to name a dozen persons who have figured most persistently in the public eye for the last decade it is not likely that the name of William T. Stead would be omitted from the list. It is far more probable that it would occupy a place apart, as belonging to a personality so remarkable and withal so elusive that it cannot be comprehended easily.

Speaking generally, however, it is the personality of a man who is a free lance in the best meaning of the expression, a man who is galloping through life striving to combat and to redress wrongs wherever and whenever he may come face to face with them, having no definite notion of what will come next, but ready to attend to it when it does make its appearance. Probably this description would not satisfy Mr. Stead, but it is about the popular idea of him.

Mr. Stead came to America recently to attend the Carnegie peace demonstration, and the galvanic character of his ideas and his forcible way of expounding them have aroused the usual storm of discussion. It is characteristic of him that he agreed with scarcely anything that was said or done at the peace meetings. It is also characteristic of him that in the numerous outside addresses made by him there was far more criticism than approval, and a marvelous freedom of expression marked all his public utterances.

The career of William T. Stead is one long story of the aggressive, courageous deeds of a man of action. Whenever there is anything to do that requires a man's strength he packs his Gladstone, sets out immediately, travels day and night and when he reaches the spot rolls up his sleeves and goes to work. His whole life has been what may be termed a wholesale propaganda of always stirring, always stimulating ideas. He is a man of stubborn ideas, of long memory and, it must be confessed, bitter resentment. It is true that he is intolerant of the opinions of others and that he finds no especial merit in theories that do not coincide with his own. He also has a tendency at times to be spectacular, and he is not at all averse to publicity. It cannot be denied that he is master of a subtle power of holding the masses, and although he sometimes crosses the verge of sense and

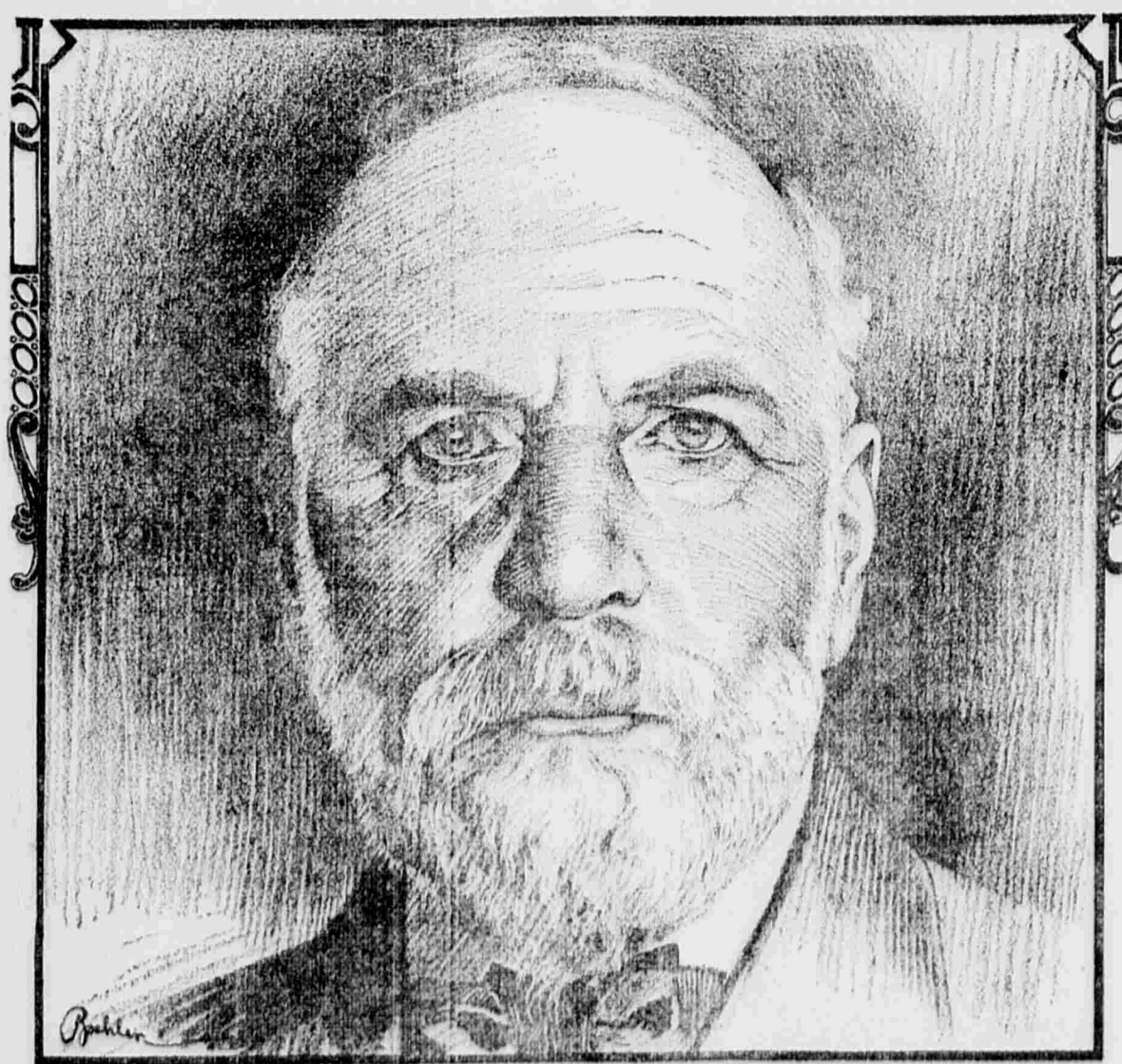
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WILLIAM THOMAS STEAD.

He was frank to the limit of moral endurance. His paper bared the whole sickening story to the amazed world with no omission of a ghastly detail. As a publicity inciter the exposure was a mighty success. As a commercial transaction it was unprecedented. The Gazette sold like wildfire. Instead of the usual penny, each copy went readily at 2 shillings. The boys were arrested and fined for selling obscene literature, but still the profitable sale

continued, and Stead dared the government to prosecute him. At last the matter was taken up by the authorities. The investigating committee appointed by Stead found him to be justified in some small measure,

but reported at the same time that the evil had been exaggerated greatly. The editor was accused, found guilty and sent to prison to serve a term at hard labor. That was his crowning triumph, and it was thus that the Russian first step on the ladder that led to publicity. William T. Stead was at last a figure before the world.

He has never grown less. After his exposure of social evils in London he was lodged in Coldbath prison for three months. They were the happiest three months he had ever known. He continued to edit the Gazette, and the novelty of the procedure only served to stimulate popular interest in his journal. He did not modify any of his fearful charges, but he admitted that he had been injudicious in his method of springing them. He agreed also that it made for the moral welfare of the country to let the matter drop, and he declared, with a final flourish and with a ghastly and suggestive intimation of what he could do if it were expedient, that he had accomplished his purpose of letting the world know what a white-hot sear the modern Babylon actually was.

Perhaps the greatest coup ever made by Mr. Stead was in 1888, when he went to St. Petersburg to have a talk with the father of the present czar. The enterprise was as daring as it was novel. No other journalist would have had the nerve to attempt it. It was at a time when the Muscovite sovereign was practically a prisoner in his palace. Constantly menaced by Nihilists, Alexander was guarded closely, and admission to the imperial presence was exceedingly difficult to obtain. It was at a time, too, when there was a good deal of newspaper talk of war between England and Russia, and the feeling against John Bull was rather bitter.

Stead's first step was to pose as an old time friend of Russia. He succeeded so admirably in this that he was accorded an audience at Gatchina and actually talked with Alexander in his workshop for over an hour. It was a journalistic feat that won the admiration of the world, although the diplomats shuddered at Mr. Stead's violation of royal etiquette in taking advantage of his host's good nature by putting him through the regular torture of the interview.

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has felt quite at home in Russia and in 1898 visited the present czar at Livadia. It is one of his modest boasts that the Douma owes its existence to his kindly effort as royal adviser, and he is also of the opinion that the Russian monarch's interest in the scheme of universal peace is due to his persuasive eloquence. E. J. COOPER.

PRESENTED ARMS TO THE BABY.

When Signora Duse, the famous actress, was an infant she was carried to church to be christened in a glass cradle. As the procession solemnly wound its way along with much ceremony it was met by a detachment of guards, who, mistaking the gorgeous cradle for a shrine of holy relics, immediately halted and presented arms. The mistake was regarded as a happy omen, and a brilliant future was predicted for the little one on that account. Though that prediction has been amply fulfilled, it was many years before Eleonora achieved anything like success. Indeed, it has been said that her people were so poor that the child used to go regularly to the hospital where her mother was lying ill in order to procure the food which the poor woman was too unwell to eat herself.

LORD TENNYSON.

Lord Tennyson has never exhibited that dislike to public life which his father carried to the extent of aloofness. And yet the future governor-general of Australia must have qualified himself for public life mostly while he was his father's private secretary. He was forty when he succeeded to the title in 1850 and forty-seven when he went off to the Antipodes and tried his penitential hand at governing. He is a G. C. M. G. and a Grand Cross of the Japanese Rising Sun. Five universities have honored him with degrees. He is honorable colonel in two Australian regiments and president of three societies. Moreover, he has written the best life of his father that we seem likely to get.

RICHEST VOICE IN PARLIAMENT.

John Redmond, M. P., is noted for the melodious character of his oratory. Not only is he one of the readiest of the house of commons debaters, but he is also one of the most eloquent. He possesses, in the opinion of many good judges, the finest and richest voice of any parliamentarian.

are ground between two millstones and finished between hard stone cylinders in a wooden cask.

The Riddings of Yorkshire are so-called because under the Saxon rule Yorkshire was divided into three parts or trithings. Ridding is simply a corruption of trithing.

Next to Gibraltar, Malta is the strongest fortress in the world. As a rule, a man's hair turns gray five years sooner than a woman's.