

## The Commoner.

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### NO "WHITE SLAVES" IN NEBRASKA

The Nebraska legislature has passed a very complete "white slave" law. The bill was introduced by Senator Albert, democrat, of Platte county. Its most active champion outside of the legislature was Mr. Chris Gruenther, vice chairman of the Nebraska democratic state committee. Mr. Gruenther and Senator Albert are receiving many compliments for their good work on this measure. The bill is Senate File 197, and is as follows:

A bill for an act to enjoin and abate houses of lewdness, assignation and prostitution, to declare the same to be nuisances, to enjoin the person or persons who conduct or maintain the same, and the owner or agent of any building used for such purpose, and to assess a tax against the person maintaining said nuisance and against the building and owner thereof.

Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Nebraska: Section 1. Whoever shall erect, establish, continue, maintain, use, own or lease any building, erection or place for the purpose of lewdness, assignation or prostitution is guilty of a nuisance, and the building, erection or place, or the ground itself, in or upon which such lewdness, assignation or prostitution is conducted, permitted or carried on, continued or exists, and the furniture, fixtures, musical instruments, and contents are also declared a nuisance, and shall be enjoined and abated as hereinafter provided.

Section 2. Whenever a nuisance is kept, maintained or exists, as defined in this act, the county attorney or any citizen of the county may maintain an action in equity in the name of the state of Nebraska upon the relation of such county attorney or citizen, to perpetually enjoin said nuisance, the person or persons conducting or maintaining the same, and the owner or agent of the building or ground upon which said nuisance exists. In such action the court, or a judge in vacation, shall, upon the presentation of a petition therefor alleging that the nuisance complained of exists, allow a temporary writ of injunction without bond, if it shall be made to appear to the satisfaction of the court or judge by evidence in the form of affidavits, depositions, oral testimony or otherwise, as the complainant may elect, unless the court or judge, by previous order, shall have directed the form and manner in which it shall be presented. Three days' notice in writing shall be given the defendant of the hearing of the application, and if then continued at his instance, the writ as prayed shall be granted as a matter of course. When an injunction has been granted, it shall be binding on the defendant throughout the judicial district in which it was issued, and any violation of the provisions of injunction herein pro-

vided shall be a contempt as hereinafter provided.

Section 3. The action when brought shall be triable at the first term of court after due and timely service of the notice has been given, and in such action evidence of the general reputation of the place shall be admissible for the purpose of proving the existence of said nuisance. If the complaint is filed by a citizen, it shall not be dismissed except upon a sworn statement made by the complainant and his attorney, setting forth the reasons why the action should be dismissed, and the dismissal approved by the county attorney in writing or in open court. If the court is of the opinion that the action ought not to be dismissed, he may direct the county attorney to prosecute said action to judgment, and if the action is continued more than one term of court, any citizen of the county or the county attorney may be substituted for the complaining party and prosecute said action to judgment. If the action is brought by a citizen and the court finds there was no reasonable ground or cause for said action, the costs may be taxed to such citizen.

Section 4. In case of the violation of any injunction granted under the provisions of this act, the court, or in vacation, a judge thereof, may summarily try and punish the offender. The proceedings shall be commenced by filing with the clerk of the court an information under oath, setting out the alleged facts constituting such violation, upon which the court or judge shall cause a warrant to issue, under which the defendant shall be arrested. The trial may be had upon affidavits, or either party may demand the production and oral examination of the witnesses. A party found guilty of contempt under the provisions of this section, shall be punished by a fine of not less than two hundred or more than one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail not less than three or more than six months, or by both fine and imprisonment.

Section 5. If the existence of the nuisance be established in an action as provided in this act, or in a criminal proceeding, an order of abatement shall be entered as a part of the judgment in the case, which order shall direct the removal from the building or place of all fixtures, furniture, musical instruments or movable property used in conducting the nuisance, and shall direct the sale thereof in the manner provided for the sale of chattels under execution, and effectual closing of the building or place against its use for the purpose, and so keeping it closed for a period of one year, unless sooner released. If any person shall break and enter or use a building, erection or place so directed to be closed, he shall be punished as for contempt as provided in the preceding section. For removing and selling the movable property, the officer shall be entitled to charge and receive the same fees as he would for levying upon and selling like property on execution, and for closing the premise and keeping them closed, a reasonable sum shall be allowed by the court.

Section 6. The proceeds of the sale of the personal property, as provided in the preceding section, shall be applied in payment of the costs of the action and abatement, and the balance, if any, shall be paid to the defendant.

Section 7. If the owner appears and pays all costs of the proceeding, and files a bond with sureties to be approved by the clerk in the full value of the property, to be ascertained by the court, or, in vacation, by the clerk, auditor, and treasurer of the county, conditioned that he will immediately abate said nuisance and prevent the same from being established or kept therein within a period of one year thereafter, the court, or, in vacation, the judge, may, if satisfied of his good faith, order the premises closed under the order of abatement to be delivered to said owner, and said order of abatement cancelled so far as the same may relate to said property and if the proceeding be an action in equity and said bond be given and costs therein paid before judgment and order of abatement, the action shall be thereby abated as to said building only. The release of the property under the provisions of this section shall not release it from any judgment, lien, penalty or liability to which it may be subject by law.

Section 8. Whenever a permanent injunction issues against any person for maintaining a nuisance as herein defined, or against any owner or agent of the building kept or used for the purpose prohibited by this act, there shall be assessed against said building and the ground upon which the same is located and against

the person or persons maintaining said nuisance, and the owner or agent of said premise, a tax of three hundred dollars. The assessment of said tax shall be made by the assessor of the city, village or township in which the nuisance exists and shall be made within three months from the date of the granting of the permanent injunction. In case the assessor fails or neglects to make said assessment the same shall be made by the sheriff of the county, and a return of said assessment shall be made to the county treasurer. Said tax may be enforced and collected in the manner prescribed for the collection of taxes under the general revenue laws and shall be a perpetual lien upon all property, both personal and real, used for the purpose of maintaining said nuisance, and the payment of said tax shall not relieve the person or building from any other penalties provided by law and when collected shall be applied and distributed in the manner prescribed by law for the application and distribution of moneys arising from the collection of fines and penalties in criminal cases, excepting that 20 per cent of the amount so collected shall be paid by the treasurer to the attorney representing the state in the injunction action at the time of final judgment.

Section 9. Whereas, there being an emergency this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

### THE BRYAN DOCTRINE

To the Editor of the Houston Chronicle.—In his address, delivered in Dallas, November 20, Mr. W. J. Bryan said: "The saving of one boy may be the means of accomplishing for the world greater things than that money in any other way could have brought. Much as I am interested in government, I am more interested in religion. (Applause.) Anxious as I am that men shall vote right, I am more anxious that men shall live right. The doctrine of election is the only doctrine of the church to which I belong that has bothered me. As some one has explained, that election is simply this: "God is voting for you and the devil is voting against you and which ever way you vote that carries the election. There is much more in a man's being in harmony with his Creator than in harmony with his party." (Applause.)

The reader will agree that this is a famous paragraph. It contains a number of vital truths that ought to have great weight with thinking men. Two or three things are pointed out for the purpose of emphasis.

First. A boy is worth more than any amount of money. Theoretically all agree to that statement, but practically many deny it. Go where one will, on railroads, in hotels, business and money-making freight the very air. Governmental policies that are wrecking and damning the boys by the multiplied thousands, are condoned and even approved because they result in making money for certain people. Mr. Bryan said when one's own boy is involved he understands that boy is worth more than any amount of money, but when his neighbor's boy is imperiled it is another proposition. This is another way of saying that unless it hurts them in their own family circles, many men will agree to the destruction of boys, if only the process fattens their bank account. The whole thing is utterly discreditable to those who are guilty.

Second. Note again: "Much as I am interested in government, I am more interested in religion." Mr. Bryan stoutly affirms that no one is really prepared to live until he is in right relation with God. This is a great truth that needs to be pressed down on the consciences of the masses. There are many people who believe that it is impossible for any one to be active in politics and a great Christian character at the same time. Mr. Bryan is the best sort of refutation of this devilish idea. There is no incompatibility between Christianity and the science of government.

It is no idle statement to say that Mr. Bryan is doing more than any other single layman to enthrone in the affairs of this country the practical doctrine announced by Christ, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." The fact that he through his whole life has preserved this proper co-ordination, incumbent on every Christian citizen, is perhaps the thing that gives him the wealth of confidence he enjoys not only in America but throughout the world. It is said of him that no American ever traveled abroad who more profoundly impressed the practicability of Christianity on the minds of heathen countries. If Christian men in America would live up to the mandates of Christianity in citizenship matters, it would prove the solution of