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EDITORIAL

USING VICE IN VICE'S INTEREST.

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It is not merely in an indirect way that the dishonesty of the anti-vice campaign of the Bishop Potter element stands proven. Indirectly it has been proven by the circumstance that the campaign is to be carefully kept out of those districts in which the Bishop Potter element derives profit from vice; and it has been indirectly proved also by the masterly satire of Mr. Croker. When the leader of Tammany Hall, the organization whose revenues are largely drawn from Vice, came out as an anti-vice, he did nothing short of holding the mirror up to the Bishop Potter element, and by letting them see their own lineaments, convey the information that he and the public know what those lines are. Directly also this fraudulent campaign stands nailed.

Vice, the special vice, that Goo-gooism has entered the lists against is a special product of Capitalism; aye, it is a prop of capitalism. The wages paid to girls are not supposed to be able to support them. What anti-vice is there who would not fly off the handle at the bare mention of a demand for living wages by shop girls? There is not one. In line with this come other ugly incidents.

For about eight months during this year a mammoth cigarmakers' strike was on. Most of the strikers were women. They wanted higher wages. What was the issue? What with the material interests of the employers and the specialized material interests of the Organized Scabbery that ran the strike, the girls were kept out. Some, not a few, may have found their account in the strike. The strike benefit may have enabled them to live without work. But others there were whom the strike struck hard. It struck hard in more ways than one. Not only were they kept in deeper poverty, but they fell into bad habits. The Organized Scabbery, under whose rule and dictation they stood, and who have joined the Bishop Potter element's crusade, resorted to all manner of devices to "entertain" those girls. Music, hops and also liquor was employed to narcoticize them into submission and pliancy by furnishing them with "a good time." The strike was lost,—and, along

with it, some of these girls. We are informed of five, who, via the strike, have increased the "Army of Vice."

How true to life is the conduct of the Organized Scabbery in joining the Bishop Potter element! How well summarized is the whole by the "death-bed conversion" of Croker!

All around Vice is being used as a blind in the interest of Vice.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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