

SAYS STATE IS WORKSHOP FOR WHITE SLAVERS

Clifford G. Roe, Former Assistant State's Attorney of Illinois, Tells Men's Mass Meeting at Y. M. C. A. That He Can Prove Existence of Evil in Minnesota.

Will Produce Evidence to Refute Report of Government Detective Who Recently Declared Duluth and Twin Cities Free from Recruiters of Immoral Resorts.

One week ago, Joseph Freimuth, representative of the United States white slave commission, after an investigation of conditions in Duluth, Minneapolis and St. Paul reported, among other things, the following:

First—That no white slave traffic exists in the state.

Second—That immoral resorts in Minnesota are recruited from girls who take up the life from choice.

Yesterday afternoon at a Young Men's Christian association mass meeting; Clifford G. Roe, former assistant state's attorney of Cook county, Illinois referring to the report of the federal detective said:

First—That white slave traffic does exist in this state.

Second—That immoral resorts in Minnesota are recruited largely from the ranks of the white slaves.

Third—That if the government will pay the expense, he will produce absolute evidence that his charges are true.

Mr. Roe has been intimately acquainted with the white slave trade in Chicago, St. Louis and other cities in his position as prosecuting attorney and has secured convictions in more than 300 cases. His story of the network of panderism with which he claims the United States, as well as other countries, is enmeshed and which is doing more than any other single evil to tear down the fabric of the home, is considered the most forceful arraignment ever heard in this city on the subject.

Duluth Not Immune.

"And I know that Minnesota—that Duluth, Minneapolis, St. Paul and other cities are no more immune from the procurer than other sections of the country," he said. "One of the first cases that I prosecuted was that of Morris Goldstein for selling a Duluth girl into an immoral house. Instances in which girls were imported into this state for such purposes are by no means uncommon, as the court records of Cook county, Illinois, will show.

"More than that," continued Mr. Roe, "if Mr. Freimuth or the government will foot the bill, I can obtain incontrovertible testimony that every one of my statements is based on facts and conditions as they are."

Mr. Roe warned the large audience present against selecting officials at the coming municipal election who will encourage in the slightest degree the reestablishment of a red light district in Duluth.

"Do so," said he, "and you make of this city a mecca for panderers and procurers from Chicago, New York and St. Louis. They will come here because they are being driven gradually from their strongholds in those cities, their territory of immunity is being slowly restricted and by the instinct of self preservation they are turning to other fields to ply their nefarious trade.

"I tell you that as surely as you citizens of Duluth allow a red light district here, this will be the inevitable result. You expose your women and your homes to the most insidious evil, to contact with the great crime of the age.

Has Faith in Zenith City.

"But Duluth will not do it. She is not going to recede one step from the stand she has taken, along with Des Moines and other cities in the vanguard of this crusade against vice. The forces of right are not going to retreat an inch from the ground they have won. This is my prophecy."

Mr. Roe said that the three great means by which the white slavers secure their victims are catering to the vanity, the ambition and the affection of girls. He produced records and evidence from cases, which he has personally conducted, in which the statements of both the white slavers and the girls showed that it was through some one of these channels that the ranks of immorality were recruited.

"I believe," continued he, "that the remedies for the awful condition which everywhere surrounds us is threefold—first, education in the home, second, better and more rigid laws, and third, strict law enforcement. In order to bring about these things I have undertaken to give what publicity I could to my knowl-

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edge of the evil by a speaking campaign.

Ignorance in Homes.

"There is no question but that there is a lamentable ignorance on such matters in the home life. Either through delicacy or lack of information on the part of parents, girls are liable at any moment to be placed within the power of panderers. The truth in this matter must permeate into every home in every city, village and hamlet of the United States, before we can hope to wipe it out. No girl should be allowed to leave her home in search of employment unless her parents know from whom, through whom and with whom she is going to work.

"As to laws, six states of the Union, among them Minnesota, have made panderism a felony, punishable with fines or a term in the penitentiary or both. We must do our utmost to encourage the passage of such laws in every state and to secure the enactment of the statute which has passed our lower house in congress and is now before the senate.

"Laws are of no avail unless they are enforced, however. I am glad to see the attitude you people in northern Minnesota have taken in dealing with such cases. Duluth has made a notable advance in wiping out immoral houses.

"Again, I repeat it, she cannot afford to take a backward step at this time."