DOWNFALL DUE TO LOW WAGES

Demi-monde Appears Before Illinois Vice Commission.

MERCHANT PRINCES TESTIFY

THEY MAINTAIN GIRLS GET ENOUGH PAY.

Julius Rosenwald, E. F. Mandel and James Simpson, Who Employ Thousands of Girls and Women, Tell of the Wages They Pay, Which Average Below $10 a Week—They Contend That Home Environment Is Responsible for Girls' Conduct.

Special Dispatch to The American.

Chicago, March 7.—Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck & Co.; Edward F. Mandel, president of Mandel Bros., and James Simpson, vice president of Marshall Field & Co., three of Chicago's most prominent merchant princes, were the chief witnesses before the Illinois Senate White Slave Commission, which met in the LaSalle Hotel today.

They were summoned to assist the commission in determining the relation of the white slave traffic and the figures they had to present led to some very uncomfortable situations during their examination.

Julius Rosenwald testified that while the profits of his company last year amounted to $7,000,000 and the reserve fund to $12,000,000, the average wage paid to the 4,732 women employed was $9.20, and that many received $5 and $5.50 a week. He said he could have given $2,000,000 out of profits and still pay "some dividends."

"Home environment, not wages," he said, was responsible for girls going wrong, and he ventured the assertion that proper home environment could be purchased for $5 a week.

Edward F. Mandel stated that the average wage of the 1,866 female employes of that firm is $9.86, ranging from $3 to $35 a week. A woman, he said, might live on $7.25 a week, and he justified the payment of smaller sums by saying that the girls receiving $3 a week lived at home, according to the application blanks that were filled out by each one before she was put to work.

Mr. Mandel's schedule for the weekly expenses of the working woman were as follows: Clothing, $1; laundry, 25 cents; room rent and board, $4; carfare, 60 cents; luncheon, 70 cents; doctors and dentists, 60 cents, and church expenses, 10 cents.

James Simpson stated on behalf of Marshall Field & Co. that the average wage of the 4,233 female employes of that firm is $10.76, of which 440 are receiving less than $5 a week for part of their time and 213 are receiving $5.

The opinions of these three men, who together employ nearly 11,000 women, differed widely as to the effect of low wages on morality.

Julius Rosenwald stoutly held to his statement that low wages had nothing to do with it. Mr. Mandel took the same tack in the beginning until he was induced to estimate a woman's expenses, which he fixed at $7.25 a week. Mr. Simpson declared $8 a week was necessary for a woman to take proper care of herself, and both Mr. Simpson and Mr. Mandel agreed that if a woman were not paid an adequate wage the chance against her remaining a good woman would be exceedingly slim.

The testimony of the three merchants was one side of the picture only. Eleanor Benson, a former employe of Sears, Roebuck & Co., said that three-eighths of the women working for the great mail order concern were above reproach. She said she could not answer for the rest.

Another girl told of a professional scolder in the establishment, of a tax of 10 cents a week for drinking water, because that furnished by the firm was unfit for use. There were tales of abusive foremen and forewomen and of poverty among the employes that led the girls working there to share their clothes because all had not sufficient for their needs.

The afternoon session closed with a hapless parade of unfortunate women, aged from 21 to 38, who one and all told the same story of their downfall—pitiful tales of miserable wages that did not meet their needs and so led to the first step toward an evil life.

There was an executive session held by the commission before the meeting of the afternoon, when testimony was introduced to show that physicians were in the way of houses in the red light district to furnish certificates of health to inmates regardless of their true condition and specific instances were told of the hideous propagation of disease through this system.

HAD CHAMPAGNE FROLIC

As a Result Mrs. Dahlgren Is Granted Her Divorce.

Bureau of The Baltimore American,
Room 1005 World Building,
New York, March 7.

A decree of divorce was granted today to Mrs. Lucy Dahlgren by Justice Bijur against her husband, Eric Dahlgren, clubman and bon vivant. A champagne frolic of Dahlgren and a Mrs. Bradley, recited at great length in two big volumes of testimony taken before Referee William Klein, was withheld.

Although the greatest secrecy has veiled the proceedings before the referee, it became known today that detectives and bellboys were the principal witnesses against the millionaire yachtsmen, who is a son of Rear Admiral John Dahlgren, the Civil War commander who invented the Dahlgren gun.

The night of the frolic was March 13, 1912. Dahlgren was followed from his home, at 812 Madison avenue, to the apartment-house in East Fifty-ninth street. Dahlgren entered the building wearing a light suit and emerged with Mrs. Bradley some hours later in a dark suit.

Dahlgren and Mrs. Bradley then motored to Rector's, where they had dinner and a liberal supply of wine. The sleuths dined at a neighboring table. Toward midnight the quarry left and rode to Fifth avenue and Fifty-ninth street, where they alighted. There was testimony that the detectives heard Mrs. Bradley address her companion as "Eric" and as "sweetheart," and that Dahlgren, in his exuberance, hugged his companion and kissed her. After a stroll along the east wall of Central Park the detectives saw the clubman and Mrs. Bradley turn to the walk in front of the Plaza Hotel and there, under the great arc lights, danced the "turkey trot." After the dance Dahlgren and Mrs. Bradley went to Mrs. Bradley's apartments, on East Fifty-ninth street, the sleuths swore.

On the witness-stand Dahlgren attempted to establish a psychological alibi. He admitted going to Mrs. Bradley's apartment early in the afternoon in response to an urgent letter. He said he remained about half an hour, and then returned to his Madison avenue home for dinner. After his meal he encountered Mrs. Bradley again, and at her solicitation went to Rector's, where more than six bottles of wine were consumed. At a period of the evening close to midnight, Mr. Dahlgren asserts, his mind became a dense, opaque blot. He recalled nothing which transpired afterward, he said.

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BREAKING UP A BIG OPIUM RING

ADMITS DEALING DEATH BLOW TO SMUGGLERS.

Many Cities Involved in the Operations—The Trade in Drug Said to Be Enormous—One Woman in the Toils—Plans So Carefully Worked Out That Smugglers Scarcely Knew Each Other.

Portland, Ore., March 7.—So carefully planned that one smuggler knew scarcely any of the others involved, the biggest opium ring discovered on the Pacific Coast in recent years is being broken up by customs agents.

Cities in which agents of the ring were active were said by federal officers to be San Francisco, Seattle, Portland, Tacoma, Spokane, Butte, Salt Lake City, Chicago and New York, on this side of the border, and Victoria and Vancouver, in British Columbia, and a supply station at Honolulu.

Samuel Hausman, of Seattle, who was ostensibly engaged in the real estate business and had offices in a reputable downtown building there, was arrested in Honolulu on February 7, with a large quantity of opium in his possession.

Three arrests followed in Portland last night, and customs agents said today they have a confession—withheld for the present until other arrests have been made—which explains in full the workings of the ring.

Those arrested were John W. Rogers, alias J. A. Ralston, as he is known in Seattle; Charles Looey, a prominent Chinese merchant of Seattle, and a young married woman, who gave her name as Marian Bergman, which the Seattle customs officers say is an alias.

As a sequel of the arrests a search was made in Seattle today of Looey's offices, Ralston's room and the apartments occupied by the Bergman woman and her husband, who was ignorant of her activities. Correspondence and appliances for handling opium were found.

Looey is accused by the authorities of being the directing agent for the Pacific Northwest. Ralston said when arrested: "I'm only a packhorse," and the customs officers said he told the truth.

No figures of the business done have been given out, but the amount of opium seized when Ralston was arrested on one of his regular trips is worth $4,500 and the trade is described as "enormous." Hausman made frequent trips to Honolulu.

KAHN GUILTY OF ARSON

Jury in Indiana Man's Case Out Since Last Wednesday.

South Bend, Ind., March 7.—Benjamin Kahn was found guilty of arson by a jury in the Circuit Court this morning. The jury had been out since late Wednesday afternoon.

Kahn was found guilty of setting fire to his establishment, the Farmers and Workingmen's Friend Store, in this city, last April. It was charged by the prosecutor that Benjamin Fink, who was indicted with Kahn and whose trial is set to begin Monday, was paid by Kahn to set fire to the store. Kahn's conviction is the outgrowth of the investigation of the gigantic "arson trust," which is supposed to have operated over the Middle Western States for several years.

Prosecutor Montgomery began his investigation which resulted in Kahn's conviction today more than a year ago, and has been assisted by Chicago officers. Fink is alleged to have been one of the "torches" of the so-called "trust." Kahn will be sentenced Monday.

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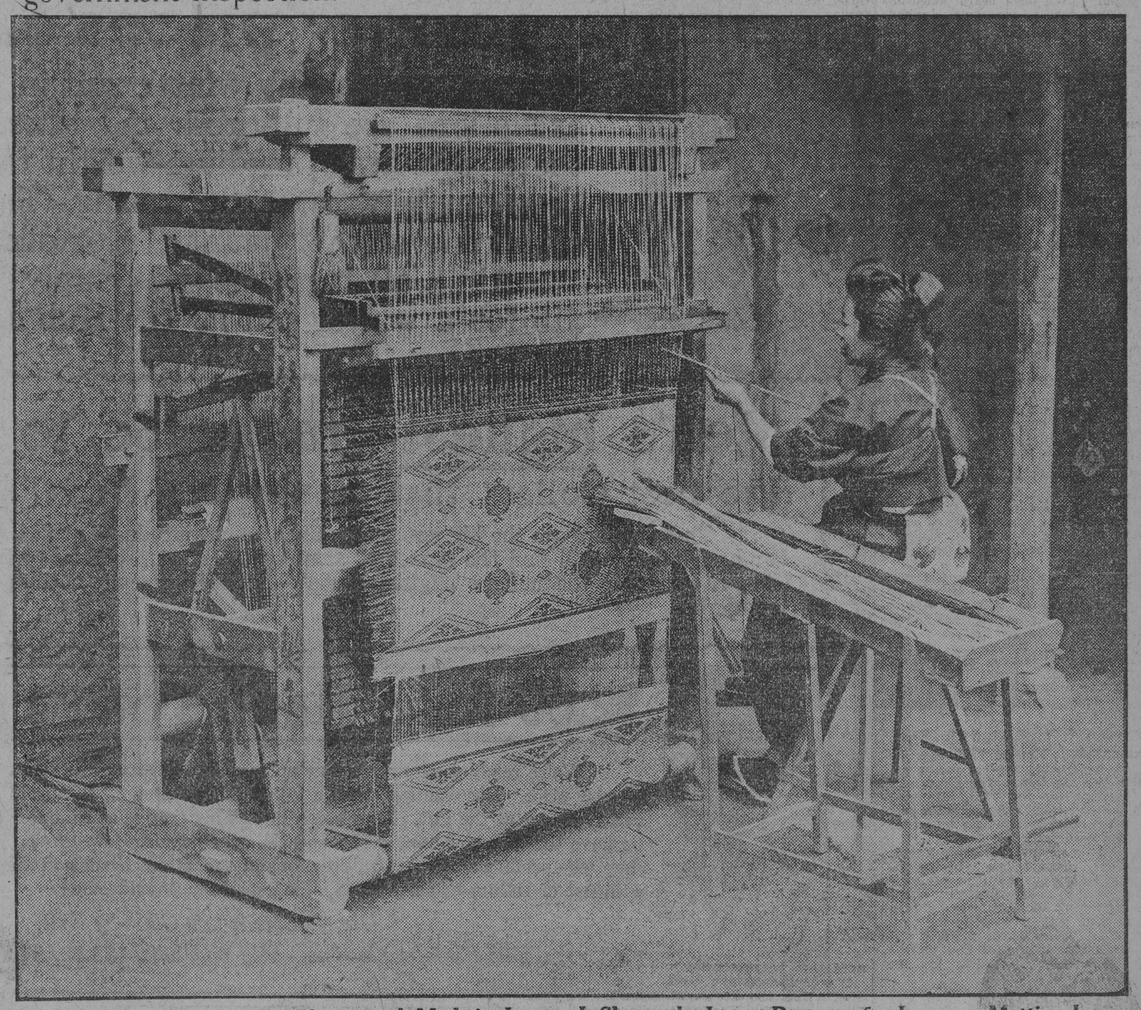

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