

## Preacher, Head Of Police Force, Cleans City Of Liquor And Vice

"Police Parson" Drives Lawbreakers From City in Pennsylvania, Breaks Crime Ring.

Bethlehem, Pa.—The citizenry, good, bad and indifferent, of this city of 68,000 is practicing what the Rev. Frederick T. Trafford preaches regarding law observance.

The reason is a very good one. For when Dr. Trafford is not occupying a pulpit he presides over the police department of Bethlehem.

When Mayor Robert Pfeifle and the new city government, chosen by voters weary of vice and departmental corruption, went into office on January 6, Dr. Trafford was appointed superintendent of police. Considerable alarm and not a few protests resulted. The law-breaking gentry of Bethlehem, the men on the force even the solid citizens were uneasy at the threat of ecclesiastical reform.

He cleaned up the town. But they'll tell you now, all of them, that the superintendent is far

smooth-shaven—academic in appearance and action. He speaks forcefully but slowly, smokes cigarettes and dresses in neat civilian attire even while on duty. There are "too many fancy gadgets" on the police uniform which is rightfully his.

**An Ordained Minister.**  
An ordained Moravian minister, he preaches every Sunday in a church at Bangor, 30 miles from Bethlehem. On the other six days, as a prosecuting police official, he appears in the county and magistrates courts in and near Bethlehem. He carries every case to its finish, and there have been a great many cases since he took office.

"In one week, after our campaign got under way," he recalled, "we closed 174 speakeasies, more than 20 gambling houses and put 26 disorderly houses, out of business."

"We found and destroyed 25 stills and I don't know how many hundred gallons of liquor."

Out of his close study of social problems has grown a conviction that the eighteenth amendment, as it stands, is a failure. During three years of welfare work in New York, and six years in Detroit, he has observed prohibition's effect on the lower classes. Dr. Trafford would modify the law to permit the sale of beer and light wines.

"Everywhere I turn," he declared, "there is evidence of how prohibition is undermining health and morals. Forty-two nationalities are represented in Bethlehem. Almost every other one of these homes has been making some kind of liquor, and from the seizures we have made we know it to be the most abominable kind."

"The best" product commonly available around here has been selling for \$4 a gallon. Still more poisonous stuff has been selling for \$1.25 a gallon. You can imagine the quality and conditions of manufacture that make such prices possible."

The superintendent well knows the character and worth of the men who work under him. That was the first investigation he made, and the ingenious method employed served the double purpose of closing scores of scowling resorts and weeding out graft in the police force.

A few days of personal undercover work supplied him and Mayor Pfeifle with a long list of gin mills, stills, gambling houses and vice dens.

Then an ultimatum was issued to the policemen. They well know, Dr. Trafford told 'em, where these places were and what they were doing. The resorts must be visited, he declared, and the proprietors wanted to cease operations immediately or be arrested.

Late, scanning his secret list, he found that nearly all of the men were obeying his orders to the letter.

**Stopped Gambling.**  
"We had to deal harshly with the social evil," Dr. Trafford said. "Immorality was an organized trade here with the promoters dodging in and out from New York and Newark. We arrested about 30 young women who have been sent to institutions. That has practically ended the traffic."

"The town has been cleaned of narcotics. Not long ago, dope was easy to obtain. But now the people who sold it either are in jail or have hurriedly left the city."

"Even the slot machine gambling devices have been wiped out of count less stores and restaurants. We found they were taking as much money from customers as they had been spending for liquor."

Nobody took this "crusader" very seriously—at first. But when his or-

## FATHER AND SONS MARRIED 'EM ALL

Man And Boys Indicted In Michigan For Fraudulent Wholesale Marriage Idea.

Grand Rapids, Mich.—A 68-year-old father and his two sons were under indictment here on charges involving nearly a dozen marriages in various parts of the country through which Federal authorities assert, the three men were able to live in ease for eight years.

The indictments, returned by a federal grand jury charge Michael

giers began to be obeyed, the lawbreakers resorted to the tactics which had proven satisfactory to all concerned during two previous administrations.

Cates and his sons, Richard, 21, and

Howard, 17, with violations of the Mann act. The arrest of the trio came about through the marriage of Richard to Marguerite Berk in St. Joseph, Mich. Richard, federal authorities allege, previously had married women in Michigan, Kentucky, Arkansas and Milwaukee.

The trio took the girl to Tulsa, Okla., and later brought her to Kalamazoo, Mich., where she was given 70 cents for bus fare home.

Her complaint resulted in the arrest of the father and sons in Tulsa. Seven marriages were laid to the father by federal authorities and he alleged to have been transported from one state to another at various times during the last eight years. Some of the wives of the elder Cates were said to have obtained divorces.

Louis H. Grettenberger, assistant United States district attorney, said that the men obtained money from women whom they married while driving about the country in an expensive automobile. Their home was given as Junction City, Colo.

## YOUNG WIDOW HELD ON HOLD-UP CHARGE



Mrs. Elsie Sheetz, 20, a widow, who, with nine men, was arrested at Pittsburgh recently following the hold-up of a club. According to police, Mrs. Sheetz has confessed and the group is believed responsible for thirty or forty other robberies in that city. (International Newsreel)

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