

It is not generally realised how thoroughly organised for defence certain large classes of criminals are. The statement, for instance, of Magistrate Corri-man before the Page Commission, that "one attorney comes pretty near representing all the good pickpockets in New York" would not seem probable to the average man; yet it is certainly true. It is also a notorious fact that in the four busiest magistrates' courts of the city there are professional "fixers," well known by name or nickname to every one familiar with New York courts, whose business is to pervert justice by reaching the complainant, witnesses, police or court officials, through one means or another. And in a class above these stands a notorious East Side Jew, ostensibly a diamond merchant, who is a "fixer" on a national scale, travelling across the country to help big thieves whenever they are in trouble. Professional crime, like all other lines of enterprise, is compelled, by the great modern tendency of business, to organise. It has done so as thoroughly as it could.

There are seven distinct lines of defence to which, in New York, a trained felon can resort to escape imprisonment. The first is the suppression of testimony of either complainant or witnesses, or the manufacture of false testimony. The others are the use of money or influence with the police, with the magistrates' courts, the grand jury, the District Attorney's office, the petit jury, or the presiding judge. In every Assembly district in the criminal sections of the city, there is some agent of the Democratic political machine, watching continually to help the criminal escape justice at every stage, from the magistrates' court up.

Convicted Criminals Double in Eight Years.

The vicious circle of New York politics is closed by this notorious laxness of the criminal courts toward the professional offender. The safer the crime, the more criminals; the more criminals, the more votes for the element that now rules Tammany Hall; the more votes for these leaders, the more certainly they influence the maladministration of justice. From the election district captain, who signals the criminal into the polling booth, to the district leader on the bench or at the head of the workhouse or the court machinery, the hand of not one Tammany politician touches the machinery of justice but to retard or pervert its action.

And so, although the forces of the police and the District Attorney's departments are bent to check the recurrent "wave of crime" that fill the newspapers, crime increases. In the past eight years the number of persons convicted for burglary, assault, and larceny on Manhattan Island has doubled, while the population has increased less than twenty-five per cent.

In the meanwhile, all kinds of excuses are cried aloud to the public for its defence, except the obvious one—the checking of the operations of this ghastly merry-go-round of politics. More police, more jails, more private organizations to enforce the law are desperately called for. No one arises to draw the logical connection between the safety with which crime is committed and the increase of the criminal population; or to point out that under existing laws, as administered by New York courts, the pimp is entirely safe, the prostitute has a one-in-fifty chance of punishment, the market-places of prostitution and headquarters for criminals have been practically immune; and that of all persons arrested for burglary or thieving, one in four is convicted and one in six imprisoned.

The Great Larry Mulligan Ball.

Yet open advertisement of the exact condition of affairs is continually slapped in the face of the public. The Lawrence Mulligan Association, for example, the political club of Big Tim Sullivan's step-brother, with its annual tribute from the city's criminals and prostitutes at its "grand civic ball!" No other single episode could comprehend the whole situation like this.

That night—the eve of St. Patrick's Day—the streets of the Tenderloin lie vacant of its women; the eyes of the city detective force are focussed on the great dancing-hall—stuffed to the doors with painted women and lean-faced men. In the centre box, held in the name of a young Jewish friend, sits the "Big Feller"—clear-skinned, fair-faced, and happy. Around him sit the gathering of his business and political lieutenants, of

the heavy, moon-faced Irish type—the rulers of New York: Larry Mulligan, his step-brother, the head of this pleasing association; Paddy Sullivan, his brother, the president of the Hesper Club of gamblers; John Considine, business associate, owner of the Metropole Hotel, where the "wise ones" gather; Big Tom Foley; and—an exception to the general look of rosy prosperity—Little Tim, the lean little manager of the old Third District and leader of the New York Board of Aldermen.

The council unbends; it exchanges showers of confetti; the "Big Feller" smiles gaily upon the frail congregation below him—the tenth short-lived generation of prostitutes he has seen at gatherings like this since, more than twenty years ago, he started his first Five Points assembly—he himself as fresh now as then. In the rear of the box a judge of the General Sessions court sits modestly, decently, hat in hand. In the walter on the slippery floor, another city judge known to the upper and under world alike as "Freddy" Kernochan, leads through the happy mazes of the grand march a thousand pimps and thieves and prostitutes, to the blatant crying of the band: "Sullivan, Sullivan, a — fine Irishman!"

A Drop of 30,000 in the Vote of "Repeaters."

In 1908 there was a lull in "repeating" due partly to lack of immediate interest, but largely to new election legislation, passed as a result of flagrant fraud. The bill, introduced by a young assemblyman and lawyer named E. R. Finch, unquestionably frightened the "repeaters" and their managers. Their concern was principally with the new provision known as the signature law.

Two necessary processes have to be gone through with in election frauds—false registration and false voting. As the "repeaters" are from a class of men of irregular habits, who are not always accessible, no attempt has been made in the past to have the same individual register and vote upon each false name. The signature law demanded that the voter's name be signed in a book, both at registration and election time, so that they appeared practically side by side. A comparison of these signatures was expected to prevent all voting upon another man's registration.

The estimates of those most familiar with the methods of election frauds in New York agree that some 30,000 fraudulent votes were cut out of the election last fall, largely through fear of this measure.

It is the belief of the expert observers of the fraudulent vote—of Mr. Finch, the author of the bill, of the State superintendent of elections, William Leary, and of Isaac Silverman of the Fidelity Secret Service Bureau, which has had charge of the Republican county committee's work along this line—that, in spite of the bill, at least 20,000 fraudulent votes were cast by "repeaters" in the election of 1909. And those

most interested in this matter have not contented themselves with general figures.

A Quarter of the Registration False.

Immediately after the last campaign, two election districts were selected in two of the most typical "gorilla" Assembly districts in the city. A careful canvasser was sent through these districts to see what names in the registration list could be found in the residences given. In each of them—widely separated both in distance and in character of population—fully a quarter of the names were found to be entirely fictitious. Further investigation showed that four fifths of these false names were voted on. If there were only fifty-five Assembly districts of the 63 in the city, voting but two thirds of the false registration indicated in these two districts, the false vote on false registration alone would have been over 20,000 last year—a year freer from election frauds than any in the last twenty.

Now these votes, it must be remembered, are wholly fictitious. The additional votes by "repeaters" on names of actual persons recently dead or moved from the district, or of persons who neglect to vote or are forestalled at the polls, would add thousands more.

Tammany's Last Stand This Fall.

Meanwhile, it is commonplace talk in the underworld—the small percentage of population that gives more careful consideration to the practical politics of a large city than all the rest of the citizens together—that next fall's election will see "repeating" on a greater scale than ever before in the history of the city. Tammany's Assembly district experts—many of whom sat back and studied last year's operation of the new election law—have expressed themselves as satisfied that there is "nothing to it; they won't compare the signatures." Beyond that, study of the two special election districts canvassed last fall shows that they will go further and will defeat the amended law by the new and more elaborate method of having one particular man register and vote on each false name.

The present situation is this: Tammany—now in a considerable and growing popular minority in New York—stands to lose control of the most tremendous political prize on the continent—the handling of a municipal expenditure of \$30,000,000, and the control of tens of millions more in semi-public expenditures. For its mercenaries, the criminals who have carried its past elections, this fight means life or death—the chance or loss of the chance to make a living. The professional criminals and politicians, whose whole careers are concerned in the control of the city, will make the most desperate fight of their lives to carry New York this fall.

On the other hand, the general public is more than usually interested in the coming election. Its concern has been aroused by two notorious and closely

related facts—the approach toward bankruptcy of the richest city in the world, under the class of rulers it has had; and the continued raids of thieves and burglars upon the private property of citizens. There is an excellent chance to defeat Tammany this fall. Once thoroughly defeated, that moribund and unnatural social growth—founded for years upon the thief and the prostitute—would collapse. By natural processes it should have been dead twenty years ago.

However, it is too early to prophesy. The leadership of the opposition forces in New York has too often been dilatory or selfish. There is already talk of the old criminal foolishness of splitting the anti-Tammany vote between two candidates.

LIFELONG BILIOUSNESS.

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When you are bilious, every thought of food is nauseous. When the room gets warm you feel as if you are going to be sick. If you hurry to catch a car or a train, there's the feeling again! Headaches, turning off with sickness, a nasty coated tongue are other symptoms of biliousness. All this arises from misdirected bile, which is due, primarily, to improper liver action.

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LOVE FINDS A WAY.

Furious Father (reading chalked notice)—Huh! "Bridge unsafe?" Then they went straight on, ha-ha! I'll overtake the miscreant that stole my daughter's, yet.