

EDITORIAL

NAME THEM!

By DANIEL DE LEON

STANLEY C. Finch,¹ who has been performing the many-sided farce of the Federal Department of Justice's "white slave investigation," is reported from Washington to have given out some mysterious information regarding a "movement of private character" looking to "the establishment of a money foundation amounting possibly to as much as \$10,000,000," the income of which is to be used in "promoting features of the Government campaign against the white slave traffic."

Halve the supposed amount of the fund, and there still remains \$5,000,000—an amount too large to have been contributed in pennies; and an amount large enough to denote beyond peradventure wealthy contributors.

Name them! The "public" has been so often considered. Let the "public" know the names of the contributing philanthropic gentlemen (and ladies, too?), together with their Occupations, or means of living.

No more than whether it is the sun that turns around the earth, or the earth around the sun, is the fact any longer open to dispute that modern prostitution is, along with the police and other departments of the political State, a social institution in capitalist society. It is a wages-reducer, hence, a profits-raiser; it is, as Lecky points out, a sort of lightning rod for the "sanctity of the family"; it is, as Socialism has demonstrated, the accompanying phenomenon of "private property." The head-



STANLEY W. FINCH
(1872–1951)

¹ [Most likely Stanley W. Finch, first Director of what would become the Federal Bureau of Investigation.—R.B.]

spring of modern prostitution lies, accordingly, within the area of the capitalist class.

Who may the ladies and gentlemen be, with class interests that lean heavily for support upon prostitution, who are fore-gathering with a contribution many millions fat, ostensibly for the abolition of one of the props of their class existence, hence, and in fact, for the solidifying of the prop with a huge corruption fund?

A \$10,000,000, even a \$5,000,000 fund will keep in the field many more than the 250 “investigators” whom the anti-white slave hypocrites are said now to have in their pay, for the ostensible purpose of “ferreting out slavery,” for, however, the actual purpose of acting as “fences” for the prostitution breeders. A \$10,000,000, even a \$5,000,000 fund will “furnish work” to a goodly number of males and females who, due to capitalist-bred distress, will be found ready to turn their hand to anything for living, including “the gathering of statistics” on prostitution, and thus affording the prostitution-breeders the added freedom, that comes from seeming civic virtue, to pursue their iniquitous practices.

Double, double toil and trouble. Capitalism has become a witches dance. It prostitutes the body; it debauches the mind. If there is any “religion” to it, it is the religion of the Apocalyptic Beast.

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