

GETTING RID OF THE WEEDS - NEWSPAPER SUPPORT

Sterilization

The Senate committee on public health has presented to the Legislature a sterilization bill, along the lines recommended by Governor Stanley C. Wilson in his inaugural address. We have not yet had occasion to read the full text of the bill, but from the newspaper summary of it we would say that it was the sort of a bill which should receive the support of those who wish to see control of the increase in feeble-minded, insane and criminals from among our own population. This bill should be given careful study by those interested in this movement.

BURLINGTON, MARCH 20, 1931.

Aiding Defectives

The sterilization bill, which has passed the Senate, will be in the House this morning with a majority favorable report from the committee. It is probable that there will be real opposition to the measure on the floor of the House, because of considerable difference of opinion on the subject.

We have pointed out from time to time reasons why we believe this bill should pass. We have shown that hereditary insanity and feeble-mindedness is apparently increasing in Vermont, owing to the fact that it is impossible to segregate all those who should be in institutions and under supervision.

We have shown that our State hospital for the insane and school for the feeble minded are filled to capacity.

Why Sterilization?

Undoubtedly one of the most controversial subjects before the Legislature at the present time is that of sterilization. The number of letters pro and con, which the various papers in the state have been receiving on this subject indicate this fact.

We will not undertake to summarize here all of the arguments made against sterilization. But some of them advanced at the public

Americans and Slums (Bennington Banner)

An over Sunday item states that in the city of Troy the slums are found to have more Americans than people of alien races. The Banner has often remarked that while there are plenty of criminals and degenerates of foreign birth and foreign blood the worst crimes in Vermont, at least, are generally the work of persons of New England blood. This, however, should not lead the sons and daughters of recent European parentage to esteem themselves over highly for the reason that Vermont has many more New Englanders than the combined population of all recent arrivals. The greatest causes of crime are degeneracy, alcoholism and inbreeding. Germany is making an interesting experiment in curbing future crime by sterilizing young criminals regardless of sex and also the insane and degenerate people whose children might be expected to reproduce similar symptoms.

"We have not yet had occasion to read the full text of the bill, but from the newspaper summary of it we should say that it was the sort of bill which should receive the support of those who wish to see control of the increase in feeble-minded, insane and criminals from among our own population." – Burlington Free Press, February 4, 1931

"Sterilization is merely the remedy for calling a halt on transmission of diseases of the mind from one generation to another, just as vaccination and inoculation are remedies for stopping the spread of contagious diseases." – Burlington Free Press, March 5, 1931

"... we believe that sterilization is not only a safeguard to society, but that it is an actual aid to the mental defectives themselves." – Burlington Free Press, March 20, 1931

"Germany is making an interesting experiment in curbing future crime by sterilizing young criminals regardless of sex and also the insane and degenerate people whose children might be expected to reproduce similar symptoms." – Bennington Banner, May 1935