

### FOR A SOCIAL SURVEY.

Announcement is made that Burlington is to have a social survey. That there is need for one is shown by the announcement that prominent men and women of that city are to take part in the movement. Whether or not Burlington is afflicted with social plague spots in greater degree than the other large places in the state remains to be seen. In connection with this movement it may not be out of place to suggest that such a survey might well be made state-wide. The wave of homicide, of suicide, and the ever increasing number of divorces prompts one to inquire if such a survey might not disclose a condition of affairs, in smaller towns than Burlington, requiring not only remedial but drastic measures.

The Herald need not speak in riddles or in a veiled way in this matter. This paper has known for many months, as has every other newspaper in Vermont, that a deplorable condition of affairs prevails in scores of small towns—so-called “back towns.” Superintendent J. N. Barss of the State Industrial school is in possession of no end of startling facts concerning the need for a social survey and The Herald has no hesitancy in saying that he would be the logical person to carry out the work of a state-wide survey.

To be sure the Legislature of 1912

saw fit to incorporate into law certain suggestions made by men who had studied social conditions in Vermont but the surface was only scratched, so to speak. All will acknowledge that the problem is a big one but surely a state of less than 250 towns and cities ought to be made a social Utopia if there is any virtue in surveys, uplifts and other welfare movements.

Men and women must be educated to respect the laws of morality and health. Prosecuting officers should see to it that disregard of the laws is punished. Now is the time to begin. Vermont has waited altogether too long.

The quick resort to a weapon has resulted in many murders during the last year—a dozen or more it is estimated. In connection with many of these killings there has been a striking lack of respect for other laws than those pertaining to the taking of human life. In several there have been flagrant examples of appeal to what may be termed the unwritten code—a code which exists unmoisted in the back towns. Burlington may need a social survey, but probably its need in this respect is not greater than that of many other places in the state.

#### THE PINDELL CASE.

If proof were needed to show that Mr. Bryan has no sense of humor, it