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Paddington Mercury

MIDDLESEX INDEPENDENT AND

Small

West London Star

3, GEORGE ST., BAKER ST., W.1.

201, HIGH STREET, N.W.10.

(Adjacent Marylebone High Street) WELbeck 2870

ELGar 6192

57

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1956

THREEPENCE

FROM LONDON, ENGLAND NEWSPAPER

COLOURED MEN BLAMED FOR VICE INCREASE 'We have been terrorised'

RACIAL hatred and vice is spreading to dangerous proportions in St. Marylebone and Paddington with the growth of the boroughs' coloured populations.

Often it is the white man who steps off the pavement.

It is the Negro, the West African, the Nigerian who arrives in the country penniless and miraculously buys property within a matter of months.

It is the coloured vice kings, now too well organised to be "small men", who run around in the expensive limousines, with pretty girls by their sides.

A "Mercury" reporter investigating the situation discovered incredible conditions in the streets and mews surrounding the Edgware Road and Harrow Road.

Along a stretch of Harrow Road on Thursday night one in three of the people he saw were WHITE.

A family by the name of Wilson living just off the Edgware Road on the St. Marylebone side have been terrorised by Nigerians in their home ever since a Nigerian bought the property nearly two years ago.

Though their landlord has been to gaol for assaulting Mr. Wilson, both he and his wife are still spat upon and subject to incredible annoyances in efforts to get them out.

Mr. Wilson said that known prostitutes have visited the Nigerians in the house from time to time.

In the Westbourne Crescent area, it is not uncommon to find a "family" of about 15 coloured people sleeping in one room. The "family", says a welfare worker, changes with the rapidity of shifting sands — usually at all hours of the night.

Scenes of what tantamount to criminal overcrowding and filth are abundant throughout the older, more obscure properties of both boroughs.

MAIDA VALE GIRLS

White girls openly solicit coloured men in Maida Vale.

From the almoner of a local nursing charity came the comment: "Maybe I am prejudiced, but I have seen so much of this side of things that I have no hesitation in saying that the position is dangerous.

"Filth, squalor, a nursing home not far from here filled with their babies — many of them with white mothers — convince me that if something is not done, they will take over the whole area, numerically, within a few years."

The almoner, who has spent a number of years in Africa, added: "While there are many decent people among them, I believe the riff-raff outnumber them now.

"They know they are on to a good thing, that's all. Even if they arrive penniless the National Assistance secures their lodgings and food money."

BUY PROPERTY

Mr. Donald Plunkett, a Great Portland Street solicitor, said:

"These people come over here in huge numbers and before you know where you are they are buying property from estate agents.

"It is usually old and usually tenanted. Then they use every possible uncivilised means to get the white man out.

"The Wilson case, which I handled, was just one. There are others. But nothing can be done until the Government puts a stop to it all.

"How do they get their money. I should like to know," he asked?

So did a Marylebone Lane policeman.

"We see lots of it, but Paddington is even worse. You see them floating along in super cars with pretty British girls quite often.

"Does it seem natural to you — unless money is involved?"

CRIME INCREASE

The chief clerk of St. Marylebone Court was not available but an official, while not able to comment, on coloured crime increases, said:

"You just have to read your newspapers week by week for the answer. Or, better still, why not take a walk down the Harrow Road?"

Mr. Wilson and his attractive young wife believe they have the answer from their own experience.

"As soon as this Nigerian came to view the house he started to be funny and told us he would get us out and fill the place with his countrymen.

"When he tried to throw me downstairs he was gaoled, but it still went on when he came back. Just before the case he offered me £50 to stop the case.

"When we got an injunction to restrain him, he left the house last February. Since then his brother has been here

and the trouble goes on. Other coloured people are upstairs too and they help to annoy and intimidate.

BARRED WINDOWS

"We have barred up our kitchen windows and have bolts on the doors. We are constantly having to get in the police with threats of assault. But unless there is assault they can do nothing.

"Though I have been on the housing list for many years nothing can be done for me, so there is nowhere we can go," he said.

Mr. Wilson added:

"I have never been in trouble in my life and I served through the war in the Army.

"But if I'd known I was coming home to this I would have thrown the rifle back at them."

CHILDREN SUFFER

Inspector G. W. Drewett, St. Marylebone inspector of the N.S.P.C.C said he was concerned about vice involving coloured people in the borough.

"Unfortunately I cannot quote cases, but I can tell you that there are cases of young children suffering as a result of this vice, which is definitely on the increase," he said.

Inspector Drewett said he was fully aware of cases in which coloured people had bought property and subjected the tenants to every conceivable annoyance in attempts to get them out.



(OVER)