

BACK INTO THE OLD WAYS.

MANY POLICY SHOPS OPERATED WITHOUT POLICE INTERFERENCE.

Officials Give No Satisfactory Excuse Why Gambler Findlay's Petty Game Is Allowed to Be Re-Established—The Policy Men as Bold as of Yore.

Relaxed vigilance on the part of the police and the conviction that Police Judge Johnson will protect them have encouraged the policy gamblers. They are opening for business again, and "shops" are in operation in various parts of the city. They are relying upon the known friendliness of the police judge, and the alleged pull with the police board of Ed Findlay to keep them out of trouble.

About ten days ago a "shop" was opened on the West side only a few blocks from police headquarters. It escaped a raid, though its location was known. At once the word was passed around that the old times had come again. The boss gambler was again in the saddle and there would be no more raids. The decision declaring the policy ordinance invalid, which was made by "Chief Justice" Johnson, was declared to be concerned in by the board of police commissioners and that now was the time to open. Accordingly policy shops were opened all over the city. To-day at least a dozen are in active operation. It is no trouble now to play any set or series of numbers. At least five of the places now open are within six blocks of Chief Speer's room in the city hall, and if either Bernard Corrigan, Wiley O. Cox or Mayor Cowherd, the members composing the board of police commissioners, should desire to play a "gig" this afternoon as they go to attend a meeting of the board they will have no difficulty in placing their money. It is nearly time for the public schools to open in the city, and it is said the present activity of the policy shop gamblers is due to their anxiety to get ready to rob the boys and girls of their pocket money.

When asked this morning if the police intended to enforce the law against policy gambling, Chief Speers said that the department could not give out in advance its course of action. Asked if he had cognizance of the location of any of the shops now running, he was equally noncommittal.

Wiley O. Cox, member of the board, said that the commissioners had no knowledge of violations of the law. Since he had been a member of the board, he said, the matter had not come up in any shape. So far as his personal knowledge extended, he knew of no action of the board rescinding the order made prior to his appointment, directing the police to strictly enforce all laws. Mayor Cowherd was in consultation with the water works attorneys and could not be seen.

Whether or not gamblers have received assurances of protection, they are running with open doors. The man, woman or child who has money may spend it on policy. Findlay, Kline and the indiscriminate horde of white and black fellows who thrive upon the nickels and dimes of school children and other patrons, are reaping a harvest while the authorities are idle.

Assured that the police will do nothing, the gamblers are making hay while the sun shines.

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