

was not entirely a matter of self protection. Diamond Lil and her handy man were sent to state's prison for many long years.

The affair might have been passed off as only another sordid underworld shooting had it not been for the prominence of Diamond Lil, notorious far and near to playboys and girls who had visited her dive on slumming trips.

Some say that Mae West took the name for her famous stage play from the Peoria character.

Dr. G. G. Taylor, chief of the division of social hygiene of the department of public health of the state of Illinois, has just issued a report which will close his work as head of the division, as he has resigned.

In this report the doctor dwells interestingly on the achievement of his department in Peoria. He says:

"For many months the division of social hygiene has labored in an effort to induce Peoria officials to clean up and abolish the vice district in that city.

"An investigator, who visited Peoria last September, found fifty-seven open houses of prostitution, located in three different districts. The city officials acknowledged the report true, but expressed themselves as perfectly able to govern the city without outside assistance or interference."

"Peoria women became aroused and indignant. A number of lectures by Dr. Rachelle E. Farrow and Miss Harriet Comstock contributed much toward the rebellion which re-

sulted in the defeat of the mayor when he came up for re-election at the close of his seventh term of office.

"Vice conditions in Peoria were in the main responsible for the election of Victor P. Michel as mayor. At his invitation, division employees assisted in the biggest clean-up with which they have had to do.

"On June 3 and 4, a total of 143 public prostitutes were examined at the Peoria venereal disease clinic. Of this number, 120 or 84% were found infected; 91 or 63% had gonorrhoea, and 20 or 14% had syphilis.

"Cases of syphilis with open lesions were removed to St. Francis hospital and placed under treatment immediately. All other infectious cases were placed in quarantine. Keepers and hangers-on were ordered to move out and "advised" to

disappear from public life. The districts were closed. Mayor Michel and Chief of Police Martin have earned the thanks of the respectable citizens of Peoria and the state at large. The Peoria clean-up marks the passing of the last big "red light" district in Illinois.

"During the war, vice conditions in Illinois were not worse than in other states. Following the armistice, districts opened with startling rapidity. City officials were "fed up on high-brow stuff." The situation was humiliating, to say the least. The writer is pleased to be able to walk out of the division on July first, with his head up." 7/10/31

September 28, 1930 — "Diamond Lil" Guyette, the colored queen of the underworld, in whose teeth sparkled unalaid stones alleged to be diamonds, was in jail today, charged with slaying a visitor at her Eaton street black and tan resort.

Diamond Lil said the visitor became offensive and attacked her. Her handy man came to the rescue and the guest was shot to death. One of the weapons used was a gift of a political supporter to the queen Diamond.

A jury decided the killing

Down Jackson to Washington and on the left is the vacant lot where stood Diamond Lil's place, familiar to night lifers. Lil was a colored woman with flashing stones, she called diamonds sparkling from her teeth. She met a visitor with a booming shotgun one night and the law took her away.