

**A STUDY OF MUCK-
RAKING IN FOUR
POPULAR MAGAZINES**

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A Study of Muck-Raking in Four Popular Magazines by Lucy E. Rogers

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LUCY E. ROGERS

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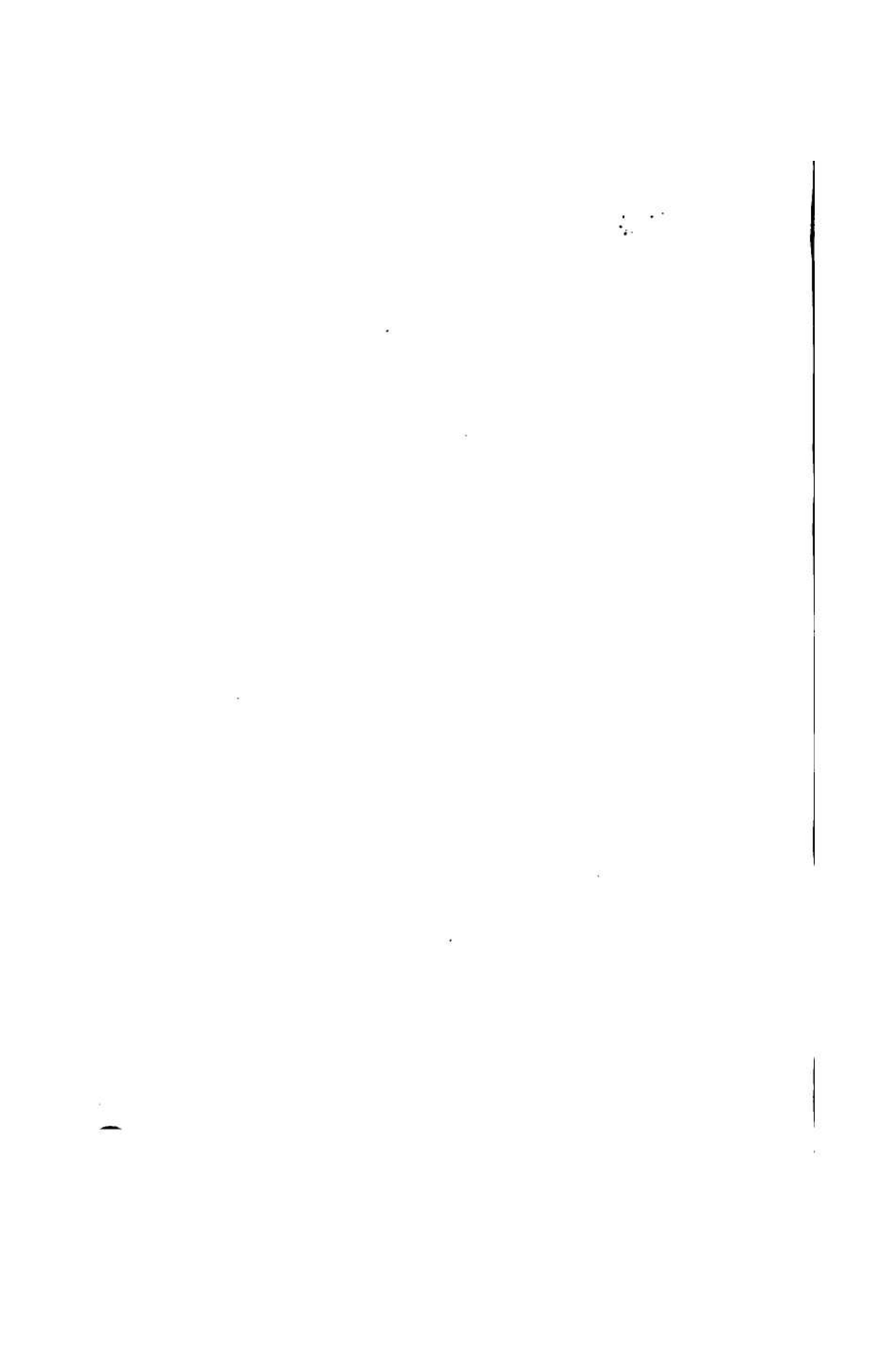
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LUCY E. ROGERS

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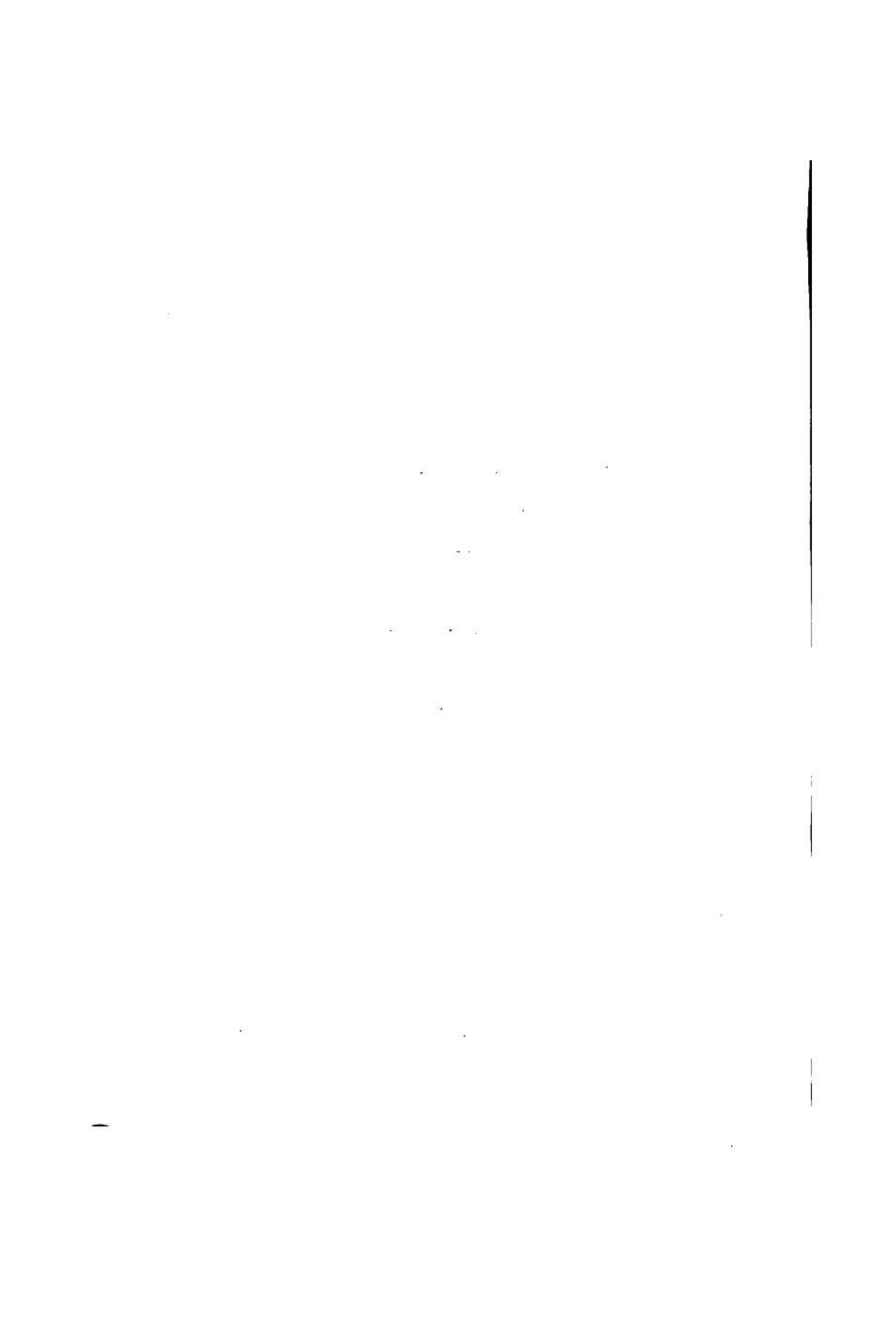
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Introduction

An introduction to a paper on muck-raking can best be made by an explanation of the term and its significance. An admirable exposition of muck-raking was made by President Roosevelt in an address which he delivered on April 14, 1906, at the laying of the corner-stone of the office building of the House of Representatives. I shall quote from him:

In Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" you may recall the description of the Man with the Muckrake, the man who could look no way but downward, with the muckrake in his hand; who was offered a celestial crown for his muckrake; but who would neither look up nor regard the crown he was offered, but continued to rake to himself the filth of the floor.

In "Pilgrim's Progress" the Man with the Muckrake is set forth as the example of him whose vision is fixed on carnal instead of on spiritual things. Yet he also typifies the man who in this life consistently refuses to see aught that is lofty, and fixes his eyes with solemn intentness only on that which is vile and debasing. Now, it is very necessary that we should not flinch from seeing what is vile and debasing. There is filth on the floor, and it must be scraped up with the muckrake; and there are times and places where this service is the most needed of all the services that can be performed. But the man who never does anything else, who never thinks or speaks or writes save of his feats with the muck-rake, speedily becomes, not a help to society, not an incitement to good, but one of the most potent forces for evil.

There are, in the body politic, economic and social, many and grave evils, and there is urgent necessity for the sternest war upon them. There should be relentless exposure of and attack upon every evil man whether politician or business man, every evil practice, whether in politics, in business, or in social life. I hail as a benefactor every writer or speaker, every man who, on the platform, or in book, magazine, or newspaper, with merci-

