

THE  
CHILDREN'S  
COURT

An Outline of the Work it is Intended  
to Accomplish



J. J. KELSO, Toronto  
Superintendent, Neglected and Dependent Children of Ontario

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POSSIBILITIES  
OF THE  
CHILDREN'S COURT.

J. J. KELSO, TORONTO.

GOOD people everywhere are beginning to realize the possibilities of the Children's Court movement for the saving of young people from a settled criminal career. It is founded on the assumption that children are not inherently bad, that their delinquencies are usually due to causes for which they are not responsible, and that by right methods these causes can be reached and removed, and the child encouraged and assisted to develop character under healthy, normal conditions.

Probably the first requisite in an ideal Children's Court is that it should be absolutely separated from the usual criminal procedure of the country. Many a lad has been confirmed in wrong-doing by the very system that was intended to stop him. The glamor and excitement of a police court, the publicity and notoriety, the association, however temporary, with others charged with crime like himself, the fact that he is usually advised to plead "not guilty," and allow the officials to prove his guilt, the waiting while other cases are being heard, the remands, the well-meant but hurtful sympathy of onlookers, the jokes, repartee,

and laughter so often noticeable in the lower courts, all exercise a deadly effect on the moral character of the youthful offender, and too often he comes through the ordeal impertinent and brazen and with his faith in, and regard for the law entirely destroyed. In many places there is no Children's Court and the above conditions prevail.

Within the past five years the Children's Court movement has made marvellous progress, not only on this continent, but in European countries, and with continued development it bids fair to materially reduce the criminal element of the future. Like all radical changes it will encounter opposition and criticism, but the undoubted benefits, not only to the young people directed concerned, but to the community generally will ultimately cause it to prevail.

So far the Children's Court has been merely an adjunct to the ordinary police court. Held in a different room and at a different hour, it is true, but still, as a matter of fact, a juvenile police court with many of the objectionable features still present. It is administered in many towns and cities under the same legal machinery by men not altogether in sympathy with it, and often unfitted by constant association with hardened criminals to enter into the spirit of the new idea. Under such conditions the Children's Court must necessarily be a failure for it is not the law that brings results, but the spirit animating those having it in charge.

The Children's Court should undoubtedly be an educational rather than a police tribunal, conducted by specially selected persons and held in different premises from the ordinary legal courts, either as an adjunct to the school system, or under the auspices of a Children's Aid Society. Its aim is not to convict young children, but to protect them even from the consequences of their own thoughtless acts, to warn, and if need be to punish the tempters or corrupters of youth, and to so improve the environment as to effectually prevent a recurrence of the trouble. It is a work of far-reaching importance, for the child safeguarded and protected means much to the community in the prevention of crime, and the peaceful evolution of industrial citizenship. Crime renders property and human life unsafe, is one of the heaviest items of taxation, and can only be eradicated or limited by a complete and thorough system of child-protection.

There are so many problems of a social and domestic character involved in the child's delinquency that to expect the ordinary magistrate and police authorities in a large city to deal with it is simply to invite failure. Any one can decide in five minutes whether or not a youth is guilty of theft or some other offence and liberate or banish him to a reformatory, but either decision may be equally unjust and the problem still remain unsolved. The court should be parental in the truest sense and should be so constituted in all its branches as to make the child intuitively realize

that love and not hostility is the atmosphere into which he has entered. When one has had the experience of years in dealing with wayward youth, has studied the moral conditions, visited the wretched homes, comprehended the utter absence of real affection, the heart hunger, the longing for appreciation and sympathy, then they begin to recognize that what is needed is not severity, not flogging, not jail or reformatory, but a true friend and an opportunity under clean auspices to develop worthy character. It is an intense realization of the erring boy's need, gained in many a sad interview with the children themselves, that impels the writing of these lines.

The Judge of a Children's Court should be a man of legal training, optimistic and philanthropic, a student of social problems and a lover of children. The majority of our magistrates and judges possess these qualifications, and all that is needed is a broader conception of this newer movement, suitable premises, and a competent staff of probation officers. It is upon a wise selection of these latter officers that success really depends. The Judge can wisely direct, inspire and control, but there must be a sufficient number of probation officers to provide each child with a friend and guardian, who will searchingly investigate and report upon the actual conditions, labor for the removal of causes, watch over the schooling or employment, become the friend and adviser of the family, and generally so impress his or her personality upon the child as to effectually

restore him to good living. All denominations and philanthropic societies should be represented, and if invited to do so the officials of benevolent organizations would doubtless give their services. In many cities business men and church workers have given splendid assistance under the direction of the chief probation officer, counting it a privilege to share in such a practical and pre-eminently Christian work.

Bearing in mind that the object of the court is to befriend and not to convict, it can readily be seen that an active, intelligent and sympathetic body of probation officers would soon arrive at the causes of youthful wrong-doing and by educational influences secure for the children of the poor their rights in the matter of playgrounds, school attendance, with manual training, bathing facilities, sanitary homes, etc., seeking not to remove the child from his natural environment, but to remove the causes that lead to wrong doing; above all, getting the parents to appreciate the worth of their children, and aiding them to obtain those privileges and advantages that at present are beyond their reach.

The proceedings of a Children's Court should be entirely private and informal, and newspapers should be asked not to publish the follies and so-called crimes of children. This publicity is not only extremely hurtful in later years to the young people concerned, but so far from proving a deterrent to others, many boys have been known to do wrong in order to get into the papers. The

parental system above described would not be at all pleasant for the youthful bravado and the separation of the Children's Court from all association with the ordinary criminal procedure would effectually stamp out the false pride of boys in criminal notoriety. Punishment as usually interpreted hardens the heart: to be brought under the friendly control and guidance of good men and women softens and mollifies and prepares the way for true penitence and reformation.

The Children's Court stands for a loving, sympathetic and patient effort to win the child over to a recognition of the virtue of being good for its own sake, to awaken ambition, to inspire with high ideals, to stimulate growth in all that makes for manliness and good citizenship. The neglect of children in the past has given us blighted lives, misspent careers, crowded jails, innumerable tragedies, vast expense. Why not take an advance step when the possibilities are so self-evident?

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Let a child feel and know and realize that his well-doing will give you pleasure, and his ill-doing give you pain, and you have established a strong incentive to right living.

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Only in rare cases should children be arrested. The parents or guardians should be held responsible for their production when required.



Instead of punishing the children, it is those who lead them astray who should be punished.

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Youthful wrong-doers are often mentally or physically defective. A physician should always be consulted before a decision is arrived at.

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Under a proper system of supervision many wayward lads can be looked after in their own homes by probation officers at the expense of the parents, instead of being sent to a reformatory at the public charge.

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The thoughtless impulses of youth should not be branded as crime.

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Our whole attitude toward these children should be one of encouragement. Love can do far more than prison bars.

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Low theatres have a baneful influence on growing boys. Hundreds of lads may be found in these places any night, and it would be well if they could be discouraged or prohibited from attending.

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A child should never be regarded as a criminal but as a victim of crime. No child can create his own environment. Boys have often been punished for wrong-doing when it would be just about as sensible to whip a child for having diphtheria or typhoid.

The ordinary court takes no cognizance of the youth's mental condition, education, social environment, or bodily health. Guilty or not guilty is the only problem up for consideration, and action is based on that and that alone.

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Ignorance and idleness—the parents of crime.

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Who can tell what the changing years will bring! The boy you help to-day may save you from ruin twenty years from now.

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It is not law, but only love and religion that can save or reclaim.



## STARTED FIRST BUT LAGGED BEHIND.

It is interesting to note that the first Children's Court on this continent was established in Toronto in 1894. Legislation providing for this was passed by the Ontario Legislature in 1893 and a supplementary Act by the Dominion Parliament followed in 1894. As a forerunner the Ontario Legislature at its Session in 1888 passed "An Act for the Better Protection of Neglected Children," in which the following section appeared:

### A CHILDREN'S JUDGE.

"The Lieutenant-Governor may, upon the request of any municipal council, appoint a commissioner or commissioners, each with the powers of a Police Magistrate, to hear and determine complaints against juvenile offenders apparently under the age of sixteen years."

The Children's Court did not advance as it should have done, and it was left to Chicago and Denver in 1899 and 1900 to develop the possibilities of the movement.

### TO MODERNIZE OUR LAW.

Application has been made to the Dominion Parliament for an amending Juvenile Court Act bringing the legislation up to date, but even without it we have legislation now for effective work. It depends upon the Magistrates, Councillors and philanthropic workers of our towns and cities to see that some advance is made in the near future.

## ONTARIO CHILDREN'S COURT LAW.

Passed in May, 1893.

(1) In cities and towns with a population of more than ten thousand, children under the age of sixteen years who are charged with offences against the laws of this Province, or who are brought before a Judge for examination under any of the provisions of this Act, shall not before trial or examination be confined in the lock-ups or police cells used for ordinary criminals or persons charged with crime, nor, save as hereinafter mentioned, shall such children be tried or have their cases disposed of in the police court rooms ordinarily used as such. It shall be the duty of such municipalities to make separate provision for the custody and detention of such children prior to their trial or examination, whether by arrangement with some member of the police force or other person or society who may be willing to undertake the responsibility of such temporary custody or detention, on such terms as may be agreed upon, or by providing suitable premises entirely distinct and separated from the ordinary lock-ups or police cells; and it shall be the duty of the Judge to try all such children or examine into their cases and dispose thereof, where practicable, in premises other than the ordinary police court premises, or, where this is not practicable, in the private office of the Judge, if he have one, or in some other room in the municipal buildings, or, if this be not practicable, then in the ordinary police court room, but only in such last mentioned cases when an interval of two hours shall have elapsed after the other trials or examinations for the day have been disposed of.

(2) Where any Children's Aid Society possesses premises affording the necessary facilities and ac-

commodation, children apparently under the age of twelve years, may, after apprehension under the provisions of this Act, be temporarily taken charge of by such society until their cases are disposed of; and the Judge may hold the examination into the case of such children in the premises of the said society.

(3) The Judge may, if he thinks fit, hold the preliminary examination or the trial of any case against any parent for any offence in respect of a child under this Act or for any alleged neglect of or cruelty to a child in the house where the parent resides, but only at the request of such parent.

(4) The Judge shall exclude from the room or place where any child under sixteen years of age, or any parent charged with any offence in respect of a child under this Act or otherwise with neglect of or cruelty to his child, is being tried or examined, all persons other than the counsel and witnesses in the case, officers of the law or of any Children's Aid Society and the immediate friends or relatives of the child or parent.

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#### DISPOSAL OF YOUTHFUL OFFENDER.

31. Any Court or Magistrate in lieu of committing to prison any child under the age of 14 years convicted before him of any offence against the laws of this Province may hand over such child to the charge of any home for destitute and neglected children or industrial school or Children's Aid Society and the managers of such home or school or society may permit its adoption by a suitable person, or may apprentice it to any suitable trade, calling or service, and the transfer shall be as valid as if the managers were parents of such child. The parents of such child

shall have no right to remove or interfere with the said child so adopted or apprenticed except by the express permission in writing of the Minister.—Children's Protection Act.



TYPE OF THE BOYS WE PLEAD FOR.

STATUTES OF CANADA, 1894.

An Act respecting the Arrest, Trial and Imprisonment of Youthful Offenders.

[Assented to 23rd July, 1894.]

Whereas it is desirable to make provision for the separation of youthful offenders from contact with older offenders and habitual criminals during their arrest and trial, and to make better provision than now exists for their commitment to places where they may be reformed and trained to useful lives, instead of their being imprisoned: Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:—

1. Section 550 of "The Criminal Code, 1892," is hereby repealed and the following section substituted therefor.

"550. The trials of young persons apparently under the age of sixteen years, shall take place without publicity and separately and apart from the trials of other accused persons, and at suitable times to be designated and appointed for that purpose."

2. Young persons apparently under the age of sixteen years who are:—

(a) Arrested upon any warrant; or

(b) Committed to custody at any stage of a preliminary enquiry into a charge for an indictable offence; or

(c) Committed to custody at any stage of a trial, either for an indictable offence or for an offence punishable on summary conviction; or

(d) Committed to custody after such trial, but before imprisonment under sentence,— shall be kept in custody separate from older persons charged with criminal offences and separate

from all persons undergoing sentences of imprisonment, and shall not be confined in the lock-ups or police stations with older persons charged with criminal offences or with ordinary criminals.

3. If any child, appearing to the court or justice before whom the child is tried to be under the age of fourteen years, is convicted in the Province of Ontario of any offence against the law of Canada, whether indictable or punishable on summary conviction, such court or justice, instead of sentencing the child to any imprisonment provided by law in such case, may order that the child shall be committed to the charge of any home for destitute and neglected children, or to the charge of any Children's Aid Society duly organized and approved by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario in Council, or to any certified Industrial School.

4. Whenever in the Province of Ontario, an information or complaint is laid or made against any boy under the age of twelve years, or girl under the age of thirteen years, for the commission of any offence against the law of Canada, whether indictable or punishable on summary conviction, the court or justice, seized thereof shall give notice thereof in writing to the executive officer of the Children's Aid Society, if there be one in the county, and shall allow him opportunity to investigate the charges made, and may also notify the parents of the child, or either of them, or other person apparently interested in the welfare of the child.

2. The court or justice may advise and counsel with the said Officer and with the parents or such other person, and may consider any report made by the said officer upon the charges.

3. If, after such consultation and advice, and upon consideration of any report so made, and after hearing the matter of information or com-



plaint, the court or justice is of opinion that the public interest and the welfare of the child will be best served thereby, then, instead of committing the child for trial, or sentencing the child, as the case may be, the court or justice may, by order:

(a) Authorize the said officer to take the child, and under the provisions of the law of Ontario, bind the child out to some suitable person until the child has attained the age of 21 years, or any less age; or—

(b) Place the child out in some approved foster home—

(c) Impose a fine not exceeding \$10; or—

(d) Suspend sentence for a definite period or for an indefinite period; or—

(e) If the child has been found guilty of the offence charged or is shown to be wilfully wayward and unmanageable, commit the child to a certified Industrial School for boys, or to the Refuge for girls, as the case may be, and in such cases, the report of the said officer shall be attached to the warrant of commitment.

5. Whenever an order has been made under either of the two sections next preceding, the child may thereafter be dealt with under the law of the Province of Ontario, in the same manner, in all respects, as if such order had been lawfully made in respect of a proceeding instituted under the authority of a statute of the Province of Ontario.

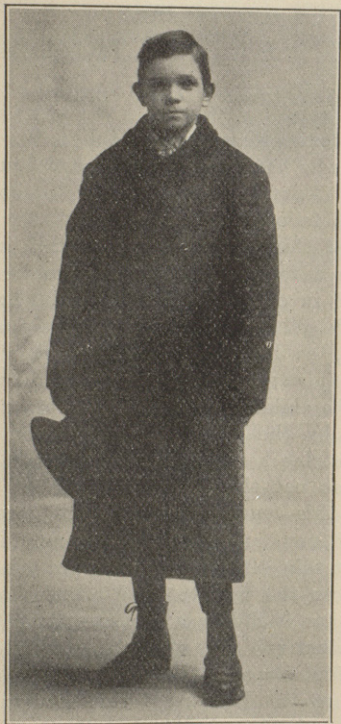
6. No Protestant child dealt with under this Act, shall be committed to the care of any Roman Catholic Children's Aid Society, or be placed in any Roman Catholic family as its foster home; nor shall any Roman Catholic child dealt with under this Act, be committed to the care of any Protestant Children's Aid Society, or be placed in any Protestant family as its foster home. But

this section shall not apply to the care of children in a temporary home or shelter, established under the Act of Ontario, 56 Victoria, chapter 45, intituled "An Act for the Prevention of



TRANSITION FROM NEGLECT.

Cruelty to, and better Protection of Children, in a municipality in which there is but one Children's Aid Society."



TO KINDNESS.

ADDRESS  
ON THE  
JUVENILE COURT MOVEMENT.

BY JUDGE MACK OF CHICAGO.

In a recent address Judge Julian W. Mack, of Chicago, who has been a prominent figure in the Juvenile Court movement, said among other things, as follows:

The first thing that suggests itself in connection with a topic such as the juvenile court—a new court in our jurisprudence—is, what does it all mean? What is there distinctively new about it? You, as lawyers, naturally ask, “Has not the state always felt it to be its duty to take care of the children within its borders if they are neglected by the parent? Is not the doctrine of *parens patriae* as ancient as the English law itself? Was not the Crown in England and the State in this country the ultimate parent of all of the children, and if others had not intervened, did it not take the child in hand and endeavor to lead him on the way to good citizenship? And, if it did (as it did in a measure) what is there, then, distinctively new about the juvenile court?”

In the first place, the doctrine of *parens patriae*, which is at the bottom of this structure, is as ancient as the law itself, and the state does attempt and has always attempted, through chan-

cery or special courts, to take care of its dependents. And, so far as the juvenile court has to deal with the dependent children, there is nothing fundamentally new about it. The only thing that can be in any way called new in the juvenile court in its dealings with the dependents is that, in representing the state and in caring for them, it endeavors to carry out the most modern conceptions of philanthropy.

For instance, it used to be thought that the place for an orphaned and neglected child was in an orphan asylum; the best workers and students of child-life believe that the place for a child is in a home; that no matter how wise and good the head of an orphan asylum may be, something vital is lacking in the child that fails to receive in childhood that individualized care and love and thought that your children receive in your own home, that you would always want your children to receive if you left them orphaned. This the child in the orphan asylum cannot receive, and so the agencies at the command of the juvenile court, in placing out dependent children, endeavor as far as possible to find homes for them, rather than Institutions. But, as I said, there is nothing vitally new in this. The fundamentally new thought that has come into our jurisprudence through the juvenile court is found in the handling, not of the dependent, but of what we call the delinquent, child.

The fundamental thought in our criminal jurisprudence was not reformation of the criminal

but punishment; punishment as expiation for the wrong, punishment as a warning to other possible wrong-doers. Formerly, the child would be arrested; put into prison, indicted by the grand jury, tried by a petit jury, under all the forms and technicalities of our criminal law, with the one aim of ascertaining whether that child had done that specific thing—nothing else—and if it had, then visiting the punishment of the state upon it.

Now, how is the new law to be administered? The problems involved are problems of philanthropy, and it is therefore absolutely essential that the Judge administering these functions should be, or at least become, a student of the current problems of philanthropy. He should make himself familiar with current discussion on these questions, he should know what is going on in other jurisdictions, he should know what the best and latest thought on child-life and child-training and education is. In other words, he must be not merely a student of law, but he *must* be a student of philanthropy. Philanthropic work and study falls to the lot of many of us, judges and non-judges. It is wise, if you have a man on the bench who is interested in these problems, to select him for juvenile court work.

To administer juvenile laws in accordance with their true spirit and intent requires a man of broad mind, of almost infinite patience, and one who is the possessor of great faith in humanity and thoroughly imbued with that spirit.

Those who come, and are intended to be brought, before juvenile courts, must be reached through love, not fear. The purpose in bringing them before the court is to lead them away from, and to destroy their propensities to, vice; to elevate, not degrade; to reform, not to punish them. Their parents, likewise, must be met and dealt with in the same spirit. They should be directed in a proper spirit, and not be met with defiance. The conditions surrounding them may be due as much to lack of information and misfortune as to viciousness. The Judge of any court, and especially the Judge of a juvenile court, should therefore be willing at all times, not only to respect but to maintain and preserve the legal and natural rights of men and children alike.

What is the actual work of the court? In the first place the aim is not to arrest the children, not to put them into prison, not to let them into the police court and mingle with the harlots and the vags, not to subject them to this moral contamination; we aim to notify them and to notify the parents to bring them in, and if there is any danger that they will not come in, then to provide a separate juvenile home in which they can be detained until brought before the court.

Most of the children who come before the court are, naturally, the children of the poor. In some cases the children are foreigners. These poor people have not been able to give their children the opportunities that your children have, they

are not able to give them that oversight and supervision; the parents themselves often do not know how to train and raise their children. What they need, more than anything else, is friendly help; and the aim of the court, in appointing a probation officer for the child, is not so much to have the child or the parents feel the power of the state but to have the child and the parents feel the friendly interest of the state, to have them realize that the aim of the court is to help them to train that child right; and so the probation officers must be selected along these lines, men and women who are fitted for these tasks.

What we need in the large cities, what we need in the small cities, what we need everywhere in connection with the juvenile court work, is an aroused public interest, is to have the entire community feel that this work of saving the child is not our work alone, not the work of the court and the paid officials, but the work of the entire community, because the future of that community is going to depend upon whether the children of to-day who are going wrong shall be changed into good citizens or shall be allowed to run the downward course and become the criminals of the future.

And therefore, if we can get for every boy and girl that comes into court some one good man or woman, who knows what life really means, who has made a success, (and I don't mean a monetary success) a real success of life, who is imbued with the spirit of that phrase that passes our lips so



easily, but is achieved in the lives of so few of us, who realizes the true meaning of human brotherhood, who is willing to give not that which is so easy for anyone who has a surplus above his needs, merely money, but to give that which is hard for most of us to give, ourselves, our time, our thought; if we can get for each boy and girl who comes into the juvenile court just one such person to be a real friend to that child the future is pretty safe; that child is going to be saved, he is going to be kept from going the downward path. We want the decent men and women, young and old, who will take that child into their own homes for a visit or a dinner; who, if the lad is out of work will get him a job, who will be interested in him, and who will be interested in seeing that the father and the mother do their duty toward their children.

The juvenile court has been a leading topic in the last six or eight years. There is no subject in all the realm of philanthropy, unless it be that of the treatment of tuberculosis, that has been so much discussed. The result is that people have received a rather exaggerated idea of it, and the good women, particularly, have come to think of the court as something superlatively good, and that there is nothing better for a child than to bring it before the court. Now, that is complete fallacy. The juvenile court is a most excellent substitute for the old criminal court in dealing with children. We took a wise step forward when we decided that they shall not be

dealt with as criminals. But, nevertheless, it is nothing more or less than an administrative arm of the state, it is not an end in itself, it is not the best thing for a boy to have him come to any court, even to the juvenile court, even to receive the wise paternal advice that he is apt to get from the judge. It is infinitely better to keep him away from the courts, it is infinitely better to prevent our children going wrong than to be compelled to save them after they have gone wrong.

The work of the juvenile court is, at the best, palliative, curative. We take these little human beings that are going the downward path and we try—and I think to some extent succeed—in saving them from going farther down, but that is not the great work in the world. The great thing is to prevent them from reaching that condition in which they have to be dealt with in any court, and we are not doing our duty to the children of to-day, the men and women of to-morrow, when we fail to uproot the evils that are leading them into careers of delinquency, when we fail not merely to uproot the wrong, but to implant in place of it the positive good.

It is well that we have reform schools for the delinquent boy and girl, it is well that when they get into these schools they should receive a thorough technical training so that they are fitted for something afterwards, but it would be infinitely better if your children and my children and all of these children could get that sort of

training before they reach the court; it would be infinitely better if we check this career of delinquency in its incipiency (and the incipiency generally is truancy) it would be infinitely better if we stop these children from becoming truants and afterwards becoming delinquents. There isn't much "fun" in becoming a truant and going out alone, a truant wants somebody else to go with him, and then it will begin to wander the streets, and it isn't much fun wandering the streets, it is a "heap more fun" breaking into a railroad car, and then it is lots of fun getting the better of the "cop", and when they begin that way, then there is no telling what the end will be. It starts with truancy. How are we going to stop the truant?

When the children get into the juvenile court we endeavor to give them examination, mental and physical; we endeavor to find out just what is best to be done for them. But we ought not to wait that long, we ought to do this in the school, so that they may be checked in time, and so that some of the greatest causes of dulness, and the truancy that follows it, may be removed.

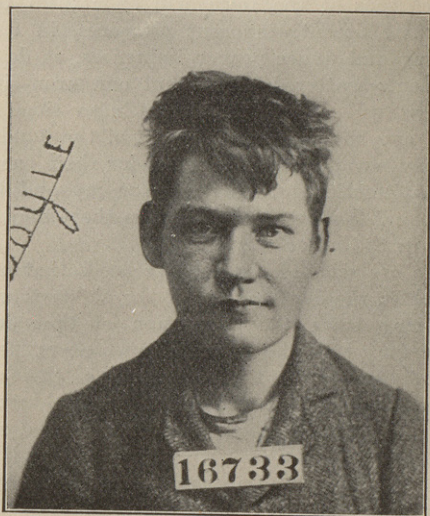
What can you expect of boys if you do not give them a place to play? If they are going to be driven to the streets to play, naturally they are going to come in contact with the policeman, naturally there is going to be trouble, and the heroism and hero-worship that follows trouble with the public authorities. And when that sort of heroism begins, they are on the high road to

criminality. How are you going to stop it? Give the boys and girls play-grounds throughout your cities, do not compel them to be in the streets. Give them small parks, with swimming-pools and skating-rinks, assembly-halls and gymnasiums, and give them a chance to convert the "gang" (which you can't eradicate, it is not human to go alone, the crowd is the natural thing) give them a chance to convert the "gang" into a team, pulling together for good, instead of working together for bad. Give the boys what they need. Appeal to their manhood and their honor, save them through their saving themselves—and that is the best way to save anybody—working with them, not entirely for them. Have separate ungraded rooms for the backward children, vacation and night-schools, proper child-labor and compulsory-education laws and these you will find to be true preventive measures.

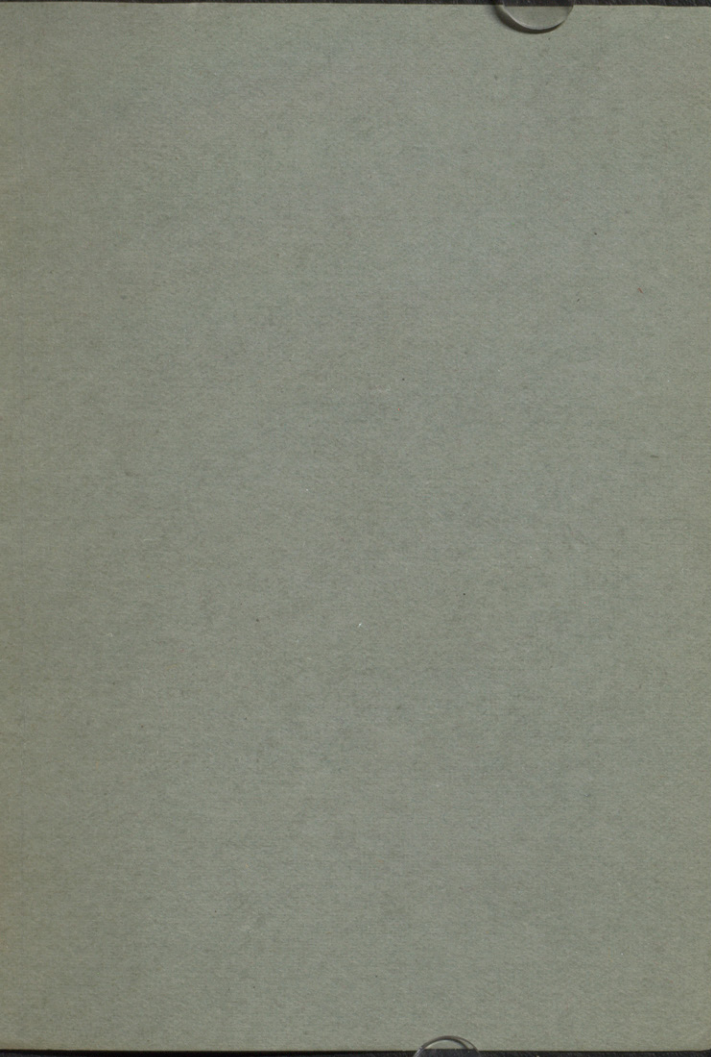
Just one more point. In all big cities there are numbers of girls that go wrong. The greater part of them do not start in from love of lust, but from love of joy, the joy of life that is in every normal human being. Take the girl that is working all day long and then comes home to two or three rooms with a large family in the slum districts that the city fails to keep clean; she doesn't want to stay at home all the evening, she wants to go out, she wants that pleasure and happiness that your girls want, she likes the dance and the play just as much as do your girls. You let your girls enjoy themselves in a decent way under decent

surroundings, but what do we do for these girls? The dance-hall and the show offer them the joy and the lights and the pleasures, but if the good citizens of the town will offer them those joys, those decent, innocent pleasures, in a decent way and under proper influences, as do our settlements scattered throughout our large cities, the girls will choose the decent nine times out of ten, aye, ninety-nine times out of the hundred. But they must have some outlet for their energy, some satisfaction for this cry for joy and happiness, and if we do not give it to them they will get it in the other way.

These are some of the positive needs that mean so much in the development of the child; through them may come the prevention of that delinquency for which the juvenile court offers merely a cure. And it is to a realization of these preventive measures that we, the trained professional men, should give some thought and some care. The future does not look dark, but it demands the united and aroused efforts of the whole community, bent on keeping our children from becoming criminals, determined that those who are showing evidences along that line shall be saved and redeemed and made into good citizens. The day will surely come—and with your united help it will come all the sooner—when we can cry out joyfully with the poet “God’s in His Heaven, all’s right with the world!”



This boy, born in Toronto, was at nineteen a noted criminal, and met his death while resisting arrest. Few people realize the enormous expense that even one neglected boy may entail upon the community. The better care of even a dozen of these unfortunate children would save enough money to maintain several probation agents. Note on his breast the number of wrecked lives that preceded this lad in our Ontario prison!





WHICH ROAD?