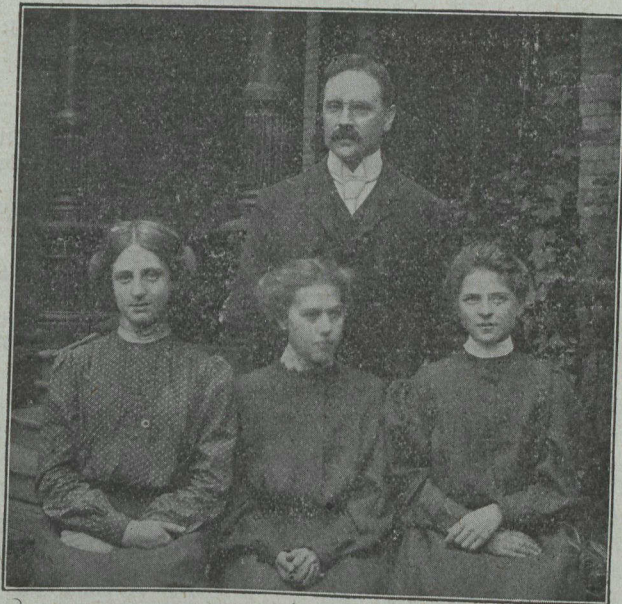


# SOME BIG MUNICIPAL MEN

By AJAX.



**J. J. KELSO AND THE CHILDREN.**

The annual report of Mr. J. J. Kelso, Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children of Ontario, which has just been published brings vividly to one's mind the responsibility of the community to its children, particularly to those, who through neglect or loss of parents become public charges. Mr. Kelso, who is truly the "Dr. Barnardo" of Canada in the course of his report seems to visualize what would otherwise be but a prosaic account of a Government official. The soul of the man is childlike in the faith and confidence in his 10,000 charges—to Kelso every boy and girl has the divine spirit enriched and chastened by their very misdemeanors, provided they are taken up in time. And surely he has had the experience to know. Long before he became a public servant he was working for the poor kiddies of Canada. He knew and loved them and they knew and loved him. He was truly their Santa Claus. He founded the Children's Aid Societies which have spread throughout the Dominion, the organizing of which in taking him from one end of the country to the other, has endeared him to thousands of men and women who have appreciated his self-denying task. As a matter of fact, Mr. Kelso when he was in newspaper work, gave every moment of his spare time to the work—it was his besetting hobby.

The great strength of the Kelso system lies in its appeal to the honor of the boy or girl. No hard and fast regulation to break the young spirit—just sympathy. This is what Kelso says himself—a paragraph that should be printed in large type, put into a frame and hung so that teachers' and parents in Canada might read:—

"Boys are strange creatures, constantly seeking to disguise their real feelings, rough in manner and exterior, and yet craving sympathy, yearning to be understood, to be appreciated. Appeals to the honor of a boy seldom fail, but indifference, harshness, condemnation, kill out the finer instincts, prompts to retaliation, drives to despair."

Mr. Kelso has something to say of the Juvenile Court. He puts the whole of its strength and weakness in a sentence:—

"The Juvenile Court differs from others in this, if the judge is not interested the court is absolutely useless. It is the personal influence that tells."

Those of us who have had occasion to visit the Juvenile Court know the truth of this. The personal is the whole thing and one might suggest that Mr. Kelso's pithy comment be placed on the desk of each Juvenile Judge.

## WEST GAINS IN POPULATION.

In a preliminary return of the census taken last June of the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the results show a large increase in nearly all cases, though the urban centres have not grown so much as the rural districts. The increase since the 1911 is approximately 90,000.

Winnipeg, the largest city in the middle west, increased its population from 136,035 in 1911 to 162,999 in 1916, being a gain of 26,964, or nearly 20 per cent, in five years. For the ten years 1906 to 1916 Winnipeg shows an increase of 72,852, or more than 80 per cent.

In Saskatchewan, Regina leads with 26,112, although a decrease of 4,108 has taken place. Both Saskatoon and Moose Jaw show material gains since 1911.

In Alberta, Calgary still stands first with a population of 56,353, followed by Edmonton with 53,792. Of the population of the latter, 12,420 represents that of the former city of Strathcona, now municipally part of the provincial capital. In 1911 Strathcona had a population of 5,579, and in 1906 one of 1,550.

The comparative figures in detail are as follow:

Manitoba.			
(Cities).	1906.	1911.	1916.
Winnipeg . . . . .	90,153	136,035	162,999
Brandon . . . . .	10,408	13,839	15,225
St. Boniface . . . . .	5,119	7,483	11,022
(Towns).			
Minnedosa . . . . .	1,299	1,483	1,831
Souris . . . . .	1,413	1,854	1,845
Virden . . . . .	1,471	1,550	1,618
Dauphin . . . . .	1,670	2,815	3,200
Neepawa . . . . .	1,895	1,864	1,854
Portage la Prairie . . . . .	5,106	5,892	5,860
Selkirk . . . . .	2,701	2,977	3,399
Transcona . . . . .			3,357
Saskatchewan.			
(Cities).	1906.	1911.	1916.
Moose Jaw . . . . .	6,249	13,823	16,889
North Battleford . . . . .	824	2,105	3,145
Prince Albert . . . . .	3,005	6,254	6,436
Regina . . . . .	6,169	30,213	26,105
Saskatoon . . . . .	3,011	12,004	21,054
Weyburn . . . . .	996	2,210	3,054
(Towns).			
Melville . . . . .		1,816	2,100
Estevan . . . . .	887	1,981	2,140
Alberta.			
(Cities).	1906.	1911.	1916.
Calgary . . . . .	11,967	43,704	56,302
Edmonton . . . . .	11,167	24,900	53,794
Lethbridge . . . . .	2,313	8,050	9,437
Medicine Hat . . . . .	3,020	5,608	9,269
Red Deer . . . . .	1,418	2,118	2,203
Wetaskiwin . . . . .	1,652	2,411	2,048
(Towns).			
Coleman . . . . .	915	1,557	1,559
MacLeod . . . . .	1,114	1,844	1,811
Camrose . . . . .	412	1,536	1,692
Castor . . . . .		1,659	755
Raymond . . . . .	1,568	1,465	1,206