

## Recommendations Concerning Child Welfare Considered

### Children's Aid Society Hears Interesting Annual Reports; About \$7,000 Spent in Remodelling New Home; Nineteen Children in Home

The annual meeting of the Children's Aid Society was held last evening in the new home, Garden street. The board was highly pleased at the fact that it had now a permanent home, and applauded J. King Kelley when he announced that the home had been delivered and the home was now the property of the municipality for the use of the society. The statement by the president that the \$7,000 or thereabouts spent in remodelling the structure had also all been raised, was a further source of congratulation. There are now nineteen children in the home.

#### President's Address.

He would have been a bold prophet who had predicted three years ago that this annual meeting of the Children's Aid Society of the city and county of St. John would have been held in a splendid new home, purchased by the municipality, remodelled at large expense by public generosity, well furnished and now the happy home of nearly twenty children. This, however, is our happy condition, for which we have every reason to be grateful to our fellow citizens.

When we stated our case to the municipal council at the beginning of the present year that body promptly and generously agreed to purchase the home for \$7,000, and to grant \$5,000 toward the current expenses of the society for the year. It was then necessary to have some \$7,000 or more to remodel the building, install new heating, lighting and plumbing, and make other changes to fit it for institutional work. A committee composed of T. H. Estabrook, M. E. Agar and myself took the matter in hand. It was felt that a quiet personal appeal, without any public campaign, would bring the desired results and this faith was fully justified, as appears from the statement of the treasurer, the sum of \$5,180 being quickly subscribed by a comparatively few firms and individuals, to add to \$2,135 already in hand.

E. Ernest Fairweather very generously tendered his services as architect, and

the society is under a great debt of gratitude to him. Edward Bates heartily concurred in the fact that the building was highly commended, and also rendered most valuable service. Because of the wartime cost of material and labor the work of remodelling has been expensive, but it has been thoroughly done, and the result is in every way satisfactory.

It is a personal tribute of high appreciation of the earnest, constant and intelligent work of the ladies' committee from the first moment of planning the home until the matron and her little flock were finally installed under this roof. There is still a good deal of a major character to be done, but we are now in a position to carry on our work under most cheerful and favorable conditions.

The work of our society for the past year is well covered in the report of the agent, Rev. George Scott, with whom I have been in almost daily conference throughout the year, and who has devoted himself in a sympathetic and whole-hearted way to the delicate and often disagreeable tasks he has been called on to perform. We were handicapped throughout the year by limited quarters, outbreaks of infectious disease in the home, and lack of hospital accommodation; yet the record shows invaluable work done for the benefit of neglected and dependent children.

Looking to the future of our work and of child-welfare work in the province at large, I desire to direct your attention to certain well defined needs.

The first of these is a provincial superintendent of neglected and dependent children. In a recent letter J. J. Kelly, the honored superintendent for the province of Ontario for a quarter of a century, said to me he was convinced this was the first essential to successful work for child-welfare in New Brunswick.

There are now active Children's Aid Societies in Fredericton, Moncton and Chatham, and I believe there are similar organizations forming in other centres, but there should be societies all over the province, their work co-ordinated under a provincial superintendent.

The need of a modern and thoroughly equipped industrial home for delinquent boys grows more apparent year by year, and should also be pressed earnestly upon the attention of the government.

There is also the question of the care of the feeble-minded. This is a matter which it seems to me should be jointly handled by the police and the society, providing an institutional home where these unfortunate, both children and adults, could be given proper care and protection. So long as they are uncared for their numbers will increase, to the growing injury of society.

The question of mothers' pensions has been brought sharply before the public in the past year. We have had brought to our attention a number of cases of widows left with children with no means of supporting them. In such cases there is no alternative but to break up the family. In every such case, if the mother is a thrifty person, she should be enabled to keep her children together, and the state would profit by the necessary expenditure. If true we have had the scandal of mothers enjoying life about town after their children have been committed to public institutions, but now that the war is over there will be less of that sort of thing. Nevertheless we should have better legislation than we have at present to deal with delinquent parents of both sexes.

There is great need in St. John of a temporary home for children whose surviving parents would be able and willing to pay something toward their support until home accommodation could again be provided. We could fit our home at present to overflowing with such cases, and there are also frequent appeals in behalf of unfortunate infants. During the recent epidemic the need of such a temporary home was painfully apparent, but the need is constant, and our institution cannot meet it. The only institution that can do so is the Municipal Home, which, however, also has its limitations in that regard. The other institutions are usually crowded.

The city is to be the scene of the successful inauguration of medical inspection and school nursing. As the work is developed and enlarged we may be sure it will have a most beneficial effect upon the health of the children; and a sympathetic system of constant home visits, with reports, should tend to a gradual and marked improvement in the housing and home conditions.

With regard to our own work, I believe this association should get public sentiment aroused to support the Social Service Council of Canada in its demand for the law raising the age of consent from 14 to 16 years.

I believe the Senate has rejected, and also we should seek to have our own Children's Protection Act amended to bring under its provisions all girls up to and including sixteen years of age. Has not the time also come when we should have real children's courts in St. John, presided over by a juvenile court judge whose hearings could be held in this building, making it a real clearing house for all cases affecting delinquents of tender years, as well as those neglected and dependent children with whom the society is now called upon to deal?

There is at least a question worthy of the careful consideration of this board and of the citizens.

I feel that all owe hearty thanks to our treasurer for his faithful service and painstaking care of our finances. Let me in conclusion express my own sincere thanks to the ladies for their kind and unflinching support extended to me at all times.

The Agent's Report.

The annual report of the agent, Rev. George Scott, contained among other matters the following facts. During the past twelve months an even hundred families were visited containing 329 children. This compares with seventy-one families and 173 children during the seven months of 1917, during which I acted as your agent. In the last mentioned year one girl was sentenced to the Maritime Home in Truro, two boys were sent to Silver Falls and one boy to the Reformatory at East St. John. In the current year His Honor Chief Justice McKeown sentenced three girls to the Maritime Home and one to the Evangeline Home. Judge Armstrong also sentenced one girl to the Maritime Home and one man who was convicted of a serious offence against a child, was sentenced to five years in Dorchester.

At the beginning of the present year there were eight children in our shelter, 110 Elliot Row, and during the twelve months thirty-five more were put in. Of these ten were committed to the care of the society; fourteen were discharged with their parents; four were taken to the Maritime Home, Truro; one was sent to the Maritime Home, one to the Evangeline Home and one to the Reformatory. This leaves two children who were placed with us for shelter, probably committed to us very soon. On November 1st there were in the new home, 68 Garden street, twenty children, of whom all but seven were our wards. During the year the usual adoption papers were made out for seven of our wards who are now in comfortable foster homes. Besides the above, however, five little ones were taken direct from their homes to Roman Catholic institutions. Two of these were committed to the care of the society and are now in the Home of the Good Shepherd. Three were allowed to go home with their mother. Two lads were taken here for shelter, and one was sentenced to the Reformatory for longer or shorter terms. One of these appeared before Judge Armstrong, Rev. R. A. Armstrong and J. L. Thorne, J. P. There were five hearings before our committee where parents were appearing to try our cases. Rev. Canon Armstrong and Rev. Father Duke.

Following the statistical part of the report the agent dealt with the need there exists for an up-to-date reformatory for boys. He made it clear the office of the present institution at East St. John were doing excellent work with the means at their disposal. The plant, however, is wholly inadequate and unsuited for the needs of the work. The residence is old and frequently in need of repair. There is a very poor heating plant and the dining room especially is cold in the winter. The worst feature in the internal arrangements, however, is the common dormitory where all the inmates sleep. In these conditions with these prevailing in Truro in the Maritime Home for Girls, an institution which he said, was doing excellent work.

Among other social questions which he took up was the need of the establishment of some kind of a reformatory for girls. He pointed out that it is unkind of their duty to their families could be paid, and compelled to work instead of putting an additional burden on the family.

In view of the examination into conditions in St. John county, which he was confident could be duplicated in other parts of the province, he contended the time had come when the operation of the compulsory education act should be made province-wide.

In conclusion the agent acknowledged indebtedness for much of the work done to the unflinching patience and courtesy of the judges of the various courts, and the police officers who also lent much valuable aid. Special mention was made of the unflinching kindness of Miss Ross and the police matron, Hon. Mrs. King Kelley, who had rendered invaluable assistance in the courts, as had also K. A. Wilson and Francis Ketter, who, in the case of the heavy demands for the more thorough practical training of the boys for life work.

The election of officers resulted as follows: A. M. Belding, president; Mrs. H. A. McKewen, 1st vice-president; Mrs. J. H. Doody, 2nd vice-president; Rev. G. Scott, secretary; James Patterson, treasurer; J. King Kelley, K. C., honorary solicitor.

The president was given authority to name the necessary committees and report to the next meeting.

Treasurer's Report.

The report of the treasurer, James Patterson, showed receipts for the year, \$5,227.80; expenditures, \$6,488.31, thus leaving a small balance on the right side. The treasurer also reported that the total income for the year was less than \$100 in excess of that of the previous year. This relates entirely to the cost of maintaining the home and carrying on the society's work for the year. There was raised in addition a sum exceeding \$7,000, which was spent in remodelling and equipping the new home.

The treasurer's report gave full details of all receipts and expenditures, and was audited and found correct by Rev. H. A. White and H. L. Gunter. The board expressed its warm appreciation of the treasurer's faithful work for the year.

Ottawa, Nov. 28.—Sir Thomas White, acting prime minister, in receipt of a telegram from Senator Cosmo De La Torriente, president of the Cuban National Commission.

The Cuban National Commission for war propaganda and help to war victims, has agreed, with the approval of the president of the republic, to send to you by mail the sum of \$20,000, to be dedicated to the Canadian Red Cross in the name of the Republic of Cuba, for the assistance of soldiers of Canada who are victims of the great war which has terminated so victoriously for the Allies, and to which Canada has contributed so splendidly.


To this message the government is sending the following reply:

The government and people of Canada sincerely appreciate the cordial message and generous proposal made in the name of the Republic of Cuba. I am sure our Canadian Red Cross Society will be glad to accept and apply your contribution in accordance with your wishes. We trust that the coming of peace will mean an era of increasing prosperity for Cuba.

GOLD MEDAL PRESENTED TO THE U. S. PRESIDENT.

Washington, Nov. 28.—Officials of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith presented to President Wilson today a gold medal awarded him by the society last October as the man who rendered the most distinguished service to humanity during the last year.

What a man wants in the morning—



**ENO'S FRUIT SALT**

## St. John Men In Party on Way From The Front

Charles Robinson, secretary of the Returned Soldiers' Commission, received word last evening that the party of men for M. D. No. 7, New Brunswick, had arrived at Halifax.

F. E. A. Basset, Amherst, N. B.; R. H. Basset, Summerside (N. B.); Allan Arsenault, Summerside (N. B.); James Brown, Lowell (Mass.); J. F. Collett, Moncton.

M. A. Dunphy, North Devon (N. B.); R. A. Eadie, Summerside (N. B.); W. A. Flaherty, Elliott row, St. John.

W. A. Hennessey, Sunny Brae, A. Haynes, Massachusetts (Mass.); S. Langley, Beaumont (Mass.); C. F. London, St. John.

J. McCran, Lowell (Mass.); G. E. Peasey, City road, St. John.

E. S. Thomas, Saskatchewan; C. W. Toner, Rockland road, St. John.

Sapper J. Hartley, New York; Sapper M. O. Glidden, Packmacrae; Driver D. M. Lowan, Plaster Rock.

Private A. A. Adams, East Florenceville; J. A. Burden, Queen street, Fredericton.

Private W. Mills, Coldbrook; Gunner G. S. Dave, Moncton.

Driver W. O. Glidden, Packmacrae; Driver D. M. Lowan, Plaster Rock.

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## HE DARKENED HIS GRAY HAIR

They Used to Call Him Grands; Now They Call Him Kid.

Tells How He Did It.

Mr. J. A. McGee, a well known resident of San Francisco, who was called Grands and Grands on account of his white hair, and who darkened it with a simple home-made mixture, recently made the following statement:

"Anyone can prepare a simple mixture at home, a very little cost, that will darken gray hair and make it soft and glossy. To a half pint of water add 1 ounce of bay rum, a small box of Oriz Compound and 4 ounces of glycerine. These ingredients can be bought at any drug store at very little cost. Apply to the hair twice a week until the desired shade is obtained. This will make a gray-haired person look twenty years younger. It does not cover the scalp, is not sticky or greasy and does not wash off. My friends now call me 'Kid'."

Private S. Arsenault, Allanville; Gunner G. S. Dave, Moncton.

Driver W. O. Glidden, Packmacrae; Driver D. M. Lowan, Plaster Rock.

Private A. A. Adams, East Florenceville; J. A. Burden, Queen street, Fredericton.

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## The Casualties

Gagetown, Nov. 28.—Corporal Abner B. Belyea, of the 1st D. A. C., after coming successfully through four years of the war is now in hospital in London with septic poisoning in the hand.

Mrs. William Belyea has recently heard that her father, Sergeant William Murray, who has seen long service with Scottish regiments in Mesopotamia, India, Serbia and France was badly wounded at Cambrai. He was for a long time on the field before being found and was at first very weak from loss of blood but at the time of writing was greatly improved, and hoped to be at his home in Scotland for Christmas.

Official List.

Ottawa, Nov. 28.

Prisoner of War Repatriated.

J. Flood, Picton (N. S.); A. Cook, Yarmouth (N. S.); H. Wolfe, Dartmouth (N. S.); L. Reid, Truro (N. S.).

Believed Prisoner of War.

A. Liswell, Centre Burlington (N. S.) Wounded and Missing.

H. Woodhams, Greenwich (N. S.) Missing.

P. LeBlanc, Sackville (N. B.) Wounded.

F. White, Amherst; Wm. Salter, Halifax; A. Rogers, Shelburne; J. McEachern, Truro; G. McLean, Picton; H. Tremblay, Upper Goshen (N. B.); J. McIsaac, Sydney; J. Liswell, Centreburg (N. S.).

R. Young, Amapolis (N. S.) Gassed.

Thomas Mantle, St. John.

Gassed.

N. Cogswell, Cogswell (N. S.) ARTILLERY.

Died.

G. Phyllis, Halifax.

Wounded.

J. MacDonald, Trout Brook South (N. S.); W. Burbridge, Halifax; H. Conway, Halifax; L. O'Grady, Francis Harbor (N. S.).

MOUNTED RIFLES.

Prisoner of War.

M. Yoomans, Marysville (N. B.) Prisoner Repatriated.

A. Clements, Fredericton; R. Storey, Dartmouth; F. Doyle, Bedford (N. S.); W. Carson, Campbellton; J. Anderson, Halifax.

MACHINE GUNS.

Killed in Action.

W. Knapp, Sackville.

HAD THANKSGIVING DINNER HIGH IN AIR

Elizabeth, N. J., Nov. 28.—The first aerial banquet in history was held today on an airplane 2,800 feet above the New York flying field of the United States Air Mail Service here, marking the inauguration of the field as the terminus of the aerial mail service between New York, Philadelphia and Washington.

A few minutes after the mail plane, in charge of Pilot Max Miller, left the field at 12:10 this afternoon, a big Hadley-Page machine rose under control of Captain E. B. Walter of the Royal Flying Forces, and during a flight of twenty minutes above the grounds a real Thanksgiving dinner was served to nine persons. Among the guests were Captain Benjamin L. Lipner, superintendent of the Air Mail Service, and Allan R. Hawley, Augustus Post and other officials of the Aero Club of America.

Speaking of the proposed nationwide extension of the mail service, Captain Lipner said: "We will have machines which will carry a ton and a half of mail and the days of freight and parcel