

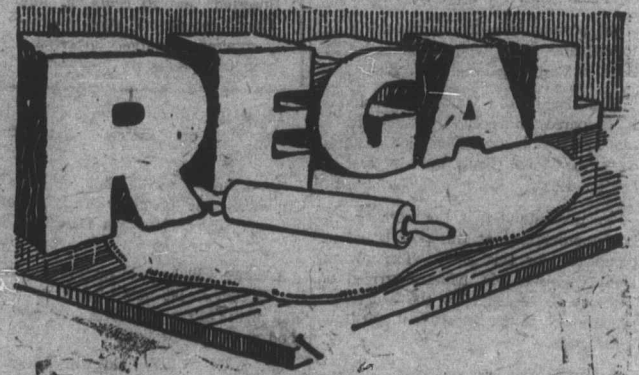
THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY AND ITS TASK

(Continued from Issue of Nov. 10.) The legal machinery described above is not merely provided in case of some possible need. These conditions actually exist throughout the province, even within the limits of this town. Perhaps a few statistics may help to bring out the magnitude of the problem. The Superintendent, Mr. Blois, reports that in 1921, 81 children (were) delivered to the care of the Superintendent under the Act; 41 children placed in foster-homes; 4 children returned to parents; 206 cases investigated; 1500 interviews with people seeking advice and assistance regarding children; 500 visits to foster-homes. Also, 99 children delivered to the Children's Aid Societies under the Act; 65 children placed in foster-homes. The number of cases investigated and the number of interviews he had reported. A conservative estimate would be: 300 cases investigated, 3000 interviews. Since the Act came into effect more than 1100 children have been taken care of by the Superintendent and the Children's Aid Societies; and over 1000 children have been placed on probation from Juvenile Courts. (from the Ninth Annual Report of the Superintendent, etc. page 53) Examination of the books of Mr. Herbert Stairs, agent of the Children's Aid Society of King's County, shows that in the calendar year 1921, the Province paid towards the support of children in this county alone \$775.56; the municipality of King's County paid for board and clothing of children in temporary homes \$1755.27, and for expenses of apprehension and detention, and court fees \$87.90; and in part payment of the agent salary (the remainder coming from Annapolis and West Hants, Mr. Stairs acting as agent for those counties also)

\$500.00. The figures covering traveling expenses, etc. for the calendar year are not available, but for the fiscal year covered by the report of Mr. C. A. Patrinquin, Secretary-Treasurer, the expenditures were \$370.62. If we may assume that this last item, covering largely the same period, is practically equivalent to the true figure for the calendar year, we have for this one county during the year 1921, an expense of \$3489.35 for the care of neglected children. The per capita expense is not very great, but the total amount would make a very welcome addition to the income of the public schools. The second item is larger than that paid by any other municipality, given, \$1755.27 from the municipality, town, or city for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1921. Even the city of Halifax paid only \$1491.54. Cape Breton County paid 1653.15. It seems justifiable to bespeak a thoughtful consideration of the causes of the conditions which the Children's Aid Societies are endeavoring to correct. In a considerable proportion of the cases dealt with by the Society, children have to be cared for because the mother is forced, through death, illness or other misfortune of the father, sometimes because deserted by the father, to leave the home to earn a living. Occasionally children are left entirely alone in the world. Society must, of course, always be prepared to give such children a home. It is now universally recognized that a home with a private family is best. The services of the Society are often of great value to mothers, and are very essential in caring for orphans. These cases, however, do not often constitute a very difficult social problem. There are always good people ready to welcome to their homes such children as the two shown here with Mr. Stairs. This total does not include payments for maintenance of delinquent children sent to reformatory institutions.

port for 1921 (Ninth Annual Report, etc. page 25) gives, among others, the following case:— "A terrible case of cruelty was reported and investigated. A young step-mother was punishing her step-children, a little girl and two little boys, by holding the tips of their fingers on the hot stove until they were blistered. The girl and an older brother told me the story at school when I interviewed them, but when I visited the home the step-mother denied it and called the children in and asked them who had burned their fingers. In evident fear they said they had done it themselves. So many rumors and such indignation were abroad among the neighbors that she was summoned to appear with the children. She failed to come but her husband came without the children. The Judge charged him with a warning to his wife and further investigation was made by the President J. D. McMillan, but he found, the neighbors were reticent, evidently unwilling to be mixed up in the affair. We think she has been more careful since, however." As an example of filth, we may cite another case from the records of the local Society. The father of the family in question went over with the Expeditionary Forces, leaving the wife and five children, who received the usual allowance from the government. On his return, the man found his family living in a state that we shall not attempt to describe. It is enough to say that no farmer would permit his hogs to endure the like. The father secured employment in a lumbercamp, but was discharged because he had become infested with vermin in the "home" to which he had returned from the war. He appealed to the Society, and four of the children were taken by Mr. Stairs. The accompanying picture shows their condition upon arrival at the court. The baby was entirely naked when taken from the house. Otherwise, this picture accurately represents their home life. All these children are now living in good homes, and will become useful citizens. It is hardly necessary to argue that immorality on the part of parents is conducive to juvenile delinquency. The Society has frequently found it necessary to remove children on this account, and has even had to care for little girls who have been assaulted by their own fathers. The laws dealing with such cases, and with seduction and rape, are adequate, but it has repeatedly been found difficult to secure conviction. Crimes against young girls are altogether too frequent, and the fact that too many hardened villains have escaped without punishment, does not tend to reduce the number of such cases. It is understood that evidence in crimes like these is hard to obtain, but there should be no disposition to spare the guilty party." (from the Report for 1915 of the Superintendent of Neglected Children for Alberta, Mr. A. M. McDonald) For the closely related problem of illegitimacy, there is at present no adequate provision. An excellent bill, requiring the father to pay medical and other expenses of the mother "during the three months next preceding the birth of the child, at the birth and during such period after the birth as may in the opinion of the Judge have been or be necessary in connection with, or as a consequence of, the birth of such child," etc., and to contribute towards the maintenance of the child until the child

attains the age of sixteen years," was proposed at the last session, but not passed. Such, bill should be passed as soon as possible.



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Unfortunately, a large proportion of the cases are not so promising. Children have to be removed from their homes because of cruelty, filth, degrading moral conditions, etc. E.G., one baby was taken



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GIRL GUIDES OF HALIFAX

This company of Girl Guides of Trinity Hall, Halifax has just performed a notable action which attests their talent in many ways. The entire company with its juniors in five rehearsals learned the "Song of Empire" and "Hurrah, Hurrah Britannia", with its dramatic chorus, so well that after a group of them sang at the Heraldic Display Ceremonies of the College of Arms of Canada at the Victoria Art School, they were requested to repeat the same in full ranks at the Great War Veterans Fair held at the Armories. Not only did their charming manner offer a contrast to the usual coldness, stupidity and indifference encountered elsewhere, but fifteen of them took an unexpected interest in heraldry and genealogy and brought to the representative of the College of Arms, armorial designs and legends of family history beyond the sea from Scotland and England. The personal intelligence, friendly manner, courtesy and talent of this company of fair girl guides must form an ideal of admiration to all those who have been in their presence. Their Captain, Miss Walters, is to be congratulated on this subject, and no doubt something of it is praise ought to be reserved for her.

Minard's Liniment Co., Ltd. Gentlemen—I have used Minard's Liniment and have found it a good remedy. After the explosion I was pretty well shaken up, having quite a number of bruises and cuts, but thanks to Minard's Liniment I am my old self again. It healed the sores and bruises and gave me much relief. It is true to its name as the King of Pain, for it stopped the pain almost at once. I first noticed the ad in the Montreal Standard and decided to invest in a bottle, for which I am not sorry, but can say with truth that I am thankful for it having done all it claimed to do, and in my case much more, and a satisfied customer is the best advertisement possible find. That is my view of it and I think that you will agree with me too. Yours very truly, ALBERT STAIN, 154 Agincourt St., HALIFAX, N. S.

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The Fall Season is now here, and with it comes an earnest desire of every tradesman to do a bigger and better business than heretofore.

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You do; then you must ADVERTISE.

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This is the first time we have ever been able to offer a genuine Brunswick Console Model Phonograph for \$200—\$100 less than any Brunswick Console Model has ever been offered for before. To introduce this beautiful instrument, just fresh from the great Brunswick Cabinet-making plant we are making a SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER

Features of This Model

- 1. Stands 34 inches high.
2. 22 1/2 inches wide.
3. 35 inches long.
4. Equipped with the famous ULTONA that plays all records properly.
5. Has the Brunswick exclusive all-wood oval horn.
6. Guaranteed Brunswick motor.
7. Throat-tone control.
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9. Genuine Brunswick cabinet in mahogany, Adam Brown, or Walnut.
10. Fully guaranteed, including springs.

of a limited number only on special terms of only \$10.00 cash and the balance spread over an entire year, and with many privileges not usually given on the purchase of a high-grade phonograph. This not only gives you remarkable value, on easy terms, but affords protection against the future should sickness or unemployment make it more difficult than you anticipated to pay the instalments as they fall due. Only a Few More

Our introductory announcement of this special offer has already resulted in considerable diminishing the number of these instruments that we have set aside for the purpose. Only a few left to be had on these exceptionally easy terms. As soon as these are sold the offer will be withdrawn and will not, in any event, be kept open after Monday next.

Features of This Offer

- 1. Genuine Brunswick Console Model for only \$200.
2. Cash payment only \$10.00
3. Balance spread over an entire year.
4. Six-day free trial in your home.
5. Three months' exchange privilege without cost.
6. Partial payments if sick or unemployed.
7. Delivery immediately or any time up to Christmas.
8. One year ironclad guarantee.
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