

They love this work, and thus our prisons are made splendid educational establishments with the best of bad masters to educate in vice.

A work of great importance in connection with prisoners has had a very considerable impetus by the admirable "Act" of the Honourable Mr. Gibson; that is,—the rescue work amongst our children. It is a wealthy community indeed that can afford to let the children become criminals. One child entering the criminal class represents in the watching, the catching, the trial, the keeping in prison house or gaol, and, when dismissed, going over the same work again, an expenditure that would pay many times over for the taking hold of that child, keeping him from contamination, and putting him in the way of becoming an honest citizen. Last year's report of the Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children of Ontario, is one of the most instructive and interesting papers that can be read. Possibly, the most beautiful work of art that the world furnishes today is the faithful photograph showing the poor little waif, the victim of the vice, dissipation, and misery of its parents, on the one side; and, then, on the other, the joyous, happy, metamorphosed child which is being moulded for good citizenship, under the kindly suggestions and kindly dealings of those that the State now sets to watch them.

Most of you may know that there are twenty-nine societies in Ontario under this Act doing a large and effective work. During the last year 834 cases were looked into; 186 obtained foster homes. A pleasing incident was the language in which a kind heart approached the little band of children seeking a new home, as she said: "I do not want a strong, healthy child, but I want a poor little sick one, to win it back to

strength and happiness." The experience is that oftentimes among these little waifs, you get the best of stuff out of which to make our men and women.

It is most desirable that at the Toronto gaol this work of separation should be begun. In the metropolis of the first province of the Dominion there should be nothing lacking in this respect. All our public offices should be models for the rest of the land to learn from. A sum of \$3,500 would answer for this test. The cost of many a prisoner from his twentieth to his fiftieth year has exceeded this sum. I feel but little doubt that, in thus diminishing the number of prisoners to be arrested, tried, and kept in the gaol, in five years the whole of the extra cost would be saved.

It is a matter of great thankfulness to the Association that our judges lend us much assistance in our work. The following language of the Honourable Mr. Justice Rose is well worth your consideration:

"Young men are often convicted of offences which do not really show moral guilt. In the gaol they consort with hardened criminals, and so are educated in crime. If the degenerated and vicious were to meet to devise a scheme for the propagation of crime, they could adopt no system to serve their purpose more fully than the present gaol system."

A most admirable address, delivered under the auspices of the National Prison Association, by Dr. Meredith, who, as Inspector of Prisons, knew whereof he was speaking, is well worth reading. From it I venture to take the following extracts, which give in much better form than I could the result of the world-wide experience collected in that valuable address:

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