POOR DOCUMENT

MC 2035

LOST GIRLS IN THE GREAT CITY

New York Police Find Most of Missing Ones

ARTICLE BY COMMISSIONER

Mr. Woods Relates Stories of Wayward or Dissatisfied Fugitives Rescued Through Systematic Search and Tactful Handling

(By Arthur Woods, Police Commissioner of New York City, in New York Times.)

From Jan. 1, 1917, until the 19th of June—a period of five and one-half months—853 women and girls, residents of New York City, were reported missing to the police department. Of that number, 790 have already been located and sent home, or the cases have been closed by request of the complainant. That is aimost 93 per cent. Since the 19th of June many more of the cases have been closed, which means either that the person has been found or that the complainant withdraws his request for a search.

Five hundred and forty-one of the 853 reported missing females were between the ages of 18 and 30. The other 312 were older or younger. Thirteen to thirty years may be put down as the age when the desire for adventure is strongest, when the spirit of independence asserts itself.

Of these 541, 95 per cent. have been located, returned home, or the cases closed by the request of the persons who gave the report to the police. In other words, 530 cases were cleared from the books, leaving only 11 open at the time of writing. Some of these may have been found by the time this is printed; some may never be "found," and will be carried indefinitely as "missing." Some may have jumped into the river. In 1915, 272 bodies were found in the river by the New York police alone, in 1916, 349. From January 1 to June 30, this year, 352 bodies came into the hands of the police, and in that time 254 were identified. Ninety-eight remain unknown. There probably will always be a missing persons list in a city the size of New York.

What I should like to see is a greater willingness on the part of the public to come to the police in these missing persons cases as quickly as they would go to their closest friends or to the clergyman, and co-operation today is so much better than it was before that I am encouraged to believe it is going to be full and complete in a very short time.

Lieutenant Grant Williams, who is in charge of the bureau of missing persons and has interviewed personally most of the women located, says the 75 per cent. of the women who leave home, without advising their families where they are going, do so because of unpleasant home conditions.

Many of the women found are not sent home. Often, in cases where the girl is under the age limit, she is not returned if, upon investigation, it is found that the home conditions are disagreeable. Often, when she is sent home, her running away and return prove responsible for an improvement in the conditions at home.

A Case in Point.

As an illustration, we received a report one evening, at 8.30 o'clock, from a family up in Harlem that their daughter, 18, who theretofore came home at 6.30, had not returned. Her description was given, the place she worked, and other necessary data. Immediately the police department got in touch with the various homes, societies, and other young women's organizations, and the matron of one of them said that a girl answering our description was there—had come at 6 o'clock. Lieutenant Williams went over immediately, and the matron told him the story the girl had told her. The girl said she had come from Spirit Lake, Idaho.

"Now, my girl," said the officer gently, "I don't believe you are telling me the truth. I think you are a New York girl that her parents are very anxious about."

She resented being doubted. Tears came to her eyes.

"I won't go home," she cried.

The police officer told her she need not fear being sent home; if her home conditions were not right, she could be looked after by the city. All he wanted to do was to locate her and see that she was taken care of. The kind words broke the stubborn spell, and she told a story of her father's cruel treatment. After advising the girl to get a good night's rest, the officer telephoned her parents that he was on the way up to see them. Conditions at the house were exactly as the girl had described them. The father, smoking in his shirt sleeves, was belligerent in his reception of the lieutenant, and no sooner had the visitor stepped into the room and announced he had news of the daughter than the man locked the door, took out the key, and put it in his pocket.

"Now, will you tell me where my daughter is?" he said. "I'll break her neck when I get her."

"No, you'll not break her neck," said the lieutenant, "and you'll gain nothing by threatening me. Unlock that door, and I'll tell you what your daughter told me about having the best mother and the best home in the world and the best father, if he weren't so severe and stingy.

The father unlocked the door, and the two men sat down. Lieutenant Williams told him his daughter was safe; she had asked a police officer to direct her to a boarding house that was respectable. He also told him the girl would not return home because her father was so severe, allowing her no amusement and taking her salary each week, giving her only 10 cents a day for carfare and 15 cents for lunch.

"It's true," said the father, who seemed a bit ashamed by this time, "but I did it for her own good."

The father related how as a young man he had been very wild. When he married and settled down, he made up his mind that no child of his should ever have a chance to go wrong. The lieutenant told him right from the shoulder, not only how unkind he was, but what mistakes he was making—how far away he was getting from the teachings of the Bible. He told the father that if he continued to treat the girl as he had, she would do more to disgrace him than run away. He pleaded with the father to open the doors to the girl's friends that he had refused to receive.

To make a long story short, both father and mother finally begged to be allowed to see the girl. They went to the home with the understanding that they should see the matron only, but more begging followed and at last there was a tearful reunion. I may add that the father is a new man. We have good news from the girl and her parents every now and then. The conditions of that home have changed. The girl has her friends come to see her, she has part of her earnings for herself, she goes frequently to the movies, often taking her father with her, and she enjoys life as a young girl should.

From Rich Home.

Another case was that of a girl from a wealthy home. The mother couldn't understand, until the Lieutenant made it clear to her, how she had driven the girl away by her crossness. The report came in early one morning. from Pennsylvania. The family had got up at the usual hour and found the daughter was not in the house. Her suit case and many of her clothes were gone. Two days later a letter came from the girl in New Haven, saying she was well and happy, but they couldn't find her, as she was working under an assumed name in a home far out in the country. Lieutenant Williams and the father went to New Haven. A few hours later they stood at the door of a beautiful country home, ringing a bell. The runaway girl answered, and Lieutenant Williams, who had asked the father to stand out of sight, said:

"Lillian Jones"—this name will do you as well as any other—"I want to speak to you."

"I don't know you," answered the girl.

"No," said the Lieutenant, "but I have a friend you do know."

The father stepped into view, and there was a surprised welcome from the daughter. She was acting as a sort of companion and nursery governess to a cultivated, kind-hearted woman and her little children. It turned out that the influence of the woman, who sensed that something was wrong, caused Lillian to write the letter. The girl had left home because of a severe reprimand from her mother.

We received a telegram saying that a girl who had been missing several months from a Western States was in New York City. In less than an hour Lieutenant Williams was knocking at her hotel door. He explained to the girl how her mother had wired that she was working in the movies under the name of —— and had been recognized in one of the films.

"But how could she have recognized me?" said the girl, who seemed rather glad to be discovered. 'I was painting a flagpole, hundreds of feet in the air, and my face wasn't clear at all—and I had on overalls!"

"I knew my baby's back and I knew my baby's legs,' 'explained the mother, who came here a few days later. "And when they flashed that picture on the screen I cried right out that it was you."

The girl went back home, but not to the butterfly life she had been forced to lead before. An understanding had been established between mother and daughter.

To cope with the situation more effectively than we have been able to in the past, all activities on missing persons were centred in one bureau at headquarters on May 1 last. This work previously had been handled in the detective branches without any special plan or organization. Lieutenant Williams was placed in charge.

Heretofore, when missing persons were reported to the branch detective offices, cards were made out and sent to headquarters. Under the new system, all persons reported missing to branch offices or to the precinct stations are immediately telephoned to the Bureau of Missing Persons. The detective who answers the telephone is responsible for making out two cards, known as "D. B. 18"—one for Correspondence Room and one for file in the Missing Persons Bureau. From the latter an order is mimeographed and forwarded to all points covered in the bureau's mailing list. Two typewritten copies are made of the record. One is placed in the permanent files of the Statistical Bureau; the other in the Morgue files as a "check card." These reports give the name, address, full physical description, and a description of the clothing worn by the missing person. They include any reasons, or fancied reasons, for the disappearance, also the name, address, telephone number and relationship of the complainant. The report also states whether publicity is desired or not. If publicity is not desired, every effort is made to respect the wishes of the complainant, although it retards the work of the police, and often shields the guilty one.

General Alarm.

The general alarm sent out for a missing girl covers Greater New York within a short time after the report is received. All the city hospitals are notified. The police records are searched for accident or arrest. All the morgues in Greater New York are visited. Inquiries are made at all the organizations interested in girls. Reports are sent to other cities. A daily search is made of all unidentified dead.

When it is understood that in the reports of missing persons the usual request is for no publicity, that only meagre information is available, that oftentimes people reporting the cases are not as frank as they might be, it is easily understood how much like hunting for the proverbial needle in the haystack is the work of the detective in the Bureau of Missing Persons. But with all the handicaps, the percentage of success is slowly increasing. And with the new system of locating missing persons steadily growing in efficiency, we hope soon to raise the standard of "founds" from 95 per cent to 98 per cent.

SINGLEHANDED AND UNARMED, CAPTURED 17 GERMANS

Sergt. J. T. Fraser, 13th Battalion, Royal Highlanders of Canada, who won the D.C.M. for his feat at Sanctuary Wood, near Ypres, June 13, 1916. Fraser's rifle had no cartridges but his bluff worked and he brought in the seventeen Boches alone. Photo taken while on leave and at a picnic near Toronto. He wears three "wounded" gold stripes.

LOCAL NEWS

Assistant dispensary, Royal Hotel Soda Fountain. T.f.

Riley will be here—watch for Riley. T.F.

READ THIS

No advance in the price of union-made overalls at Mulholland's, No. 7 Waterloo street, near Union street. A call on this firm is advised. 8-7.

May Queen leaves St. John Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 8.30 a.m. Leaves Fredericton Monday Wednesday and Friday at 8 a.m. 8—11

Wanted at Royal Hotel—Kitchen girl, pastry pantry girl and silver man. T.F.

Waldorf Cafe, No. 52 Germain street, "The home-cooking place." —t.f.

Riley will be here—watch for Riley. T.F.

NEW SHIRTS AND TIES

Mulholland's, No. 7 Waterloo street, have just received a big shipment of shirts and ties, and they are beauties. Store open evenings; also Saturday night. Look for Electric Sign, Mulholland's, Golden Ball corner. They also carry a swell line of hats, caps and raincoats. 8-7.

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Provoking.

"And how do you like Mr. Flubdub, girlie?"

"I hardly know. 'He's so pleased with himself that he doesn't seem to notice my good points at all."

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER OF AN ELECTION IN CANADA

(Halifax Recorder.)

The Tory press, more particularly that part of it which feeds largely at the trough of patronage, asks in tragic tones: Is this a time for an election? Hypocrisy can go no further. In the year 1915, the situation of the Allies was a parlous one indeed. The Hindenburg drive against Russia was hurling the Muscovite armies backward all along the line and it looked as if our eastern ally had received the deathstroke. Italy had not yet got her armies into the field so as to make herself felt in the conflict. Turkey had joined our enemies, Bulgaria was preparing to assail Serbia on the flank, and in the west the British and French had been unable to make any impression upon the German lines. Last but not least, it began to appear as if the Kaiser's delegate, Dr. Dernberg, was turning public feeling against the Allies in the United States.

Yet despite the existence of such conditions, serious and menacing as they were, the Borden government, through its mouthpiece, Hon. Bob Rogers, declared for an election, and made extensive preparations for the same, tons and tons of campaign literature being disseminated and even the ballots for the soldiers sent to England preparatory for the voting. There were no professions of horror or shock then at the idea of precipitating an internecine struggle while our hands were full with the enemy.

Today, with the French and British immensely superior in numbers and equipment on the western line, with the Grecian situation cleared up, with Roumania resurgent once more, with the tremendous resources of the mighty American Republic to take the place of a weakened Russia, and the First Lord of the Admiralty, Sir Eric Geddes, declaring that German morale is rapidly on the decline, the element of national danger is greatly lessened and the only reason why the government professes horror at the idea of an election now is that they think they cannot win.

It is defeat they fear, not a national disaster, and, loth to relinquish the flesh pots of Egypt and the honey and oil of the patronage, they ask the opposition a second time to permit them to remain unmolested in the enjoyment of the sweets of office. Their desire for a second term does not arise from their patriotism but from party considerations purely.

Nothing could exceed their delight when it looked as if the Liberal party had been irreconcilably divided and Sir Wilfrid's term of leadership might suddenly end. Nothing could surpass the bitterness of their disgust when Hon. G. P. Graham's motion showed that the party was not divided and that Sir Wilfrid's position of leader remained unshaken. This delight and this chagrin clearly reveal the feelings which actuated the Tory leaders when they introduced their equal service bill with the fond belief that "they had dished the Whigs."

No honest man wishes for or looks forward to an election with pleasure, but when we have in power a body of men who refuse to make any attempt at running the administration as a national one, when a government has outlived its usefulness and its popularity, when the graft and corruption in connection with the patronage smell to the very heavens, when any form of party truce no longer exists, when party agreements on many lines appears no longer possible among them, when more than forty constituencies and half a million people are now unrepresented in the House of Commons, surely it is just and necessary to give the sovereign people an opportunity to speak and decide.

Had the Borden government become a truly national government when the war broke out, had an offer of coalition on equal terms been made in the early months of the war, or had the last offer of coalition been made in such a way as to make it acceptable or meant to be acceptable, the arguments for an electoral contest would not be so strong as they are today. But those things were not done, and so the onus of the election must be laid upon government shoulders.

CHILDREN'S MINDS.

(London Spectator.)

This is a region into which the "grown-up" has no right of entry and no key to turn the lock. Only now and then a flash may disclose the inner recesses and throw a sudden light on an entirely surprising line of thought. A child frequently cherishes a theory of its own, which appears quite reasonable, for the enchanted precincts within, where the supernatural obtains as ready an acceptance as the commonplace. A little thoughtful boy of my acquaintance was asked the usual question, what he was going to be. He answered with great decision: "Oh! a land-angel of course, like dady." And I think "daddy" and the land agency profession scored a compliment.

Time does not exist for children who worry over no human limitations. A little girl saying her hymn, "There is a green hil lfar away," was thrilled to hear that her mother knew the lady who wrote it. Then she repeated her psalm, and added gravely: "And did you know David, too?"

The train of thought is rather charming which led a little boy, when told not to mention a guest's amputated foot, to say: "No, and when I get to Heaven I won't say anything to John the Baptist about his head." Surely politeness could go no further.

Often an entirely different mental image is conjured up in the child's mind from that suggested by the grown-up story-teller. One mother, recounting at great length the details of the illness of a little dog to her small girl, several times mentioned "the dog doctor." She was surprised, at the very end, by the question: "What sort of dog was the dog doctor?"

Troublesome.

"What a trouble maker he is!"

"Yes. He couldn't be worse if he was a Socialist."

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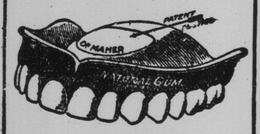

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War Uncovers Gum Trove In Argentina

Shrub Yields Pitch Paste Which Rivals the Arabic Product in Market—Used in Candy-Making

Buenos Ayres, July 15—Among the Argentine industries which have benefitted because of the suspended importation that has resulted from the European war the pitch gum of this country has taken a position of real importance. The pitch gum of Argentina is sold under the name of Arabic gum and is used in the preparation of a liquid gum which, according to the labels, is an important product. It is also used extensively in the manufacture of candies.

The shrub that produces this pitch gum grows in the provinces of Santiago del Estero, Catamarca, Cordoba and Tucuman, extending as far as the Neuquen territory, and is known to botanists as "cesalpinia praecox." It has thorny branches with compound and bipanned leaves and grows in different soils and climate, usually being found on level ground, especially in loose and sandy places. The shrub is naturally a rustic one, but efforts are now being made to cultivate it. The shrub begins to produce gum in five years.

From December to April the plant emits through the natural openings of its bark a gummy juice more or less abundant, of a pale yellow color, semi-liquid and of a slightly sugarish taste. As this juice hardens it becomes darker, finally becoming a reddish brown. The production of each shrub varies between 300 and 400 grams every twelve days and can be increased by pressing the bark.

The product of the pitch shrub is easily soluble in water. It is of homogeneous and viscous solution and of acid reaction, containing 65 to 66 per cent. acid. One part of pitch to six of water gives a mucilage more consistent than Arabic gum in the same proportions.

As a result of the war this product is now being consumed here extensively instead of the imported article and efforts are being made to exploit its cultivation and production, for although the gum is of small commercial value, the use of the Argentine gum will free the republic from just one more of the strings which tie it to other countries as a contributing nation.

Hush Money

Last Sunday Miss Eleanor Munro, niece of former Postmaster Bryson, had an interesting experience, while acting as a member of the "flying squadron" of the Red Cross.

Miss Munro was one of a machine load of workers canvassing the rural routes west of the city. At one home on the Maywood road, Miss Munro alighted and seeing several men in the carriage shed back of the house, proceeded in that direction, determined to make her appeal to the purse holding part of the family. Soon the other occupants of her machine heard sounds indicating some presumably humorous situation, and soon Miss Munro emerged from the shed and showed to her companions a double handful of bills and small change. "Six dollars," she exclaimed, laughingly, "and how do you suppose I got it? I ran into a keg of beer and a poker game, and in order to get rid of me posthaste, they gave me every cent on the board."—Indianapolis News.

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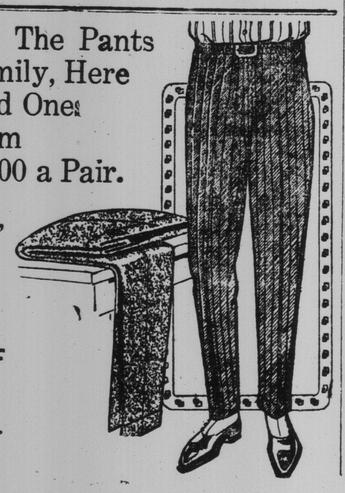

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