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CHILD NEGLECT IS FAST INCREASING

Something More Than Public Statistics Needed to Deal With Social Problems.

In the annual report of neglected and delinquent children in Nova Scotia the superintendent, Mr. Bliss says:

"In reviewing the work of the past year three convictions are dominant in our mind. The first is the imperative need of something more than the public statistics in dealing with the connected social problems which are constantly brought to our attention. How effectual is the law only those who are daily brought into contact with the misery, suffering and wretchedness of humanity can adequately testify. Good

laws justly carried out are a help, but the primary need is the quickening of the moral and religious ideals of all the people.

"The second conviction is that the home and family life as they once were known are fast disappearing, and as a consequence, neglect of children and delinquency, are rapidly increasing. Inadequate housing accommodations, the high cost of living, the mad desire for pleasure at any cost, loose moral, and low religious ideals are the chief causes for the breaking up of family life. These four confront us daily in dealing with delinquency and neglect.

"The absolute necessity for putting forth greater effort in this work for children is our third conviction. If living conditions for children, such as we found during the year in various parts of this Province, are not improved, and the causes which produce such conditions not removed, we shall pay the penalty at no distant date. From such conditions, not only radiate evil social ideas, but they furnish the text for the main and most convincing argument of the social agitator of the destructive type. This country cannot afford to run the risk of developing a class of citizens who both directly and indirectly, become a menace to organized society.

"We are often asked if conditions

are worse than if former years, and if so, what are the causes; and we are also told that there is no use trying to change these conditions for the better, because they always have been so, that they are a fixed part of the laws of God like light and darkness and cannot therefore be changed. A moment's consideration will convince even the most thoughtless that living conditions in this province are not what they were in years gone by. Have they improved? For some, yes, for others, no. In the old days there was very little moving from place to place. Families grew up and settled in the same neighbourhood, or left the country altogether; there were very few people of foreign nationality! The people were deeply religious and the moral standards were relatively high.

"Children who are not receiving a common school education are a problem in this province. In some cases the children are truants, the parents making at least some effort to have them attend school, but in the majority of cases the parents are quite indifferent about the matter and the children are growing up with little or no education. If each child is entitled to an education, and if it is for the good of the whole province that the children should be educated, then there should be a change in the administration of our compulsory attendance law. At present only the cities and towns have the compulsory act in force and a considerable number of the towns are not very strict in the enforcement of the law. Has any community the right to say that its children do not require an education? Does this matter concern the province as a whole, and should there be a uniform law equally enforced throughout the Province?"

Judge Hunt says in his report:

"There are three great safeguards to every nation, religion, home and schools. A religion that teaches a child his or her accountability to God. Homes where a child learns to know and feel a mother's guidance, schools where a child is taught the things that fit it to take the place of service in the world. We have 10,000 children in our city day schools, in a very few years these children will be the leaders of public opinion with all the rights and privileges of citizenship. Can we estimate what our lost might be were they neglected? Can we over estimate their value if properly trained? Each pupil in our day schools costs our City \$40 a year to educate. No one can begrudge this cost. Our money could not have been more advantageously placed. Many of us have heard of the Jukes family. This family consisted of three sisters, mentally deficient. Out of this family were 700 descendants only 20 of these became skilled workmen, 65 died in the workhouse, 140 obtained relief for their living by begging, 108 were women of ill fame, 18 were keepers of houses of ill fame, 76 were arrested at different times charged with 117 criminal offenses. What a different result if the family had been properly cared for at the beginning. The cost of this family to the State was I believe in the millions. We learn through such examples that to prevent crime is far cheaper than to punish it. It is through the Juvenile Court that preventative means are secured."



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THE LITERARY DIGEST TOPICS OF THE DAY will, until further notice, give a weekly prize of \$50 to Canadian school teachers who submit the best fifty-word paragraph suitable for reproduction with The Literary Digest Topics of the Day screen feature in hundreds of moving picture theatres, as to why teachers should have more pay. Send your paragraph to Topics Editor, The Literary Digest, New York City.

How Union Labor Feels Toward the 'Red' Agitators

For months editorials from city and country papers alike have warned us of the danger of "Red" agitators. We have been told that they are making every effort to foment strikes, hoping they eventually will end in revolution; that the American workingman is becoming infected with the virus of Bolshevism; that he is already turning Bolshevik, as evidenced by recent strikes of great magnitude. For these reasons The Literary Digest was determined to find the views of the workers themselves. We accordingly sent a letter to hundreds of labor-leaders throughout the country, and in order to make no mistake about it, we did not merely ask if the workers disliked or disapproved the "Red" agitators—we asked if they approved their deportation. In plain language, should they be kicked out of the country?

A comprehensive summary of the 526 replies received is given in THE LITERARY DIGEST for March 20th. It will prove astounding reading to those who have ventured to doubt the loyalty of the American workingman. The article is well illustrated with pertinent cartoons.

Other news-features in this number of the "Digest" that will surely interest you, are:

Do the Soldiers Want a Bonus

A Review of the Editorial Comment of the Newspaper Press For and Against the Proposal for Government Bonuses to Soldiers in the Great War

Will Prohibition Be a Democratic Issue?

The "Orgy of Spending" in Washington

America Wants the Turk Expelled

Bolshevism in Asia

Suffrage Denied Indian Women

The Truth About the Long-Range Gun

Farming in Death Valley

Japan No Place For Motors

Fears of the All-Devouring Movies

Americanizing the "Rookie"

America Still Fighting Hunger in Europe

The Methodist Stand on Collective Bargaining

Paths to the Presidency—From Arthur to Grant

Gold Production and Reserve

The McKinley Qualities of Warren G. Harding

Congress to Investigate Fall-Down of Training for Disabled Soldiers

Social Upheavals in North Dakota

A Naval "Insect" Who Was a "Goat"

Einstein, Famous Reviser of the Universe, "At Home"

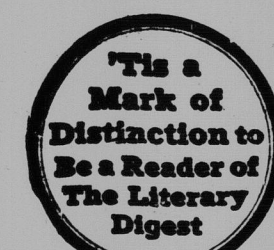
Modern "Psychics" Who Shock Professionals

Best of the Current Poetry

The Tyranny of Fuel

Many Interesting Illustrations Including Humorous Cartoons

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The Literary Digest

FUNK & WAGNALLS COMPANY (Publishers of the Famous NEW Standard Dictionary), NEW YORK