

entirely apart. While one body takes unto itself the care of the criminally inclined, the other places in good families the innocent little ones whose home surroundings are pernicious. There is one feature connected with the children's court movement which strikes me as of paramount importance, that is, the connection which may exist between the ordinary police court and the tribunal before which cases of youthful delinquency or criminally may be adjudicated upon. It would be of importance, it seems to me, to render the work of each as remote as possible one from the other. Whilst it is generally conceded that the police court is not a suitable place for the trying of juvenile offences, it would be a mistake to establish the children's court even an adjunct of the police court. Wherever it would be so arranged the two courts should be entirely distinct, even to the extent of not having both in the same building. There is that about the very atmosphere of the police court which grates upon the boy nature, and his reclamation will be rendered all the more difficult if he be forced into the by-way of the hardened criminal from whom hope of correct living has fled and whose only ambition is to prey upon society. Call it by what name you will, the Children's Court, to the wayward boy, remains the police court so long as the same roof covers both. Nor is it advisable that the police magistrate should in all cases be empowered to adjudicate upon the crimes charged to the young. While some of these men are by nature and acquirements well equipped for work of this character it is nevertheless a fact that many are quite unfit for the handling of cases of criminality amongst the young. They have pinned their faith to methods of the harsh order. To them kindness is almost an unknown quantity. In Maryland and Indiana the judges of the juvenile courts exercise that function only, and it is found eminently satisfactory for the reason that they thus become experts in dealing with juvenile court cases. The consideration of the item of expense may here be suggested, and it is undoubtedly worthy of some thought when we are dealing with sparsely settled districts, but for large centres of population the expendi-

ture of a sum of money should have slight weight in the minds of municipal authorities when contrasted with the saving and guardianship of children whose after lives mean much for Canada. To us of this day belongs the task of transforming them as much as we may into useful citizens. Cold neglect or efforts misapplied will render them a shame and a reproach to us. In the appointment of juvenile court judges, when such appointments are deemed advisable, it were difficult to undervalue the importance of keeping out of mind all considerations save those of entire fitness for the position. No matter what standing the applicant may hold in the community—no matter how persistently and how ardently his friends may sue for his appointment as juvenile court judge, it were but a crime to fill out a parchment for him unless he possessed a well balanced mind and a warm, sympathetic nature—firm where needs be, but ever recognizing in the little waif before him a child of nature who has wandered from the path of rectitude but who should be directed homeward to the ideal once again. It is of value to Canadians that the Children's Court movement took root in the American republic nine years ago. No matter what may be our disposition towards finely spun theories, served by enthusiasts with mathematical exactitude, the fact comes home to us that the experience of our neighbors, since the first juvenile court was established in Chicago in 1899, is an assent of infinitely greater value than a host of untried suggestions by well-meaning people whose hearts are in the work of reclaiming the erring youth. In Canada, as we are approaching the experimental stage, one of our police officers, Staff-Sergeant Archibald of the Toronto force, gives us this advice:

Let us be careful and guard against the superficial and sentimental faddists who seek to take advantage of the popularity of this child saving propaganda to work upon the sympathies of philanthropic men and women for the purpose of introducing a jelly fish and an abortive system of law enforcement, whereby the judge or magistrate is expected to come down to the level of the incorrigible street arab and assume an attitude absolutely repulsive to British subjects. The idea seems to be that by the profuse use of slang phraseology he should place himself in a position to kiss and coddle a class of perverts and delin-

Hon. Mr. COFFEY.