

II. JUVENILE EMPLOYMENT IN RELATION TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND INDUSTRIES IN TORONTO

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The successful establishment of juveniles in their life work rests on three main pillars, the home, the school and industry. Through force of circumstances these three frequently lack co-ordination in their respective relations to children. At no point does the child feel himself vitally linked with all three. Thus his passage from school to work is generally a critical and difficult one to which those institutions whose best interests would be served by his safe establishment often seem indifferent, if not obstructive.

Locally we are confronted with this problem upon a large scale. As will be shown below, the number of children who graduate annually from Toronto public schools is not greater than the number who drop out from the various grades to work. The significance of this fact is not merely the number of children in the latter group but the motives and circumstances which contribute to this exodus from the schools. The early departure of these children, for instance, is usually preceded by a period of disintegration in their connection with school which is often abetted by home influences. The educational waste which this involves is a serious matter considered merely from the standpoint of school economy, but the handicap of wrong habits and attitudes which this and other circumstances of leaving tend to impose is on the whole probably more serious. Should any means be spared in the attempt to ascertain the facts of the situation in order to deal effectively with this less favoured portion of our elementary school population?

In industry where the children of today are the workers of tomorrow the convictions which are being rooted in their minds now as beginners will be the governing ideas of the