

tate the application of provincial legislation on the subject. The principle of the Bill is embodied in the preamble which reads as follows:

Whereas it is expedient that youthful offenders should be classed or dealt with as ordinary criminals, the welfare of the community demanding that they should on the contrary be guarded against association with crime and criminals, and should be subjected to such wise care, treatment and control as will tend to check their evil tendencies and to strengthen their better instincts;

I could not find more appropriate language to describe or define the object of the Bill and I am sure it is a language which will appeal to all hon. members of this House. Any one who has had the experience of bringing up children, knows to what dangers they are exposed, and these dangers are increased by the fact that they are liable to associate with a greater number of friends, or children of their own age, and the danger is increased by their surroundings if they belong to a poor class of society or where they may have bad examples, where they are neglected, and very often deprived of the care of parents and have no opportunity of receiving proper education. It is well known that active children are full of mischief, and vicious tendencies are easily developed if any occasion is afforded to them. Will it be denied that, taking any given number of children, a large amount of good can be done to them if they are surrounded with proper care, and if they happen to commit any offence which renders them liable to imprisonment, it is unquestionable that the principle of the probation officer or of the probation law, as applied in England many years ago, as applied in this country many years ago also, and especially the principle of probation officers, persons whose duty it will be to take care of these children, to follow them, to ascertain as to whether they attend school, whether they associate with persons of bad character or not, and adopting means of protecting them throughout their younger years, that a law of that kind cannot fail to have very beneficial results? In our time, we are making any amount of sacrifice for all kinds of improvements. We see, especially in the United States Republic, that donations of millions and millions are given to universities and to institutions of all kinds. * I am the first to ap-

plaud at donations of that kind; but I do not think that so far we have given to children the attention they deserve. If it is advisable to come to the help of such classes as attend institutions of higher education, such as universities, still more desirable is it to spare no efforts in coming to the rescue of the poor, and especially of children. We had many expressions of opinion last session from members who went very deeply into the subject, and I am sure that this measure will meet with the universal approval of hon. members of this House.

Hon. Mr. COFFEY—I desire to pay compliment to the hon. member from De Salaberry, because of the able, calm and judicial manner in which he has presented the Bill dealing with juvenile courts. A trained and talented pleader such as my hon. friend, may review this subject from the standpoint of the lawyer, but such is not my privilege and I must confine my remarks to the thoughts of the layman. It pleases me beyond measure to note the warmth with which this movement to reclaim the wayward youth of our country has been received in every part of the Dominion. It is a subject that is deemed of the greatest importance, and well worthy prompt action. While, however, there is but practically one voice as to the pressing need of action, there may be difference of view as to the means and methods whereby the best results may be achieved. All honour be the portion of those men and women who have initiated this beneficent reform in the management of delinquent and criminally inclined children. These lovers of human kind are not merely fire-side philanthropists and lazy philosophers. Their work has been of the practical order, and, as such, of substantial value. It may be that what is known as the Children's Aid Society is the forerunner of this larger movement from which we may look for results abundantly compensating as for all the trouble, expense and anxiety entailed in the founding and equipment of children's courts. Let me here remark that there is no cause for suspicion that the operations of the children's courts will in any way interfere with the splendid work being accomplished by the Children's Aid Society. Their spheres of usefulness are