

(4)

Toronto 50
Vancouver 20
Winnipeg 25
Hamilton 15
Halifax 8
Saint John 7
Society for the
Protection of Women
and Children in
Montreal (There is
no Children's Protec-
tion Act in Quebec) 25

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Other Societies do not keep their records in such a way as to permit of accurate figures being obtained, nor is this possible in the Province of Alberta and Saskatchewan, but Miss Whitton calculates that the annual prosecutions in these Provinces must have been not less than twenty-five in each, and that consequently an estimate of one hundred and fifty to one hundred and seventy-five cases a year, brought under the Section, would be a minimum, and that the actual records, if available, would be likely to show that this total should be almost doubled.

The effect of the Vahey decision has, of course, been to oblige the Children's Aid Societies to take away children whom they would otherwise have been able to leave with their parents in reestablished homes and this matter is referred to in the following terms in the last annual report of the Toronto Children's Aid Society-

"Vahey Judgment will Increase Wards."

"With reference to our efforts to minimize the making of wards, we cannot omit mention of an important legal decision given during the year, which threatens to offset in the future much of what has been accomplished in this direction. The judgment of the Courts in the case of *Red vs Vahey*, appealed by this Society for the purpose of clarifying the law, rendered Section 215 of the Criminal Code practically inoperative as an aid in the prevention of moral neglect of children. In many serious cases the removal of the child by ward action will now be the only recourse unless some comprehensive amendment is passed by the Dominion Parliament."

It will be observed that by sub-section 5 of the present Act, which becomes sub-section 6 of the Section as proposed to be amended, prosecutions must be at the instance of some organized Society for the protection of children or an officer of a Juvenile Court, or else must be specifically authorized by the Attorney General of the Province. This provision has, in the past, prevented the institution of prosecutions in cases which, while they might have