

riably to be taken from them and brought up by the State. This presupposes proper arrangements by the State for institutions in which good nurture will be provided. At present we have but the reformatories—which are jails—and the refuges kept by private charity, some of which are very good, some very inefficient,—but all together totally unequal to the required capacity. Charity has failed, as a remedy, from lack of means. Day after day the magistrates in despair cry “what can we do? There is no place to send such cases;” and this with regard to only the few which are brought to their attention.

The children of *habitual paupers and vagrants* have the same account against the State as those of habitual criminals. It is impossible for them under such circumstances to obtain the equal chance which belongs to them. In Holland, Government Colonies are provided, where the reclamation of land from the sea is compulsorily imposed upon confirmed paupers, while their children are taken from them and provided for in institutions of the kind here proposed. The system is stated to work excellently, and to make good citizens both of the paupers and their children. In the end they are endowed with portions of the land reclaimed. The operation of such colonies would be both easy and beneficial in Canada, seeing the extent of our magnificent unimproved lands.

The case of *deserving poor parents* who cannot help their children adequately is quite different. Any proposal or even offer to separate the children would be in its turn an inconceivable outrage. Instead, the State must assist and supplement rather than attempt to supplant their efforts. A general supervising bureau of the rights of children—something like the English school attendance inspectors—ought to be provided—but its object should be to assist such parents. If food is lacking, the State should provide the necessary food. This question is now practically before the London School Board, by whom it is found that some 12,000 children attending their schools come without breakfasts owing to sheer poverty on the part of honest parents, and it is proposed to supply such breakfasts at certain schools at the public expense in order that these children may be able to study efficiently. One phase of the question is how to provide the meals without attaching to the unfortunates the stigma of pauperism.