

grounds. School boards and teachers in various parts of the country have expressed concern about the cigarette boy.

The physicians do not seem to have high hopes of him. Dr. A. Clinton, of San Francisco, physician to several boys' schools, says: 'A good deal has been said about the evils of cigarette smoking, but not one half of the truth has ever been told. Cigarette smoking first blunts the whole moral nature. It has an appalling effect upon the physical system. It sends boys into consumption. It gives them enlargement of the heart and sends them to the insane asylum. I am often called in to prescribe for boys for palpitation of the heart. In nine cases out of ten this is caused by the cigarette habit. I have seen bright boys turned into dunces, and straightforward, honest boys made into miserable cowards, by cigarette smoking.'

Dr. E. S. Stuver, Secretary of the Medical Society of Wyoming, declares: 'I regard the cigarette as one of the greatest evils and curses that menace the health, happiness and intellectual and moral integrity of our boys.'

My boy, if you are a cigarette smoker, what is your future? Where will you go for employment? You think you will try a store? You are sure you would like to work up and become one of the firm. But does the store want you? Recently a Chicago lad inquired at ten places for work; each time he was met with the inquiry, 'Do you smoke cigarettes,' and some of the men examined his stained fingers. He was rejected in each case, and went home a wiser boy.

In many cities as you enter the office of the large stores you will confront a notice forbidding cigarette smoking among employees under eighteen years of age, for as the Manager of the Rothschilds' Department store in Chicago said, 'We don't want cigarette smokers; this firm has no use for a boy with dried-up brains.'

You say you will try the railway, you know you will like that. But how will the railway like you? The Pamhandle system; the Michigan City division of the Lake Erie & Western; the Kansas City, Fort Scott & Memphis; the South Carolina Department of the Southern Railway; the Union Pacific; the Rock Island, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy have issued orders against the employment of cigarette smokers, and you will find no chance there. When railway officials condemn, it is time you broke a habit which they say is harmful and renders men unfit for a service requiring steady nerves.

In Kansas City, Chicago and other cities the post-office authorities will under no circumstances employ the cigarette boy.

Suppose you apply at the Weather Bureau at Washington. Chief Moore has said, 'A cigarette smoker is not a fit man to be entrusted with the important work of the bureau. I would rather have in the service a man who drinks a quart of whiskey a day than a confirmed cigarette smoker. The order against cigarette smoking will stand, and it applies to the entire force of the bureau throughout the service.'

Not a very good outlook in business circles, you think, and so you will try the army. But Uncle Sam also has pronounced ideas about the cigarette boy. A United States Army surgeon says that nine-tenths of the young men who did not pass the medical examination at Mt. Gretna failed because of cigarette smoking. Recruiting officers said that not twenty percent of the Chicago boys passed the examination because of the prevalence of cigarette smoking in the city, but that from thirty-five to forty percent of the country boys were eligible. A soldier told this story of a comrade who was discharged: 'He came to our post, a clean, sturdy fellow as ever you saw, and he had no bad habits. His physical standing was good. He began to smoke, and smoked cigarettes, and kept it up during his term of enlistment; at the expiration of his term he thought he would re-enlist. He was a man now, and it seemed a farce for him to go through a physical examination, but the rules required it. "Sorry my man, but I can't pass you," said the examiner. The young man was amazed. "I ought to be as fit as when I first enlisted; I neither drink, chew, nor smoke—only cigarettes," he protested. "That's what has done the business for you, the cigarettes," replied the examiner, "I can't pass you." Only sound men are wanted in the army; the cigarette heart is of no value to Uncle

Sam; it will give way at the critical moment.

You will fare no better if you seek to enter the navy; while seamen may do as they please, the apprentice is required to abstain from tobacco and recently in Michigan the examining physician refused applicants who were suffering from tobacco heart caused by cigarette smoking.

There seems to be no place for the cigarette boy except the hospital and the reformatory. Mr. J. J. Sloane, Superintendent of the John Worthy School, the reformatory for boys in Chicago, told the writer that sixty percent of the boys received there were cigarette smokers, with such pronounced appetites that during the first weeks of confinement many are sick with the terrible craving for the paper pipe.

The Hon. George Torrance, the former Superintendent of the State Reformatory at Pontiac, Ill., stated in an address at the National Conference of Charities and Corrections held in Cincinnati, that the cigarette is making more criminals of boys than the saloon. Of the nearly fifteen hundred inmates in that institution at that time, eighty-five percent were cigarette fiends.

There was never, in the history of our country, as many boy lunatics, boy criminals and suicides as at the present time, and in the majority of cases the police officer or the physician renders the verdict—excessive use of cigarettes. No wonder that states are passing prohibitory laws and earnest people are aroused to the danger. The state needs a pure manhood with clear brains; she can expect nothing from the cigarette boy.

Rev. Frank W. Gunsaulus says, 'I do not believe there is an agency more destructive of soul, mind and body, or more subversive of good morals than the cigarette. The fight against the cigarette is a fight for civilization.'

Correspondence

Aspen, N.S.

Dear Editor,—I am taking your paper, the 'Northern Messenger' this year, and like it very much. I have three brothers and two sisters. My eldest sister came home from the United States a few weeks ago. I have a great-grandpa who is eighty-nine years old, two grandmas and a grandpa, one grandma is eighty-five. This is my first letter to the 'Messenger,' and I hope to see it in print to surprise my friends who take the 'Messenger.'

ALICE B. McK.

Hatley, Que.

Dear Editor,—I live on a farm, which is called 'Fairview Farm,' of 200 acres. We have 31 head of cattle, 8 horses, 9 pigs, 23 sheep, a few hens and 31 chickens. I go to school every day. I am in the Elementary room. My teacher is Miss Bayley. I live a mile from the school. For pets I have two cats, one gray and white, and one black. Their names are Polly and Nig. I go to Sunday-school, and get the 'Messenger' there. I have two brothers and one sister. My birthday is on May 7.

ALBERT E. B. (aged 11.)

Lower Salmon Creek, N.B.

Dear Editor,—I live on a farm. I thought I would write and tell you of a trip I had to Boston, and of the things I saw. Papa and I went together, and we had a lovely time. We were in the public gardens. I think they are beautiful; there

are so many nice flowers of all colors, and there is a lake in the centre with little boats sailing around on it. We were in the public library too. I think it is a fine building, and it is very large. We went to Tremont Temple, and heard some lovely music. We had lots of rides in the subway and also on the elevated railway. We also went to an animal show and saw lots of lions, leopards, tigers, bears, sloths, wolves, hyenas, etc., monkeys among the rest. There were about twenty lions in a large round cage and a man in with them; he had two whips, a little one and a big one, and if they did not do as he wanted them to, he whipped them; he made them all sit up on seats around the cage, then he made them all get down again and lie down around the cage; he also lifted a lion which weighed 450 pounds on his shoulders. Papa saw Longfellow's grave and his house and James Russell Lowell's birthplace, but I did not see them. I hope my letter may be interesting to some little boys and girls who have never been to Boston.

EDNA F. B. (aged 12.)

Albani, B.C.

Dear Editor,—As I am renewing my subscription I thought I would write to you. I have never written to the 'Messenger' before. The 'Messenger' is a very nice paper and I enjoy reading it very much. I got one subscriber for it. I have taken it for three years. It comes in my father's name. Albani is a lovely valley four miles wide and twenty-one miles long. They are talking of putting a railway into it.

LILY C.

Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Editor,—There is a lady staying at our house, and she has taken the 'Northern Messenger' for over twenty-five years and I like reading the Correspondence very much. I thought I would write a letter to you because I have not seen any letters from here yet. I go to school and I am in the senior third class, and I study geography, history and arithmetic. I have one sister and two brothers.

NORA J. (aged 3.)

Great Burin, Nfld.

Dear Editor,—My mother died when I was five years old. I have been living with my aunt and uncle for four years. My cousin takes the 'Messenger,' and I like to hear my uncle read it for the family. I have been talking of writing for a long time, but did not commence until now. I go to day-school. My teacher's name is Miss Hollett. I go to Sunday-school, and belong to the Band of Hope. In February the Band of Hope had a temperance meeting. I had a part in a dialogue. In March we had a half-pound meeting, every member took a guest and carried cake, etc., for them, and it was all put together, and the members and guests sat down, and nine or ten young ladies passed around cake and syrup to us. We call it a half-pound meeting because everybody has to take a little. We had quite a gay time.

BENNIE S. H. (aged 13.)

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