

'This Endless Stream' Of Delinquent Boys

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Do you know how boys are manufactured into criminals in Montreal? Do you know how delinquent boys are saved from lives of crime by Montrealers? This week the local Rotarians heard a wonderful address on the subject by the one man best qualified to speak on it—Owen Dawson. For years Mr. Dawson has devoted all his time and energy to delinquent boys. He has been the trusted friend of hundreds of them, their guide and counsellor. From the time when he organized the Griffintown Boys' Club down to the present, his main interest in life has been to guide youthful energies into wholesome channels, to rescue boys literally like brands from the burning and help them to become useful citizens. And a magnificent reward has come to him and to those who have worked with him and given him their support. The following are some of the notes he used in an address that on Monday greatly stirred the members of the Rotary Club of Montreal.

YOUTHFUL DELINQUENCY — CAUSES AND CURE

By Owen Dawson, Managing Director of the
Shawbridge Boys' Farm

In 1937 approximately 3,000 boys under the age of 16 appeared before the local Juvenile Court, which has jurisdiction in the City of Montreal. These boys were charged with theft, incorrigibility, assault, house-breaking, damaging property, desertion from home, etc., and many of them were second, third and fourth offenders. Why this endless stream of youngsters? Why this never-ending line up before the Childrens' Court? Have we ever asked ourselves if we, as citizens of Montreal, were not partly responsible? Are not some of us, with our apathy, allowing conditions to exist that are more or less the cause of this delinquency? Could not we as a club or as individuals raise our voice against some of the disgraceful housing conditions of our city—the scarcity of supervised play-

"We are faced with a problem affecting our greatest natural resource, the youth of our country, and governments already taking radical steps dealing with some of our social evils surely cannot plead that they are powerless to rectify evils which stare us in the face every day and everywhere."

Walter Molson.