

W. L. Scott of Ottawa Spoke at Children's Aid Society Meeting

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OUTLINED WORK OF JUVENILE COURT

W. L. Scott of Ottawa Spoke at Children's Aid Society Meeting

"The delinquent children of tomorrow in the making," said W. L. Scott, of Ottawa, president of the Children's Aid Society of Canada, in an address on "The Juvenile Court and the Probation System for Children," delivered at the annual meeting of the local Children's Aid Society held yesterday afternoon. "It is wiser and less expensive to save the children, now than to punish the criminals hereafter," Mr. Scott continued.

In his address the speaker showed a keen insight into the work of children's welfare, and a keen appreciation of the difficulties to be faced. His remarks held a wealth of suggestion and encouragement for those engaged in the work, and were heard with hearty appreciation by all present.

Mr. Scott spoke also at the Rotary Club luncheon at noon yesterday. Judge Harry paid a high tribute to Mr. Scott, who he declared had given invaluable service to the cause of child welfare.

Environment Causes Delinquency. The question of juvenile delinquency, declared Mr. Scott, was an extremely practical one for business men, for it lay at the root of adult crime. Too many looked on crime as inevitable, but, to a great degree, it was preventable. Criminals, unlike poets, are made, and not born, and they are made for the most part in childhood. "A child is like a lump of putty, soft at first and easily moulded, taking its shape from its surroundings. Heredity indubitably exercised a great influence on the physical and mental make-up of the individual, but environment was responsible for his moral character. A child comes into the world neither moral nor immoral, but un-moral. Morality is something that must be acquired. A child can no more be born a criminal than it can be born with a knowledge of the Greek language."

Abnormal Delinquency. It was once thought that a criminal could be recognized by certain physical characteristics. These are now known to be characteristics, not of criminality, but of low or abnormal mentality. A person of abnormal mentality is, of course, not necessarily a criminal, but he is more liable to become one than a person of normal mentality. In some cases, juvenile delinquency was due to physical defects. Adenoid growth, eye strain or other defects robbed a child of the nerve force needed to carry on the ordinary functions of the body, and resulted in abnormality. In Ottawa, a boy had been cured of thievery by an operation which straightened his crooked neck.

Juvenile Court. Apart from these cases, however, and they were not more than ten per cent. of the first offenders, children who broke the law were simply ordinary young folks, and

their moral condition the result of environment. Until a quarter of a century ago such children had been treated as adult criminals, but since then the juvenile court and the probation for children had marked a widespread reform. The juvenile court was far more than a separate court for children; it had a spirit and a viewpoint and methods the very opposite of those of the criminal court. The juvenile court strove to help and correct, rather than to detect and punish. Seven boys appeared before a juvenile court judge in Denver, and the chief of police pressed for their punishment for stealing bicycles. "Chief," said the judge, "you are thinking of seven valuable bicycles, while I am thinking of seven invaluable citizens." Briefly, the fundamental ideal of the juvenile court was paternalism.

Bad Homes for Children. A child did not get into the juvenile court through pure "delinquency." There was a cause, and it was the court's duty to discover that cause and to apply the proper remedy. If the child had no mental or physical defects, home surroundings might be responsible. Even an apparently respectable home might not be a desirable home for children entering their teens. Undue leniency, or undue severity, either were deplorable. Mr. Scott went on to cite several classes of homes which were not good homes for growing children. The Puritan home, with the ideal "father-see-my-boy-dead-with-a-card" in his hand, which drove even a good child to desperation; the home where too much trust was placed in children, where too little allowance was made for youthful exuberance; where a boy was coddled and "babied" until he flew to the other extreme and played the "dead-game-sport"; the "beige-erent" "hands-off-my-kid" family, whose child became a baby terror because backed up at home.

Work of Probation Officers. If a home could not be improved, the child should be removed to a foster home. The probation officer should bring his influence to bear on the child in moulding his character. Probation was more than supervision, it was constructive work, it meant character-building and home-improving. The probation officer must win the confidence of the child. He must guard carefully against anything tending to arouse a spirit of antagonism. A good probation officer would be put on his mettle by a difficult case. He would look upon it as a test of his own ability, and realize that failure was a personal defeat, success a personal triumph. A powerful adjunct of the probation system is the Big Brother movement carried on in the United States. The Big Brother was an amateur probation officer, who devoted his spare time to replacing wayward boys and helping them back to the right path. Mr. Scott closed with an appeal to his hearers. "Those who could not give their time to the work of the society could at least contribute to its funds. Canada sent missionaries to distant lands; here was missionary work at our very doors. Both duty and our own interests called us to this field of endeavor, and none should lag behind."

GERMAN COLONIES MUST BE RETAINED

Hon. Walter Long Gives His Reasons for Britain's Insistence

By Courier Leased Wire
London, Dec. 13.—(Canadian Press Despatch from Reuters)—Right Hon. Walter Long, colonial secretary, gave reasons why the German colonies should be retained by the British Empire in a speech he delivered yesterday at Oxford. He recalled the German atrocities upon natives, especially the disappearance of eighty per cent of the Hereros from Southwest Africa during the German regime. Mr. Long read a statement from five chiefs of Kwahaha, Cameroon, who said that after their experience with German occupation, and after two years of British occupation they wished to re-

main forever under the British flag, and begged for an assurance that the Germans would never be allowed to return to carry out the horrible threats of vengeance they had made when the British drove them out. A white book published by the Colonial Office containing statements of native chiefs and, from which Mr. Long quoted, deals with conditions under German rule in the Cameroons, Samoa, Togoland, German Southwest Africa and German Southeast Africa. It shows everywhere that the natives hope to remain under British rule and express joy at such a prospect. In a few cases the chiefs said they were afraid to say anything lest, after all their land should be restored to the Germans, who had threatened them with what they should do when the war was over. This fear failed to prevent a practically unanimous appeal for the retention of the British flag from the chiefs.

The same system of tyranny which produced such horrors in southwest Africa, was to be found in other German colonies in a more or less degree. Thus German East Africa, in every district the first reason given by the natives for their preference

for British rule, is that they are no longer at the mercy of the German police, from whom they suffered extortion and maltreatment without any possibility of obtaining redress. Witnesses, it is reported, were frequently tortured and prisoners were so brutally ill-treated that they died. Even these cases brought no enquiry. The burden running through all the statements of the natives in Togoland and the Cameroons is "flogging," "flogging," especially in connection with forced labor on plantations.

O.H.A. EXECUTIVE
By Courier Leased Wire
Toronto, Dec. 12.—President R. M. Glover, of the Ontario Hockey Association, completed the personnel of the executive committee today by the appointment of P. J. Pearce, of Kitchener, and George Mackay, of Kingston, to the board. Preston and Seaford have entered the Junior and Intermediate series, and Owen Sound the Junior only. Guelph O.H.A. will compete in the Intermediate series.

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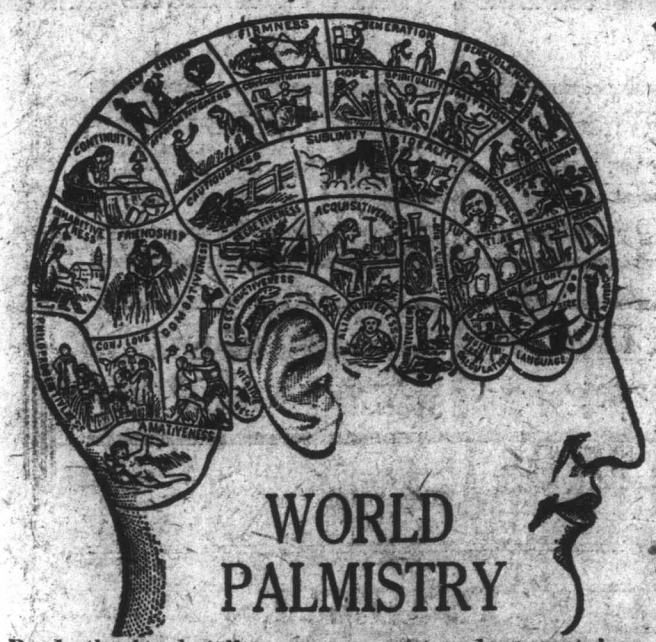
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