

Our Montreal Letter

(From Our Own Correspondent)

JUDGE SPEAKS ON JUVENILE DELINQUENCY.

Judge Quinton Warner, of the Juvenile Court of London and Middlesex, addressed the Montreal Women's Club in the ballroom of the Mount Royal Hotel. His subject was "The Romance of Prevention."

In regard to crime, people were trying to get at the cause, and prevent the development, not waiting until the hardened criminal was produced. The backbone of prevention in the Juvenile Court was the probation system, on the principle that the influence of the right kind of personality was the best thing for the child. The Juvenile Court worked on the basis that given a child in the formative years of life, the child's development would yield to the forces of good, because somewhere in the child was a fundamental instinct for right.

"I could not work in the Juvenile Court," the Judge declared, "if I were not convinced that the child is capable of being guided, directed, moulded in the direction of good, notwithstanding the forces of heredity."

Home, religious influence, school and general conditions were four major elements in the environment of the child. The need for beginning early was emphasized. It was easy to reach a child at the age of seven, eight, or nine, but became more difficult later on. The speaker cited some instances in his experience showing the ready response of the child who was just entering on the wrong path when brought under the influence of wise direction. It was marvelous to see the unfolding of character.

Wrong home conditions were blamed for a large part of juvenile delinquency, as many as seventy-five per cent. of the cases in the Juvenile Court, if home conditions could be made right, there would be little juvenile delinquency.

Domestic relations, dissensions between husband and wife, were bad in their influence on the children, and sometimes found their way into the Juvenile Court, there being no Domestic Relations Court. Family and neighborhood quarrels over children, both blaming the children of the other who called for readjustment.

After twelve years of Juvenile Court work, trying to stimulate the best in people, Judge Warner said, he held it as fundamental that people respond in the long run to the estimate we hold of them. If we call children "bad," we must not be surprised if they fulfil our expectations. If we held up the possibility that a child can be good, and keep that ideal in mind, as something to be worked out

for the child, we may look for a corresponding development. This was at the basis of Juvenile Court work.

ST. PATRICK'S ORPHANAGE HAS A DEFICIT.

St. Patrick's Orphanage, Chatham, shows a deficit of \$8,000. The income was \$54,157.38 and the expenditure \$62,157.38. Even the big Tag Day amount of \$12,807.10 did not seem sufficient to pull them over. A variety list of reforms in the institution was discussed, as several members of the Board of Governors visited Toledo, Ohio, and saw the workings of a similar institution.

MAN MEETS INSTANT DEATH.

A man testing a motor cycle at Huntington, Quebec, met instant death, when his machine, going at 80 miles an hour, swerved and struck a tree, with the result that he was hurled 75 feet through the air, and when assistance reached him, his lifeless body was found in a nearby ditch. His head struck a tree with such force as to tell it.

NO COAL COMING FROM PENNSYLVANIA.

Owing to the coal strike in the United States, Montreal is getting no hard coal from the Pennsylvania coal fields. Dealers here are concentrating their efforts on the sale of Scotch and Welsh coals. There is, however, a glimmer of hope that the strike may be settled before the end of 1925.

TWO LARGE BUILDINGS NEARING COMPLETION.

Two large buildings, "The Chateau," the twelve storey apartment house, situated at the corner of Sherbrooke and Mountain Streets, and the new Maternity Hospital, in connection with the Royal Victoria Hospital, are nearing completion. Both buildings are models of architectural design and beauty, and are the last word in modern and up-to-date methods. In the "Chateau" the rents run from \$160 to \$225 a month. The Maternity Hospital will contain over 200 private rooms.

THE FIRST VICTIMS OF ICE DROWNING.

Two youths, aged 12 and 13 years, were the first victims of ice drowning when they were skating on thin ice on a river at St. Stanislas, near Three Rivers. Both boys had put a dangerous mark where the ice was unsafe. The older boy went past the mark and the younger one lost his life in an attempt to save his companion.

A BOY HAD A NARROW ESCAPE.

A young man of 20 years of age, while erecting a fire escape on a large building, lost his balance and fell from the sixth storey to the sidewalk. When nearing the ground, a boy who was passing along got knocked down by the unfortunate man, and many thought the lad was killed as well as the iron worker. But the youngster jumped up and brushed himself, running away feeling none the worse for his experience. It is supposed that the victim, who had placed iron brackets in the wall earlier in the day as a support, that one of them gave way and precipitated him into the street. The coroner pronounced the case as one of "accidental death."

A GRAVE CRISIS FOR THE DOMINION.

The atmosphere is still seething with the results of the late Federal elections. Never in the history of Confederation has the country been faced with graver problems than it has at the present time. Several of the Province are torn with dissensions and strife. Want of national unity, progress and development seem to be the crying sins. The wheels of progress are completely out of gear, and to make matters worse, two of the weakest leaders ever seen in Parliament stand at the head of affairs to guide "The Ship of State." Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King has no seat in Parliament, while Mr. Hoag, Arthur Meighen won his seat in Parliam. in the West. Notwithstanding the weakness of Premier King, the Liberals still cling to him, while it is rumored that Arthur Meighen will be deposed to give way to a stronger and abler leader. Only a man of Laurier's type or McDonald's shrewdness and keen insight could grapple with the grave situation that confronts the Dominion at present.

IMPORTANT LECTURE ON EDUCATION.

Rev. Fr. Gasson, S.J., Prefect of Discipline at Loyola College, addressed the English-speaking Catholic Teachers here lately. His subject was "Some of the Dangers Affecting the Youth of To-day." He classified them under five headings: Bad Literature, Lies, Theft, Inaccuracy in their work, and Idleness. Bad Literature was the most pernicious evil of the day. It was next to impossible to get any good of a pupil, so far as study was concerned, when his mind was preoccupied from the evil effects of bad books. Recently a book was brought to him from a department store in the city and for moral fifth and degradation he had never read his equal. Yet the book was sold at a very cheap price, and had a very large sale, even among the young element. Father Gasson thought that vigorous measures should be taken to

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try and stamp out the publication and sale of bad books and magazines in which obscene pictures are shown. They were simply poisoning the minds and morals of the young. In case of lying scholars he thought the only way to cure them was to appeal to their sense of honor. Theft among the young was ably dealt with by the lecturer. The thief is invariably a liar which makes it doubly hard for those trying to reform the culprit. Had compassionate often lead others astray. Too kind and indulgent parents had to share also for their children's downfall. Father Gasson cited a case where a young boy was led astray and was caught at thievery. The mother went to see the priest and told him that her son had been a model boy up to the time that he was caught at his first bad act, saying that she was sure that her darling would make a good ecclesiastic. She begged of Father Gasson to intercede with the Attorney General before the trial came off and being his first offence it would not happen again. Father Gasson, thinking that the mother's story was genuine went to the Attorney General and pleaded for the boy. "Father," said the lawyer, "if you say that you'll look after him, I'll see that he'll get off on suspended sentence, but you are not aware that there are 45 other counts against him." Father Gasson was badly fooled by the mother and let the law take its course against the lad. Inaccuracy in their work and idleness in school matters which a good teacher and disciplinarian could remedy in pupils. Father Gasson deplored the fact that the teaching profession that shaped and moulded the characters of the coming generations, the greatest of professions should receive such small salaries for their labors, in fact the poorest paid in any profession.

THE VALUE OF A KINDLY DISPOSITION.

Dear Readers.—A kindly and happy disposition brings more peace, happiness and rest than all the money one can possess. There are many people in the world that no matter whatever happens they are always cheerful. When things go wrong they never grow gloomy, sad or downhearted. They seem to throw care, worry and trouble over their shoulders just as easy as brushing the dust from their clothes. In this way, they are happy themselves and they make others happy. They are doing more good than any millionaire can do with all his money. They are treasuring their chances of success and popularity, for everyone loves and admires the kindly, cheerful, sunny soul. They are "sunshine" of which the poet says:

"A little smiling through the tears—
That's sunshine.
A little faith behind the fears—
That's sunshine.
A little folding of the hand,
A little yielding of demand—
A little glance to understand—
That's sunshine."

They use the capabilities with which nature and grace have endowed them to scatter the seeds of kindness, brightness and good fellowship among their fellowmen, and the possibilities for such work are indeed very great.

"No stars shine brighter than the kindly man.
Who nobly earns whatever crown he wears;
Who grandly conquers or as grandly dies,
And the white banner of his manhood bears.
Through all the years uplifted to the skies."
R. J. LOUIS CUDDIHY.

Ginger cakes are attractive frosted and garnished with bits of candied ginger.

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