

An Address

Delivered before the Canadian Club of Vancouver,
on February 18th, 1909.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—It is indeed an opportunity and a privilege to meet you all and to discuss for a short time a phase of social work that affects and should interest the whole community. I have been particularly pleased to find in Vancouver so many people who are concerned about the welfare of the growing generation. It is truly a hopeful sign when the leaders of public thought take hold of social problems and endeavour to find the proper remedy for the wrongs that exist.

I am to talk to you to-day more especially on the subject of youthful delinquency. We used to call it "crime," and oh, what crimes we have committed against children in the sacred name of justice! We have allowed boys and girls to be brought up under the most baneful social conditions and then when they give evidence of that wrong training, we have them arrested, imprisoned and punished, without pity or remorse. Crime is always the indication of a social disease and if we are wise we will try to get at the underlying causes that lead men to violate the established laws of the country. In the case of children you will invariably find as a result of