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Tuesday, August 2, 1921.

Value of a Child in Dollars and Cents

Appropos of the present discussion in
regard to the advisability of the estab-
lishment of a Juvenile Court in London,
the following statistics as to the value
of a child in dollars and cents from the
pen of the actuary, Irving Fisher
(1909), are of appealing interest.

In those pre-war times the value of
a child was estimated:

| | |
|--|------------|
| At birth | \$ 90.00 |
| At age 5 | \$ 950.00 |
| At age 10 | \$2,000.00 |
| At age 20 | \$4,000.00 |
| After 21, according to the French actuary, Monsieur A. Barriol (1915), the value of an individual was es- timated on the same basis as: | |
| Russia | \$2,020.00 |
| Austria-Hungary | \$3,720.00 |
| France | \$3,900.00 |
| Germany | \$4,380.00 |
| England | \$4,140.00 |
| United States | \$4,720.00 |

This is the social value, namely, the
average return to the community from
personal earnings.

As the Canadian standard of living
is the same as that of the United States
and as the average return to the com-
munity from personal earnings is the
same (Canada's income tax is on a
par with the same tax in the United
States and in respect of large incomes
is higher than the tax in Great Britain),
the Barriol figures for that country
stand equally for this. Namely, the
social value of a boy when he reaches
the age of 21 is \$4,720.00.

The delinquent boy (who is normal)
may be returned to useful citizenship.
Thereby he becomes an asset to the
community. Credit: \$4,720.00.
The delinquent boy who does not get a chance,
or who was sent to a reformatory—a
place, alas! where the individual is
seldom "reformed" may become a
criminal. Thereby he becomes a state
charge, a liability. It costs to keep
criminals. A conservative estimate of
that cost is set at: Debit: \$4,720.00.
\$4,720.00 saved when the boy makes
good.

\$4,720.00, added in social value to
the state.

\$3,440.00 total saved to the state.
But the War has raised the economic
value of every child because of increased
birth rate. The War has raised the
economic value of every child because
of increased death rate. Were Irving
Fisher or Monsieur Barriol turning out
their computations to-day the economic
value to the state of every boy
saved from delinquency would be rated
much higher.

This is merely the average. Among
delinquent children, however, there is
as much variation as there is among
better protected and in consequence bet-
ter behaved youngsters.

In his pamphlet "Canada's Greatest
Asset" F. G. Billiards, of the Child
Welfare Association of Winnipeg, puts
into the mouth of a bright looking boy
pictured in the pamphlet the following
message to Canadians:

I was not born a criminal, but
through neglect I may become one.
Or I may become the strongest
bulwark of the state. I may be-
come the glory of the shame of the
state. I may bring great wealth
and honor to the country, or I may
incur for it great shame and degra-
dation. My name is legion—I am
as clay in your hands. What will
you do for me?

In our public schools we have learned
the necessity of providing teachers
of very special training to deal with
the problem of education in the
kindergarten and the primary grades.
In no well-equipped school in this
country would it be considered a
crime, even possible, to neglect the
child, whether in the kindergarten or
in the upper grades or high school work.
To be frank, the couldn't do it.
Neither could the examiners of one
grade of schools profitably perform the
duty of examiners in the other grades.
The police and criminal courts, the
reformatory and jails of a civilized
country should occupy the position of
boards of examiners and of schools for
the delinquents of all ages in that coun-
try. The delinquent, the criminal,
whether a youth or an adult, phis-
ically considered, is a child; a child
in that he has not learned to use his
mental and physical powers for his own
good, or for the good of the com-
munity.

Like the school child, however, he
has his grades, his age, his grades
of talent, grades of experience. If the
snafely holds at all it must hold all
through. Therefore we come to the con-
clusion that the delinquent of a special
age, a special talent, a special expe-
rience (such as that evidenced in the
juvenile) requires especially trained ex-
aminers and teachers.

The ways and means for a Juvenile
Court, whether it should be an annex
of the police court or a separate estab-
lishment, are open to discussion. One
thing is certain, the \$3,440.00 total
saving to the state, estimated as the
return from ONE DELINQUENT BOY
restored to useful citizenship, multiplied
by all the delinquent boys who might

"Broadening Out" in Alberta

The Edmonton Morning Bulletin,
edited by that stalwart of Liberalism,
Hon. Frank Oliver, is naturally not
enamored of the return of a Farmers'
Government in Alberta. The Bulletin
points out that with the return of the
new party in Alberta there has been
inaugurated a new principle in the
exercise of political control. The plat-
form makes it clear that each Farmer's
member is subject, not to the dictates
of his own conscience and reason when
he takes his seat at the provincial
capital, but to the orders of the U. F.
A. organization. The members are only
so many voting machines to register
the dictum of the U. F. A. dictator.
In the old days of straight party gov-
ernment this would be called control by
the political machine. Mr. H. W. Woods,
president of the U. F. A., is a strong
believer in the principle of group gov-
ernment. He thinks every class in the
community should organize as he has
announced his candidacy for the
legislature. He is firmly opposed to any
"broadening out."

"Means that hereafter the election
representative is nothing and that the
party organization controls his legisla-
tive vote. This is made per-
fectly clear by the following para-
graph of the U. F. A. political platform."

Further The Bulletin says the defeat
of the Stewart Government

"Is an overturn of the foundation
principles of democracy as ex-
pressed in the British system of
representative government, and the
substitution for it of government by
class organization."
"Naturally, if the organization is
in full control, that control will be
exercised for the benefit, real or
supposed, of the controlling element
in the organization and not for that
of the constituency at large. This
is a condition that lays an excellent
foundation for a governmental pro-
gram, and such a program has
prevailed in North Dakota for sev-
eral years past, with disastrous re-
sults to the state at large, and es-
pecially to the farmers of that
state."

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Duplication of Taxation

The Canadian Council of Agriculture,
in session this week at Toronto, urged
that a conference should be called of
provincial and federal authorities with
a view of dividing the field of taxation
and of preventing the present overlap-
ping. Such a conference is highly de-
sirable. The representatives of the
Canadian Union of Municipalities should
also be included in any such round-
table discussion. Sir Thomas White,
when he was finance minister, planned
such a gathering, but resigned before
he had carried out the idea.

The problem of taxation is one of the
most pressing which faces all govern-
mental bodies to-day. Expenditures
are growing by leaps and bounds and
larger expenditures mean, of course, in-
creased taxation. As an example of the
duplication of taxation, there is now in
British Columbia three income taxes to
pay, the Dominion, provincial and munici-
pal. In Ontario at present there are
only two, but the Provincial Govern-
ment is talking of an income tax. The
Dominion alone should have the sole
right to collect an income tax; on the
other hand, a direct tax on land might
be left exclusively to the provinces and
municipalities. The provinces in their
anxiety to secure additional revenue are
treading on the domain of the munici-
palities. An example is seen in the new
Ontario pool room tax, formerly exclu-
sively enjoyed by the municipalities. If
the three taxing bodies could come to
an agreement as to fields of taxation,
it would make for increased efficiency
and remove possible causes of friction.

NOTE AND COMMENT

We all hope the "heat wave" has
waved a final farewell.
Over 2,000 photographers have been
"convening." But their discussions
were ex-camera.

In the U. S. A. "the ladies" have
stood in with their kind and voted down
the bill aimed at "Lady Nictoline."

"The steel market is looking bright,"
says a recent report. The reference is
no doubt to the highly tempered vari-
ety.

Disarm, disarm and yet again disarm!
The call is ringing around a world that
wants to save itself alive.

Save your coast (sur) face is the
charge laid on the dominions' navies
by the imperial conference.

Lord Northcliffe evidently has the
dangerous habit of thinking aloud. The
latest attack has done its harm
worth!

The committee in control at Johns
Hopkins is making things safe for the
millionaire by setting the maximum fee
for operations at \$1,000.

One of the great fish stories of the
day is that salmon is being offered for
sale in British Columbia for six cents a
pound. It is a good one to can.

With the thermometer standing at
101 degrees in Paris we conclude that
the Parisians must feel that Mr. Sol
has put up a capital joke on them.

The scientists now say that every
man has his allotment of virtues. Many
of them, however, are submerged. Who
will hand the world a self-raiser?

In a world of dull political shrieking,
the still small voice, the understated
fact, the falsehood dispensed with, the
subtlety couched of a modest
speaker has the power to pique in-
terest and curiosity.

The flood of golden opinions which
has surrounded Mr. Meighen in England
is dampened in Canada by the "vain
praises" of The Globe newspaper. We
trust the Leader of the Opposition is
looking to the steadiness of his sea-
legs.

The Third Column

WISDOM.
I am not wise in printed lore,
I own no nicely framed degree,
Sad strangers do not seek my door
To gather bits of truth from me;
When graybeards talk I seldom speak,
But when in winter or in summer
A bathroom faucet springs a leak
I know enough to call a plumber.

On many subjects I am dense
And many things I cannot do,
I have a little common sense,
Perhaps enough to save me through;
I do not claim to know it all,
I gladly bow to wisdom greater;
When I need paper on the wall
I leave it to the decorator.

I drive a car and yet I find
Its secrets much too deep for me,
Mine is no engineering mind,
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ernment this would be called control by
the political machine. Mr. H. W. Woods,
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The Prime Minister In London

AN IMPRESSION AND AN APPRECIATION.
By Sidney Walton, From The Pall Mall & Globe, London, Eng.

"Meighen, as they say with us, is a
man of refinement. He does not pose,
nor does he seek the glare of the pub-
lic light, the blaze that beats upon the
heights of office. But he's in down-
right earnest. His motives are good,
his principles brave, and his tenacity
unshaken. Canada sends you in Meighen
a cultured citizen. He will grace your
imperial councils." It was an Ameri-
can visitor to the highest office in Ottawa.
He was interested in what I may call
the concave of prime ministers now
in London. It is the empire in confer-
ence. His friend is a student of Cana-
da, his country's neighbor on either
north, and he admires the culture and
courage of the Right Hon. Arthur
Meighen, the premier. I liked his chival-
rous compliment.

It is well that we should know our
distinguished guests. We cannot call
them visitors in the usual meaning of
the word. They are ourselves. They are
England facing and solving prob-
lems in the wider England beyond the
seas. They are you and me, a little
exalted perhaps, but with like passions
and purposes, inheritors of the same
spirit and history. They warm their
souls at the same altar-fires. And
among the prime ministers of Greater
Britain, Mr. Meighen takes noble place.
I think it was Professor Skelton who
said of him, on his being chosen and
called to the highest office in Ottawa:
"Our politics cannot be taken recklessly
critics say when character and capac-
ity find such quick and emphatic re-
sponse."

Canada's NEW PHASE.
Mr. Meighen brings to London a new
phase of Canada's life—the intellectual.
We are too apt to think of Canada's
sons as sternly built men who wrestle
with all weathers, who force their way
through snowdrifts or endure the mer-
ciless sun with the energy and patience
of the pioneer. We forget the studious
mind, the acute intellect, the deep cul-
ture, the music and the grace of life
which are there also. We think of