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A Treatise

on the

Winnipeg Juvenile Detention Home

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A TREATISE

ON THE

WINNIPEG JUVENILE DETENTION HOME



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THE NEW CHILDREN'S DETENTION HOME, WINNIPEG
Near the Salvation Army Grace Hospital

New Quarters for Juvenile Court and Detention Home, Winnipeg.

(Reprinted from the Winnipeg Telegram).

Fine New Building Opened—Splendid Work which is being done by Provincial Government under the Superintendency of F. J. Billiarde—Salvation Army Officers in Charge—Description of Interior of the New Home.

From a small nine room house at 226 Simcoe Street, opened in October, 1908, to a new three storey brick building with a court room, a school room and living accommodation for twenty-two children and the staff and instructors necessary to train and look after them, is a single-sentence statement of the growth of the Detention Home and Juvenile Court, conducted by the Pro-Provincial Government, under the Superintendency of F. J. Billiarde, B.A.

"The future welfare of the children of Winnipeg," is the motto of those who have anything to do with the splendid work, and the results accomplished are both a gratification for past work and an encouragement to do even greater things in the future. Under the department handling the work, the city is divided into sections and patrolled each day in a search for children of school age who are idling their time on the streets. These children are taken in charge by the official that finds out who he or she is, where they live, what their parents do, and what reason is to be given for their absence from school. The child is then sent to school under supervision, that is, he must report to the superintendent every Saturday, with an attendance card made up by his teacher. This action results in curing the greater percentage of truants.

REMOVED TO HOME.

If, however, this fails to have any effect, the child is taken in charge by the Detention Officer and removed to the Home where he is forced to attend the school conducted by Staff-Captain McAmmond of the Salvation Army, who is in charge of



HON. COLIN H. CAMPBELL
Father of Canada's First Juvenile Court

the Home. Here the surroundings are such as to absent any thought of confinement, and it is this coming into contact with Christian influences, and the comforts of a good home, that has the effect of changing the lives of a great many of the youngsters. Many indeed come back after their release to tell how well they are getting along. The results obtained from the small home on Simcoe street were truly wonderful, but with a fine new building the department is looking for even greater fruits from their efforts.

ASK FOR CO-OPERATION.

A letter has been forwarded to the School Board asking their co-operation to the extent of providing a teacher, and this will be discussed at their next meeting. The new building which is built at the back of Grace Hospital, on the same block of land, is ideal for the purpose for which it is intended. It was commenced at the end of July, and is now ready for occupation. At the front of the Home proper, is the home of Staff-Captain McAmmond, who is in charge. Entrance to the Home may be made through his house, or though a special separate entrance at the side of the building. The Home is a three-storey brick building, on a concrete foundation. All the space has been utilized, and the result is a building that would be hard to improve upon. Bars, or anything pertaining to prison life, are conspicuous by their absence.

JUVENILE COURT ROOM.

On entering, one finds himself in a hall which leads to the Office and the Juvenile Court Room. Here especial care has been taken to arrange the furnishings, with a view of eliminating thoughts of confinement, and with this purpose in view the authorities have furnished the Court Room as a dining room, in fact it is used as one. From the court room a door leads into the school room, with its desks, maps, blackboards, etc., similar to a room in any of the city schools. Provision has been made for twenty-five scholars. The second and third floors are alike

in their design. They contain the bedrooms of the children and assistants; the second floor is set apart for the girls, and the third for boys. There are eleven rooms on each floor, besides one for the assistant. The rooms are small and are furnished simply, but sufficiently well for the purpose.

PRECAUTION AGAINST ESCAPE.

One precaution has been taken against the escape of the inmates. The child each night hangs his or her clothes on a hook on the outside of a door, which is then locked, leaving the child no wearing apparel in which to leave. Besides this, there is an electric signal from the room of each assistant to the quarters of the manager, which may be used in the case of any emergency. Ample provision has been made for fire protection in the shape of a steel stairway escape, and also a set of fire extinguishers. The building is heated by steam from a most up-to-date furnace in the basement. The room in the cellar not taken up with the furnace has been finished into rooms, one of which is used as a kitchen, while two rooms have been set apart for children spending their first night in the institution. This is merely a precaution for cleanliness, as the child is thoroughly cleaned and allotted a room of his own upstairs as soon as possible. It is the intention of the management to put in gymnastical fixtures and manual training apparatus within the near future. The physical welfare of the children has not been neglected. Dr. Gray is the medical officer, and he looks after any mental or physical derangement which any of the inmates may have. Special attention has been paid to this particular, as ill-health is assigned as one of the main causes of truancy. In sizing up the new Home in a few words, it can be said that the wants of Winnipeg's unfortunate children have been carefully considered, and ample provision made to meet all the needs to lift up and educate those, who, either through their own foolish desires, or through laxity on the part of their parents, are not receiving at present that which is necessary to make men and women worthy of the great country in which we live—an education.



HON. T. M. DALY
Judge of Canada's first Juvenile Court



JUVENILE COURT ROOM IN THE NEW DETENTION HOME

Extracts of Report of T. Mayne Daly, Juvenile Court Judge.

WORKING OF THE JUVENILE COURT ACT.

The outstanding features of the Act are : First: The Detention Home ; Second : The Probation Officer; and Thirdly : The Juvenile Court itself.

Instead of children being taken to the Police Station and locked up in cells, they are taken to the Detention Home, where everything is so homelike and unprison-like, that the child is not terrorized and frightened half to death. Instead of being locked up in cells or wardrooms they are put into comfortable bedrooms, first being scrubbed and cleansed. And, judging from appearances, some of those who have been brought to our Detention Home have had the first bath they have ever taken since they were born. Fancy the difference in the feeling of a child who has had a bath and been put into clean clothes and had wholesome food given to it, and then been put into a clean bed, as compared with the old regime when the child was locked up in a prison cell, unwashed and with only a rough bed to lie on, and fed on prison fare, and in these strange and, to its childish mind, awful surroundings left to sob itself to sleep! The influence for the betterment of the child must surely be with our present mode of treatment.

The fact that I have only been called upon to send eight boys to the Industrial Home during the year is a strong argument in favor of the new procedure. It indicates that the rest of the boy delinquents have been so impressed and influenced by the treatment meted out to them that they have not repeated their offence, and run the risk of the Reformatory.

The selection of Staff-Captain McAmmond of the Salvation Army, and his capable, gentle, and child-loving wife, to take charge of the Detention Home, was a very happy one. No people could fill the trying and responsible position better than they do. The Christian-like, sympathetic, influence that surrounds the children in the Home cannot fail to be beneficial. Several children of both sexes have been held in the Home from

periods of from one to two months or more, and they have either been sent back to their parents, or foster homes found for them, and the reports of their subsequent conduct have been most satisfactory, showing that these children have profited by their stay in the Home. We have had some backsliders, of course, but after further efforts have been made—even some of the worst of these have been softened and guided into the right path.

PROBATION OFFICERS.

The Chief Probation Officer is Mr. Billiarde, Superintendent of Neglected Children, a gentleman who brought ripe experience to the discharge of his onerous duties, and he has certainly performed these duties most satisfactorily. Staff-Capt. McAmmond is Mr. Billiarde's chief assistant, and these gentlemen are kept busy.

What they don't know about truants and mischievous boys of the city is not worth knowing.

In nearly every instance when boys plead guilty to offences for which they are charged before me, after inquiry and a talk with the boy, and reprimand where necessary, the boy is ordered to report to me or the Probation Officer every Saturday at an hour named.

The Officers also visit the home and talk with the parents, report the home surroundings, and if further efforts are needed to also reform the parents, the necessary steps are taken. The home of the child is not visited by a uniformed policeman, but by a man in every-day civilian clothes, and this man is a friend paying a visit to the family. He may be somewhat curious and ask leading questions, but it is all well-meant, and in the majority of cases as soon as the parents understand that the visit is made in the interest and for the welfare of their child, or children, they seldom offer objection, and on these visits being repeated the Probation Officer is warmly welcomed.

The underlying and all-important feature of this system is to keep in touch with the boy or girl, and to have first-hand knowledge of their home surroundings.

The only boys we could put in a class by themselves as being truly bad boys, or evidencing vicious propensities, are the eight

who were sent to the Industrial Home. Of these only three were British born, the five others being of foreign parentage. Two of the English-speaking lads came from the homes of apparently respectable church-going people. The other lad's surroundings were not such as to induce good behaviour. Of the five boys of foreign extraction, it can safely be said, that they knew nothing of home training, and they were brought up in ignorant surroundings. They are now getting the first training of any kind that they have ever had, and I have no doubt that the influence will be most beneficial to them, and, like others of this class whom I have sent to Portage La Prairie in former years, they will turn out bright capable lads with a full and proper knowledge of right from wrong.

As to the last feature, viz., that of the Court itself, I need not say anything further—since its work during the past year has been sufficiently exemplified in what I have already said.

CONCLUSION.

I wish, in conclusion, to record that I feel much encouraged with all the good that has been accomplished by the Juvenile Court and its Officers during the inaugural year of the Court, and I can safely say that the Juvenile Court has so far realised that which those interested expected of it. We have reached the boy and the girl, and the parents, and the homes in a way, and also exercised an influence that we have never been able to do before. The mere fact of there being no publicity connected with the arrest and trial of children is in itself a tremendous gain. Under the law it is an offence to publish in any newspaper anything relating to the apprehension or trial of a child before the Juvenile Court without the leave of the Judge. It is unnecessary to add that so far no such leave has been given.

To the Matron of Grace Hospital (Salvation Army) I am likewise obligated for her needful and ready help. She has so often housed and cared for wayward girls, when there was really no place else I could send them.

(Signed)

T. MAYNE DALY,

Judge of the Juvenile Court.

