

Children's Aid
Society
of Toronto.



An Appeal.

RB156, 848

An Appeal.

THE Board of Management of the Children's Aid Society of Toronto appeals to the benevolent and philanthropic people of the city and country for help for the purpose of providing a Shelter in connection with the work of the Society. The lease of the old St. James' Rectory, which has been used as the Society's Shelter for nearly eight years, is about to expire, and cannot be renewed. This made it necessary to find a new Shelter. After much consideration and after looking at a number of properties, the Board finally decided to purchase the property formerly occupied by the late Chief Justice Sir John Hagarty, situated on Simcoe Street. The house and grounds are large and can, with reasonable expenditure, be made to meet present needs.

The Board being of opinion that all the offices of the Society should be under one roof, both on the ground of economy and to secure efficiency of management, have had plans prepared showing how the building could be altered to accommodate the children and officers of the Society, and after careful consideration have adopted a plan that in their judgment is the most economical and effective, and have decided to appeal to the generous public for the assistance necessary to carry out its requirements.

The price paid is \$9,000.00: \$1,500.00 cash, and the balance in annual instalments at 5 per cent. It is necessary to put in new heating and plumbing systems, which, with other alterations, will cost \$7,000.00, making the total cost \$16,000.00.

The Society has no recourse but to appeal to those persons who feel in sympathy with the effort to save unfortunate children from the influences of vice and cruelty, which lead almost certainly to a life ending in shame

and crime. The aim of the Society is first to improve the home life of unfortunate children without removing them from their parents, but if improvement appears hopeless in the home, then to remove them into carefully selected foster homes, where they will have a chance to grow up into respectable manhood and womanhood.

This work has grown from small beginnings to considerable proportions. Starting as a fresh air organization, it was not long before the necessity for work of a more permanent kind manifested itself. The larger work was entered upon in faith, and the kind friends of the Society have justified the course adopted by sustaining the hands of the management in carrying it on.

During many years of active endeavor, much has been done in the way of improving the homes through the visits of the Inspector, and, as a consequence, the home life of the children. This has been a hopeful and gratifying branch of the Society's work.

In the ten years of the Society's work in the protection of children, 7,986 complaints, involving the interests of 10,465 children have been dealt with by the Society and its officers. It will thus be seen that the Society is truly the friend and protector of the unfortunate and neglected boys and girls of our city. In many cases the temporary removal of the children to the Shelter has led to the reformation of the parents, and made it possible to return their children to them; while a probation of discipline in the Shelter has been the means, in many instances, of leading boys to give up truancy and other bad habits. Of the boys and girls placed in foster homes, 338 are still out. Some of these are growing into manhood and womanhood, with prospects very different from those in which they were when the Society gave them a protecting and helping hand.

We ask those who are able, to come to our help. Patriotism, economy and philanthropy alike plead with you to help. It costs

far less to rescue an unfortunate child from surroundings of vice (which certainly, in the majority of cases, will develop criminality) than it does to punish a criminal. Surely the love which each of us should bear to our country and our fellow-beings pleads for the extending of a helping hand to lift the little ones from vile surroundings into surroundings that will afford them a fair opportunity to become respectable men and women.

The Board of Management appeals to the public for the funds necessary to provide the Shelter, and in due time free it from debt. The \$7,000.00 required for the plumbing, heating and the alterations to the building will have to be provided almost immediately and hence that sum is asked now so that the contractors might be paid in a reasonable time. For the balance on the property it is proposed to ask for subscriptions extending over five years so that at the end of that period the property may be free.

The sum asked seems large, and yet is small compared with the interests of the many boys and girls to be protected and helped on in life.

This appeal is solely on behalf of the BUILDING FUND. Contributions may be sent to Mr. A. M. Campbell, Treasurer, Room 25, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

Signed on behalf of the Board,

J. K. MACDONALD,
H. F. FRANKLAND,
JAMES MASSIE,
E. F. CLARKE,
A. M. CAMPBELL,
MRS. J. W. FLAVELLE,
MRS. JOHN LILLIE,
MRS. JAMES RYRIE,
MRS. O. B. SHEPPARD,
MRS. C. C. VANNORMAN,

Building Committee.

Toronto, March 6th, 1902.