CARE OF THE KIDS

Judge W. F. Schoch Tells of the New Juvenile Court.

Confronts Many Strange and New Situations.

GIRLS CAUSE WORRY

Matron Should Guide the Wayward Girls.

Records Show Decrease in Youthful Criminals.

Judge W. F. Schoch, of the Shawnee county probate court, believes the Juvenile court is solving a serious proolem for the state in caring for the wayward boys and girls; and that this work will result in a higher citizenship than ever before attained in Kansas. In a speech before the Charities Conference at Ottawa this week, Judge Schoch told of the work in this county and predicted great returns from the new court.

What to do with the girl, is one of the difficulties which Judge Schoch says the court must solve. He believes a matron should be provided in the larger counties and that such a woman could guide the girls better than a man. In this county many of these cases are turned over to the police matron, but he believes such an officer should become a regular attache of the Juvenile court.

As an evidence of what the new court has done in Kansas, Schoch points to the record in this county and that the cases of youthful criminals have decreased 40 per cent in less than five years. Still there is much to do and Schoch would have certain state laws revised to cover the needs of the new court. In his Ottawa speech Schoch had the following to say concerning the work of the Juvenile court in Kansas:

Court Stands High.

"The Juvenile Judges of Kansas in six years have brought the Juvenile court to the highest point of public estimation. This court is now an established part of our jurisprudence This has all been done by hard and patient work and by educating the parents of dependent and delinquent children that the power of the court is used for the welfare of the child in the exercise of parental duties which the parent for some reason is unable to perform. Six years ago the work was open to hostility and criticism. It was an experiment and the conservative and patient judges of the state felt their way ith care and caution. In the beginning, it was the disposition of parents to fight, and of an overcritical public to paint the delinquent child as a young criminal. In time, the parent began to learn that the Juvenile court was a court of correction and not a court of punishment. The public began to see results and the delinquent boy became an object of public interest, instead of an object of criticism.

"Many times have the mothers of orphan children begged of me to send their children to the industrial schools where they could hope for their return at a future time, rather than send them to the State Orphans' Home and away from the mother forever. In other words, the state under its present policy returns to the mother her delinquent boy, but takes away from her forever her innocent babe.

Need More Room.

"Nor has the state kept abreast of the times in other respects. With all the vast expenditure of money in the last six years, reaching a degree almost of opulency in the sums showered upon our state institutions of learning, and with all our increasing population, and the work of the Juvenile court, the State Industrial School has received additional capacity only for thirty-six boys. That institution is now crowded beyond its capacity and we are entirely at a loss to know at any time whether we can commit a delinquent boy to that institution and have him admitted. This is sometimes a very embarrassing situation in the handling of a large number of delinquents, some of whom it is very necessary to give to understand the industrial school will be his home if he does not improve his deportment.

"Happily all delinquent boys are not sent to the industrial school. In fact, under the patient and exacting work of the juvenile judges only a small percent reach this institution and then only as a last resort.

"I had a case like this which I watched with interest. A fourteen year old colored boy was brought in a year ago for stealing a part of a bicycle, an offense which is a source of great trouble in our city. He was paroled, reported from time to time, and then after a while no further reports were required. Not long ago, a complaint came in that he had violated his parole and was guilty of stealing a bicycle lamp. My first impulse was to send him to the industrial school and I secured permission from the board of control for his admission. He emphatically denied his guilt and insisted he had purchased the lamp from a boy of the same age. I have always contended that when a child is charged with violating his parole and denies his guilt, that he is entitled to a trial and in no instance should he be tried for any offense without one or both of the parents being present. Trials, when spoken of in this connection, are not conducted with the usual formality of criminal proceedings, but the child and its parents must always be present and the child is entitled under every semblance of law to be confronted by his accusers.

"In this case, the father and mother both insisted on the child's innocence. I warned them against the danger of taking the child's word for it and insisted that they investigate the case for themselves. I told the delinquent he must produce the boy who sold him the property and gave him two weeks to do it. In the meantime, I sent the probation officer to find the boy from whom he claimed to have purchased the stolen lamp, and learned that he had been out of the city for a period of at least a month before the offense was committed. In two weeks, the delinquent came in with his mother, still protesting his innocence and his mother still believing him. The father in the meantime had weakened and stayed away. I had all along tried to impress him with the importance of telling the truth under fire and tried to explain to him the law of the rights of property. He claimed he could not find the boy we were seeking, and I then said to him I thought he was trying to deceive his mother and also trying to deceive the court. I would not dispose of his case until he had produced the boy who was absent and continued the hearing for another week. This time he came alone, and informed me he had not been successful. I pointed out to him again the embarrassing situation he was in and insisted that by the end of another week, he must produce the boy who sold him the lamp. I got up to leave the room, but he stuck fast to his chair and I knew something was coming. I sat down again and said nothing. After a little while he broke the silence, stammered, looked out of the window and then looking up at me, said, 'Judge, I took that lamp.' It was a heavy load, but he had lifted it. I did not send that boy to the industrial school. I am still pondering over the best course to pursue in this last experiment. I believe yet this boy can be made a useful citizen.

Must Report to Court.

"The system of requiring delinquents to report to the court is the most effective method yet suggested. I have succeeded best in curing the persistent truant by requiring him to bring two reports each week, one from his parent and the other from his teacher. No truant can successfully escape both the parent and the teacher. We have found a number of boys in our city who have successfully played truant for a month at a time, leaving home in the morning, hanging around pool halls and other places of amusement all day and then going home with the other children in the evening. As long as we can keep a boy reporting regularly, we have but little trouble with him. As soon as he begins to drop out, I send the probation officer to his parents. If the parent is the right kind, we get him in line again.

The Girl Problem.

"The boy problem is comparatively easy, But the girl problem—the girl from fourteen to sixteen—it seems to me, is far from solution. I believe in the counties containing the larger cities, a woman probation officer and frequent home visitation would bring about great results. In our county, we have been obliged to depend on the police matrons in dealing with delinquent girls and we have received great assistance and help from these officials.

"A father recently came in and insisted that his fourteen-year-old girl be sent to the industrial school. He and his wife are foreigners. When the girl was brought in, I soon discovered she was a product of our public schools, a child of our civilization, and that she had outgrown her parents. The feeling between the child and parents was intense and bitter and all attempt at reconciliation seemed to be fruitless. With the aid of the Provident association, I placed the girl in a family home and the father was very indignant that I would not send her to Beloit. She was a delinquent girl, in this: That she was stubborn, conceited, arrogant and in open rebellion against her father and mother, but she had committed no crime and was not a wayward child. After a while, I managed by the most careful and adroit means I possessed, to bring about a reconciliation between the child and her parents. She is still in the family home, and the father a few days ago came in and thanked me. He was elated over the results attained. Here was a girl who yearned for environments and conditions beyond the reach of her parents and in her childish and rebellious spirit she broke away from parental control.

"A girl at fourteen years of age, begins to yearn for companionship. She is now being taught that she is a woman. At this age, she begins to seek the society of the neighbors and yearns for apparel and other consideration which parents cannot at all times bestow, and herein is an element in the life of a girl that is hard to contend with. In a thickly populated portion of our city, is a little girl to whom my attention has been called, but who is in no sense a ward of the court. A couple of years ago, she played with all the little girls in her block. All at once she disappeared. It was discovered she was carrying home washing for her mother's patrons. The little girls who formerly sought her company, abandoned her and now she goes alone. I will venture the opinion that this girl is a jewel. The girl who will stand by her mother under all the conditions surrounding her, unmoved by the coolness of former companions, will grow to be a noble woman. But herein, is the criticism, I wish to make. Many a girl unable to withstand the sting of reproach from those who were formerly her associates, has taken the first step toward delinquency and herein our social conditions, our churches and our civilization, are keenly at fault.

Need Detention Homes.

"In the larger counties of this state we are in need of detention homes. No child should be placed in the city or county prison, or any department of a prison, under the usual circumstances attending cases in the Juvenile courts. Detention homes properly conducted can be made a temporary abode for delinquent and dependent children, and many a child saved from the unfavorable environments of his home, and also saved from the industrial schools and orphan institutions. In the absence of such a home, in our country, we have been nobly assisted in the work of caring for children by the Provident association, the Orphans' Home and the Foster Humane society.

"I believe a resume of the work of the Juvenile court of Shawnee county —wherein is located the capital city— a university city—a city of homes and churches—a city of mixed population —a railroad shop city and a manufacturing city—would be of general interest and of some value to those who are making the subject of dependent and delinquent children a study.

Reform in Shawnee.

"The first six months, I was engaged in Juvenile work, there was brought into court fifty-four delinquent children and thirty-two dependent children, a total of eighty-six cases, as compared with sixteen delinquent and two dependents brought in the six months previously. This is not a fair comparison for the reason that my predecessor was sick during the last year of his term, and absent most of the time from his office. I found some hostility toward the court at first, but gradually this has disappeared. The parent is becoming educated to the value of the Juvenile court, and the co-operation of the parent has done much to banish the former feeling of hostility. Of the fifty-four delinquents, three were sent to the industrial school for boys and one to the industrial school for girls. Of the thirty-two dependents, fourteen were placed in orphan institutions and eighteen were awarded to the custody of individuals.

"For the year ending July 1, 1910, as shown by the report submitted to the governor, 152 children were brought into court. Of this number 103 were delinquent and forty-two dependents. Of the delinquents, ninety were paroled. 10 were sent to the boys industrial school and three to the girls industrial school. Of the forty-two dependents, 24 were placed in orphans' institutions and 18 awarded to individuals. Seven of the 152 cases were dismissed. In the same period of time, seventeen delinquent fathers were arrested and tried for contributing to the delinquent and dependent condition of their children.

"For the year ending July 1, 1911, 115 children were brought before the court. Six cases were undisposed of at the time of making the report and two dismissed. Of this number 82 were delinquents, 73 of whom were paroled and four were sent to the Boys' Industrial School and five to the Girls' Industrial School. Of the 25 dependents, 18 were awarded to orphans' Homes and seven given to individuals. In the same period of time 27 delinquent fathers were tried charged with contributing to the delinquent and dependent condition of their children. Up to this time, no mother has been brought into court charged with this offense.

"For the year ending as stated above, the Juvenile judge received in fees $677.62 and paid out of that amount $375 for clerk hire, leaving $302.62 for his services; $3.00 per day was paid to the probation officer; $84.45 paid out in witness fees. The expense of the probation officer was $2.00 for the year, and for the police matron for taking girls to the industrial school, $21.95.

Parents Bring Children.

"The figures given above do not include another feature of Juvenile court work which is increasing to a large extent in many of the counties. There were at least one hundred of such cases in our county in the last year. I refer to the instances where parents bring their children into court voluntarily for the judge to talk to and assist the parent in dealing with and controlling his delinquent offspring. The age limit does not stop at sixteen years in this kind of work. Seventeen, eighteen, and even nineteen year olds are frequent visitors, and in one instance, a mother had me send for her thirty-two year old son to see if I could not turn him from his wayward and indolent life. This 'boy' is now in the county jail.

"It is the sixteen year old girl in this that causes no end of trouble Generally, she is not brought in until she has been talked and nagged almost to desperation. You cannot commit her to the industrial school for notwithstanding Chapter 201 of the Laws of 1911, wherein it was sought to empower courts to commit girls under eighteen years of age to the industrial school, the lawyers insist that under this act the Juvenile court cannot try a child for a misdemeanor and that the court having power to try a child for a misdemeanor has not the power to commit her to the industrial school.

"There are a number of reasons why this voluntary Juvenile court work to which I have referred, should not be encouraged. It seems to me that if the child is delinquent, the sooner it is brought into court in the proper way and taught due respect for the law, the better for the child. Voluntarily and secretly seeking out the Juvenile court is an effort on the part of the parent to shield the child by at least hiding its delinquency, but that is not the main reason. We have had a number of cases where the parents brought their children into court in this voluntary proceeding, where no record is made of the case, and then in time the child reaches its sixteenth year, and the court is without jurisdiction to make any orders or to commit to the industrial schools.

Work Is Decreasing.

"You will observe that the work of the Juvenile court in our county is decreasing. That the number of cases are not so many as formerly and that the expense is not so great. If it were not for the compensation received from Probate court work that of the Juvenile judge would be moderate, and shows that this court must still be retained as a part of another jurisdiction. There is no court in the state, which brings about as good results with as little public expense as the Juvenile court.

"There has been a demand in some places that we should assess costs against the parents in proceedings in the cases of dependent and delinquent children. I have tried it, and it has resulted very unsatisfactorily. The most of the parents whose children are brought into court are hardly able to buy bread and the assessment of costs against them would be a hardship and an injustice and in almost every instance, would make such a parent an enemy of the court.

"There is another suggestion in line with this decrease in the number of Juvenile cases. Morris Jenkins, the chief of police of our city, who has been a member of our police force for nineteen years, is authority for the statement made but recently, that children's crimes in the city of Topeka have decreased at least 40 per cent and that this has been especially noticeable within the last year.

"We formerly had three districts in the city that furnished the bulk of dependent and delinquent cases. Two of these have been cleaned up until now it can be said the condition is normal as compared with the whole city. We have one district where the population is constantly changing in which the best results have not been obtained.

"The work of the Juvenile judges in Kansas can still be improved. It is a great field and the best thought and study of the age is everywhere directed toward this work. We need amendments to the law and we should not be backward about asking the next legislature to extend its aid in this direction. In another six years, we can do still more for the uplifting of Kansas youth, and the next generation will see the result, in a better and greater citizenship."

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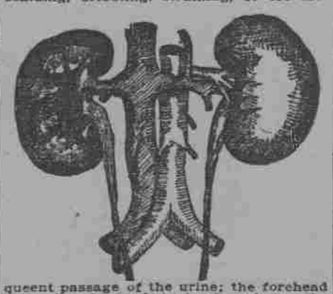

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FRENCH TO ABANDON INDIA.

Her Small Possessions There of Great Value to England.

At a time when European nations are busy marking out new colonial empires there is a certain measure of public interest in the report that France is about to resign the last vestiges of a colonial empire once the most promising of all European possessions beyond the sea, her establishments in India.

In the 18th century the battle for India was not less closely contested between England and France nor with more varied fortunes than that in America. The duel between Montcalm and Wolfe in Quebec had its counterpart, more or less striking, in the battle between Clive and Duplex in Hindustan, save only that Duplex was not like Montcalm, a soldier.

In the great remaking of maps which followed the final triumph over France by England in Asia and America alike France kept of her western empire two little islands, of her Indian possessions five small, widely separated enclaves, Chandernagore on the Ganges, Yanaon at the mouth of Godivari, Mahe on the western coast, and Pondicherry and Karikal, south of Madras, on the Bay of Bengal.

All told, these French colonies have an area of 200 square miles and a population of 270,000. They are without military value because they are indefensible. They have no value as outposts of French expansion, for British supremacy in India is no longer debated by the French. The total commercial activity of all five territories is less than $10,000,000, and France is compelled to contribute to their budget.

Inconsiderable as French India is, it has a real value to the British. As refuges for political exiles from British territory, as admirably placed centers for the dissemination of seditious literature and the fomenting or disorder in adjacent British districts, the suppression of these tiny French colonies would be of a very great usefulness to England. As a result there has been a renewal of semiofficial reports that Anglo-French negotiations over French Indian colonies was on foot.

The opportunity for a good bargain on both sides is unmistakable. In West Africa there are at least three British colonies which resemble the French establishments in India, in that they are merely enclaves in foreign territory. These are Gambia, Sierra Leone and the Gold Coast.

Gambia is only a thin strip of country hardly 10 miles wide on both banks of the Gambia river. The Gold Coast is another colony which marks the unsuccessful effort of the British to reach the interior of Africa from the coast and unite all the coast establishments. If France should acquire these colonies, with Sierra Leone, the only interruption to an unbroken French coast line from Tripoli to the Gulf of Guinea would be two Spanish colonies, one in Morocco and one on the Atlantic coast, the Portuguese enclave near Gambia and Liberia.

That the British would trade all these African colonies against French India is not to be expected. But in other quarters, notably the New Hebrides, opportunities for a bargain exist. In any event a modification of boundaries, including the cession of Gambia, and a rectification of the frontier of the Gold Coast are far from unlikely.—New York Sun.

RAILROAD NEWS

Great Waste in Fuel Used by American Lines.

Estimated That It Amounts to 50 Millions Annually.

FITCH MAKES REPORT

Chief Engineer of Chicago Great Western Gives Facts.

Items of Interest to the Railway Employees.

Chicago, Dec. 2.—American railroads lose $50,000,000 worth of fuel a year and consume $200,000,000 worth of coal to secure $80,000,000 worth of efficiency—further waste of $120,000,000 worth of fuel, according to figures prepared by Chief Engineer L. C. Fitch of the Chicago Great Western railroad. That road conducted an investigation of itself, following the charge by Louis Brandeis that railroads wasted $1,000,000 a day in inefficient service and Mr. Fitch's report is one result.

The remedy suggested is a fuel bureau of experts, improved firing devices on locomotives, a school for firemen, more scientific ordering of locomotives for service and closer watch on exposed coal yards.

"Each loss of 1 per cent of fuel in American railroad business means a loss of $2,000,000," says Mr. Fitch's report. "Only 45 per cent of the coal used returns effective results, the remainder being wasted.

"This loss goes into blown off steam, unburned gases, waiting locomotives that have been fired up too soon, radiation from boilers, lumps lost along the road and taken from open coal yards, unscientific handling of locomotives and other wastes.

"The fuel bureau could begin by intelligent purchasing of higher grade coal, could instruct firemen to perform their work with economy in view, could conduct tests for better heat insulation of boilers, have call orders for engines issued with more regard for the length of time required to fire up and could otherwise conserve the fuel supply."

In ten years, says the report, American railroads have increased the cost of their fuel supply from $104,926,000 to $213,828,000. The figures of recent years given are: For 1905, $156,429,000; for 1907, $200,261,000; for 1909, $188,735,000; 1910, $213,838,000.

"Of course, 100 per cent efficiency is impossible," continued the report, "but the present 55 per cent of waste certainly may be cut down to an appreciable degree. Careful investigation of the maintenance and operation of our road and others within the scope of our observation lead us to believe it is not unreasonable to think that from 20 to 25 per cent of this waste may be cut off, effecting the saving of from $40,000,000 to $50,000,000, spoken of in this report.

"It must be realized, of course, that the cost of operating a 'conservation bureau' of fuel would increase as the efficiency percentage increased. During the first 20 per cent of savings this cost would be slight, compared with the expenses cut down. Beyond a certain amount, however, this cost would mount rapidly till there would be a question of the value of the bureau because it would become cumbersome and in its own way.

"The efficiency limit of this efficiency service would be reached, it would seem, when about 25 per cent of the present losses in fuel were cut off; further gain could be better reached through more scientific construction of locomotives."

HAVE CARS TO SPARE.

Great Surplus Reported by American Railway Association.

The bulletin of the American Railway association giving the statement of car surpluses and shortages shows an increase of 5,984 cars in the surplus, making a total surplus of 45,290 cars, for the two weeks' period ended November 8. The largest increase is shown to be in coal cars, which increased from 12,148 cars on October 25, 1911, to 16,398 cars on November 8, 1911, an increase of 4,250 cars. The increase in surplus coal cars is chiefly in group 2 (New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Eastern Pennsylvania), and group 3, (Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Western Pennsylvania). There are also increases of 2,241 cars and 213 cars in box car surplus and miscellaneous car surplus respectively, while flat cars show a decrease of 820 cars. The increase in box car surplus is principally in group 6 (Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Dakotas). The total car shortage is practically the same as reported in the previous period, although the totals for the various classes of cars show changes. The increase in surplus cars is setting in at exactly the same period as last year, and the amount of increases for this report is almost identical with that for the corresponding period in 1910. The total surplus this year, however, is slightly higher than last year, having been 34,581 on November 9, 1910, as against 45,290 for this report.—Railway and Engineering Record.

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