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FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1913

GIVE THEM A CHANCE.

The other day a fifteen year old boy was taken from the Prince County Jail to Dorchester Penitentiary where he is to serve a period of two years on a conviction in the Supreme Court for stealing a few bottles of beer.

With the mercy or the mercilessness of these sentences, or either of them, it is not our intention at present to deal. The Court, in its wisdom and with all the facts of the case before it, decreed thus, but even in face of the proven and admitted guilt, a feeling of pity goes out for the boy and a feeling of wonder as to what the ultimate effect of such a punishment will be upon his character and upon his future.

It will be argued, and truly—to the shame of our Twentieth Century civilization—that there was no way out that there was no other place for the boy, that the law provides no other mode of punishment. This is the most regrettable feature of the case. The law should provide not only a means of adequate punishment for law-breakers but also a means of saving them, if possible, especially the young, from lives of criminality.

A term in penitentiary will, doubtless, prove a severe punishment for a boy, but it is extremely doubtful if it will save him. It may lead him to think seriously of the crime he committed, it may even lead to resolutions for a better life. It may, also, confirm him in the opinion that the law is his enemy, that his detention, conviction and imprisonment were the acts of enemies whom it will be his delight to get even with when the opportunity offers. His associates will be criminals, each with his grievance and his sense of persecution at the hands of the law, and from these the boy, on the threshold of manhood, will learn the lessons which, for the most part, will determine his future. It requires no elaboration to convince even the thoughtless that penitentiary is a poor school for a boy, a poor foundation upon which to enter into manhood, and a sorry hope upon which to depend for reform in a boy's life.

The incident referred to shows, as has more than once been shown in this province, the need of a better means of caring for our young criminals than we have at present in the Maritime Provinces. For old and young, for the criminal hardened by years of crime, and for the boy who has taken his first step downward, we have one common receptacle—Dorchester Penitentiary. Here, under strictest discipline, learning trades, well fed and well worked, but practically herded together, the good and the bad, the hardened and the impressionable, they are working out their sentence and their destiny.

A reformatory for the Maritime Provinces is under consideration. Such an institution would be, at least, an improvement over the present system although its reforming virtues are being questioned in certain quarters. The Borstal system is now very generally adopted in England as well as in the United States, by which youths imprisoned for any misdemeanor are separated from the common herd of criminals, taught trades, and given opportunities for improvement, mental and moral, are watched over not only during their imprisonment but are given a helping hand after leaving the institution.

In the absence of a regular institution for the reclamation of boys some such system as this could be instituted with the equipment we now have. For the sake of the boys who in a year or a few years will look for employment with nothing better than a Penitentiary record to recommend them, we trust that a definite system will be adopted which will at least relieve the Penitentiary record of some of its present objectionable features and give the unfortunate a chance.

THE UNFATHOMABLE.

British public spirit is well summed up in Tom Moore's couplet: "A nation's right to speak, a nation's voice; And own no power but the nation's choice." This public spirit is the wonder, envy, and admiration of the world; it is on Britain's constitutional system all other modern constitutions are based—even that of the newly created Chinese republic; and it is the inbred conviction of the

British born that they are born rulers, which accounts to a fairly large extent for the hatred and animosity with which they are regarded by foreign nations.

This was the subject which the newly appointed American Ambassador, Mr. Walter Hines Page, took the opportunity to discuss in a remarkable speech in London the other day. Basing his remarks upon Mr. Price Collier's statement that "we all know that America does not like England, and that Americans do not like the English," the Ambassador retorted by quoting another passage from Mr. Collier's writings in which he says—"The Saxons can only live in one way, and that is by ruling themselves. . . . That any family, clan, tribe, or nation should wish to live under any other than this Saxon arrangement is to them unthinkable. . . . Where in the history of mankind may one look to find such a magnificent assumption of virtue and omniscience, coupled with incomprehensible self-satisfaction." That is the whole sum and substance of the differences that exist between the British subject and the American born. Both are of the same race, and both think it extraordinary that the other should pursue a course different from their own—both being rulers by nature, and from the same stock. That is the explanation, so when the Ambassador proceeds to state that "the thing that makes England England" is her skill in ruling men, he only compliments his own nation for they are of one blood.

But what strikes the non-British as the unfathomable wonder of the world is the British Empire—that one small spot in the Atlantic like the United Kingdom, should spread itself out until it predominates the whole earth. Mr. Hines Page said that was what puzzled the foreigner, till he reflects that we did not build up the Empire by standing on our little mother isle, "but by standing astride the seven seas." And even then the wonder is hardly less; for it is the diplomacy of the English Foreign Office which maintains the peace of Europe. In a graceful reference to this, having in mind, no doubt, Sir Edward Grey's successful intervention in the Balkan affairs, the Ambassador remarked: "And the old-time skill that has made so much of modern history seems not to have been lost in this year of grace." A compliment so skillfully couched is worthy of the best Ambassadorial traditions.

Having paid a high tribute to the British methods of municipal government, and the successful experiments in municipalization generally, Mr. Hines Page proceeded, and his words are as applicable to us here as they are elsewhere:

"You can hardly imagine," he said, "how interesting the hundreds of questions (municipal) are to an American whose life has been spent in the study of popular government as an instrument to make the lot of mankind happier, to make free men sturdier men, to make sure that the dominant qualities of our race shall not only be preserved in our newer land and under our social and governmental forms, but, if possible, that they may be bred in us more tenaciously. For it is the making of men that is our aim in the great Republic—the making of men rather than the maintenance of any set of political dogmas; and the organization of political society that shall maintain all the efficiency of the race—even the efficiency of many mingled races—and at the same time hold fast to the natural development of our English born freedom."

That is the aim of the United States as it is with ourselves, and in order to accomplish it, we must be free from the fear of attack from without, whether it be from east or west. The country home has ever been the best breeding place of the British bull-pups, and to restore the country home to its rightful place of domestic happiness and economic independence is the chief aim of our neighbors to the south as it is with ourselves.

The British people are born rulers, and could never under any possible circumstances become a subservient race. The Germans are otherwise; they are not natural rulers, and have never succeeded in developing any over-sea territory they have possessed. They try to dominate by military force, thereby stifling freedom. On the other hand, they become an ideal servile race, easily absorbed by the races with which they mix, never troubling about who rules or governs over them. This being so, one is left to wonder what sort of tranquility would prevail in the British Empire were the War Lord to endeavor to substitute his will for the British-born people's right to speak and choose for themselves.

NOTES.

A correspondent suggests that a move be made to get up a motor-boat race in Charlottetown harbor. To give zest and general interest to

the race it is suggested that a trophy be put up—preferably by one of our wealthy foxmen, although, doubtless, the gift would be equally acceptable if donated by some other well disposed citizen. The idea of getting up a motor boat race should not for a moment be lost sight of. The harbor is practically full of motor boats and a race would create lots of enjoyment not only for the owners but for citizens and visitors. There is no other harbor in Canada with better advantages for motoring than Charlottetown and there are few that have faster boats. To make the enthusiasm red hot from the start let a series of races be arranged for, to take place on a certain number of Monday half-holidays, the trophy to be won three times during the present season before becoming the property of the winner. Everybody loves a boat race and now, that the summer is full upon us, the best possible use should be made of it. We understand that a meeting is to be held to-night in the office of Messrs. Bruce Stewart & Co. to consider the matter. The idea should receive every encouragement and the gift of a trophy from some philanthropist would help it along greatly. We trust the donation will be announced to-night.

C. P. R. WRECK

(Continued from page one) Chief witness at the inquest. "It was running very fast," said Mr. Charron. "I don't think it was going more than twenty-five miles an hour. Some of the children waved their handkerchiefs out of the windows. Then I noticed the immigrants and Colonist cars begin to wobble, and then came a crash as they left the rails. The engine and the first two coaches went ahead and stopped about one hundred yards west of the wreck, but the Colonist and immigrant coaches tumbled over on the brink of the bank and then rolled over. I rushed up the bankside of the track, but the car was then on its side in the water. The cries of the injured and the shrieks of the unfortunate children were heart-breaking."

INJURED PASSENGER'S TALE

John Boyce, an Irishman from Donegal, gave a graphic description of his experience while being taken to St. Luke's hospital. He was standing at the end of one of the coaches, making some tea, when the crash came. He had taken off his boots and was enjoying himself in anticipation of a railway journey meal, when the next thing he knew he was struggling in the water. How he got there he cannot tell, but surmises that he must have been thrown through the window. He sustained a severe gash, two inches long, under the right eye, together with being badly shaken up. The blow he received in the derailment of the train stunned him and the cold water brought him to his senses sufficiently for him to get out of the river. He is reposing quietly at St. Luke's hospital, mourning the loss of his boots and kit, while his pocket-book was one of his pockets on his person, and to-day constitutes his only friend. He was on his way to meet his cousin, John McBride, No. 22 Lally Street, Winnipeg.

ANOTHER GRAPHIC DESCRIPTION

Frank Stafford, storekeeper, of Burry's Bay, who was a passenger on the wrecked train from Ottawa, gave a graphic description of what occurred when the ill-fated train was derailed.

"I boarded the Winnipeg train at Ottawa at 1.30 at the Central station, intending to go to Renfrew. I was seated in the smoker with a number of friends, and when about four miles out of Ottawa the train gave a series of jolts, and started to cant in an alarming manner. I was flung nearly the length of the car, and the pipe which I was smoking was thrown from my mouth. I realized that the train was off the track. The car was wanted to such an extent that I was unable to make my way out of the door, so I jumped out of the window. In the car with me was a lady with four children and four gentlemen, whom I knew. I shouted to them to get out of the car, because I was afraid that I would topple over. The gentlemen managed to get out all right, but the lady and her children were so frightened that they were unable to help themselves, and I had to assist them in getting from the car.

"Two of the bodies of those who were killed were taken from underneath the car in which I was traveling, and I consider myself lucky that I escaped as I did with but a slight injury. When I got out of the car the scenes which met my eyes were heart-rending in the extreme. There was a foreign woman with her two children who were frantically searching the wrecked train to find their father, who I learned afterward was amongst those who lost their lives. Then, again, two little children and their mother, all dead, were taken from the cars which toppled into the river, and a doctor who was ministering to the wounded broke down and cried like a child."

CITY SCHOOLS CLOSED YESTERDAY

(Continued from page one)

Proficiency—1, Ray Johnson; 2, Mable Callbeck; 4, Edith McDonald; 5, Marlon Harris; 6, Jessie McPherson. Certificate for Writing—2, Marion Nicolle. Certificate for Attendance, Dorothy Waughn.

Special awards for writing and music in the three senior grades of Prince Street—Palmer Method Certificates awarded by A. N. Palmer, and Co., New York. MR. SEAMAN'S DEPT. GRADE X. Helen Bagnall, Helen Finlayson, Isabella Toombs, Belle Love, Gussie Acorn, Bernice Brown. Grade IX—Lillian Wheatley, Erma Fash.

Progress Pins for writing awarded by A. N. Palmer Co., New York—Helen Finlayson, Irene Trowsdale, Helen Bagnall, Ruth McPhail, Belle Love, Erma Fash, Grace Hartling, Bessie Forsythe, Ella Clark, Lois McEwen, Jean Longworth, Mildred Huestis, Isabella Toombs, Margaret Hegan, Mabel Scantlebury, Helen Yeo, Bernice Blatch, Jean Martin, Beatrice Large, Helen Large. Prizes for Music awarded by Prof. Thompson—Joan Longworth, Ruth McPhail.

Miss Scott's Dept. Grade VII—Palmer Method Certificates for Writing—Dorothy Duchemin, Mabel Worth, Rubie Harper, Muriel Toombs, Helen McLean, Jean Fullerton, Hatie Riggs. Prize for Music awarded by Prof. Thompson—Dorothy Duchemin.

Miss Boyer's Dept. Grade VII—Palmer Method Certificates—Berenice Carter, Mary Puncher.

QUEEN SQUARE.

Miss Wynne's Dept., Grade VI—Diplomas—James Zegaih, Roland Howatt, Ernest Cameron, Arthur Byrne, Anthony Francis, Victor Chaisson, Joseph Knight, Frederick Larkin, John Ready.

Certificates for Attendance and Punctuality—Frank Power 1 year, Patrick Ready 1 year, Arthur Byrne 1 year, Roland Howatt 2 years, Dominic Trainor 2 years, Ernest Cameron 2 years, Frank Larkin, 3 years, Albert Blanchard 5 years, Anthony Francis 6 years.

Miss Fennessey's Dept., Grade V. Diplomas—George Coyle, Francis Cronin, Arthur Chaisson, Wm. Zogaih, John McQuaid, James Galant, Leonard McIsaac, Wilfrid Hughes, Alfred Monaghan, Stephen Duffy, Wm. McCarey, Leigh McKenna, Louis Dougan.

Certificates for Attendance and Punctuality—Fred Trainor 1 year, Wendall Mullins 2 years, Wm. Zegaih 2 years, Leo Savidant 3 years. Trustees Certificates for Penmanship. Stephen Duffy, Third Place.

Miss McDonald's Dept., Grade IV—Diplomas—Vernon Maddigan, Theodore Monaghan, Roland Henry, Vincent Doucette, Daniel McDonald, Aylne Buote, Philip McQuaid, Frank Whitty.

Certificates for Attendance and Punctuality—Daniel McDonald 1 year, Roland Henry 3 years. Trustees' Certificate for Penmanship—Philip McQuaid, Second.

Miss Murnaghan's Dept. Grade III—Diplomas—R. J. O'Neill, F. L. McMahon, J. L. McMillan, W. C. Davey, A. E. Duffy, J. L. Chaisson. Certificates for Attendance and Punctuality—Clarence Doiron 1 year, R. J. O'Neill 1 year, J. McIsaac 2 years. Trustees' Certificate for Penmanship—Aloysius Trainor Third.

Miss Leonard's Dept. Grade II—Diplomas—F. Payne, B. Millman, G. Maddigan, P. Rooney, J. Longaphie, E. Arsenault, H. McDonald, P. Shama, E. McAleer.

Certificates for Attendance and Punctuality—F. Payne, 1 year, Trustees Certificate for Penmanship E. Arsenault Third.

Miss Towan's Dept. Grade I—Diplomas—John Johnson, T. McFarlane, J. Murphy, J. Dillon, F. Trainor, W. Trainor.

Certificates for Attendance and Punctuality—Arthur Butler 1 year. Trustees' Certificate for Penmanship John Dillon First.

Miss McCourt's Dept. Grade I—Diplomas—Amos Gallant, James Mullins, F. Bradley, M. Derbas, F. Power, D. McGee, St. C. Monaghan. Trustees' Certificate for Penmanship—Amos Gallant.

Special awards for writing in the three senior grades of Queen Square. Mr. Landrigan's Dept. Grade X—Palmer Method Certificates for Penmanship—A. Walsh, Jas. Collings, Chas. Monaghan, Eugene Doucette.

Grade VIII and IX—Palmer Method Buttons—L. Blanchard, E. Praught, F. Callaghan. Palmer Method Certificates for Penmanship—W. Dillon, Frank Vessey, E.—Doucette.

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