GOOD MEN FROM BAD BOYS IS CONVENTION'S CHIEF PROBLEM

Board of Charities Discuss Problems of Correction and Their Solution.

What the state of Oregon has been doing and intends to do in the matter of the training of children and along charitable work among the poor boys and girls, was being told today at the third annual meeting of the Oregon State Conference of Charities and Correction. The members of the conference are much interested in the enactment of the juvenile court law in this state and the chief speaker was Judge Ben. B. Lindsey of Denver, who delivered the opening address last night. This morning was devoted mainly to the business session and the reports of standing committees. The work among children, especially that in the reformatory, Boys' and Girls' Aid society and the school for defective youth received attention. A class from the state school for the deaf interested the convention this afternoon with a practical demonstration of the work at that institution.

Dr. Samuel Smith of St. Paul and Miss Julia Lathrop of Chicago, noted in charitable work, are to speak this evening, but owing to delayed trains neither have yet arrived. The meetings are being held at the Unitarian church, Seventh and Yamhill streets, and are open to the public.

Owing to the absence of President Eliot, who is in Alaska, and Vice-President Wise, who is in the east, Thomas Strong presided at the opening session. He introduced the speaker of the evening, Judge Ben B. Lindsey of Denver. Judge Lindsey is judge of the juvenile court and his work among boys has been marked with success. His address was on the subject of "Juvenile Courts and Work Among Delinquent Boys." He said:

'The child problem' is one we cannot overlook," said Judge Lindsey by way of opening. "There is much to be accomplished and our jails are full, but I would not be pessimistic. I am one who believes that the world is growing better all the time. But we cannot be oblivious to the problem that confronts us: our duty to each other. And there is nothing so hopeful as a boy. His mind is plastic and it may be moulded either for good or evil. The object of the juvenile court of which I will speak is to take the child in time. President Roosevelt has the right idea: 'The problem of the children is the problem of the state.'

"In Portland during the last two or three years if I am not mistaken, between 350 and 400 minors were placed in the jails, and last year 1,000 minors were corrected by the police. You cannot place a child in a jail or around criminals without tainting him. Take any police register and you will find that between 20 per cent and 33 1-3 per cent of all the arrests are of boys—and American boys at that.

"When the number of arrests among juvenile offenders is taken into consideration the startling fact reveals itself that out of every five or six boys one has been in jail."

ALFRED SEARS, CIRCUIT JUDGE.
Who Spoke on "The Indeterminate Sentence and the Parole Law."

Were Punished Already.

Acts that in the eyes of the law are criminal, when committed by children, in many instances, according to Judge Lindsey, should not be treated as such. As an example he told a story of three little boys who were brought before him on a charge of burglary—breaking into freight in a box car. "How did it happen?" asked the court of one of the boys.

"'Well, y' see judge,' replied the little fellow with a whimper. 'Me and d' kids went down to d' depot to gets some watermelons. Dere wasn't none dere and we seen a box in d' car with pi'tures o' figs all over it, why we busted it open and we drank one of d' bottles. Ugh! it was fig syrup, and I've been punished enough.'

"The average case is as ridiculous as that," declared the speaker.

"In the eyes of the law when he commits a wrong he is just as guilty and should be punished just as readily as the burglar who enters your house in the middle of the night with a pistol in his pocket. Is such a condition fair? Are we not placing the almighty dollar above the boy?"

Jail Life a Great Evil.

Throughout his discourse Judge Lindsey dwelt on the evil of jail life to the boy, and he told of noted prisons where criminals of all kinds are locked. "At the Bridewell," he said, "where over 10,000 prisoners go every year, over half are young men. John Sloan, the warden, and John L. Whitman, that great Chicago jailer, whom I consider the best living, both declared to me that the jail for boys is simply a toboggan slide straight to hell.

"The old Mosaic law of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, is followed out too much in modern criminal courts. The punishment is too much in the nature of revenge, when it should be for the protection of society. The reform school, or the industrial school, as we call it in Colorado, is a place to keep the boy away from if possible.

Punish the Parent.

"Without the aid of the parent the work of the state is very difficult but with the juvenile court law, offending parents may be punished and I have sent more than one erring father or mother to jail to think over his duty to his child. The best place for a boy is home, if it is anything like a home. Too many homes are not. A number of boys were once requested to write an essay on home, and half of them wrote something like this:

"'A place to sleep and get something to eat.'"

THOMAS N. STRONG.
Who Spoke on "Prison Contract Labor."

Judge Lindsey told of "Little Moochie," whose father did not care whether he went to school. "The father was brought before me," said the judge, "and when I asked him why the son did not attend school he replied, 'No, my boy he no go to school. He meka 50 cent a day.' After the father got out of jail he always became very busy looking up his son if he happened to be away from home unaccounted for.

"Before the juvenile court system was adopted in Denver, 55 per cent of the boys arrested were sent to the reform school. Now it has dropped to 4 per cent.

Politics a Deterrent.

"Freedom from politics," the speaker said, "is one of the reforms accomplished in the conduct of the juvenile court and the industrial school. Any state," he declared, "that puts a man at the head of an industrial school, because he is a political peg, is criminal." A round of applause greeted the remark.

"Do you know what that boy costs the state of Colorado?" asked the speaker. "Do you know what a similar boy costs the state of Oregon? I can tell you in the first case to one cent. I went to the police records and the records of the criminal court, and I figured up in court costs, jury fees, jailor's fees, mileage, attorneys for the defense for poor person, keep in jail, and at the industrial school, the total sum of $1,036.76. I figured up a similar case, which I believe amounted to $839. Do you know what it has cost the people of the state of Colorado to not only make a good boy of the $800 specimen, but to place him in the navy of the United States as a promising youth and a useful citizen? It has cost just $11.99."

Easy Conviction.

"An observing youngster who had been in jail a number of times and who at last wound up with the penitentiary staring him in the face. 'How long did it take them to settle your case the first time?' asked the judge.

"'De old guy sittin' behind d' fence asked wat's he charged with? De cop says, "burglary, an' he's a bad un." "Tirty days," says de judge. It took three minutes. Jes' like a prize fight, An' I went down in d' first round.'"

Judge Lindsey concluded his address by contrasting brutality and firmness, and sickly sentimentality with firmness. Both brutality and sentimentality were to be avoided he said.

When he had concluded Superintendent Gardner of the Boys' and Girls' Aid society spoke for a few minutes.

Mayor Williams was an interested listener and after the meeting assured the speaker that he was much interested in the juvenile court and inquired regarding the law.

Sobriety and Stagnation.

Dr. Woods Hutchinson, secretary of the state board of health, in his address on "The Relation of Alcoholism to the Charity Problem," declared that the question should be viewed from both sides. "We must fight the evils resulting from intemperance," he said, "but if we are not entirely successful there is no need to feel discouraged. Addiction to alcoholism is a sign of imperfect development and serves to point out the unfitted. It is also a mark of unstability in nations. The greatest nations today—the most progressive, England, America and Germany—are the least temperate. Just as soon as a nation gets past the drunken period and becomes balanced, it grows stagnant. But I do not wish to be understood as encouraging intemperance. I merely make this point to show that there are two sides to the question."

Dr. Thomas P. Clarke of the state school for the deaf, brought the following class with him from Salem to give a practical demonstration this afternoon of the methods of teaching children who cannot hear: Bird Craven of Oretown, Burga Zumkeller of Turner, Edith Patterson of Portland, Ada Yoran of Eugene, William and Sam Toll of Eugene. The eldest is 17 and the youngest 5 years. Work done by the pupils and prepared for the St. Louis fair is on exhibition.

Judge Alfred Sears, of the state circuit court, spoke of the indeterminate sentence and the parole law. In part he said:

"You must take my word that every statement is correct, at least approximately so; I have no time to cite authorities.

"My subject is, 'The Indeterminate Sentence and the Parole Law,' one of vital importance, closely affecting the well-being of the commonwealth. Why do I say so?

"Let me stop here and utter a word of caution: What we chiefly have to contend with is ignorance or indifference upon the part of intelligent persons.

"Within a few months I read an article in a newspaper of great influence, in which 'criminologists,' 'criminal sociologists,' were confounded with 'sickly sentimentalists.' Now the two chief opponents of the indeterminate sentence are, on the one hand the criminal class and its allies, on the other the sentimentalist; and the latter, on account of the purity of his motives, is the more formidable. He comes out, into the open, and decries our proposal as wicked and unconstitutional; the latter because a 'cruel and unusual punishment.' Unusual it certainly is, but not cruel when the convict has it in his own hands to determine its severity.

Old Methods Fail.

"But now let us back to our subject, my argument as to which is for the most part deductive, for lack of experience, though at the present day we have some examples of its successful workings in the United States. At the threshold I must assume the utter failure of our present methods of handling the criminal problem. Steadily under this old system has crime, in proportion, been increasing; statistics from all European countries and the United States demonstrate this. The only possible exception being in the juvenile class in some districts, where the modern treatment of youth has about kept the youthful criminal class at a standstill.

This deplorable condition is conceded by the great students of criminology, Ferri, Lombroso, Morrison, MacDonald and Charles Dudley Warner, from whom I have made heavy draughts today. Why this is so could readily be shown did not time forbid; but that the old treatment is unscientific, illogical and a means of propagation rather than retardation, is obvious.

"This must be so or the results would be otherwise.

Law Not a Restraint.

As a corollary, while not generally appreciated except by specialists, statutes denouncing punishments are not, except in a limited degree, deterrent in their influence. I know that it is possible to point out here and there exceptions to this rule, but they are exceptions, and such statutes generally have the effect, like the felony gambling law of Washington, of driving the criminal to fresh fields and pastures green, a thing of doubtful ethics.

WILLIAM STANDLEY.
Who Urges "Manual Training as a Factor in Reformatory Work Among Boys."

"When we consider the absurd smallness of the criminal class, say about 100,000, in a population of 80,000,000, in the United States, it seems irrational to admit that it is beyond our control, yet as conditions at present are, it would be to the advantage of our people, when we consider the annoyance, suffering, anxiety, trouble and expense, to turn the lock for life upon the whole criminal body, rather than to allow it to practice its vocation at its own will, subject to an occasional interruption in individual cases, where the subject is comfortably housed and fed at the expense of the state.

"Assuming the utter insufficiency of this system to overthrow or even to control crime, we call for a change not in superficial matters, but one which shall be radical; that when one is convicted of a felony—excepting murder, treason and crimes where society to protect itself must take life or confine for life, or where the criminal has forfeited even a fighting chance for leniency by the enormity of his act—the convict shall be committed until he ceases to be a criminal, if that time shall ever arrive.

"I concede that this would require something different from those abodes where a politician alone controls his subjects. Experts trained to the business would alone equal the occasion, and experts equal to the occasion would arise, as they always have when science demands their services in any of its vast domains. In other words, the prisons would be reformatories in the best sense of that word, such as our constitution, article I, section 15, now fallen into desuetude, intended, like the Elmira prison, whose excellence is increasing a hundred fold with the indeterminate sentence, modified as it is in form.

"Here the convict, under the eye of the expert, would be trained, mentally and morally, in the school, manually, by work adapted to his condition, disciplined, as in an army, by a system of strict training, and at night isolated from his fellows, whose influence might be deleterious.

"When, in the opinion of the experts, the board of management, he is fit to be trusted, provisionally at least, a term varying with varying idiosyncrasies, he would be paroled, given a chance to try life anew, at first under a close espionage. 'But,' it is objected, 'the convict would delude the officers, and by hypocrisy, by simulating virtue, obtain the means of renewing his criminal career.'

Make Each Crime Harder.

"Yes, this might occur, but it must be remembered that where the present officer is deceived often the expert would be an expert in innumerable cases. And if deceived, the prisoner would be returned with a black mark attached to him, which would make it extremely difficult to repeat his previous dissimulation, and if he violated his parole again, then he would be, should be, placed upon a list of irreconcilables. Then for him would the words appear over the gate of his reentrance: 'Abandon hope, all ye who enter here.'

"An unusual punishment, indeed, but cruel! Scarcely so, when it is recalled that every man holds in his own hand the key to unlock these dread portals. Good conduct within; good conduct without; a clean record from the appropriate authority! Has not each convict himself the open sesame to an honest life.

"Can you answer the logic of my position? Is it not worth trying as against a practice which is an admitted failure? How has it worked in practice? Perhaps it is too soon to say except that I am advised that those states which have tried it refuse to go back to the old way.

Reform and Parole.

"Are we yet ready for it? It would not succeed as a concomitant of the ordinary penitentiary. Nor will the ticket of leave or parole system. But with the true reformatory and the parole, indeed with a complete recognition of the failure of our present methods of treating criminals—and I admit the existence of some improvement even here—the indeterminate sentence will come, as it has in a modified form in Iowa, Ohio, New York, and, indeed, in Massachusetts, Louisiana and elsewhere. When it has fairly been tried it will never be abandoned.

"Why should not the criminal man be regarded as an abnormal man, as much so as the insane or the sick, for whom we build asylums and hospitals?

"Don't misunderstand me! I advocate no remission in the severity of punition; in fact, for the irredeemable an enhancement thereof, for I would put him away from his fellows forever; but I bespeak logic in lieu of scholasticism; science in lieu of guess; ratiocination in lieu of that misapplication of a species of theological lore, invoked in the comic opera where 'the punishment fits the crime.'

"Let us away with medieval methods. Let us herald the coming of that dawn which shall usher in a plan where society will put away forever from any chance of ill-doing, him who will not accept the God-given opportunities of manhood; but for him who will, let us not close every door to opportunity, to amendment.

"Oh, yet we trust that somehow good
Will be the final goal of ill.
* * * * *
"That nothing walks with aimless feet,
That not one life shall be destroyed,
Or cast as rubbish to the void,
When God hath made the pile complete."

Needed Changes.

Dr. Allen Gilbert, chairman of the committee that investigated the state hospital for the insane, reported the following recommendations:

The appointment of a non-partisan board of health; the construction of cottages in addition to the asylum to better separate the various degrees of insanity, and a law to allow the transportation of insane prisoners to the asylum under the care of hospital attendants. Other things needed, he said, are: Separate towels for the patients, the tinting of the rooms in soft colors, regular religious services, a pathologist to record condition of patients, night watchman at the farm, and more occupation for the inmates.

William Stadley read a paper on "Manual Training as a Factor in Reformatory Work Among Boys," as follows:

The subject that was kindly allotted to me for this afternoon is manual training as a reformative agent for boys.

A certain young fly having discovered the use of its wings took a trip into the world about it and readily became imbued with a sense of its own importance. While in the investigating mood he alighted upon the fly wheel of a great steam engine. He had no sooner settled upon it when the wheel commenced to revolve. Moving to more restful quarters, the fly mused thus: "What a great and mighty fly I must be to set such a large affair as that a-going."

I have a detailed plan laid out for a group of boys, a very good plan. It loomed up splendidly on paper, but when applied to my boys it is as successful as attempting to roast snowballs.

Let us consider the child of kinder-

(Continued on Page Three.)

"Don't say you never had a chance to get something for nothing."

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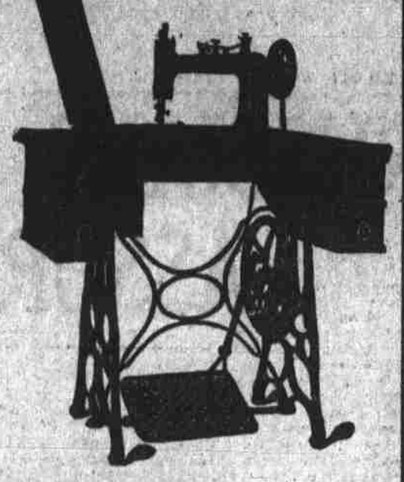

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Suits, Dresses, Jackets, Raincoats; they are all here in infinite variety—every style keyed to the latest pitch—every price pruned of superfluous cost. We have Ladies' and Misses' Spring Suits in Voile, Etamine, Zibeline, Serge, Venetian and Fancy Mixtures. Prices for this week, $12.45, $13.65, $14.85, $17.40, $18.50, $19.85, $21.50, $22.50, and up to $45.00 and $50.00.

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Chambray Ginghams, worth 12½c, all week ..... 9¢
Chambray Ginghams, worth 15c, all week ..... 10¢
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