

WAIFS NEED RECOGNITION

Illegitimates Fare Sadly Under Present Laws, Govt. Report Says

What rights do the laws of this country give to the child born out of wedlock? What responsibility has the State toward him? What method exists of placing a part of the burden of support and education upon the father? Can the child in herit property either his father or his mother? Has he a right to his father's name? Does the subsequent marriage of his parents make him legitimate in the eyes of the law?

These and many other questions about the legal obligations of parents and of the State of children born out of wedlock are answered in a bulletin entitled "Illegitimate Laws in the United States and Certain Foreign Countries," issued by the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor.

State Laws Broader
The English common law, in some respects still unaltered in England and in parts of the United States, regards the child born out of wedlock as the "child of no one." He bears no legal relationship even to his mother, and the subsequent marriage of his parents cannot legitimate him.

Many of our States have altered the common law by statutes more favorable to the child. One of the most radical departures is found in the North Dakota law of 1917, which declares every child the legitimate child of his natural parents, but which weakens this broad provision by the failure to provide adequate administrative machinery. Minnesota in 1917 passed a law which aims to secure for children born out of wedlock "the nearest approximation to the care, support, and education that they would be entitled to receive if born of law-

ful marriage." The State board of control is made the child's official guardian; this board may bring complaint in illegitimacy proceedings and must see that the child's interests are safeguarded.

Payments Too Low
Provisions were adopted in Virginia as early as 1785, whereby the issue of certain annulled marriages could be made legitimate, and whereby subsequent marriage could legitimate issue, and the child could inherit from the mother. These provisions are not even yet universal in this country. Four States have no provision for children of annulled or void marriages to be considered legitimate.

Attention is called in this report to the fact that legal provisions for the support of the child born out of wedlock are inadequate—the payments prescribed are often too low, and in most of the States, the period of support is too brief, sometimes reaching only to the child's 10th or 12th year. In one State only a single payment of \$50 is required; in another \$90 distributed over three years is required. The most liberal States have allowances that total, in one case, \$2,750 for the first 18 years of the child's life; and in the other, 1,750 for the first eleven years of the child's life.

Foreign Codes Reviewed
The report suggests that illegitimacy legislation in the United States might be improved by uniform provision for the establishment of legitimacy; the legitimation of children of null or subsequent marriages; possibility of adoption by the father; and declaration that the relation of mother and child is the same whether the child is legitimate or not.

In addition to a critical analysis of illegitimacy legislation in this country the report contains an analysis of certain phases of the various State laws in tabular form, the complete text of the State laws, the illegitimacy provisions of the Codes of France, Germany and Switzerland, and a reference index to the U. S. illegitimacy laws.

Dance for New Woman's Building At U. O. Nets \$56

The dance given by the U. of O. students here during the holiday, netted the Woman's Building Fund at the University \$56. The total receipts were \$148.

There was some trouble the night of the dance, the orchestra which was brought from Eugene being engaged by two different parties and not knowing which was in authority, refused to play until after 10 o'clock. It is said that the local officers of the American Legion will dispense with their services in the future. Some of the members are said to be students of the university, for whose benefit the dance was given.

The dance was managed largely by Miss Irene Barrett, who made a great success of the affair. She was assisted by Robert Boetticher and Maurice Hayes, two Oregon students. Miss Barrett and the university students desire especially to thank the following for their assistance: Mrs. H. B. Cusick and Mr. and Mrs. R. U. Steelquist, who played and sang, Dr. G. E.



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Riggs and Harry Kuck, for their assistance, and Miss Sally Cusick and Miss Florence Fortmiller, who served punch.

New Musician Is At Globe Theatre

Fred Durnam, recently with the Globe Theatre Company at Roseburg,

arrived in the city yesterday and took charge of the big pipe organ and music of the Globe Theatre. Mr. Durnam is an accomplished musician and can handle the organ in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. He also plays the piano with much skill and will do credit to the playhouse which he represents. The Globe installed a fine Wurlitzer organ last year, but has never really had a player who could do it

justice. The appearance of Mr. Durnam will be welcomed by local movie patrons.

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CLARENCE G. BOGGIE. d27-j9*

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