

Why Children Go Wrong

WM. SCHOELER

A boy of twelve years of age robbed the till of a certain store. He was very pert in the presence of the judge. The jury answers he gave filled the man on the bench with disgust.

"I never saw a child more spoiled than this one!" he addressed the weeping parents. "It's a shame—it's a shame!"

"But your honor," put in the mother, "we did all in our power to render him of sweet disposition. Neither I nor his father have displeased him at any time."

"That is the explanation!" said the judge.

And he was right.

The boy's will had never been broken, and it ought to have been broken as soon as possible. No child's will dare always have its own way. It is the law of life, and it is the most solemn fact in personal history, that the will must be broken in the sense of being subdued, chastened, made to feel that there are other wills in creation, and that peace can only come by mutual understanding and concession.

There are many cruel parents in the world. They think they are kind, but their kindness is the worst form of cruelty. There is a sense in which it is perfectly true that he who spares the rod, spoils the child.

Let us turn to physical matters for a moment. Here is a man whose hand is out of action. The doctor declares that the hand might have been as good as the other, if the infirmity or accident had been attended to when the man was still a child. That we call reason.

Here is another man who does not see straightly; one eye is somewhat askance. The optician affirms that if the proper glasses had been worn in time that eye could have been made perfectly right. When the oculist says that everybody regards him as a wise man.

So many things ought to have been done when we were young. Yet we ourselves will not do them to our own children—to the boys and girls who depend on us for discipline, education, and general training.

When the preacher says that the warped and selfish will might have been made better if the child had been taken in hand in time, he is scorned as a sentimentalist. The surgeon was right about the hand, the optician most learned about the eye; but the preacher must be a fool. When he says the same thing about the will he is smiled upon as a man who has certain nostrums by which he thinks the ills of the world can be cured. It is in vain that he points to history. It is useless that he says, "You are killing your children." He is listened to with haughty, self-sufficient mein, and regarded as a kind of decent and well-meaning gentleman who ought to be borne with.

Such are the paradoxes of life!

In the meantime it remains true that whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

EMPLOYERS LIABILITY ACT COVERS FARMERS

Many Rural Employers Have Taken Advantage of Workmen's Compensation Act.

The following article is taken from the Extension Service News, published by the Extension Service of the Oregon Agricultural College and will be of interest to employers of farm labor.

"The farmers of the state may not generally know that under a decision of the Oregon supreme court made in April 1917, they are subject to the operation of the Employers' Liability Act with practically the same effect as any of the most hazardous occupations. It was decided in that case that an injured farm hand had a right of action for damages against his employer even though there was a contributory negligence on his own part.

"The knowledge of this condition has caused many farmers throughout the state to embrace the protection afforded by the Oregon Compensation Law as administered by the State Industrial Accident Commission, which is a state institution not operated for profit, but for the benefit of Oregon citizens, and which furnishes a guarantee to the employer against lawsuits.

"WORKERS CONTRIBUTE
"An employer who is operating under the Industrial Accident Commission pays a certain percentage of his payroll into the state fund, his workers each contributing one cent a day to the same fund. When an accident happens and a workman is injured he is entitled to medical attention and care, also compensation for loss of time, and in such cases of accident as result in death, the widow and children or other dependents receive substantial relief, the widow for all her life unless she remarries, and the children to the age of 16 years.

"All this is paid from the contrived fund, the beneficiary requiring no lawyers or other costly agencies to obtain it and the employer being relieved of legal liability.

"All this is done at the lowest possible expense because the Industrial Accident Commission is a state institution, existing and operating not for profit, but for service to the whole people.

"Farmers who are interested in the matter can obtain all the particulars and instructions by applying to the Commission at Salem."

The Bonus Commission for World War Veterans has extended the time limit for cash bonus applications to June 21.

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