

SANTIAM NEWS SUPPLEMENT.

SCIO, OREGON, JULY 31, 1908.

CAUSE OF JUVENILE CRIME

Denver's Famous "Kid" Judge Finds Poverty the Chief Cause.

A letter came to me the other day from a superintendent of schools in New England, asking the following questions:

"In your opinion, to what extent is the public school system responsible for juvenile crimes?"

"To what extent are those crimes due to a lack of cooperation between the home and the school?"

"To what extent is the increase of juvenile crime due to the secularization of schools?"

"How far does immigration contribute to this unfortunate condition?"

His questions and my answers may be suggestive to others.

I cannot say that the public school system is in any particular responsible for juvenile crime. The public school system represents education, and education has done more to reduce crime than almost any other cause. Of course I recognize that there are some shortcomings in the public school system. For instance, in my judgment, if we had more of that kind of training which would equip children for industrial efficiency through the more direct teaching of trades or the furnishing of some kind of a commercial training, it would make of the children surer breadwinners, and everything that increases the opportunities to earn a livelihood, to that extent reduces the temptations to crime. I am convinced that poverty is the chief cause of crime in this country—that is the crime that is generally punished by the courts, for the people who go into the courts are usually the poor and ignorant. It is only occasionally that the crimes of the intelligent, cunning, and wealthy are punished.

To hold the public school responsible for what it fails to do and might do to equip morally the future citizen, would shoulder upon it the responsibility for any crime resulting from that failure. We can only urge upon the school the great importance of neglecting no opportunity to make as perfect a citizen as it is possible for it to make, within the reasonable scope of its purposes and functions.

As to the second question: I would say always that the home is infinitely more responsible for the juvenile crime than the school. It must come first in responsibility. An ideal condition in my judgment, would make the home almost entirely responsible for the moral character of the child; but since we are face to face with the fact that so many children are homeless, without parents at all, or what is equally as bad, without parents who understand their responsibility and endeavor to live up to them, it follows that the school must be responsible more or less for the character of the child. But where the parent has utterly failed it is frequently difficult for any school to make up the deficiency.

I think that any failure of the home or the parent in this respect is a lack of cooperation with the school. As to the more direct cooperation, such as the interest of the parent in the school and

the work of the child while in school there is undoubtedly much child crime due to the lack of it. Habitual truancy is one of the chief causes of crime in childhood, and this condition is frequently due to a lack of effort on the part of the home and cooperation with the school. In fact failure at home to stimulate the child in its school duties and in respect for the school and the authority in the school, is responsible often for children who are backward in school, and I find that most school children who drift into crime are backward, which might of course have been avoided had the home done its part throughout the school period of the child.

I find the home always more to blame than the school. There is a disposition upon the part of thousands of parents in every city to shirk duties because of the idea they seem to have that it should be all performed by the school. Such parents are certainly dangerous citizens.

As to the third question, it is not free from difficulty. I think that the education of a child in a school, though secularized must nevertheless involve a certain amount of moral training, for I feel certain that the great majority of American public school children are honest, law-abiding and developing in heart as well as in head. Much of this, of course, may come from the home, the Sunday school, and the church, as it ought to, but I believe also that it is in a large measure supplemented in the school, whether secularized or not. I have never taken any statistics on the subject, but have frequently sought to observe, with a view of forming some opinion, and I believe just as large a proportion of boys from parochial schools get into the kind of juvenile troubles which we call crime as those from the public schools.

I am strongly inclined, however, to believe that more religious training, more real education of the human heart is needed in all of our schools. I have come to the conclusion that there is something radically wrong in our application or teaching of ethics in the schools, parochial or public.

Answering the fourth question: I am not of those who lay much stress upon immigration as a cause of crime in this country, whether adult or juvenile. My own investigations of police records (and I have investigated those of nearly all the large cities) have rather startled me by the showing how few of our juvenile criminals are of foreign parentage. Perhaps more children of immigrants get into court, but my judgment is that this is largely because of poverty and ignorance.

I am coming more and more to the conclusion that the causes of crime must be searched for among those evils that afflict our social, economic, industrial and political conditions. The prayer most repeated is that one containing the supplication, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;" but many of the conditions in this civilization of ours gainsay the prayer.

Greatest Criminal of the Age.

Whatever the conclusions of courts and lawyers in the Standard Oil case, there are certain indisputable facts

which are well known to the American people. These facts carry home the conviction to every unprejudiced mind that this corporation is the greatest criminal of the age. Its crimes have been flaunted to the world. Its long continued defiance of the law, its inhuman indifference to the rights of competitors, its dishonesty, its cruelty and its manifold violations of every principle of commercial integrity are familiar as household words. Standard Oil is the greatest living exemplar of the old legal adage that "a corporation has no soul."

In the minds of the people at large there is no shadow of doubt that in the case tried before Judge Landis this corporation was morally if not legally guilty. For three years the corporation enjoyed a secret rate of six cents per 100 from Whiting, Indiana to St. Louis, while independent operators were forced to pay the published rate of 18. During the period, the corporation piled up profits of \$2,000,000. The rates were utter and wanton violation of the country's laws, and the officials knew it. The pretense that they did not know it is shallow humbug.

Proceeding on the theory that the laws are for the poor and not for the rich, they ignored statutes, courts and all the ethics of ordinary citizenship. The corporation ran riot in a carnival of organized plunder, but held up its hands in holy horror if workmen asked for equal rights before the law. It founded and endowed universities and hospitals, but by use of its enormous power and secret fiscal system, drove into bankruptcy and early graves men who dared to cross its path. It endowed churches with one hand, and with the other reached into the pocket of every oil consumer in the world. It prated publicly of heavenly things, but violated the law of humanity, the laws of the commonwealth and the laws of the Almighty.

The trail it has traveled in its business operations is strewn with the wreckage of men's careers, their homes and their business enterprises, all because these men sought to earn an honest living in the oil business. Its example, by use of secret rebates and other unlawful devices, has been ruinous to the citizenship of the country who saw in it positive proof that the easiest way to swollen wealth is by unfair and unlawful methods. Its act, by a policy of stratagem and secret conspiracy, in wringing countless millions from those who were instruments and laborers in the production of what we call, is treason to morality, treason to humanity and treason to the world.

In the opinion of a federal court of appeals, the fine imposed by Judge Landis was excessive, and the guilt of the defendant corporation was not established in accordance with the rules of evidence. We do not undertake to review the reasoning by which this conclusion was reached, nor to pass upon the technical accuracy of the appellate court's interpretation of the law, but we do say unhesitatingly that a fine of \$100,000,000 would not be an excessive punishment for the known crimes which lie at the door of Standard Oil. It is a national clamor that this huge corporation, this hardened and inveter-

ate criminal, should escape unwhipped of justice. In the outcome, the prosecution of the Standard Oil has resulted in the grossst miscarriage of justice that this generation has witnessed.—Oregon Sunday Journal.

EXHIBITING FARM PRODUCTS.

The county agricultural fair is one of the greatest neighborhood educators that can be organized in the interest of improved farming and stock growing. The gathering together of the products of the farm to compare with those of one's neighbor is the incentive for improvement, both in variety and breed of product, and in growth, cultivation and care. It is by this method of comparison that we are enabled to estimate the possibilities of our work.

The educational advantages of the fair have practically no limit; it extends to every department, even the social features are educational and of immense value to the young people. There is an acknowledged advantage, with the business men and the politicians, in acquiring a wide acquaintance over the county and state. There is also an advantage with the young people in forming acquaintances outside of their own immediate neighborhoods.

The county fair should be managed in such a way as to afford the greatest possible advantages for bringing the people together in the common interests of the farm and home. Suitable halls should be provided in the fair grounds for holding meetings in the interest of dairying, fruit growing, grain raising, poultry raising, and for the free discussion of any and all topics of interest to the farm and home. These halls should be light, airy, well ventilated rest rooms, with easy and comfortable seats for the tired to rest and with a degree of ease and comfort listen to the addresses and discussions on the various subjects that may come up.

The institute idea may thus be introduced and cultivated to the advantage of the fair visitor and the trifling side show and silly amusement features that have persistently forced their way into the fair grounds as a legitimate form of amusement for these great, mixed audiences, be educated out of existence. Public sentiment is for reform and the fairs of the country of all classes, both great and small, will be forced to look more carefully after the character of entertainment they license to come on the fair grounds.—Pacific Homestead.

BERRIES, GALORE!

After July 4th.

2,000 gallons of Loganberries per gal., 20c
200 gallons of Raspberries per gal., 20c
200 gallons of Cherries, Royal Anne and pie per gal., 15c
Everybody invited to come out to Santiam Farm and get fruit.

S. W. GAINES.

Hickory Bark Cough Remedy, made by the Hickory Bark Remedy Co., of Salem, Ore., guaranteed to be pure; guaranteed to cure your cold or money refunded. Guaranteed to make a friend of you. For sale by E. C. Peery, Scio, Ore., and first-class dealers everywhere.