

King Co.,
Wash.

SEATTLE JUVENILE COURT

[A Department of the Superior Court for King County]

Annual Report for 1911

by

The JUDGE of THE COURT
The DIRECTOR of RESEARCH
The PROBATION OFFICER

500 Ninth Ave.
Seattle, Washington

A Statement by *The Judge*

The Juvenile Court at Seattle, Washington, came into existence under an act of the legislature passed in 1905, going into effect June 8th of that year. We have had several thousand children before us since that time, but owing to lack of official assistants, we have not heretofore undertaken the preparation of a report for publication. We are somewhat in doubt as to whether or not any beneficial purpose will be conserved by the publication of this report, but are giving it out, as it seems to be the practice of the leading courts of the country, which would indicate some useful purpose.

The court is now located with the Detention Home in a commodious building at the corner of Jefferson Street and Ninth Avenue. A suite of four rooms are devoted to court offices, and the remaining portion of the house, comprising fourteen rooms, provides ample quarters for the Detention Home. All juvenile court activities now center in this children's building, and it is open as headquarters to all auxiliary enterprises for child welfare which desire to make use of it. Court sessions are held here Tuesdays and Fridays, at 10 o'clock.

In undertaking to check delinquency among children, the State assumes a tremendously important and difficult task. One wayward child frequently baffles the father and mother, who for years have made a faithful attempt to control him. Ultimately the child reaches the juvenile court, where he is one among a thousand equally difficult children with whom we have to deal during the year. When a child reaches the court it is obvious that society has failed at some point. Occasionally we have those whom the home, the school and the church have

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all attempted to guide, and the three agencies have been uniformly unsuccessful.

If the State is to accomplish a satisfactory result in the treatment of these children, it is necessary for us to know more about the child himself than we have heretofore known. During the last ten years and more since juvenile court legislation has enabled the State to give more careful attention to young offenders, many optimistic statements have been made throughout the country concerning the efficiency of probation in the correction of juvenile delinquency. Unquestionably a vast amount of good is being done through careful supervision of the child by probation officers, but the literature on the subject does not always give a comprehensive view of the results. Most efficient workers in children's courts know that the sources of delinquency are, in a large number of cases, far deeper than the social life of the child, and the child whose delinquency has passed beyond the incipient stage ordinarily does not respond to the mere desultory social oversight of the probation officer. During the last six years we have given the children's cases as thorough consideration and painstaking care as our time, assistance and equipment would permit, always keeping in mind the necessity for harmonious action of all agencies having to do with the welfare of children. Generally speaking, we are pleased with the results accomplished. We know we have to our credit boys and girls who have been saved to society, and in this connection we wish every officer that has assisted us in those years to have his full measure of praise for the work he has done.

The experience of those years has led to an increasing conviction that if the State is to work intelligently in the treatment of our boys and girls who are going wrong, we must approach the subject with greater care, and procure in each case as accurate an analysis of the contributory, social, mental and physical factors as may be possible. In view of this needed expansion of the work, on June 15th, 1911, we added to our staff Doctor Lilburn Merrill, a physician, who had been closely allied with juvenile courts and child-welfare work during the past ten

years. This made possible a department of research to provide what we had for many months contemplated as one of the most valuable and practical aids to the court in the administration of delinquency cases. Such a department has elsewhere been termed a "psychopathic clinic." We have preferred to call it the "department of research," and Doctor Merrill has been designated as director of this department. It is our purpose, so far as possible, to have every delinquent child, who may be brought into court, first placed under observation in this department. When possible or convenient, the examination is made in the presence of his parent or guardian. Here he is studied sympathetically from the viewpoint of the physician and psychologist who have specialized in the care of this class of children, and a written report of the social, physical and mental factors which may have contributed to the child's delinquency is presented to us when the case comes on for hearing. This report is available to the parents, who will thus be apprised of any existing physical or mental defects. Corrective treatment is provided so far as possible for every case.

The efficiency of this department is increased by an affiliation with the Gatzert Foundation for Child Welfare, whereby Doctor Stevenson Smith becomes psychologist to the department. He is in regular attendance at the office two days each week. Doctor C. F. Davidson, Chief Health Officer of the city, is also giving valuable cooperation in the supervision of medical and surgical treatment.

The probation department is in the charge of Mrs. Josephine E. Stuff and two assistants, Mrs. Ella J. Jordan and Mr. Harry Anderson. The record files and general office routine of the department are, we believe, now conforming to as simple and yet efficient a system as may be found elsewhere.

During the year three hundred and fifteen children were placed on probation. The supervision of these boys and girls by our probation officers is producing good results, sometimes in the presence of almost insurmountable moral and economic difficulties in the homes. It is desirable that the close observation

and care which our probationers are receiving since we entered our new building, shall be steadily increased. The court is not averse to placing children in institutions when it seems probable that they may thereby be better cared for than they would be if left in their old environment. But we insist that the home ought to shelter the child, and we require that every attempt shall be made to control the child by probation methods before we consider his commitment to an institution.

Of the one thousand one hundred and seven children who were brought to the court during the year, three hundred and sixty-eight were dealt with unofficially. We believe the interests of such children are most agreeably conserved by consultation with the parents in the Judge's chamber, or in the department of research, or by the service of probation officers in the homes. Many of these children have been kept under observation, and the results in numerous cases have been more satisfactory than they would have been if the child had been dealt with according to the strict letter of the law. This form of procedure has been encouraged as a phase of our general administrative policy to settle as many cases involving the character of the child as may be settled without recourse to formal petition and docket record.

The further effect of this policy should be noted in the fact that through the commendable cooperation of Mr. Claude C. Bannick, Chief of Police, one of his most efficient workers, Mr. Robert L. Boggess, was assigned to the care of police complaints against children. As is generally known, many such complaints are occasioned by neighborhood quarrels and petty malicious mischief. In many of these cases Mr. Boggess has conferred with the children and their parents, and settled the complaints agreeably to all concerned. Miss Mary Brown, of the police department, is also giving similar valuable cooperation with many girl cases. The advantage of having these children cared for in this manner will be obvious to any person who is familiar with the facts.

The appended statistics will, we believe, be instruc-

tive to those interested in our work, as they present, with reasonable accuracy, the character of offenses and the disposition of cases. Some more serious offenses have been classed under "incurability" for the reason that no good purpose would be conserved by their mention.

The tables showing ages and occupation of children granted permits to work are of interest. With the exception of conditions prevailing among the newsboys, child labor is well controlled. During a recent conference with the Chief of Police it was decided that beginning February 1st, the police shall be instructed to keep all newsboys under fifteen years of age, off the streets after 9 o'clock at night.

We wish to acknowledge the earnest and hearty cooperation of Mrs. Jennie Levery, Matron of the Detention Home, and her assistant, Mrs. Elizabeth Matlock. We desire, also, to express our appreciation of Mr. Claude G. Bannick, Chief of Police, and officers of his department, and particularly to Dr. Mary B. Martin, of the Y. W. C. A., and to the school attendance officers, for their sympathetic support.

In conclusion, we wish to say to the public, on behalf of the court and its officers, that what we desire and what we believe is of uppermost importance at the present moment in dealing with delinquent and neglected children, is cooperation among those who are interested in our work. People may disagree with us as to our methods of transacting business, which is only natural; but certainly we all must agree that morality is essential to the welfare and stability of our city, state and nation, and if we would succeed we must not quibble over nonessentials, but must join our efforts in a campaign of education; and by cooperating through our courts, schools, churches, clubs and kindred organizations, we may bring about such a condition that neglect and delinquency will be reduced to a minimum.

A. W. FRATER,
Judge.

SEATTLE, January 1, 1912.

Report of *The* Director of Research

SEATTLE, January 1, 1912.

HONORABLE A. W. FRATER,
Judge of the Juvenile Court,
Seattle, Washington.

Sir:

The department of research having only recently been created, there are at this time but a few statements to be made concerning general methods we have adopted for the investigation and diagnosis of delinquency. As directed by you in forecasting the purpose of the department, we shall be concerned during the coming year with two objects:

First—A survey of community conditions contributory to the development of juvenile delinquency, so that we may minimize such social factors.

Second—A preliminary consultation with every child who is brought into court, and an intensive individual study of those who are actual or potential recidivists. This we shall attempt to do, so far as we may, by a study of the child's

1. Family history
2. Developmental history
3. Physical condition
4. Mental condition

For the purpose of this research the consultation room provided for the department has been supplied with suitable instruments of precision for making neurological tests and measuring vision and audition.

Fortunately much of the material we are using is inexpensive, and the cost of the entire equipment need not exceed one hundred dollars. It is desirable that some of our friends who may foresee the value of this work, shall provide for this expense. Aside from the use of these few instruments, the study of the children is made by ordinary diagnostic methods.

The most encouraging feature which has thus far presented, is the uniform appreciation expressed by the parents of some fifty children who have passed through our hands. An anxious father or mother is not slow in appreciating that we are making a sincere attempt to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of his child who is going wrong. And, in several cases we have been gratified in obtaining satisfactory results which could not have been had but for the assistance which this department provides.

I wish to express my appreciation of the constant cooperation of my colleagues, Doctor Stevenson Smith, who is psychologist to the department, and to Doctor C. F. Davidson, who is supervising the medical and surgical treatment of special cases.

I am, sir, with respect,

Yours faithfully,

LILBURN MERRILL, M. D.,
Director of Research.

Report of *The Probation Officer*

SEATTLE, January 1, 1912.

HONORABLE A. W. FRATER,
Judge of the Juvenile Court,
Seattle, Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to present a brief statistical report of the children dealt with in the Juvenile Court during the year ending December 31, 1911.

Total number of children dealt with.....	1242
Delinquent children dealt with officially.....	456
Neglected children dealt with officially.....	283
Total children dealt with officially.....	739
Delinquent children dealt with unofficially.....	315
Neglected children dealt with unofficially.....	53
Total children dealt with unofficially.....	368
Working permits issued under child labor law..	135
Number of children on probation December 31, 1911.....	120
Average age of boys brought into court is	13 years.
Average age of girls brought into court is	15 years.

CHARGES AGAINST CHILDREN DEALT WITH OFFICIALLY

	Boys	Girls	Total
Offenses against property.....			111
Larceny	103	2	
Burglary	4		
Forgery	2		
Offenses against morals.....			256
Incorrigibility	62	68	
Truancy	59	50	
Runaways ..	15	2	
Offenses against the peace.....			89
Malicious mischief	50	12	
Violating speed ordinance.....	14		
Throwing missiles	4		
Fighting	3		
Discharging firearms	2		
Drunk on street	2		
Carrying concealed weapons...	2		
Neglected or cruelly treated by parents or guardian.....	170	113	283
	<u>492</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>739</u>

DISPOSITION OF CHILDREN DEALT WITH OFFICIALLY

	Boys	Girls	Total
Advised and discharged.....	172	48	220
Committed to individuals.....	19	25	44
Crittenden Home	1	1	
House of Good Shepherd.....	26		26
Lebanon Home	1	1	
Mount Carmel Mission.....	15		15
Parental School	73		73
Probation ..	142	78	220
Seattle Children's Home.....	13	4	17
Seattle Girls' Home and Training School		1	1
Sisters of St. Dominic.....		1	1
State Institution for Feeble Minded	1	3	4
State Reformatory	3		3
State Training School	22	10	32
Washington Children's Home Society	47	25	72
Y. W. C. A. Protection Home.....		8	8
Western Wash. Hosp. for Insane....		1	1
	<u>492</u>	<u>247</u>	<u>739</u>

**CHARGES AGAINST CHILDREN DEALT WITH
UNOFFICIALLY**

	Boys	Girls	Total
Offenses against property.....			78
Larceny	71	3	
Destruction of property.....	4		
Offenses against morals.....			125
Incorrigibility	59	19	
Truancy	9	1	
Runaways	34	3	
Offenses against the peace.....			112
Malicious mischief	89		
Violating speed ordinance.....	5		
Throwing missiles	8		
Fighting	4		
Discharging firearms	4		
Begging	2		
Neglected or cruelly treated by par- ents or guardian.....	41	12	53
	<u>330</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>368</u>

**DISPOSITION OF CHILDREN DEALT WITH
UNOFFICIALLY**

	Boys	Girls	Total
Advised and discharged.....	226	15	222
Committed to individuals	23		23
Crittenden Home		1	1
House of Good Shepherd.....		5	5
Mount Carmel Mission.....		1	1
Probation	80	15	95
Seattle Children's Home.....	1		1
Y. W. C. A. Protection Home.....	1		1
	<u>330</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>368</u>

**AGES OF CHILDREN GRANTED PERMITS
TO WORK**

Age	Boys	Girls
11 years	5	..
12 years	4	1
13 years	9	11
14 years	3	30
15 years		72
	<u>21</u>	<u>114</u>
Total.....	21	114

OCCUPATIONS OF CHILDREN GRANTED
PERMITS TO WORK

Apprentice in machine shop, boy.....	1
Candy packer, girls.....	2
Cashier girls in stores.....	2
Cash boys in stores	2
Cash girls in stores	48
Delivery boys in stores	7
Laundry work, girls	4
Millinery apprentices, girls.....	2
Pacific Coast Condensed Milk Company, boys....	11
Pacific Coast Condensed Milk Company, girls...	12
Printery, girl	1
Sales girls in stores.....	34
Seamstress	1
Telegraph messenger boys	2
Check girls in stores.....	6

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPHINE E. STUFF,
Probation Officer.