

THE
SEATTLE JUVENILE COURT
REPORT FOR THE YEAR
1917

TO ASSIST THE EFFECTUAL REARING OF
ONE CHILD WITHOUT JUVENILE COURT AID
IS BETTER SOCIAL SERVICE THAN FOSTER-
ING TWO THROUGH THIS JUDICIAL AGENCY

January 1, 1918
Seattle, Washington
200 Broadway



JUDGE KING DYKEMAN

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PERSONNEL OF STAFF

The Court

HONORABLE KING DYKEMAN, *Judge*
EARL F. CONNER, *Clerk*

Investigation and Probation Department

DR. LILBURN MERRILL, *Diagnostician*
HERMAN KALVOG, *Probation Officer*
ESTELLA M. ANDERSON, *Assistant Probation Officer*
BETTY BRAINERD, *Investigator*
LOTTIE M. DELL, *Stenographer*
DR. LILIAN C. IRWIN, *Medical Examiner for Girls*
DR. STEVENSON SMITH, *Consulting Psychologist*

Mothers' Pension Department

JOSEPHINE E. STUFF, *Commissioner*
BESSIE MAYNARD, *Assistant*

Detention Home

FRANCETTE P. MARING, *Superintendent*
ANNA NAERENTS, *Boys' Attendant*
LULU B. WEBB, *Girls' Attendant*
MABEL HASTINGS, *School Teacher*
DR. D. M. STONE, *House Physician*
MARGARET B. PAYNE, *Kitchen Attendant*
C. S. WOOD, *Building Attendant*

THE SEATTLE JUVENILE COURT REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1917

EIGHT hundred and twenty-two children, of whom 592 were boys and 230 girls, were in court during 1917. Five hundred and fifty-one were involved in misconduct and 271 were apprehended because of parental neglect. This is the smallest number of children before the Court any year since the department was established.

Juvenile Delinquency Decreasing

During the last five years there has been a progressive decrease in the proportional number of children who required the attention of the Seattle Juvenile Court. This is a source of gratification and reflects honor upon all of the social agencies that combat conditions unfavorable for children; for the general well-being of boys and girls is dependent upon, and to a considerable extent a product of, the co-ordinate efficiency of the community's entire social organization. This fact was well stated conversely by Dr. Carter Helm Jones at the dedication of our Juvenile Court building, "We can test a civilization by the treatment of its children."

Some American communities report an increase in juvenile delinquency during the last year attributable to the exciting influence of the war. No such effect whatsoever has been observed in this community, notwithstanding the fact that Seattle and the area within our King county jurisdiction is contiguous to great naval and army bases. Though justifiably pleased with the present happy situation, however, we need seriously to remember that probably during the near future we shall be put to the task of meeting conditions which shall score downward from the present year's creditable record.

Dry Law Beneficial

There has been no notable variation in the forms of misbehavior, as recorded, though among the group of children in court because of insufficient and improper parental care, a history of inebriety on the part of parents, has been remarkable infrequent. This is probably the most significant observation of the year. The increasing benefit of limiting the use of alcohol is here made strikingly apparent. We confidently may expect that each oncoming year under prohibition will bring to the people a mental, physical and economic betterment which shall steadily reduce child neglect.

Effect of War Industries

A notable number of 16 and 17-year-old boys who were unstable in their social and vocational relations have enlisted in the navy and army. Military life will greatly benefit them, if it doesn't actually prove to be a life-saver. Shiftlessness and indolent habits usually may be corrected more effectively by military discipline than by any other sort of treatment; and these boys, many of whom doubtless misrepresented their ages following the advance of the minimum age for naval enlistment to 18 years, shall creditably serve the nation as well as personally benefit by their training.

Industrial activity, due to the shipbuilding industry, has given employment at high wages to many boys whose energies formerly were dissipated in disorderliness and stealing. The community and individual gain resultant of this employment is vitally important; and from the outset of the war the probation department of the court has referred a considerable number of boys to this service. Our co-operation has been, and shall continue to be, energetic. We deem it appropriate, however, to direct attention to an aspect of the situation which already is unfavorable to the development of some boys. Youngsters of school age, that is, under 16 years, are too frequently encouraged by their parents to sacrifice their schooling for the monetary gain of a \$3 or \$4 a day wage. And it is probable that this labor involves physical risks which should be

seriously considered in their relation to boys of immature physical development. There is no patriotic motive involved in any sacrifice of childhood; and the citizenship of the community should aid the school attendance authorities and the Court in holding firmly to the State's standard of school attendance.

Significance of Parental School Commitments

The statistics of this report show a greater number of commitments to the Boys' Parental School than during other years. This fact is not in disagreement with the assertion that misconduct and child neglect has proportionately decreased. The fundamental aim of the Court at all times is to know what factors of the child's environment or constitution are detrimental to his proper growth and development and when institutional treatment is indicated we regard it as important to provide such treatment as though the factor in question were a vital physical disease which necessitated hospital care. In studying a child from this standpoint, misconduct frequently is found to be an immediate product of hygienic faults, that are hopelessly beyond the reach of home control, and the Court therefore confidently interns the child. The success of the procedure is obviously dependent upon knowing what is needed, and we may confidently refer to the aggregate results for proof of the method's value.

The Court is not disposed to act hastily in ordering any radical treatment, unless the need is apparent. Usually a clear view is had of the child's behavior during a considerable period and an analysis of the causes is considered before judgment is rendered. The benefit to be secured for the child always is the important consideration and not a desire for punitive measures. Punishment as a means to discipline, in the treatment of both children and adults, is an important consideration, to be sure, and it may be secured as an end product; but the Court's obligation is so to situate the child that he shall have rational care and guardianship.

In the attainment of these ends the Seattle Parental Schools are of vastly greater importance to the community than is commonly

understood. Any expenditure necessary to keep them at the point of highest efficiency will be real social economy.

Another Custodial School Needed

It is desirable again to make special reference to defective delinquents and the importance of their care in the Custodial School, another institution of great importance to the Court. Last year thirteen children were committed there, eight of whom (six boys and two girls), had been misbehaving, and because of their mental weakness were entirely unable to control their faulty conduct.

When such a weak-minded child falls a victim to bad influences, he usually progresses rapidly in his social faults and, as his physical impulses overbalance his intelligence and moral sense, the content of his mind soon becomes erotic. One of the boys committed was thirteen years old, and well advanced in pubescence. During three months he had associated with vagrants and had been used extensively by them in homosexual relations. His thoughts and actions during this period became morbid. Whereas a normally-minded boy may, as a victim of circumstances, spend three months in similar relationships, and under suitable treatment directly stop his indulgences and be freed from any permanent effects, the boy in question, because of his feeble-mindedness, will require constant supervision. If he had been placed in the Custodial School before he was led into his erotic adventure, the nature of his institutional discipline would assume a very different aspect.

The treatment of defective delinquents is manifestly of grave importance to society. Children of feeble or aberrant minds, who develop social habits harmful to themselves and society, usually require institutional care. If not so protected, their individual welfare is almost certainly sacrificed and society pays a heavy penalty. The lack of judgment manifested by the state in permitting such mental and moral incompetents to contribute their kind as additional burdens for society's care, is inexcusable. In these war times this matter is of even greater importance to society. The

mentally unfit are not taken from the usual walks of life, and they make no useful contribution to the nation, but continue to lower the intelligence level of society by adding their feeble-minded offspring to the population.

Although this matter has been discussed heretofore in the publications of the Seattle Juvenile Court this repetition is for the purpose of making apparent the need of another state institution for feeble-minded children, to be situated in the western part of the state. Mr. S. C. Woodruff, the efficient and beloved superintendent of the Custodial School at Medical Lake, has uniformly given a measure of co-operation to this Court beyond our expectations, for we know how crowded the school has been during recent years, and what large waiting lists he has from the several counties of the state. Though we got along fairly well last year, because of the vacancies made available by the new buildings erected during the last biennium, we now are informed that additional children can not be admitted. This soon will result in a vital emergency, for within the city of Seattle, at the present time, are two hundred children so feeble-minded that they cannot be helpfully trained in the city schools. Many of them already are a positive moral detriment to the community. We therefore urge the establishment of a school in Western Washington at the earliest date possible.

Importance of Police Juvenile Bureau

Among the several social agencies which are consistently aiding children and endeavoring so to improve their condition as to avoid court proceedings, we think appreciative consideration is especially due the Juvenile and Women's Protective Bureaus of the Seattle Police Department. The service to children, and the community at large, which can be rendered by capable officers detailed to the care of police complaints affecting children, is very large. Were it not for the assistance of this police service the Juvenile Court would be unduly congested. Much misconduct on the part of children, which seems to demand some recognition by the authorities, is not

sufficiently serious to require a judicial hearing, and if a formal court proceeding were resorted to the embarrassment, and even stigma, which in most cases cannot be disassociated from a court record, outweighs the benefit the Court can bestow. Neighborhood adjustments, with possibly interviews at the police office, is a more satisfactory method of dealing with sporadic misconduct which does not vitally involve the child's or community's welfare. Citizens should recognize the importance of this work, and support the Chief of Police in maintaining an efficient bureau for the adjustment of such juvenile complaints.

LILBURN MERRILL, *Diagnostician.*

JUVENILE COURT STATISTICS

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO COURT DURING SEVEN YEARS AND COUNTY SCHOOL POPULATION RATIO

YEAR	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
Delinquent boys	611	641	684	639	576	536	443
Delinquent girls	160	198	190	158	133	81	108
Dependent boys	211	152	185	230	252	241	149
Dependent girls	125	158	127	220	223	229	122
Totals	1,107	1,149	1,186	1,247	1,184	1,087	822
County School Census*.....	54,560	57,786	53,398	61,755	64,063	63,936	67,051
Ratio.....	1:49	1:50	1:49	1:50	1:54	1:58	1:81

*The school census which includes all children between the ages of 5 and 21 years, nearly parallels the juvenile court jurisdiction which includes all children under 18 years. The numerical variation of these groups is so slight that the census provides a satisfactory basis for a ratio.

NUMBER OF REAPPEARANCES DURING CURRENT AND PRECEDING YEARS OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO COURT DURING 1917

	DELINQUENT		NEGLECTED		Totals	Per Cent	Percent for 1916
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls			
First time	318	63	115	90	586	71.3	69.7
Second time	59	21	20	20	120	14.6	18.2
Third time	32	12	9	10	63	7.7	5.6
Fourth time	19	7	2	1	29	3.52	3.3
Fifth time	7	4	1	.....	12	1.43	2.47
Sixth time	5	.....	.....	.....	5	.61	0.46
Seventh time	3	.....	.....	.....	3	.36	0.09
Ninth time	1	.....	1	2	4	.48	0.18
Totals	444	107	148	123	822	100.	100.

OFFENSES AND CONDITIONS WHICH BROUGHT CHILDREN TO COURT DURING 1917

	Boys	Girls	Total	Per Cent	Percent for 1916
CONDUCT					
Assault	11	1	12	1.43	0.64
Stealing	192	5	197	23.93	25.26
Destruction of property	7	.....	7	0.85	0.73
Forgery	3	.....	3	0.36	0.09
Vagrancy, including runaways	69	3	72	8.72	5.8
Sex delinquency	20	52	72	8.72	7.7
Incorrigibility	15	17	32	3.9	2.5
Truancy	46	27	73	8.9	3.03
Intoxication	12	1	13	1.58	0.46
Disorderliness	48	2	50	6.2	10.5
Violation of ordinances.....	20	.....	20	2.41	0.09
Total conduct cases	443	108	551	67.0	56.8
NEGLECT					
Inadequate moral guardianship	94	89	183	22.3	23.5
Abandonment	24	16	40	4.9	6.9
Poverty	31	17	48	5.8	7.8
Total neglect cases.....	149	122	271	33.0	43.2
Grand totals	592	230	822	100.0	100.0

PARENTAL RELATION TABLE FOR YEAR 1917

	DELINQUENT		NEGLECTED		Totals	Per Cent
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls		
Parents living together.....	330	69	56	61	516	62.8
Parents not together due to death, divorce, separation or desertion..... (Divorced or separated) ..	114 (30)	38 (15)	92 (53)	62 (28)	306 (126)	37.2 (15.3)
Totals	444	107	148	123	822	100.

DISPOSITION OF CHILDREN BROUGHT TO COURT DURING 1917

	Boys	Girls	Totals
Parents and children advised.....	312	60	372
Probationary supervision	83	63	146
Committed to individuals	11	12	23
Boys' Parental School	103	.....	103
Girls' Parental School .....	.....	28	28
State Training School	9	.....	9
State School for Girls .....	.....	18	18
State Custodial School	10	3	13
House of Good Shepherd.....	.....	17	17
Washington Children's Home Society.....	16	11	27
Seattle Children's Home	3	4	7
Crittenden Home .....	.....	2	2
Ackerson Home	2	.....	2
Referred for criminal prosecution.....	10	.....	10
Sent to other jurisdictions.....	7	.....	7
Dismissed	7	8	15
Absconded	6	.....	6
Cause continued indefinitely	8	3	11
Tacoma Benevolent Orphanage	1	.....	1
Catholic Social Betterment League.....	4	1	5
Totals	592	230	822

COMPARATIVE POPULATION OF DETENTION HOME DURING SEVEN YEARS

YEAR	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
Boys	295	497	638	575	610	724	694
Girls	234	341	435	455	426	423	311
Totals	529	838	1,073	1,030	1,036	1,147	1,005
Average period of detention (days)	5	5	7	7	6	7	6

Note: The City of Seattle has no privately maintained shelter for the emergency care of children, hence the County Detention Home is extensively used as an emergency shelter.

TABLE OF AGES

	DELINQUENT		NEGLECTED		Totals
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	
Age 1 year and under.....	----	----	18	17	35
Age 2 years	----	----	13	12	25
Age 3 years	----	----	3	8	11
Age 4 years	----	----	8	3	11
Age 5 years	----	----	10	6	16
Age 6 years	----	----	8	5	13
Age 7 years	----	----	9	4	13
Age 8 years	----	----	8	10	18
Age 9 years	8	2	4	8	22
Age 10 years	19	2	13	4	38
Age 11 years	22	1	11	2	36
Age 12 years	35	4	13	9	61
Age 13 years	48	9	13	11	81
Age 14 years	73	11	10	10	104
Age 15 years	62	29	2	8	101
Age 16 years	70	34	4	5	113
Age 17 years	107	15	1	1	124
Totals	444	107	148	123	822

WARDS OF COURT UNDER PROBATIONARY SUPERVISION
DECEMBER 31, 1917

Neglected boys	33
Neglected girls	57
Delinquent boys	20
Delinquent girls	15
Total	125

MOTHERS' PENSION DEPARTMENT
REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1917

Introduction

WITH this, the close of the fifth year of its administration, the Washington law for the aid of widowed mothers has been amply justified by its benefits to society. The thought underlying this law is wholesome and constructive, in that it is to help and encourage good mothers, and to stimulate the home life.

We feel that from any point of view, the status of the Mothers' Pension Department of King county, at the close of the year 1917, might well gratify and encourage those who have its welfare at heart. In common with the rest of society, the mothers benefitted by this aid have shared in the improved economic conditions which have brought a greater demand for their labor at advanced wages; even the increased cost of living has not succeeded in offsetting these advantages, and many of our families have become comfortably self-supporting, and applications for pension aid have steadily decreased in number.

A contemplated change in our Washington law, designed to broaden its scope, and to admit deserted and divorced women to its benefits, was undertaken by the state legislature of 1917. This bill was crowded out owing to lack of time for its consideration, but we may certainly expect some such legislation by our next legislature. Effective checks should be placed on the law, in case its scope is broadened, and we might well make a study of the admirable laws of some of our sister states in this regard. Most of the northern and western states have provided such mothers' pension aid, only the south remaining inactive.

The sum of \$43,690.00 was expended for pension aid during the year, \$3,497.00 being allowed for 197 mothers and their 505

children in December, 1917. One hundred and twenty-four applications were received, of which 103 were granted, and 21 dismissed or continued indefinitely. New cases averaged nine a month. Increases were deemed necessary in 16 cases. Thirty-four allowances were decreased. An unusual number of revocations, 97, were chiefly due to improved industrial conditions, and were made for the following reasons:

Families self-supporting	50
Mothers married again.....	14
Children reached the age of 15 years.....	10
Husbands discharged from institutions.....	9
Mothers received insurance.....	4
Mothers requested revocations.....	3
Families moved from the jurisdiction of the Court.....	4
Mothers disloyal to country.....	2
Mothers died	1

Applicants

Care and discrimination are necessary in dealing with applicants, although it is our endeavor to carry out the spirit of the law as simply and directly as possible. Numerous inquiries are made by ineligible persons, usually the deserted or divorced mothers, or those who are newcomers to the city. Occasionally it is found that applicants have moved here from other states to take advantage of our pension law, with the idea of being entitled to aid. We aim to be reasonably sure of the merit of a case before an application is received. While the present decrease in applicants is largely due to the readjustment and improvement of economic conditions, it also indicates that needy cases that had accumulated during former years have been provided for. The work of the department is now mainly confined to cases in which the death of the husband has been recent.

Allowances

Recommendations for an allowance are always based on necessity, and when granted it proves, in almost every case, to be an

assistance morally as well as financially. The family immediately responds, being encouraged and helped with the lightening of the mother's heavy burden. The law does not provide for the entire maintenance of the family, but helps them to help themselves, while discouraging habits of dependency.

Where a long economic struggle follows the death of the father, it frequently results in necessarily lowering the standard of living. This has been prevented where pension aid has been promptly sought following the loss of the father. Frequently it seems advisable to grant conditional aid, and this generally occurs where the applicant is located in an undesirable part of the city, or too near the downtown section. She is required to move to an outlying district, in a more wholesome environment, before an allowance is forthcoming. Temporary aid has been extended to some eighteen mothers during the past year, it being evident that at the end of a few months their financial condition would warrant discontinuance of such assistance.

Mothers

A tribute is due the mother who takes upon her shoulders the responsibility of rearing and maintaining her little ones, and her burden is doubly heavy when there is also a physically incapacitated husband to be cared for in the home. We find a high spirit of courage, resourcefulness and thrift to be almost universal among these women. Their children are usually among the best in the community, and their humble homes are, under the circumstances, remarkably well ordered. The mothers, too, are in better physical condition, and less overburdened than in past years. Generally speaking, their work is unskilled and hence laborious; however, conditions surrounding such employment are improved, and wages are higher. This holds true also in the smaller towns about the county, where mines and mills are now being run to capacity. Adult children in the home are readily able to find work at wages never before dreamed of.

Administration of Department

The work of the department is necessarily of a widely varied nature. After an allowance has been granted every effort is made to supplement it by finding employment for the mother and adult children, and when necessary, interesting other social agencies in their behalf. The pension otherwise would be inadequate for their needs. We try by every means to keep our families from locating in the downtown districts, but rather require them to make their homes in the outlying parts of the city, which furnish more wholesome associations for both mother and children.

A new member of the staff, Mrs. Bessie Maynard, devotes her entire time to helpful, friendly visiting. During the past year we have thus been able to do more intensive work in the field, have insisted on a higher standard of home keeping, and have been at all times most vigilant lest the pension encourage indolence and mendicancy. Supervision undertaken in field work calls for an unusual degree of understanding, sympathy and tact, but it brings better results than any other activity of the department.

Co-operation

Effective assistance has been unfailingly rendered by the social organizations of the city, and at this time we desire to express our sincere gratitude for this co-operation.

The Welfare Department of King county and the Associated Charities have co-operated with us at all times, although no duplication of aid is contemplated.

The City and County Hospitals and their attendant physicians have always been freely available when mothers or children were in need of physical examination, or medical or surgical care.

The Orthopedic Hospital for the treatment of crippled children, has ministered to some of our unfortunate ones.

The women members of the King County Osteopathic Association have kindly volunteered their services as examining physicians for our applicants.

Catholic families have been assisted by the Catholic Social Betterment League, and other interested churches have supplemented our efforts in certain cases.

About November 1st, the Elks' Lodge supplied many of our large families with warm garments, which will enable them to get through the winter comfortably. This lodge was particularly kind to us in its distribution of gifts at Christmas time, bringing Christmas cheer to little folks who otherwise would have been entirely overlooked.

The Post-Intelligencer generously remembered some of our neediest mothers with Christmas baskets.

Frequently our women have had legal problems relating to their property or insurance, where disinterested attorneys have given their services almost, if not quite, without compensation.

Free garden seeds have been promised by the principal seed houses in the city, for spring planting, and every family is being urged to cultivate a vegetable garden as an aid to economic and wholesome living.

The Fruit and Flower Mission has kindly provided milk and eggs in some families where there are a number of small children, and the mother is without earning capacity.

Partly worn clothing placed in our hands has been distributed where most needed, and remodeled by the mothers for their little ones.

Indeed, the acts of kindness and generosity to our families are legion. They range from the gift of a quart of milk a day by a neighbor, to the case of one little mother who was deeded a lot outright, and so assisted by friends and neighbors that she will be able to build a comfortable little home with \$400.00 insurance left by her husband.

JOSEPHINE E. STUFF,

Commissioner Mothers' Pensions.

PENSION DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

Nationality of Mothers

American	98	Russian	4
Norwegian	17	German	4
Swedish	16	Danish	4
English	11	Polish	2
Finnish	9	Scotch	1
Canadian	9	Welsh	1
Irish	7	Belgian	1
Austrian	7	Syrian	1
Italian	4	Icelander	1
Foreign born (unnaturalized).....	89		
American citizens by birth.....	99		
American citizens by naturalization.....	9		
			197

Nationality of Husbands

American	89	Danish	4
Norwegian	19	Russian	3
Swedish	15	Scotch	2
Canadian	13	Polish	2
Finnish	9	E. Indian	2
Austrian	8	Syrian	1
English	7	W. Indian	1
Irish	6	Icelander	1
German	5	Belgian	1
Italian	4	Indian born in Wash-	
Welsh	4	ington	1

1201

Naturalized Husbands

4 of the 19 Norwegians naturalized
 1 of the 15 Swedes was Spanish-American War veteran
 1 of the 13 Canadians naturalized
 1 of the 8 Austrians had taken *first* papers
 1 of the 6 English naturalized
 2 of the 3 Russians naturalized
 1 of the 1 Syrian had taken *first* papers.

Cause of Economic Need

Widowhood	165
Husbands incapacitated	19
Husbands insane	8
Husbands in Firland Tubercular Hospital.....	4
Husband in penal institution.....	1
	<hr/>
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Table of Allowances

December, 1913—	after six months' operation there were	
	99 mothers with an allowance, \$2,012.50	
	Average per mother.....	\$20.32
December, 1914—	160 mothers with an allowance, \$2,945.00	
	Average per mother.....	18.40
December, 1915—	142 mothers with an allowance, \$2,545.00	
	Average per mother.....	17.92
December, 1916—	203 mothers with an allowance, \$3,622.00	
	Average per mother.....	17.84
December, 1917—	197 mothers with an allowance, \$3,497.00	
	Average per mother.....	17.75

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Allowances December, 1917

\$15.00.....	allowed	48 mothers
20.00.....	allowed	47 mothers
10.00.....	allowed	35 mothers
25.00.....	allowed	29 mothers
12.50.....	allowed	13 mothers
30.00.....	allowed	12 mothers
17.50.....	allowed	5 mothers
7.50.....	allowed	3 mothers
5.00.....	allowed	3 mothers
35.00.....	allowed	1 mother
40.00.....	allowed	1 mother

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Maximum allowance, \$40.00; minimum allowance, \$5.00.