

LEGISLATION FOR CARE OF CHILDREN

President Sends Recommendations of Conference on Question to Congress.

URGES FAVORABLE ACTION.

Federal Government Has Undoubted Right of Research In Such Matters.

National Government Should Set Example of High Standard of Child Protection to the Several States.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The president sent a special message to Congress transmitting the report of the conference on the care of children. It follows:

On Jan. 25, 1919, there assembled in this city, on my invitation, a conference on the care of dependent children. To this conference there came from all parts of the United States men and women actively engaged in the care of dependent children, and they represented all the leading religious bodies.

The subject considered is one of the highest importance to the well-being of the nation. The census bureau reported in 1914 that there were in orphanages and children's homes about 33,000 dependent children. There are probably 20,000 more (the precise number never having been ascertained) in private homes, either on board or in adopted homes, provided by the generosity of their parents. In addition to these there were 25,000 children in institutions for juvenile delinquents.

Each of these children represents either a potential addition to the productive capacity and the enlightened citizenship of the nation, or, if allowed to suffer from neglect, a potential addition to the criminality, pauperism and other enemies of society are recruited in an altogether undue proportion from children bereft of their natural homes and left without sufficient care.

NATION'S INTERESTS.

The interests of the nation are involved in the welfare of this army of children no less than in our great material affairs.

Notwithstanding a wide diversity of views and methods represented in the conference, and notwithstanding the varying legislative enactments and policies of the states from which the members came, the conference, at the close of its sessions, unanimously adopted a series of declarations expressing the conclusions which they had reached. These constitute a when, where, as well as a how to bring about child-care work. It given full effect by the proper agencies, existing methods and practices in almost every community would be profoundly and advantageously modified.

More important even than the contents of the declarations is the fact that they were adopted without dissenting vote and with every demonstration of hearty approval on the part of all present. They constitute a standard of accepted opinion by which each community should measure the adequacy of its existing methods and to which each community should seek to conform its legislation and its practice.

KEYNOTE OF CONFERENCE.

The keynote of the conference was expressed in these words:

"Home life is the highest and finest environment of childhood. Children should not be deprived of it except for urgent and compelling reasons."

Surely poverty alone should not disrupt the home. Parents of good character suffering from temporary economic privation are deserving mothers fairly well able to work but deprived of the support of the normal breadwinner should be given such aid as may be necessary to enable them to maintain their children in the care of their parents. The widowed or deserted mother, if a good woman, willing to work and to do her best, should ordinarily be helped in such manner as will enable her to bring up her children in their natural home. Children from unit homes, and children who have no homes, who must be cared for by charitable agencies, should be cared for in a practical, but not in a sentimental, manner.

CONCLUSIONS REACHED.

I transmit herewith for your information a copy of the conclusions reached by this conference, of which the following is a brief summary:

1. Home Care.—Children of worthy parents or deserving mothers should, as a rule, be kept with their parents at home.
2. Preventive Work.—The effort should be made to eradicate causes of dependency, such as disease and accident, and to substitute compensation and insurance for relief.
3. Home Finding.—Homeless and neglected children should be placed in families, when practicable.
4. Cottage System.—Institutions should be on the cottage plan with small units, as far as possible.
5. Institutional Care.—Care for dependent children should be supervised by state educational authorities. Complete histories of dependent children and their families, based upon personal investigation and supervision, should be recorded for guidance of child-caring agencies.
6. Physical Care.—Every needy child should receive the best medical and surgical attention, and be instructed in health and hygiene.
7. Co-operation.—Local child-caring agencies should co-operate and establish joint bureaus of information.
8. Undesirable Legislation.—Prohibitory legislation against transfer of dependent children between states should be repealed.
9. Permanent Organization.—A permanent organization for work along the lines of these resolutions is desirable.
10. Federal Children's Bureau.—Estab-

lishment of a federal children's bureau is desirable, and construction of pending bill is earnestly recommended.

It is suggested that special message to Congress favoring federal children's bureau and other legislation applying above principles to District of Columbia and other federal territory.

While it is recognized that these conclusions can be given their fullest effect only by the action of the several states or communities concerned, or of their charitable agencies, the conference requested me, in section 14 of the conclusions, to send to you a message recommending federal action.

PENDING BILLS.

There are pending in both houses of Congress bills for the establishment of a children's bureau, i. e., senate bill No. 532 and house bill No. 2414. These bills are for a bureau of the Federal Department of the Interior which "shall investigate and report upon all matters pertaining to the welfare of children and child life, and shall especially investigate the conditions of infant mortality, the birth rate, physical degeneracy, orphanage, juvenile delinquency and juvenile courts, desertion and illegitimacy, dangerous occupations, accidents and diseases of children of the working classes, employment, legislation affecting children in the several states and territories, and such other facts as have a bearing upon the health, efficiency, character, and training of children."

One of the needs felt most acutely by the conference was that of accurate information concerning these questions relating to childhood. The national government not only has the unquestioned right of research in such vital matters, but it is the only agency which can effectively conduct such general inquiries as are needed for the benefit of all communities. In accordance with the unanimous request of the conference, I therefore most heartily urge your favorable action on these measures.

DISCREDITABLE TO PEOPLE.

It is not only discreditable to us as a people that there is now no recognized and authoritative source of information upon these subjects relating to child life, but in the absence of such information as should be supplied by the federal government many abuses have gone unchecked, for public sentiment, with its constructive power, can only be aroused by full knowledge of the facts. In addition to such information as the census bureau and other existing agencies of the federal government already have, there is much to be ascertained through lines of research not now authorized by law; and there should be correlation and dissemination of the knowledge obtained without any duplication of effort or interference with what is already being done. There are few things more vital to the welfare of the nation than accurate and dependable knowledge of the best methods of caring for children, especially with those who are in one way or another handicapped by misfortune, and in the absence of such knowledge each community is left to work out its problems as it may be able to learn of the profit by the success or failure of other communities along the same lines of endeavor. The bill for the establishment of a children's bureau, which is now pending, not only by this conference, but by a large number of national organizations that are disinterestedly working for the welfare of children, would also by philanthropic and other religious bodies in all parts of the country.

LEGISLATION URGED.

I further urge that legislation be enacted as may be necessary in order to bring the laws and practices in regard to the care of dependent children in all federal territory into harmony with the conclusions reached by the conference.

Congress took a step in the direction of the conclusions of this conference in 1893, when, on the recommendation of the late Amos G. Warner, then superintendent of the District of Columbia, the board of child-care guardians was created, with authority among other things, to place children in family homes. That board has made considerable progress, and its work should be strengthened and extended.

I recommend legislation for the District of Columbia in accordance with the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth sections of the conclusions of the conference, as follows:

1. That the approval of the board of charities be required for the incorporation of all child-caring agencies, as well as for the charter of all benevolent corporations which include child-caring work, and that other than duly incorporated agencies be forbidden to engage in the care of needy children. This legislation is needed in order to prevent the establishment of irresponsible agencies which propose to undertake the care of helpless children. Such laws have long been in satisfactory operation in several of the larger states of this Union.

2. That the board of charities, through its duly authorized agents, shall inspect the work of all agencies which care for dependent children, whether by institutional or by home-caring methods, and whether supported by public or private funds. The state has always jealously guarded the interests of children whose parents have been able to leave them property by requiring the appointment of a guardian, under bond, accountable directly to the courts, even though there be a competent surviving parent. Surely the interests of the child who is not only an orphan but a dependent child, should be sacred to those of the more fortunate orphan who inherits property. If the protection of the government is necessary in the one case it is even more necessary in the other.

3. That the board of charities be authorized to engage in this responsible work, it is necessary to provide for public inspection, lest the state should become the irresponsible partner of those who either through ignorance or inefficiency are unable to deal with the problem.

4. That the education of children in orphan asylums and other similar institutions in the District of Columbia be placed under the control of the board of education, in order that these children may enjoy educational advantages equal to those of the other children. Normal school life comes next to home life in the process of securing the fullest development of the child.

5. That all agencies engaged in child-caring work in the District of Columbia be required to adopt adequate measures of investigation and make permanent records relative to children under their care, and to exercise faithful personal supervision over their wards until legally adopted or otherwise clearly beyond the need of further supervision; the forms and methods of such investigation, records, and supervision to be prescribed and enforced by the board of charities.

I deem such legislation as is herein recommended not only important for the welfare of the children immediately concerned, but important as setting an example of a high standard of child protection to the several states of the Union, which should be able to look to the nation for leadership in such matters.

I herewith transmit a copy of the full text of the foregoing.

W. W. TAFT, PRESIDENT.

The White House, Feb. 15, 1919.

PROHIBITION AND THE STATE UNIVERSITY

Are fifty per cent of the University professors opposed to prohibition?

State Senator John V. Smith so states concerning that body of educators. On a train between Salt Lake and Provo, Saturday evening, Senator Smith had in his possession a copy of that evening's "News" in which it was stated that the subcommittee were taking hope from his activity to frame a substitute for the Cannon bill. He discussed the article with passengers on the train, and among other things declared that the University faculty was opposed to prohibition in the proportion of seven to one.

Prof. Milton Bennett, who teaches ethics at the institution, was invited to furnish a paper for the "News" on his prohibition views. He frankly responded and spoke decidedly in favor of prohibition. He, evidently, is not one of the fifty per cent of whom Senator John V. Smith felt at liberty to speak as against prohibition.

If the Senator will furnish the names of his "fifty per cent" the "News" will try to ascertain, if it can, just what their views are, and whether they are willing to have it told about that they are against the movement now in full swing for temperance reform in Utah. That would be the most effective and direct way of meeting the fully rumored that political influence had been brought to bear upon the faculty to keep silent on an important moral question.

PROJECTED ROAD GETS CONCESSION

Local Office of Mexican and American Concern Receives Good News.

DIAZ SIGNS THE GRANTS.

Senator Jose Castillo Wires Judge G. W. Burch in This City That Document Now Bears Signature.

That the Mexican and American Holding & Improvement company of Salt Lake City has been granted a concession to build a railroad through the states of Oaxaca, Guerrero, Michoacan and Colima, through one of the richest agricultural, mining and timber districts in the Mexican republic, was made known today when Jose Castillo, president of the Mexican senate and one of the most influential men in Mexico received from President Diaz the official document granting the concession.

Senator Castillo is acting as the Mexican representative of the Utah company, and is one of the directors in the corporation, which was formed in this city last August. The line of railroad, which will extend from the border of the states of Oaxaca and Jalisco, a distance of 45 miles, and the concession extends along the Pacific coast and into the interior of the states mentioned, a distance of between 150 and 160 miles. At least three of the most fertile of the Pacific side of the country are to be tapped, namely those of Acapulco, Manzanillo, and Salina Cruz. The country extending along the concession is rich in timber, and contains thousands of acres of pine and oak in the higher altitudes, and mahogany, walnut, ebony and cedar and other hardwoods on the lower levels.

FOR COLONIZATION.

Judge G. W. Burch, who is general counsel for the holding and railroad company, said this morning that the enterprise was the best industrial project he had ever known. The line of railroad and the tracks to be opened through the four Mexican states offer opportunities for colonization rarely found in any other country. "The mining, timber and agricultural possibilities of these states are unlimited," said the judge, "and I first made a trip through the country in the capacity of attorney for a New York party, who was interested in the present colonization, and became deeply impressed with the opportunities offered for energy and capital in the southern republic. The states of Guerrero and Michoacan are now practically without means of transportation, and therefore means of commerce have not been developed to any considerable extent. Their methods of agriculture, and mining, are very crude, and their only means of transport is by means of the primitive burro or pack animal. This will all be changed with the advent of the railroad, and the vast riches of countries through which the road passes will be opened up."

The company receiving the concession is composed chiefly of Salt Lake and eastern men. The company was capitalized at \$1,000,000, divided into 100,000 shares of the value of \$10 each. There will also be a number of subsidiary companies. The president of the company is Captain E. A. Seely, who was formerly in charge of the Alaska, Alaska, and also conducted a transportation line from Portland, Oregon, down the Columbia river to Astoria.

COMPANY'S OFFICERS.

The first vice president of the company is Senator Jose Castillo, of Mexico. The second vice president is Judge Burch. The company has been instrumental in exploiting the resources of his country in more ways than one, and has always favored the coming in of the country of American capital and energy for the development of the resources of the land.

The second vice president of the company is Joseph Kimball of this city, who was largely instrumental in the formation of the company and bringing about its success up to the present time. The secretary-treasurer of the company is Roswell E. Briggs, now located in Mexico City, an engineer of prominence. The above gentlemen, together with T. W. Diamond of Taylorville, Ill., and Hamilton, another noted engineer, and Judge G. W. Burch, form the directorate.

A telegram was received at the company's office this morning, announcing that Captain Seely would arrive in this city from California this afternoon.

BERLIN'S JACK THE RIPPER STILL ATTACKING WOMEN

Berlin, Feb. 15.—The mysterious attacks upon women on the streets of this city, recalling the notorious "ripper" cases of London, have been continuing. The women of the working class were wounded in the city and the suburbs of Berlin. The first attack occurred at a woman was wounded by an unknown assailant. None of the women were seriously hurt. The first attack occurred at a woman was wounded by an unknown assailant. None of the women were seriously hurt. The first attack occurred at a woman was wounded by an unknown assailant. None of the women were seriously hurt.

OGDEN MAN SCORES THE GARDNER BILL

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MEMORIES OF THE MAINE

Special and Impressive Religious Services Held in Honor of Victims of Ill-Fated Ship.

ADMIRAL SIGSBEE SPEAKER.

Told Story of the Catastrophe That Caused Their Death and Led to War With Spain.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Memories of the men who were plunged to sudden death when the battleship Maine went down in the waters of Havana harbor, 18 years ago today, were honored in song and story today in observance of the day by military, religious and patriotic bodies.

Beautiful and impressive were the ceremonies at St. Patrick's Catholic church, where a military mass was celebrated for the dead heroes by Rev. Thomas B. McGuigan. Rev. Dr. William T. Purcell, pastor of St. Patrick's, delivered the eulogy. A pilgrimage was made to Arlington, where the granite shaft which towers above all of the Maine victims, services unusual in their solemnity were conducted in the presence of a throng of people.

Rear Admiral Sigsbee, retired commander of the ill-fated battleship, was the chief speaker and in stirring words he depicted the story of the catastrophe which led the nation to war.

"On this dark overcast and ominously quiet night, 18 years ago," he said, "I look on a new meaning to the survivors of the Maine. They were surrounded that night with extreme alacrity. In the pauses the echoes rolled back from the hills with such distinctness that all eyes were turned and heard. The night signal for silence and sleep, were therefore the last distinctive sound heard by the men in life for in one-half hour they were dead and the vessel had died in their sleep. And the bugler himself, was dead. He had sounded a requiem for himself and his shipmates."

Several others delivered brief addresses. "The story of the Maine," said Rear Admiral Sigsbee, "is the story of a large noble tribute was sent by President Roosevelt and many wreaths were sent by individuals and patriotic organizations."

PENNSYLVANIA EIGHTEEN-HOUR FLYER WRECKED

Philadelphia, Feb. 15.—The Pennsylvania special, the 18-hour flyer from Chicago to New York, struck a rock at Newton Hamilton, 35 miles west of Harrisburg, shortly after midnight, wrecking the train. Official reports to the company in this city say that beyond a severe shaking up, no one was injured.

A heavy fog obscured the track at the time of the accident. The locomotive had no time to slacken the speed of the train before striking the rocks. While the train was wrecked, the train was wrecked. The locomotive, baggage car and three sleepers were overturned and caught fire. The two cars turning over on their side. The last car remained on the track. All the passengers were saved, but several were thrown about and badly shaken up.

WATERS-PIERCE OIL CO. ACCEPTS OUSTER ORDER

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 15.—Henry S. Priest of St. Louis and H. Clay Pierce, chairman of the board of the Waters Pierce Oil company, today filed in the supreme court of this state an acceptance of the terms imposed upon the company by the recent ouster order of the court that it had severed all connection with the Standard Oil company and a statement in this effect may yet be required by the court.

Judge Priest, however, said that he believed today's action covered the case so far as the Missouri corporation was concerned and said he did not know of anything more that could be done.

BUILDING A TENTED CITY FOR E. H. HARRIMAN

San Antonio, Tex., Feb. 15.—In anticipation of the coming of E. H. Harriman an party who will spend several months in the vicinity of San Antonio hunting and fishing, a snug little tented city has sprung up at the Hotel Wall near the city square. The headquarters of the party will be established. The party will consist of Mr. Harriman, his daughter, Miss Mary Harriman, R. W. Gillette and J. L. Darrah, president of the Illinois Central railway.

While life in tents will be a novel departure for Mr. Harriman and his guests, ample provision has been made for their convenience. The floors of the tents are hardwood, the sides are of an extra thickness and the furnishings complete. The tented village will be lighted by electricity and telephone wires have been strung. Automobiles have also been placed at the disposal of the party who should arrive tonight or tomorrow.

MAYA INDIANS.

Mexico City, Feb. 15.—Lieut. Alejandro Berlin has been ordered with 50 infantrymen to locate the territory of the Quichua Indians and locate the Maya Indians, who have been attacking settlements and small detachments of soldiers. Two days ago the Indians attacked a small detachment of soldiers and yesterday they will attack between the villages of San Pedro and Naxos, and captured a number of souls carrying army provisions.

OLDEST MAN IN WORLD.

Guadalajara, Mex., Feb. 15.—Jose Guadalupe Alcala, believed to be the oldest man in the world, has just celebrated his 118th birthday. Alcala was born in this city 4 years before Mexico became a republic and has lived in three centuries.

HOUSE REJECTS SENATE KNOX ELIGIBILITY BILL

Washington, Feb. 15.—The house today rejected the senate bill removing the constitutional bar to Senator Knox serving as secretary of state.

"It is a failure to say as our bureau is concerned," declared the chief of the senate staff.

"I have to tell you that there is a fair lot of bright fellows at \$10 per day each and expenses for two months; and they did not meet with any success."

STATISTICS FROM GEORGIA.

But, as before stated, I assert that prohibition does prohibit, in about the same measure that laws against other evils prohibit. I have lived where the sale of intoxicating liquors was prohibited by ordinance, and I know that drunkenness and the sale of liquors were practically abolished. I have before me a letter from the clerk of the board of county commissioners of Georgia, dated the 4th day of this month, giving the official criminal statistics of that state during the year 1917, the last year under the home system, and 1918, the first year under prohibition. It is a record which shows that drunkenness has been decreased more than 50 per cent, while all crimes have decreased about 40 per cent. If this can be effected in a single year, what may we expect as the final result after years of trial? This letter then states:

"Business is good in Atlanta and the value of property has increased since prohibition went into effect. The morals of the city are much better. Streets where there used to be so much lawlessness, are now quiet and there is more business done." This is the testimony of an official who knows.

SITUATION IN KANSAS.

One of my nearest neighbors, a very successful business man, formerly lived in Kansas, and he assures me that the oft-repeated assertion that prohibition in Kansas is a failure is absolutely untrue. He says that it is true that the confirmed drinker manages some way to get liquor, but that the law has saved many thousands of young men by removing the open temptation. If we expect as the final result after years of trial, what may we expect as the final result after years of trial? This letter then states:

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FAIR QUESTION.

Again, many questions will naturally arise during the session of the legislature, which were not issued in this city 4 years before Mexico became a republic and has lived in three centuries.