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A STUDY OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN THIRTY COUNTIES OF IDAHO

ROBERT D. LEEPER¹

INTRODUCTION

In view of prevalent public discussion, it has occurred to me that an investigation of juvenile delinquency in a rural field would be of interest and benefit to many citizens concerned with the problem. The light of scientific research along this line seldom penetrates into the small communities where the majority of our people live, and a scientific discussion can be of no particular value to those who do not understand it. Therefore, in approaching this work, I have been actuated by a wish to present a study which would be accurate, and at the same time of interest to the average citizen in rural communities.

I have purposely avoided all technical and scientific discussion, in which I realize my field would be extremely limited, and have relied entirely on knowledge derived from non-scientific sources. The statements which I make are based on statistics, records, and opinions of laymen in the thirty counties who happen at this time to be charged with responsibility by law.

The statistics represent a fairly accurate cross section of the entire problem in Idaho. The opinions of the contributors express in homely language what is undoubtedly the trend of thought of the average citizen upon the subject, and will be readily understood and appreciated.

The conclusions which I have drawn are based entirely upon the information received from these non-scientific sources, and from my own observations as a layman. Thus, I have hoped to present an accurate and just exposition of two things: First, the existence of a juvenile delinquency problem in rural communities. Second, the trend of untrained lay thought upon the subject. If I shall have succeeded in doing this, it will be interesting to note whether there is a coincidence with scientific thought along the same line.

In preparing the report I have gone directly to those charged with the enforcement of the juvenile laws in this state, the probate judge of each county. These men are not trained in any sense of the

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word, as they are elected politically every two years. The information herewith submitted was compiled by them. Each one was asked to submit his views on the subject of child delinquency, and nearly all of them did so. I also have received help from Mr. Vincent, the superintendent of our State Reform School, and several sheriffs and some private citizens. I asked for two typical cases from each county, and have appended hereto many such transcripts. With very rare exceptions I found these untrained political officials deeply interested in child welfare, and ready and anxious to do everything which I required. The demands made on them were very heavy, and were cheerfully met except in one instance. It appeared to me best to go to these sources for information, because it is by these untrained men and others like them that most of our laws are administered.

As far as I know, this is the first compilation of statistics on delinquencies in Idaho. I have made no statements except as shown by the records of the various counties, but in considering these it must be born in mind that of necessity these records are very incomplete. Some of the small counties have no records of juvenile cases at all, and in some whole years are missing. In the smaller counties a great many cases are never entered on the docket. All counties were investigated, of which thirty out of forty-four responded.

The observations of the judges as to cause and remedy, and the transcripts of the individual cases are compiled in readable form to support the statistics. Lastly, I include some observations of my own gained from my personal investigations and in dealing with delinquents and courts. With these explanations I submit the following:

GENERAL SURVEY OF FIELD

"Idaho is a state supported largely by agriculture. The total population, according to the 1920 census, was 450,000, spread over the huge area of 80,000 square miles. Over three-quarters of our people are supported directly or indirectly by agriculture and its kindred pursuits. In the state are 899² towns and villages, only nine of which have over 5,000 population. We have only one city, which is Boise, the Capitol of the state, with 25,000 people. Pocatello is the only other city in the state with over 10,000 population, it being credited with 17,000. The latter is the only railroad center in the state. With the exception of a few small towns in North Idaho supported by lumbering and mining, all of the towns and villages are supported by adjacent agricultural districts. Outside of lumber mills, a few sugar factories

²Includes all postoffices many of them with less than 50 people.

and the mines, we have no industries which employ a large amount of labor. Our shipping routes are all through transcontinental lines, and being inland we have no seaports. The population is white, largely native born, and much of it recently emigrated from the middle west.

All religions are represented in the population, the Protestants predominating, some Catholics and a few Jews, with the southern part of the state largely peopled with Mormons. Politically the state is normally Republican, but it is not a fixed quantity.

The per capita wealth of Idaho is fairly high. We have a few rather large fortunes in the state, but we have scarcely any genuine poverty as it is known in large cities. As a practical matter, and with rare exception, there is work for everybody, so that no one need starve. However, during the past four years, Idaho farmers have suffered enormously from the agricultural depression, and times have been difficult.

A complete school system extends into every county of the state, which is under the direct control of the state, with local self-government by means of districts. Education of children is compulsory.

Idaho, therefore, furnishes a typical rural field for investigation, with almost a total absence of those elements such as large cities, shipping terminals, and factories, which tend toward excitation to crime. So this survey will undoubtedly apply to other such communities, and will be of interest to those charged with law enforcement in them.

THE MACHINERY FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF JUVENILE LAWS

The control of juvenile delinquents in Idaho is vested by law in the probate judge of each county, there being 44 counties in the state. These probate judges are elected biannually at the general elections, through party politics. In addition to their juvenile jurisdiction, they are charged with the probate of decedents' estates, guardianships, and a limited civil jurisdiction. The power of these judges over delinquents is exclusive, and practically unlimited after the fact of delinquency is established. The Board of Commissioners of each county is also empowered to employ a Probation Officer, who is the field man acting in co-operation with the probate judge and the school authorities. In addition all peace officers of the counties and towns assist in the detection of delinquency and in bringing the delinquent before the probate court. In some few of the larger counties a county nurse is employed, and in some the local Red Cross has provided a welfare worker, but this is not common practice.

For temporary detention of juveniles there is provided in all but a few instances only the local county or city jail, where the juvenile must share space with adults convicted of petty offense, or waiting trial for felonies. In most cases the jails are old, poorly lighted, more or less unclean and with but meagre provision for the care of females.

For convicted offenders the state provides the Industrial Training School at Saint Anthony, where the delinquent is confined, pending parole, with other delinquents. Some delinquents without homes are sent to the two "Children's Homes," but these latter are primarily for the care of orphans.

The probate judge has the power of commitment, or he may parole the delinquent subject to periodical reporting. He must compel attendance at school of children under 16 years of age. He can take delinquent children away from unfit parents and institutionalize them.

Thus it can be seen that the law has made provision for the detection of delinquency, for its punishment after it happens and for the care of delinquent, but, aside from those communities providing a county nurse or other welfare worker, no attempt is made to investigate physical and social conditions which bring on delinquency. Indeed, most public officials in Idaho look upon such work as an extravagance and a waste of public funds. Except the organizations in a few of the large towns, there are no voluntary associations engaged in the work. The delinquent child is never noticed until he breaks the peace and becomes a public charge.

I am convinced that the probate judges of the state do the very best they can with a difficult problem. But they are untrained men, often along in years, dealing with a problem which trained scientists cannot solve. They are also charged with other burdensome duties, and as a practical matter they are confined to their offices by routine. Their probation officers, when they have one, are subject to the same limitations. The office is entirely political, and many unfit men necessarily are elected. These men are not required, nor do they have the time, to investigate social conditions. Police officers are employed to detect delinquencies and catch the offender, and nothing more. Then, too, the great areas and distances of the various counties, with their widely scattered communities often precludes any personal contact with the probate judge, who resides at the county seat.

Although required by law, the court records of delinquency in the counties of the state have been carelessly and inadequately kept, in many instances not at all. An accurate check is impossible, much must be left to estimations from known figures.

STATISTICS OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN IDAHO FROM
1914-1923, INCLUSIVE

The statistics obtained on delinquency in Idaho during the past ten years were obtained directly from the probate judges, and embrace all cases of which a record has been kept. The figures are as nearly accurate as can be obtained. Unquestionably in nearly all counties the records are not complete, and as nearly as can be estimated there are two to three times more unrecorded delinquencies in the smaller counties than are reported. However, I believe that these figures represent the trend of delinquency not only in Idaho, but throughout the nation, and to my surprise correspond rather closely to figures compiled for large cities.

As G. Stanley Hall remarks in his "Adolescence," "Although vice is very different from crime, and although but a relatively small proportion of all offenders are caught and sentenced the number of convictions affords one of the best indexes of the general state of morality of any age."

I therefore submit the following:

First as to delinquencies by years, Table A gives the annual report for all crimes by counties for the ten-year period ending 1923. From Table A, these facts appear:

(1) Juvenile delinquency shows no material increase up to 1918, and a constant increase since 1918, both by county and by state, the figures for the state being:

TABLE A

Year	All Recorded Delinquencies
1914	471
1915	482
1916	370
1917	555
1918	658
1919	1,055
1920	816
1921	935
1922	1,371
1923	1,067
Total for ten years.....	7,786

For the five years ending in 1918 there were recorded 2,536 delinquencies.

For the five years ending in 1923 there were recorded 5,250 delinquencies.

The per cent of increase is practically 100 per cent as recorded.

Ada County apparently has furnished the only set of complete statistics for all juvenile detentions, it furnishing 5,161 cases out of the ten-year total of 7,786. But this comparison is unfair, as the total of 2,625 for the smaller counties should be at least tripled to care for the unreported cases. So the total should read 10,000 cases to be even approximately accurate. Even at that the percentage of Ada County is astonishingly large. In great part it can be accounted for by better records, extra activity of the probate judge and the use of two trained welfare workers. To my mind, it is a good sign, rather than bad. The small communities show practically the same per cent of increase as does the state at large in recorded cases, and undoubtedly their unrecorded cases correspond. Kootenai County is a typical county with apparently well-kept records, its figures showing 142 cases for the five years ending 1918, and 282 for the five years ending 1923, or practically the identical increase.

The years of 1922-1923 produced 2,444 cases, or about one-third of the entire ten-year total. For Ada County the year 1922 was the most prolific of delinquency with 999 cases. For the smaller counties the year 1923 was the premier, with a total of 492 cases.

TABLES B AND C

Table B is compiled for different crimes by sex for the five years ending 1918.

Table C is similar table for the five years ending 1923.

A comparison of these tables shows the following:

For the periods in all counties there were committed:

Sex Crimes, 1914-1918.....	149
Sex Crimes, 1919-1923.....	316
Per cent of Increase, 112 per cent	
Property Crimes, 1914-1918.....	521
Property Crimes, 1919-1923.....	1,404
Per cent of Increase, 170 per cent	
General Misbehavior, 1914-1918.....	1,837
General Misbehavior, 1919-1923.....	3,347
Per cent of Increase, 81 per cent	
Assaults, 1914-1918	14
Assaults, 1919-1923	14
Per cent of Increase, None	
Intoxication, 1914-1918	16
Intoxication, 1919-1923	169
Per cent of Increase, 1,000 per cent	

Thus, to recapitulate, recorded sex crimes increased 112 per cent, property crimes, 170 per cent; general misbehavior, 81 per cent; assaults, none, and intoxication, 1,000 per cent.

Other facts can be gleaned from these tables; thus, as to the sexes:

For the period ending 1918 there was committed:

	By Males	By Females
Sex Crimes	51	98
Property Crimes	478	43
General Misbehavior	1,503	334
Assaults	13	1
Intoxication	16	0
Total	2,061	476

In this period the girls were docketed two times more often than boys for sex crimes. The boys committed 11 times as many property crimes, 5 times as much general misbehavior, 13 times as many assaults and 16 times were intoxicated as against none for girls.

For the period ending 1923 there was committed:

	By Males	By Females
Sex Crimes	111	205
Property Crimes	1,294	110
General Misbehavior	2,792	555
Assaults	10	4
Intoxication	136	33
Total	4,348	907

In this period girls were arrested twice as often as boys for sex crimes—boys committed property crimes 11 times more often, general misbehavior, 5 times more often; assaults, $2\frac{1}{2}$ times more often, and intoxication, 4 times more often.

The percentages are identical as between males and females for the two periods, except as to assaults and intoxication where females gained.

In the period ending 1918 there were:

Male Offenders	2,061
Female Offenders	476

Or about five times more male than females.

In the period ending 1923 there were:

Male Offenders	4,348
Female Offenders	907

TABLE A (Continued)

	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	Totals by Counties
Benewah ....	..	..	2	0	8	16	12	16	8	9	71
Bingham	7	13	13	16	16	35	9	22	5	16	152
Blaine	(Report no record)										
Bonner .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boise .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boundary ...	0	0	3	5	6	4	5	1	6	3	33
Butte .....	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	1	2	..	8
Bonneville ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Camas .....	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	3
Canyon	10	13	19	5	20	18	14	25	17	38	169
Caribou .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4
Cassia	(Report no record)										
Clark .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Custer' .....	..	..	4	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	7
Clearwater ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	12	17
Elmore .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Franklin ....	..	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	28
Fremont	6	6	10	8	8	9	8	..	6	11	72
Gem .....	..	..	2	6	1	12	1	7	21	7	57
Gooding	1	1	6	5	5	11	4	6	12	5	56
Idaho	3	1	..	8	4	11	1	2	..	1	31
Jerome .....	..	..	4	2	1	1	1	..	0	14	23
Jefferson	4	4	6	12	17	14	20	13	23	18	131
Kootenai	13	15	15	41	59	95	32	68	39	48	425
Latah	7	13	3	3	9	15	10	8	7	5	80
Lemhi .....	..	1	..	7	3	..	..	5	1	3	20
Lewis	2	1	1	7	13	6	6	9	1	1	47
Lincoln .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Madison	8	1	5	3	1	9	4	3	7	19	60
Minadoka ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nez Perce ..	..	26	21	25	13	3	18	44	33	30	213
Owyhee .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oneida .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Power .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Payette .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shoshone ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Teton .....	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Twin Falls .	..	..	..	..	64	75	83	114	154	175	665
Valley .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	3
Washington .	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	15	7	16	44
	471	482	370	555	658	1,055	816	935	1,371	1,067	7,786

TABLE B--Continued
(Reported Delinquencies by Kind, Sex and County, for Period 1914-1918, Inc.)

County	Sexual Crimes		Property Crimes		General Misbehavior		Assaults		Intoxication		Total by Sex and Counties	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Minidoka	..	..	30	5	17	14	4	0	0	0	61	24
Nez Perce	4	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Owyhee	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oneida	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Payette	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shoshone	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Teton	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
†Twin Falls	5	3	20	4	25	7	0	0	0	0	50	14
Valley	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Washington	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total by Crimes	51	98	478	43	1,503	334	13	1	16	..	2,060	476
Total												2,536

*Divisions as to male and female in Ada are estimated from averages.
†Statistics for Twin Falls from 1918 only--previous years missing.

TABLE C
(Reported Delinquencies by Kind, Sex and County, for Period 1919-1923, Inc.)

County	Sexual Crimes		Property Crimes		General Misbehavior		Assaults		Intoxication		Total by Sex and Counties	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Ada	39	82	637	51	2,174	412	..	..	8	..	2,858	545
Adams	..	..	2	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	3	3
Bannock	12	6	51	..	27	5	..	..	1	1	91	12
Bear Lake	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Beneviah	2	2	9	2	32	14	..	..	..	..	43	18
Bingham	2	3	48	2	24	7	1	..	..	..	75	12
Blaine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bonner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Boise	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total												3,903
												6
												103
												61
												83

(No record)

TABLE D—Continued
(Reported Delinquencies by Kind, Sex and County, for Period 1914-1924, Inc.)

County	Sexual Crimes		Property Crimes		General Misbehavior		Assaults		Intoxication		Total by Sex and Counties	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Gooding	1	..	24	..	27	3	1	..	..	..	53	3
Idaho	1	..	14	..	13	1	2	..	..	..	30	1
Jerome	..	1	6	..	20	1	..	..	..	..	26	2
Jefferson	..	5	50	17	30	13	5	..	10	1	95	36
Kootenai	4	19	163	7	183	40	4	..	5	..	359	66
Latah	1	19	26	4	26	4	..	1	..	..	53	27
Lemhi	1	2	6	3	1	4	2	1	..	..	10	10
Lewis	2	3	27	1	9	3	1	..	1	..	40	7
Madison	..	8	33	1	14	1	2	1	..	..	49	11
Minidoka	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nez Perce	9	46	72	5	45	21	4	0	9	6	145	68
Owyhee	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oneida	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Power	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Payette	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shoshone	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Teton	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Twin Falls	35	33	161	30	228	57	0	0	100	21	524	141
Valley	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	1
Washington	..	..	11	..	18	2	..	1	7	4	36	8
Total by Crimes	162	303	1,772	153	4,295	889	23	6	152	33	6,403	1,383
Total	56	31	28	131	425	80	20	47	60	213	7,786	..

TABLE E

(Commitments to Idaho Industrial Training School by Years from 1914-1923, Inclusive)

1914	92
1915	79
1916	79
1917	85
1918	110
1919	132
1920	131
1921	139
1922	149
1923	144
Total in 10 years.....	1,140

TABLE F

(Commitments to Idaho Industrial Training School for Period 1914-1918, Inclusive, by Kind of Crime and Sex)

	Male	Female
Sexual Crimes	10	69
Property Crimes	65	28
General Misbehavior	160	51
Assaults	22	0
Intoxication	37	3
Total by Institution.....	294	151

TABLE G

(Commitments to Idaho Industrial Training School for Period 1919-1923, Inclusive, by Kind of Crime and Sex)

	Male	Female
Sexual Crimes	16	146
Property Crimes	116	30
General Misbehavior	242	46
Mis-Assaults	72	0
Intoxication	21	6
Total by Institution.....	467	228
All		695

TABLE H

(All Commitments to Idaho Industrial Training School for Period 1914-1923, Inclusive, by Kind of Crime and Sex)

	Male	Female
Sexual Crimes	26	215
Property Crimes	181	58
General Misbehavior	402	97
Assaults	94	0
Intoxication	59	9
Total by Institution.....	762	379
All		1,141

POPULATION BY COUNTIES COMPILED FROM 1920 CENSUS

	Total	Population 7 to 20 Years of Age
The State	431,866	122,278
Ada	35,213	9,089
Adams	2,966	876
Bannock	27,532	7,386
Bear Lake	8,783	2,841
Benewah	6,997	1,667
Bingham	18,310	5,861
Blaine	4,473	1,210
Boise	1,822	416
Bonner	12,957	3,328
Bonneville	17,501	5,125
Boundary	4,474	1,115
Butte	2,940	885
Camas	1,730	466
Canyon	26,932	7,632
Caribou	2,191	627
Cassia	15,659	4,807
Clark	1,886	506
Clearwater	3,993	1,319
Custer	3,550	952
Elmore	5,087	1,257
Franklin	8,650	2,892
Fremont	10,380	3,438
Gem	6,427	1,856
Gooding	7,548	2,158
Idaho	11,749	3,257
Jefferson	9,441	3,105
Jerome	5,729	1,555
Kootenai	17,878	4,787
Latah	18,092	5,183
Lemhi	5,164	1,255
Lewis	5,851	1,698
Lincoln	3,446	924
Madison	9,167	3,060
Minedoka	9,035	2,717
Nez Perce	15,253	4,367
Oneida	6,723	2,263
Owyhee	4,694	1,220
Payette	7,021	2,030
Power	5,105	1,454
Shoshone	14,250	3,007
Teton	3,921	1,357
Twin Falls	28,398	7,693
Valley	2,524	731
Washington	9,424	2,816

Total population in 1910 was 325,594
 Total population in 1920 was 431,866
 Per cent of increase, 32.6

NOTE.—Most of this increase came in first eight years of decade. In my opinion Idaho has lost population in last five years because of financial depression.

Urban population in 1910 was 69,898
 Urban population in 1920 was 119,037
 Per cent of increase, 70.3

Rural population in 1910 was 255,696
 Rural population in 1920 was 312,829
 Per cent of increase, 22.3

Population per square mile in 1920 5.2

A TRANSCRIPT OF TYPICAL JUVENILE DELINQUENCY CASES
FROM RURAL COMMUNITIES IN IDAHO

Canyon County:

(1)

Miss, age 17 years, alert mentally with depraved character. Went to school up to first year in high school. Parents in moderate circumstances, disagreed violently, lived together only part of the time, both immoral. The girl frequented dance halls, went on joy rides when very young, lived an immoral life with many men. Had venereal disease. Her parents let her do as she pleased, and knew of her delinquencies. Paroled once, second time sent to industrial school. She behaves well there, but apparently she is unregenerate, desiring only to get out to resume her former ways of life.

(2)

Master, age 14 years. Alert mentally, but stubborn and of late depraved. Parents happy, devoted to each other, and very religious in Methodist faith, well to do, with no criminal record in family. The boy is sullen and vicious under correction. In court four times, paroled three times, then sent to industrial school. Caused much trouble in school, dances, smokes, uses parents' car at will. Threatened his mother and got caught in trouble with a girl. Ran away from the school, was caught and returned. The boy was always indulged by parents, was never corrected and they tried to keep him from punishment.

Benewah County:

(1)

Master, age 16 years. Mentally dull, educated to sixth grade. No religious training. Parents divorced, very poor, home surroundings bad. As far as known, parents moral. Associations were bad, with no recreations, except running the streets. Does not smoke or drink. No occupation. Physical condition good. Will lie, resents correction and moral suasion does not do much good.

(2)

Master, age 15 years. Alert mentally; Nazarene faith, in seventh grade. Parents divorced. Father a criminal. Mother appears moral and upright. Poor. Mother tried to keep him in good society, but he persisted in bad associations. No previous delinquencies. Does not smoke or drink. Took kindly towards correction. At mother's request was committed to industrial school, was paroled to a good citizen and results have been good.

Madison County:

(1)

Miss, age 15 years. Subnormal mentally and depraved emotionally. Educated up to the seventh grade. No religious training. Home life unhappy. Parents very low type. Three other children in family sent to industrial school. They all report that they never received any encouragement for well doing in the home. Physical condition of

girl is good. Takes correction as a matter of fact, as do parents. After being put on probation several times, she was committed to industrial school. Now out on parole, apparently behaving herself.

(2)

Master, age 14 when crime committed, now 19. Mentally alert, but depraved emotionally. Very little education—dull at books, but alert in mischief. Brought up in Mormon faith, but never practiced it. Home life happy, but there is a *yellow streak* in the family; no discipline whatever. Associations always of the worst, never worked, did as he pleased. Parents over-indulgent and refused to believe that he did wrong. Always was delinquent, smoked and drank. Good physically. Resented correction, never having been disciplined by parents. Parents also resented it. Put on probation three times, then sent to industrial school. The sentence apparently has restrained him from crime, but otherwise no change.

Lemhi County:

(1)

Master, age 15 years. Appears normal mentally, but is depraved emotionally. Educated to fifth grade; no religious education. Parents appear happy, with no criminal record, but are very poor, with no discipline. Boy always associates with worst elements of society, will not work, loafs about streets at night. Served term in reform school of Washington. Good physical condition. No correction whatever by parents; just nagging with no firmness. Sent to industrial school.

(2)

Miss, age Mentally bright and upright morally. Of an ungovernable temper. Sent to industrial school for assault on mother.

(Other information lacking.)

Idaho County:

(1)

Master, age 14. Dull intelligence. Educated to fourth grade. No religious training. Parents below average, very poor, later separated. Associations low. No previous delinquencies. Did not smoke or drink. Physical condition only fair. Not amenable to correction. Committed to industrial school. Result seems fair.

(2)

Master, age 13. Bright and intelligent. Educated to seventh grade. No religious training. Parents poor, but upright—home life apparently happy, but parents very indulgent. Smoked, but did not drink. Committed to industrial school. Made a good record there and has made good since.

Jefferson County:

(1)

Miss, of Rigby, Idaho, the adopted child of and his wife. She was exceptionally alert, but appeared to have no conscience concerning right and wrong. She was sent to school

during the school term and was fairly bright at her lessons, and attended Sunday school, at the L. D. S. Sunday School, at odd times with other girls of her own age. Her home life with her adopted parents was apparently satisfactory, and the family tried hard to make of her an honorable child. The parents while not any too able, are honest and upright, and their lives are void of suspicion. Being poor in this world's goods, but capable of work which was done to make a suitable living for the family. The girl seemed to have a special desire to associate with those who were of similar tastes and desires, hence we find her stealing small articles from her school mates, being with men whose reputations were shady, and roaming the street at unusual hours, or until the parents could locate her and return her home. She was not backward at lying, and was in court at various times, charged with delinquencies of various sorts heretofore outlined in her career, until it became necessary as a precaution to the public safety, and her own well being to commit her to the school for correction. She never seemed to be conscious of anything on her part that partook of changing her mode of life. She regretted when caught and brought to book, but did not regret the offense. The family used to discipline her quite severely, but apparently without results. We placed her under parole at one time hoping that the parole officer could bring about her redemption, but the results were very unsatisfactory. We believe that her foster parents received her when she was about eight or nine years old, and that prior to that time she had had no moral training at all, hence our conclusion is that the child in her tender years was never given the training she should have had, and she passed through the impressive age of her childhood, as void as any other animal of the most important part of life to know, viz., moral training in the home.

(2)

Master, aged 14, of Rigby, Idaho. This pair separated under a cloud, the wife leaving for Wyoming and the father moving to Rexburg, the boy was left with his grandparents to raise and he appears to have conducted himself about as he pleased. He is normally bright and fairly capable. He does electric repairs and has operated a moving picture machine at times. His schooling is of the grammar grade and of an average with boys of his class. His religious training was sadly neglected in his childhood. His mother instead of devoting herself to the boys welfare was chasing other men, and the father seems to have been secondary in the house, instead at the head. The home life was rather unhappy, and a divorce followed. The woman and mother went her way. The father has gone his. The boy has grown up with a bitterness in his heart, and total lack of knowledge of the love of home life and the joys of childhood dreams. His first offenses as they appeared on the police blotter and the probate court were common delinquencies, such as being on the streets late at night, associating with other questionable boys, and committing small petty offenses. These increased with age and time. They eventually terminated in a felony charge, he having no religious training and the bitterness of family life as he saw it, caused him to grow up without any heart consciousness whatever. Anything and everything was right that he could get away with, and he was not much to blame when we consider

the conditions under which he was raised. He learned to smoke early. He rejoiced to take a drink if obtainable, and was a menace to himself and society. The court took him under its care and keeping, and tried to impress him with new ideals, but the time for impressions we find is in early childhood, and not in the more advanced days of their childhood and young manhood. The results have not been as satisfactory as we could desire. He is better, however, than formerly, and while we believe that his life is largely ruined as far as heart consciousness is concerned, we may say that he looks at matters in a different light than when we first came in contact with him.

Lewis County:

- (1) Mary Doe (will designate by this name), age 14, Lewis County.
- (2)
- (3) Mental status normal and alert.
- (4) Grade 7 public school.
- (5) I believe attended Sunday school at some Protestant church.
- (6) Home life was not happy, mother disagreeable temper, was divorced from girl's father, divorced from next husband before arrest, was poor, understand father intemperate, and child had had very poor chance; appeared bright and attractive.
- (7) Associations out of home, fair or average town associates, at school and in general, but not so good socially at home and its associates; worked at home at rough work, small town recreation, earned no money of her own.
- (8) Child was incorrigible, took some money from mother, mother claimed this condition at home for some time.
- (9) Did not drink or use tobacco.
- (10) Physical condition appeared good, but somewhat undernourished.
- (11) Did not appear resentful to correction.
- (12) The mother filed the complaint, and requested that child be committed to state industrial school, or some such institution; said she could not control her.
- (13) Did not know of any suitable home to parole the child to, felt that it was to the disadvantage of child to place with any of the relatives; felt that she was entitled to a chance for safety and development, as we felt that she was more sinned against than sinning; did not have much variety of places for the child, and committed to the state industrial school, St. Anthony.
- (14) The matron of the school afterwards told us that child was very criminally inclined when admitted to the school; would take things that did not belong to her, and was hard to control; that the child became studious, trustworthy as to jewelry or other property, that she attended to matron's room and any small articles of value therein; and became one of the most ladylike and lovable girls she had known; was discharged a few years ago; but do not know of her whereabouts or condition; mother removed from this county several years ago, and believe is married again.

Gooding County:

(1)

Master, age 14 years, dull mentally. Deficient in education. Slight religious training. Mormon. Adopted son—foster parents quarreled. Poor. Associations always bad. No recreation, no work and no compensation. Smokes. Physical condition good. Attitude of child and parents at first resentful towards correction, but now friendly. For first offense, sentence suspended. Second offense, committed to industrial school. Results of correction are good and boy gives promise of becoming an honest, desirable citizen.

(2)

Master, age 10 years. Alert mentally. Parents quarrelsome, home unhappy, finally divorced. Neither smokes nor drinks. Bad associations, no work and no compensation. Resented correction at first, but is all right now. Sent to industrial school and results have been good.

Bingham County:

- (1) Master, 13 years of age, Shelley, Bingham County, Idaho.
- (2), father, 39 years of age, and mother 35, Shelley.
- (3) Mental status of delinquent alert, normal, fairly upright.
- (4) Fifth grade in school.
- (5) Parents members of the L. D. S. Church.
- (6) Home life of delinquent average, parents upright, record of family good, but poor financially.
- (7) Associations of delinquent outside of home were not good, and place of recreation on the streets of the Village of Shelley.
- (8) No record of previous delinquency.
- (9) Delinquent smokes.
- (10) Physical condition of delinquent strong, robust.
- (11) Delinquent takes proper attitude towards correction.
- (12) Parents also take proper attitude towards correction.
- (13) This boy, with two others, burglarized two stores at Shelley, Idaho, and secured \$31.00 from the two burglaries. The boys were to have divided this money equally between the three; after putting on a party they had \$25.00 of this amount left. This boy, took this \$25.00, and placed it on deposit in the bank at Shelley, in his own name. I had him return this \$25.00 to the owners of the stores burglarized, and secure a receipt therefore, which he exhibited to me. I also required him to work after school and on Saturdays to earn the additional \$6.00, which he did, and repaid, taking a receipt therefor, which he brought to me for inspection. As a further condition of avoiding commitment to the Idaho Industrial Training School, I required that he apply himself at school so as to raise his grades to a per cent of ninety; also he was to be home and off the streets each evening by nine o'clock P. M., and was not to go in or about any pool-hall, and was not to be away from home at a later hour than nine o'clock P. M., unless accompanied by one of his parents,

and he also was to report to me in writing once each week, and to report to me in person on the first of each month, during a period of six months.

- (14) The results from the above mentioned corrective measures have been very gratifying in this case, as this boy finished the eighth grade and has learned the automobile business, and is now receiving a salary of \$125.00 per month, and has the confidence of his employers.

(This is my method of handling most cases of Juvenile Delinquency, and I have found it to be successful, and the results obtained in the majority of cases have been gratifying.)

Franklin County:

Master, age 15 years. Normal mentally, taking eighth grade. Educated in Mormon faith. Parents happy, upright and comfortable. Associates with school students. Smokes. Good health. Took correction kindly, placed on parole and no further trouble to date.

Ada County:

(1)

- (1), age 9 years, Boise, Idaho.
- (2) Father, about 60 years of age, Boise, Idaho. Mother, about 50 years of age, Boise, Idaho.
- (3) Dull, subnormal, upright.
- (4) Is going to school and is in the 3-A.
- (5) A little Protestant training.
- (6) Home life not ordinarily happy. Parents are not divorced, but father is not much influence. Mother is very upright and works out a great deal. Family is poor when they rely on father for support.
- (7) Does not have very good associations outside of home and school. Does no outside work. Recreation is chiefly playing about the neighborhood. No financial compensation that I know of.
- (8) Two previous records of stealing, and several times truant from school.
- (9) Had smoked a little.
- (10) Physical condition seemed quite good, eyes not quite normal.
- (11) Attitude of boy was very indifferent and extremely hard to get to talk about his difficulties.
- (12) Mother very good to assist in correction. Father appears to want correction, but is away from home a great deal and does not have proper influence over child.
- (13) Paroled to report every week to court until dismissed, to pay back the \$3.50 stolen from his music teacher, and to bring a report from his teacher of each week's conduct.
- (14) After about 5 months of reporting, child's attitude changed considerably and in a few weeks could get him to talk freely of his troubles. He did better in school and seemed to get away from the spirit that he could get away with most anything.

(2)

- (1) Master, age 17 years, no permanent address.
- (2) Father, age and residence not known.
- (3) Mother, remarried, Yakima, Washington.
- (4) Mental status good, alert, normal, rather upright.
- (5) Had not finished the eighth grade.
- (6) Practically no religious training.
- (7) Delinquent's home life was not happy and for several years has really had no home. Parents divorced; father lost all interest in boy. Do not know about the father; mother was interested in the boy, and probably good reputation.
- (8) Delinquent's associations for last several years have been outside of home, and were of wrong character. Any kind of temporary work wherever he stopped. Recreation mostly excitement and adventure. Compensation not enough to live on, natural result, stealing.
- (9) None here. When child lived here some years ago had good school record.
- (10) Had smoked some and no doubt used a little intoxicating liquor.
- (11) Not in very good shape physically.
- (12) Good attitude toward correction.
- (13) Mother interested, but too far away.
- (14) Confinement and committed to industrial training school.
- (15) Result not known as yet.

Fremont County:

A TYPICAL CASE OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, ITS CAUSE AND THE RESULT OF THE TRAINING RECEIVED AFTER COMMITMENT

- (1) Q.—Name, age and residence.
A.—Dora Doe, 16 years, at large.
- (2) Q.—Name, ages and residence of parents.
A.—Omitted.
- (3) Q.—Mental status of the delinquent, normal but morally depraved.
A.—Common school up to the sixth grade.
- (4) Q.—Did the delinquent have any religious training?
A.—Yes, in her home town, in the L. D. S. faith.
- (5) Q.—Was delinquent's home life happy? Were her parents well off or poor? Or was there any criminal record in the family? Were her parents living together or divorced?
A.—It is presumed the delinquent's life was happy, as she had known no other. Her parents were poor managers as well as being poor in circumstances, there was no bath in the house, the toilet was out in the lot, no music of any kind in the house, no carpets or rugs on the floors, and while there was no criminal record in the family, there was not enough ambition in the father to provide for the children he had, and the delinquent in question being the oldest, had to go from home to get work to keep the table furnished.

(6) Q.—Associations of delinquent outside of the home.

A.—She went to work in a restaurant fifty miles from her home, and in a very short time met a friend (?) who told her there was a much easier way to earn money than waiting in a restaurant and the result was that the girl left the restaurant and took to the primrose path, and found it both pleasant and profitable, and from the menial in cotton she became a flapper in silk in so short a time that the change was soon noticed. In her leisure time she attended the movies, and took up a course of correspondence with a view of becoming a star of the screen. Her companions were men and women of the underworld, and being a neophyte at the business she was very popular.

(7) Q.—Are there any records of previous delinquencies?

A.—No.

(8) Q.—Does delinquent smoke or drink intoxicating liquors?

A.—There was no evidence produced that she did, but, as she was arrested in a rooming house where moonshine was sold, it is presumed that she was not immune.

(9) Q.—What is the physical condition of delinquent?

A.—Her physical condition is good, with no disease or other complications that usually arise from those who pose as short-time artists for a livelihood.

(10) Q.—What attitude does delinquent take towards correction?

A.—A resigned one and is on the very best kind of behavior with a view of getting paroled or released at the earliest possible moment, and looks upon the adventure as an achievement and one that she would again resume as soon as opportunity offers.

(11) Q.—What attitude do the parents take towards the correction?

A.—An indifferent one, the mother is wearing the clothes and says they had to eat, and thinks the end justified the means. They give an opinion that she will soon be released.

(12) Q.—What has been the result of the training?

A.—That remains to be seen, there is no visible signs of genuine reform at this writing, and the only result that is noticeable is the fact of cleanliness of the body, that could not be acquired at home.

Note.—This is a case that has come under the personal notice of the writer and as the delinquent has only been in the school a few months, the opinions given are observant only, but in his opinion is also shared by the officers in charge of the delinquent and she has not yet developed any traits that would justify them in giving her any liberties or place any confidence in her. But this is usual with a girl that has been led astray, as they have the decided idea that they are the ones that are made to pay the penalty, while the man who is responsible for the condition she is placed in is allowed to remain at large to tell the same story and take advantage of some other girl or girls, the delinquent holds the opinion that if she can be arrested and confined, the same law should apply to the man; for this reason it takes longer to completely reform a girl than it does a boy, for with a boy, it is soon forgotten, but the girl, if she remains in the

same vicinity, she is invariably the thing of scorn for the slow, unmoving hand of time to point its finger at, and usually more so by her own sex.

Fremont County:

A TYPICAL CASE OF JUVENILE DELINQUENCY, ITS CAUSE AND RESULT OF THE TRAINING RECEIVED AFTER COMMITMENT

- (1) Q.—Name, age and residence.
A.—Robert Roe, 16 years, at large.
- (2) Q.—Name, age and residence of the parents.
A.—Intentionally omitted.
- (3) Q.—Mental status of the delinquent.
A.—Normal.
- (4) Q.—What amount of schooling did delinquent receive?
A.—Common school up to the seventh grade.
- (5) Q.—Did delinquent have any religious training?
A.—No.
- (6) Q.—Was delinquent's home life happy or otherwise?
A.—He had what would be termed a good home, his parents were people of the class called artisans, the home had most of the modern improvements, such as a bath and other convenience, his parents were living together in comfortable circumstances and there were no criminal tendencies in either the father or mother, but were what would be called law-abiding people.
- (7) Q.—Associations of the delinquent outside of the family circle.
A.—As long as he was at home the boy did nothing more than the ordinary boy does, but, he visited a relative and while on that visit met a different class of companions, boys whose parents were able or more indulgent, and allowed money for them to spend without going through the formality of earning it, and while Robert Roe sometimes earned some money at intervals he could not keep pace with the boys that he became acquainted with in the new surroundings, and the joy rides, dances and other amusements that cannot be had without money caused the boy to write checks without going through the formality of depositing funds to pay them, and consequently was not long reaching the end of his parent's patience and resources and he finally was committed to the Idaho Industrial Training School.
- (8) Q.—Complaints.
A.—There were complaints, but they were not filed until patience ceased to be a virtue and the law had to take its course.
- (9) Q.—Does delinquent smoke or indulge in intoxicants?
A.—Smokes cigarettes, but not to excess.
- (10) Q.—What is the physical condition of the delinquent?
A.—Excellent, no ailment of any kind.
- (11) Q.—What attitude does the delinquent take towards correction?
A.—He realizes that he made a mistake and is trying with all his power to live it down and is taking advantage of the training in the school to fit himself for an honorable avocation as soon as he is released.

(12) Q.—What attitude do his parents take toward correction?

A.—A hopeful one, and express their appreciation to the superintendent repeatedly.

(13) Q.—What was the result?

A.—The result is that the boy is trustworthy any and everywhere, is of a genial disposition and gives every indication of being a good, useful citizen, and will doubtless be released in the minimum time allowed.

This is one exceptional case that has come under the writer's notice, and this particular boy is more the victim of circumstances than a desire to be wild or bad, for while he is not mentally weak, he is young and lacks the will to resist, and being away from home and his parents was not looked after as closely as he would have been had he remained at home with them, and it is the writer's opinion that in this particular case the school will accomplish the purpose it was designed and constructed for, viz., the education and reformation of delinquents.

OPINIONS OF PROBATE JUDGES AS TO CAUSES OF INCREASE AND SUGGESTIONS FOR A REMEDY

The following excerpts I take from signed statements delivered to me by various judges, and those may be of interest to scientists as the expression of laymen charged with this problem. To say the least, they suggest that some are thinking along this line. In some cases I have abridged them for the purposes of this article.

J. E. Good, probate judge of Bingham County, residing at Blackfoot, writes as follows:

"1. I find in a majority of cases that juvenile delinquents are normal mentally and some of them are exceptionally bright, though usually lacking in education.

"2. I find that the majority of cases of delinquency are due either to unhappy homes or lack of discipline in the home.

"3. In my opinion the chief causes contributing to delinquency are unhappiness, and lack of discipline in the home, and illicitly obtained liquor.

"4. From my observation, children are more lax in their moral conceptions now than in previous decades, and the reason in my opinion, is due to lack of discipline, thereby causing a lack of respect for the rights of others, especially in regard to the property rights of others, and also a lack of proper self-respect.

"5. I also find that illicitly obtained liquor is a materially contributing cause of child delinquency, and I also find that the drinking of intoxicants by minors has materially increased during the past three or four years.

"6. I suggest as a remedy for the lessening of juvenile delinquency that the parents teach their children a proper respect, first, for their parents; second, for themselves; third, for the rights of others. Also that the parents obtain and hold the confidence of their children."

James A. Fryer, probate judge of Fremont County, residing at St. Anthony, says:

"Delinquents are both normal and subnormal mentally. Some are precociously intelligent. Not a single case has come to my observation where the delinquent came from a real home.

"The chief causes contributing to delinquency are:

"(1) Lack of example in the home.

"(2) Lack of discipline in public schools.

"(3) Permitting boys and girls to go and stay at neighbors' houses all night.

"(4) Joy rides to bathing resorts and dances long distances from the home town.

"I do not think children are more lax in moral conceptions now than in former decades, considering the increased opportunities for delinquency.

"I am inclined to think that illicitly obtained liquor has a great deal to do with delinquency. Minors drink more now than formerly."

As to remedies:

"This is the hardest question to answer, for the people appear to have either become despondent or careless, or reckless on account of failures and inability to meet their obligations that they seem to have lost heart, and in fact we all seem to have got into a rut of indifference and apathy whether from lack of someone making the suggestion or a general carelessness does not appear, but Flag Days, Arbor Days, Memorial Days, are not observed in the schools or communities, the flag where it is placed on a building is allowed to remain there until it wears out, the old-fashioned mother has gone out of fashion. The craze to get married and live with the old folks is the rule and not the exception. We need more home-cooked meals and less movies. More homes and less apartments. Less laws and a proper observance of the laws governing education and a united effort on the part of all concerned to hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may."

C. W. Hollopeter, probate judge of Jerome County, residing at Jerome, says:

"Delinquents are normal in a great many cases. The causes of delinquency are:

"A depressed mental condition and a desire for other surroundings. I would say society connected with the movies and the dance halls is the chief cause of four-fifths of the cases. The remaining one-fifth might be attributed to home surroundings. Children are more lax in moral concepts. I would attribute that to society, largely due to woman suffrage. When women become immoral in dress, man becomes immoral in mind. In my observation I would say that liquor is a contributing cause to delinquency, although I do not think there is as much liquor used by youths now as in former years. I would say not more than one out of ten compared with twenty years ago."

Wilber Campbell, probate judge of Idaho County, residing at Grangeville, says:

"Delinquents are usually about normal mentally. Bad home conditions are a potent cause of delinquency. Illicitly obtained liquor is a cause of delinquency in boys from 17 to 21. Remedies are:

"(1) Strict enforcement of curfew ordinances, and school attendance.

"(2) Affording places and means for clean amusement.

"(3) Getting direct to parents and demanding stricter care and surveillance.

"(4) Bettering home conditions and surroundings where possible.

"(5) Strict law enforcement without fear or favor."

E. M. Wright, probate judge of Cassia County, residing at Burley, says:

"There is the contaminating influence of the moving picture spectacle, the fascinating and tempting evils of the automobile and the vulgar and suggestive dance, but each and all these are only incidents compared to the one great underlying cause which in my judgment is the play spirit which characterizes our schools. Boys and girls leave our schools saturated and imbued with the spirit of ease, and when they meet the realities of life which require work and serious thought, they yield to the temptations of evil in their efforts to evade work."

E. E. Brandt, probate judge of Gooding County, residing at Gooding, says:

"I usually find juvenile delinquents subnormal mentally. Unhappy homes have a tendency to make juvenile delinquents. The chief causes of delinquency are idleness, unhappy homes, and divorces. The moral concepts of youth are lower now than formerly. I do not think illicitly obtained liquor has much effect on child delinquency in this county, nor do they drink so much as formerly. As remedies I suggest that the teachers, preachers and parents get the good will of their children."

H. W. Niles, probate judge of Lewis County, residing at Nez Perce, says:

As to boys:

"1. The boys have run from normal to subnormal; some quite dull.

"2. The effect of objectionable home conditions is, I believe, one of the main contributing causes to delinquencies of the children.

"3. The causes are: Failure to instill the idea of thrift and industry or the reading and studying of solid books; the great amount of profanity and vulgarity that all boys have to hear, lack of religious teaching; our shows depicting too much crime and slackness of morals; the current literature and stories showing too much slackness in regard to law, morals, etc., in fact, gives the impression that these things are a matter of course; even our preachers often give this impression; at least the impression that

the slackness is very prevalent among all classes; and they often talk of subjects, and in a manner, that are not proper before mixed audiences; I consider that familiarity breeds contempt and carelessness.

"4. Children are not naturally more lacking in moral concepts, but they are not under the same degree of authority, do not spend enough evenings at home with their books; nor is the example set before them in this way by the parents as it should be; I do not notice as many bashful or backward boys, as used to be common.

"5. We find that illicitly obtained liquor is a factor in child delinquency, but do not believe it is more so than forty years ago, nor that it is as common—or as common as it was ten years ago; the stuff that is used now must partly be worse than used to be drunk, but otherwise has the same effect morally and physically; legalizing the traffic would not lessen the evil effects; but, of course, would make it more common.

"6. As a remedy, would go back and correct faults of the grandparents—and especially the parents. In a majority of cases we find that the parent is the one delinquent and at fault and that he should be committed to some reform school; but we cannot do this, so have to commit the child to give him a chance."

As to girls:

"1. I believe the girls that we have had before us have been just about average mentally—except that the minds of some of them run to things that are wrong, more than others do, at least they appear to give way to wrong.

"2. Practically all of our girls before this court have been from unhappy, undesirable homes, or from divorced, orphan, or half orphan conditions; the wrong home environment is one of the chief causes of our conditions; and the child has to be committed to give it a chance.

"3-4. Do not believe they are naturally different than years ago, but do not see so much shyness, etc.; think one contributing cause is lack of and abbreviated dress, which naturally robs them of much of the natural delicacy in showing the body and limbs.

"5. Have not had girls up for drinking, I believe.

"6. I would suggest that parents hesitate more in divorces; set better examples in their lives, teach better principles, more old-fashioned modesty, and more clothes, forbid the dances that are too familiar; instill the idea of industry, and less thought of being entertained; instill more respect for things sacred, and that should be considered sacred."

G. W. Buck, probate judge of Washington County, residing at Weiser, says:

Delinquents are:

"No. 1. Rather subnormal. All live in or near Weiser.

"No. 2. It is a great wonder to me that the children which we are called upon to look after, reprimand and perhaps send to our I. I. T. school are as good as they are. Since my term of office commenced, I have sent only seven boys and two girls away, and I know with two or three exceptions the school to which they were sent was the best *home* they have

ever had. Their environment in the homes and surroundings which they have left is very discouraging to the making of good American citizens.

"No. 3. I believe delinquency is owing to the absence of the home-loving influences. Fathers and mothers do not keep in close touch with their children. They allow them to roam the streets and at neighbors and spend the time to suit themselves, and for themselves at dance halls, moving pictures and pool halls.

"It does seem as though we ought to have a law restricting the bringing of children into the world in large families unless they could have a *fair chance* for care and maintenance and school. Childhood should not suffer for man's beastiality.

"No. 4. The reason our children of all classes are more lax in moral conceptions is because those of us who *pretend* to live above the common herd do not live up to our high privileges and set that example by precept and true living to those with whom we come in daily contact. So many of us are shams, and money covers a multitude of sins in this day and age.

"No. 5. There is no doubt in my mind that the utter disregard of law, or rather the smiling and countenancing and helplessness to render any aid to officers who are trying to enforce our prohibition laws is a large factor as to the why the youth of the land drink intoxicating liquor more now than formerly. They think it is smart and 'Dad and Mother think it is not a very good law, anyway,' and not a single minor will ever 'peach' as to where he got the whiskey. I had eight in court last week, four of whom had been drunk, and they 'find the whiskey in bottles' hid away under the sidewalk, at the garages and in the blacksmith shop in boxes. It just seemed to 'grow' any old place.

"No. 6. The remedies are for every man and woman who professes to be a Christian to renew his covenant and strive to *be* a true Christian and by his precept and example exert that influence among his associates (and children) and prove to the world that there is truth, good and happiness in the world if we follow the teachings of our Divine Master and look well after our own homes and keep in close comradeship with our own dear children and see if we have not something to do about the 'brother' whose 'keeper' perhaps we ought to be at least interested in his welfare. When we older ones govern our lives by the Golden Rule, the children are bound to take heed of a good example and lessen the delinquencies in our midst and we all will become better citizens and better politicians."

G. W. Cronkrite, probate judge of Lehmi County, residing at Salmon City, says:

"Juveniles are usually sub-normal. Bad home conditions are the chief cause. The remedy is more and better moral and religious training by parents, schools and churches."

A. J. Hansen, probate judge of Madison County, residing at Rexburg, says:

"1. It depends on the class or nature of the crime. Where delinquency is, sexual crime or intoxication, a subnormal condition generally, is

evidenced, but in property crimes the opposite is the rule, offenders of that class are leaders.

"2. Unhappy home conditions are the rule, not the exception, according to my observations.

"3. Over-indulgence of parents with their children, lack of restraint in early infancy. Children are pampered and humored to excess, till they are beyond control.

"4. This is a child-worshipping age, we are too lax with them as babies and little children. Everything they do we applaud and though their inherited tendencies are evil, they are not restrained in babyhood, when it should be done."

George E. Mitchell, probate judge of Benewah County, residing at St. Maries, says:

"Of delinquents, about 80 per cent are normal, 20 per cent subnormal. Unhappy home life is very disastrous, the cause of fully 85 per cent of the delinquencies. The chief causes of delinquency are unemployment during school vacation, lack of responsibility, bad home influences, lack of consideration of other people's rights. The remedies are better home conditions, placing some responsibility on children, allotting a certain amount of work to them that they are required to perform, teaching them that they must submit to constituted authority."

Fred E. Weed, probate judge of Adams County, residing at Council, says:

"1. I find the juvenile delinquents here just about normal mentally.

"2. There are few unhappy homes here, but the effect is to force the children in such homes to find amusement, sometimes of doubtful character, away from home.

"3. The causes of delinquency are: Moonshine whiskey, poor company and failure of parents to use authority in a proper manner.

"4. It is easier for children to obtain liquor than in pre-prohibition days; also moral tone of country seems lower.

"5. Minors drink a great deal more than they formerly did.

"6. I cannot suggest any legislation that would be beneficial; and think that the only means of lessening delinquency is through the home life."

Frank Croner, probate judge of Camas County, residing at Fairfield, says:

"Herewith I am sending questionnaire sent me some time ago. This came in while I was engaged in a term of our district court, hence it was overlooked at the time. I regret that I did not get to the matter sooner.

"You will notice that our record is very short and that Camas County is almost free from juvenile delinquency in so far as the record is concerned. However, this is not a 'true transcript of the case.' Very little of our moral delinquency ever gets into court. It is here just as it is in other places.

"My observation is that the cheap movies give the young the idea, and the Ford car the opportunity. The movie is a good thing and we can't do without the Ford, but the misuse of the two is wrecking the lives of some of our young folks.

"Then there is very little interference with the young either by law or by parents. The kids do about as they please and any interference is looked upon as butting in pure and simple.

"Another thing a boy that will work at a job steady for a week is a rare bird, indeed. Light work with the night to hell around in at big pay just suits our boys. And the girls of today are well-acquainted with a young man soon as they know the color of his hair and the kind of a car he drives. Their knowledge of housework is limited to watching mother do it. However, they know by its first name every jazz orchestra within fifty miles, and know by its tone whether an auto horn has a blond or a brunette at the wheel.

"I fear our records will be of but little use to you, but I hope you may be able to shed some light on the present trouble and I should like to know the result of our investigations."

Probate Judge C. A. Woelffen, of Nez Perce County, residing at Lewiston, says:

"In compliance with your request I herewith submit report on juvenile delinquency for years 1915 to August 20, 1924.

"In commenting upon the gradual increase, its causes and remedies, we are confronted with a broad field, and unless parents and guardians awake to a realization of existing conditions we, as a nation, are riding to a fall.

"In cataloging the causes and remedies which will pretty generally apply, those mainly responsible are poor home environment, lack of discipline during childhood and youth; broken homes caused by incompatibility, thereby setting a bad example before children at an age when it is sure to leave its mark; being allowed to go joy-riding at unseemly hours, and attending public dances at an age when they should be under the watchful eye of the parent; a mania for appearing in public in the latest costly wearing apparel; allowing children to attend sensational movies, many of which are highly suggestive of immorality and crime, and pointing to an easy way of avoiding the consequences; and last, but not least, the drinking and narcotic habit, which to apply the late-coined phrase as used by what is now considered the 'up-to-the-second' youth, puts a 'kick' in life. And if they only knew how true the expression was, it might cause them to stop and think that the kick is downhill.

"As regards the remedy, I do not claim that the same rule will apply in all cases. But if the parent will make a confidant of the child, chum with them, show an interest in their schoolwork and their play as well. The child, if properly treated, naturally turns to the parent to express its pleasure or for sympathy in case of trouble, and until the child has reached the age of understanding, the parent is morally responsible for every act of the child.

"Make a home in every sense of the word, not just a house to live in.
"Teach the child to have a wholesome respect for the law. See to it that the child receives an education such as one must have at this day and age of specializing, to the end that we as Americans may ever stand as second to no nation on earth."

The letters of Percy Groom, probate judge of Jefferson County, residing at Rigby, and of C. A. Williams, probate judge of Canyon County, residing at Caldwell, I submit in full, as they are complete statements of the trend of untrained official thought on the subject. In some parts the reports flavor of a sermon, but there is so much good, solid thought in each that I print them in full.

Mr. Groom says:

"(1) Our experience is that the average delinquent child is normally mental and physically fit as compared with the average child. Of course, there are exceptions to the rule, as in all cases cited.

"(2) Unhappy home conditions are one of the causes, but not the sole cause of delinquency. If the home is slovenly, ill-kept, dirty and unclean, the child is quite likely to partake of its general surroundings. If there are parental jars that are quite common, the child deems it a part of his education to be quarrelsome, repugnant and selfish.

"(3) Our opinion of the chief causes of delinquency are: First, homes wherein the parents are careless, selfish, irritating, immoral, dishonest, foul, loose speech, and void of any religious or moral heart training.

"Second, homes wherein the mother is dead and the father is trying in a loose way to provide for his flock and act as parent at one and the same time.

"Third, wherein one of the parents are dead and a subsequent marriage takes place, bringing friction into the family with its ultimate estrangement.

"Fourth, allowing children to have their own way to the extreme, staying out at nights, roaming the streets at unusual hours, mingling with undesirable associates. Picture shows of the crimson type, and lack of any religious training in the home, and receiving none in the school, or elsewhere.

"(4) We are led to believe that children are more lax nowadays than formerly. Not primarily because of the child's fault, but the environment that surrounds him. Formerly all children received some religious training. Now, about half of them receive none. In the days of our fathers, all children were taught to fear God and respect and honor the government, now, God is with so many a side issue to make sport of, and the government an object of derision.

"(5) We do not think that the youth drink any more intoxicants now than before prohibition, but the evil lies in the unlawful securing and drinking. Prohibition has added to the criminal tendencies in this way, i. e., it was not considered smart, or doing things in the old way to secure a bottle of liquor. Now, if a boy or girl can get a bottle of moonshine and flourish it among their comrades, it is considered quite

a feat, and puts them in the envied class. Another evil is, realizing that the eyes of the law may find them, the liquor is guzzled up forthwith and the guzzlers are in a high state of intoxication before they realize its danger. And in that state commit excesses, especially moral ones that might not be done otherwise.

"(6) The highly inflamed and suggestive picture shows are doing their part to make the moral issue among the young more difficult to overcome.

"(7) The automobile with its possibilities and availability for long journeys in a short time has its evils as well as its virtues. Sunday excursions to remote places are now common, that never took place formerly. These excursions not bad in and of themselves, are frequently made so by lack of wisdom on the part of those who make up the party, being without chaperones or anyone responsible for the welfare of the young who make up the company, and excesses because of this looseness are frequent.

"(8) We are of the opinion that we are now reaping the folly of past carelessness and the attitude taken by the people, and the policy of government followed. That is, educationally speaking, no child can be made a good citizen and a good member of society, simply by the education that he receives in the schools of the nation. There must be a moral heart consciousness swelling up in the bosom of the child and grown-up in order to be the ideal citizen.

"In our anxiety to keep church and state separate (a very good thing if properly done) we have swung the pendulum so far as to get completely away from the very thing needed. A vast quantity of the homes of America do not have fathers and mothers who set their children examples by piety, by precept and example, but, on the other hand, teach their offspring the very opposite by both precept and example. The school, which is the only hope for such, are silent on all matters that have a religious tendency, but quite loud on the subjects of Darwinism and other monkey work that has a very depressing tendency to anything that smacks of spiritual uplift.

If we are to get back to the right standard of living, it must first start in the home. Father must function as the head of the house (not the old man who puts up the jack), and mother must act and be the help-mate and real mother of the family (instead of the dear old thing that doesn't understand, like she is now classed), and the two together must by both precept and example set their children patterns of good citizenship, toleration and spiritual uplift in the daily home life. The school where many go who do not get any such in home life must substitute as far as possible by teaching good citizenship to the scholars as well as a moral Christian consciousness, i. e., heart training as well as head training. As we find that where the head is trained and the heart is left free, the success of the person is always in jeopardy, and he has nothing to sustain him when temptations come and possibilities arise for seeming success, even if of a shady character. We do not advocate teaching of creed or religion in the public schools, but we do advocate the teaching of Christian ideals, viz., the story of Joseph who was sold into Egypt, the Ten Com-

mandments, the Sermon on the Mount, etc., these ideals can be taught to any person without doing violence to his creed or faith, and they are uplifting and beneficial in all walks of his life.

"In conclusion let me say that our remedy for decreasing delinquency is, good home life, a more careful supervision of the child's activities when away from home, good clean associates, suspension of the habit of prowling about the streets at night without any lawful excuse, an appeal to their better self, the teaching of spiritual ideals both in the home and the school with the impression given that they are necessary as a guide and monitor for their successful life work. That good characters and good names are just as essential as financial success, and that without them no success is real or lasting, or brings joy to those who acquire it, if not secured honorably."

Mr. Williams of Canyon County, says:

"1. My observation has been not to exceed 40 per cent are subnormal mentally. Some are seemingly talented in some lines.

"2. Unhappy home conditions unquestionably are the greatest cause of juvenile delinquency as far as my observation go. I am unable at this time to recall a single case under my observation of juvenile delinquency where the home conditions were normal. I call the home where the parents overindulge the children and refuse to assume the proper control of the children or to restrain the children by using the necessary methods, even if it does take coercive methods to accomplish it, not a normal home. All children are, to begin with, without training. It is the parent's duty to do the training, and refusing or neglecting to train them either by overindulgence or wilful neglect is very apt to result in delinquency of some kind. The very large majority of cases with which I have dealt have come from the broken home, divorce, and separation without divorce, and remarriage, and the homes where there is fussing and quarreling between the parents are positively the first and greatest cause of delinquency among the children.

"3. I am frank to say that the disagreeable and broken home in my county or community is the greatest cause of delinquency among the children.

"4. It is my observation that the young generation as a whole do not have as much regard for high moral standards as they did two or three decades ago, and my observation covers a period of over fifty years. Intellectual standards, of course, are higher, ethical standards are not. Can I advance a reason for the condition? I can, but I do it reluctantly and grievously. I am fully convinced of the fact that there is a disposition upon the part of adult citizens to look upon crime with tolerance and allowance, more especially during and since the world war. It seems to me to be a contagion that is taking very effectively on the young generation.

"What will the conditions of tomorrow be? The youth of today is a pleasure-loving generation. They must have pleasure at any cost if not at their own expense, then at the expense of someone else. Too much money to spend, too free use of the automobile, too much defense of

delinquents by parents, too little restraint urged upon children by parents advance this tendency. Modesty, frugality and economy are minus quantities to many young people today. It is very conspicuously absent even in the schools, and especially in the ordinary high schools.

"The idea of pleasure is very prominently put forth in the high school. Sports seem to be the most important part of school to some. It is fostered by the teaching force. It is very common for the high school student to lose his lunch or his overshoes or book or anything of value. In fact, it is very unsafe for him to lay anything down, expecting to find it again. An annual at a dollar and a half or two dollars must be put out each year. An entertainment must be held in some big theatre building and the taxpayer must pay fifty to seventy-five cents to see his own child perform, while the auditorium in the school building which he must pay tax to keep up is closed while the theater manager is paid a big sum for rent. It is a very common thing for reports to go out of high schools of immorality being common among the pupils. It is the pleasure-loving age.

"In former days as I thought at least, many or most of the young women refrained from immorality for the sake of her virtue and reputation in society, as a fall in that particular was nothing less than a calamity for her. Only time was needed to reveal the fact. In this day of preventative measure and methods, she is practically immune from time revealing any fact in the matter, and it is therefore no barrier in the matter. The young married people of today are losing desire for children in the home. The very common idea is for both husband and wife to have jobs, eat at restaurants and have rented rooms to stay nights in, what time they are not at some place of amusement. That idea of the young American refusing to perpetuate his family tree and name by deliberately refusing to have any children in home in my judgment is a peril to our great nation. It is wilfully leaving the perpetuity of the nation of raising sons and daughters to the nation to the foreigners, the Japs and the Indians, Negroes and Chinamen, and to those we call inferior.

"All of this is laid at the door of living conditions in society. It is an aborted idea of living. We need to teach our children that the highest ideal of life is to establish a real home and perpetuate our own name and family tree. We need to teach our little twelve and fourteen year old girls something better than having the latest face powder and lip stick, and forcing them into society at such an age, as many mothers do. Allowing such little girls to go out on long trips in cars and crowding into them in large numbers, boys and girls sitting on each others laps and spooning along the public highways, all tends to increase the tendency to delinquency of the children.

"I wish to say also that as a usual thing in days gone by that the standard of morality for girls was higher than for boys is general sentiment today that seems to be not the case, but there is sentiment in favor of both boys and girls being on an equal plane in morality, but it is noticeable to me that sentiment is not raising the moral standard for boys, but that the standard for girls is coming down to meet the standard of boys. Most of the juvenile delinquency of the children over thirteen years old has come through the modern dance hall in coming to this office.

"The common dance hall in many instances is a nuisance to good moral standards and a menace to good citizenship. They establish and hold a demoralizing influence on the youth of today. The attire, the posture, and the general attitude of many is suggestive of sensuality from start to finish in the common dance. Every old monger from the forequarters of everywhere gather at the common dance. The moral good and virtue of the youth is commercialized by some money lover who cares not for moral standards nor for good citizens nor whose children go to the bow wows.

"I am convinced that the modern picture shows are exerting influence over the youth injurious to their best interest. I am very much in favor of censoring the picture shows. We ought not allow some money gatherer to commercialize the desire of our children to gain knowledge and information, which is the best asset of the child for developing character and good citizenship. It is hurtful to the child to see pictures of any and all kinds of crime. The impressions are lasting and form permanent ideals which have more or less to do with the destiny of the child. To think of things good and true and lovely and honest and just and modest and sober develops that good character we need and want.

"5. I have heard said more young girls are given to drink now than in previous years. I question that fact. When it was not violating any law, no one took much notice of the fact of being intoxicated. Since we have a law, everyone takes notice of the violations. Especially those who want to blame prohibition for the crime of drunkenness say there are more now than ever.

"6. Remedies suggested:

"(a) That parents assume the God-given responsibility of raising their offspring until they are of legal capacity. If parents fail to restrain, then the teachers must or the officers of the law must. Restraint must be brought to bear if not by moral suasion, then official suasion, by parent or officer.

"(b) Such supervision of the common dance as will insure good standards of sobriety and decency, prohibiting those who are juvenile, unaccompanied by parents or guardians, from attending, and compelling the proprietor to pay for the official supervision.

"(c) Holding a strict censorship over the moving picture shows.

"(d) That civic righteousness be held forth in the common schools and especially that it be put on an equal with the sports in the high schools. I mean that it be stressed as much. It is worth infinitely more. I am not decrying sports.

"(e) That adult citizens be exemplary observers of the laws—all the laws—before their children and the children of the community.

"(f) That business and professional men and women have respect for the religious training and teaching of their forefathers, that instead of minimizing and belittling the Christian religion and its sterling worth to the youth of the community, they encourage their children in accepting it and respecting it.

"(g) That commercial clubs and various organizations do not hold big match ball games on Sunday, that golf clubs do not put their much-loved sport in direct opposition to the church's influence on Sunday, that

picture shows which are purely commercial, be not allowed to run on Sunday, that the churches have a fair chance on Sunday to combat the evils of the other six days without having to go against purely commercial competition.

“(h) That the Christian churches in every community be considered as good if not the best investment and the best school and the most potent factor of real sterling worth to character building and civic righteousness in the community, and it is therefore worth patronage morally and materially.”

The responses of these judges are remarkable as an illuminating exposition of the submerged thought of our citizenship. Prominent officials, welfare workers, and scientists are often in print on this and kindred subjects, estimating causes and propounding remedies, but here we find a group of politically elected citizens, residing in widely separated rural communities, recording views which practically coincide, with only slight differences of opinion.

Just how closely the thought of these untrained judges follows that of trained social workers, may be gleaned from the following excerpts taken from Ninth Biennial Report of the Idaho Industrial Training School for years 1919-1920, compiled by W. D. Vincent, Superintendent.

“Then taking the commitment papers alone as evidence these children have been sent to the school on the charge indicated in the table below. However, the underlying cause of delinquency is touched upon in another part of this report. This table merely shows the direct or immediate cause:

GIRLS			Boys		
	No.	Per Cent		No.	Per Cent
Immorality	25	54	Theft	90	56
Incorrigibility	20	43	Incorrigibility	40	25
Theft	2	2	Forgery	16	11
Forgery	1	1	Truancy	4	2
			Other causes	12	6
Total	48	100	Total	162	100

“The average age of girls at the time of commitment is 14 years, 9 months and 26 days; at the time of discharge, 17 years. The average age of boys at the time of commitment is 13 years and 7 months; at the time of discharge 15 years and 2 months.

The average time required for children to pass through the school is: Girls, 2 years, 1 month; boys, 1 year, 5 months.

The religious denominations represented among our children shows the following wide distribution:

	Girls	Boys
No Church	21	51
Presbyterian	2	7
Baptist	4	6
Methodist	6	16
Christian	5	7
Catholic	1	13
Salvation Army	1	1
L. D. S.	6	50
Adventist	1	0
Russelite	0	1
Mennonite	0	1
Lutheran	1	2
Dunkard	0	2
Pentacostal	0	1
Congregational	0	1
Episcopal	0	1
Total	48	162

There was on December 1, 1920, the following enrollment in the school: Girls, 48; boys, 162. An analysis of the enrollment shows the following distribution:

	Girls	Boys
Enrolled December 1, 1918.....	43	95
Received by commitment during biennium.....	43	212
Paroled pupils returned during biennium.....	11	27
Escapes returned during biennium.....	9	53
Total Enrollment	106	387
Paroled during biennium.....	43	146
Released or discharged during biennium.....	4	9
Escapes during biennium.....	9	62
Deaths during biennium.....	1	1
Transferred to school for feeble-minded	1	2
Transferred to children's home	0	5
Total dismissed from all causes.....	58	226
Total remaining December 1, 1920.....	48	162

The home conditions from which our boys and girls come may be stated briefly by tabulation, as follows:

Home Conditions	Girls	Boys	Total	Per cent
Parents separated	70	23	93	45
Father dead	26	5	31	15
Mother dead	19	8	27	13
Both parents dead	10	3	13	6
Broken homes	125	39	164	79
Both parents in home.....	37	9	46	21
Total	162	48	210	100

"This total does not take into account those homes which are not proper places for the rearing of children on account of poverty, shiftlessness, etc."

"Now, as to why these boys and girls are a part of our school population, we have only given immediate facts as shown by the commitment papers, for space does not permit a full discussion of individual cases. However, there are certain causes of delinquency in our state that are so pertinent that a mention of them may not be out of place.

"First of all is the broken home. Idaho has for the past five years been supplanting Nevada as a divorce Mecca for easterners. With this suggestion from abroad, the divorce evil has grown very rapidly among our own population. Court processes are so simple, so brief, so sure and the publicity given so general, that we have now in Idaho one divorce for every four marriages. The actual time consumed in court in granting divorce averages less than one hour, the percentage of divorces granted to the whole number of applications is 98%, then why not broken homes? You will note by our table that 45% of our children come from homes where there has been divorce, 15% where father is dead, 13% where mother is dead, 6% where the home is in fact no home, under the true meaning of the word. Thus making 79% of our children from conditions where lack of normal home life is at least contributing cause to delinquency.

"Second: I am going to place idleness as a decided factor toward waywardness and delinquency. The fact that 74% of our boys and girls come from towns, while but 26% come from the busy farms is a strong arraignment against the idleness of town life. Let us add to this the seasonal commitments to the school and we get another evidence that is convincing. A very large percentage of our small boys come in summer and early fall when they are out of school, hence for the most part idle. On the other hand, a correspondingly large percentage of our large boys come during the late fall and winter, when work is scarce and idleness results. During a period of business depression when work is not plentiful, the school fills up to overflowing, during periods of great commercial, especially agricultural, activity, the Industrial School population slumps decidedly. Idleness either voluntary or forced is a strong factor in the delinquency of youth.

"Third: Almost a paradox to the above statement, I would place lack of play as a great cause of delinquency. "I am convinced that a lack of play causes as much delinquency as lack of work," says Dr. Frank Crane, and I am ready to concur in this opinion. Only 41% of our boys ever played America's national game, baseball, before coming to the school, 6% had played football, 25% had played basket ball, 3% had played tennis, 37% had skated, 43% had learned to swim, and 15% had worked in a gymnasium.

"From this it will be seen that directed play has been sadly neglected in the lives of these children. They found their amusements in the unusual places, in games not sanctioned by the general public, in company or "gangs" not conducive to the best interests of the boy, hence a decided tendency toward abnormal boyhood and its consequent delinquency. (Later on in this report I wish to register my absolute astonishment at the lack of a gymnasium for the proper physical care of these children. Such a building is absolutely indispensable.)

"Fourth: I am placing, however much as I regret to do so, the Public School Machine, as a great cause of delinquency. The inelasticity of "The System," the organization of all details for the average child, to the partial neglect of the slow pupil and the absolute neglect of the precocious child. The lack of vocational work alongside the scholastic. The non-recognition of special talents of children in music, art, literature, mechanics, finance, skilled labor of all kinds as well as semi-skilled. We must recognize that a boy, who has talent for a certain kind of work may become an artisan in any line, however menial this may seem to his brother who is not blessed with such talent.

"Let me say in passing, we have in the Industrial School an excess of children greatly retarded scholastically as measured by public school standards, about the average number of children with low mentality, but most certainly a decidedly high percentage of pupils with unusual talent for some one thing. Whether this last condition arises from the fact that many of our children are so lop-sided in their natural endowments that they become subjects of our school, or whether it is a logical result of the fact that we give each child an opportunity to develop along natural lines is a question I am unable to answer definitely, however I am inclined to believe the latter to be the case. Be this as it may, a boy or girl who is learning the thing for which he is best adapted, who is combining the theory and practice, who is given every opportunity to move along as rapidly or as slowly as his ability dictates, who is not a part of a "System" to the exclusion of special inclinations and talents, this child, it seems to me, is bound to be happier at his work and in truth develops more naturally than he could possibly do, under conditions where he found himself entirely out of tune, therefore delinquent and incorrigible.

"Added to these four general causes of delinquency there are many minor items that might be mentioned, but they are for the most part contributory. Some authorities on this subject would place hereditary tendencies as a prominent cause; but there is a growing belief on the part of most students of this subject that there are few such tendencies

which may not be readily overcome by proper physical alignment and better environmental conditions during childhood and youth. In fact, no one doubts seriously these days that proper home life is the one great factor in the right development of every normal child."

CONCLUSIONS

In the foreword I have analyzed statistics gathered from thirty counties in the State of Idaho, which analysis tends to prove that delinquency has about doubled in the past five years, with no corresponding increase of population, and with no substantial change in social or industrial life. From these statistics, and from the other data assembled, I have attempted to derive some conclusions as to the personality of the delinquent, the causes of delinquency and the reasons for increase.

First, then, we shall consider the person of the average delinquent as developed from the sources here relied upon. Nine of fourteen probate judges report that the delinquents brought before them appear to be of average mentality, as compared with normal children; two report that delinquents are both normal and sub-normal, and only three report that the majority appear to be sub-normal. I believe that probably sub-normality has in many instances been confused with retarded education of the individual, as many of the judges report this latter condition to be extremely prevalent. Many of the judges take a very positive position as to the mental normality of these children, insisting that many are precociously bright and intelligent. Mr. W. D. Vincent, Superintendent of the Industrial School, says on this phase: "We have in the Industrial School an excess of children greatly retarded scholastically as measured by public school standards, about the average number of children with low mentality, but most certainly a decidedly high percentage of pupils with unusual talent for some one thing."

Of the twenty-one typical cases furnished, sixteen were reported as normal and alert mentally, and five were reported as sub-normal and dull.

Basing the conclusion entirely upon the observations and opinions of these laymen, it appears that the average delinquent is a normal being mentally. Among them we will probably find the same average of dullards and precociously intelligent as we will find in any school-room—no more and no less. No mental tests were, or can be given, and it is true that the conclusion is of no scientific import. Yet it is based on personal observation and contact, and is of some value.

My own observation has led me to a similar conclusion, that is, the original mental equipment of the average delinquent child was not abnormal before he became confirmed in delinquency. We cannot, in my opinion, look to the mentality of the child for any explanation of his delinquency in the majority of cases, save and except as he is retarded in mental growth by lack of education.

In my questionnaires to the probate judges I made inquiry as to the emotional status of delinquents, and while the responses were not exactly satisfactory, probably due to lack of understanding as to what was required, certain facts appear fairly well established. In the first place, if we peruse the twenty-one histories of typical cases, incomplete as they are, the observer must be impressed with the emotional instability of the offenders. The judges report most of them as depraved. However, I believe a more just term would be "unstable." A truly depraved or inherently vicious character is a rarity. The average delinquent, by reason of the operation of certain definite causes which I will discuss later, is unable to control those fundamental motions which are a part of his being, and by giving way to them at inopportune times becomes a public offender. Adolescent girls give way to the great urge of sex, seek sexual excitement in the many channels provided by modern life, and ultimately end up in illicit intercourse. Boys do not resist their inherent desires to lie and steal, find pleasure and satisfaction in low companions; smoke, drink illicit liquor, speculate on sex, and finally complete their degeneracy by the commission of some major crime which justifies their arrest and incarceration. The emotional life of any child is approximately the same, with due allowances for degrees of intensity. All are afflicted with approximately the same fundamental desires, which during infancy and adolescence must be curbed, and controlled by those in authority over the child, until his mentality and reason are sufficiently developed to take over the job. The fact that these errant children are unable to control or combat their natural emotions, is the certain result of certain factors of modern life which engender delinquency. Here again, I believe that we may fairly assume that at the outset these delinquents had about the same emotional equipment, subject to the usual controls, as any other given group. Some, perchance, have inherited defective equipment, and suffer from some form of congenital depravity, but not many. The present status of most of them is due to their giving away to those perfectly normal emotions which they cannot control.

The statistics themselves are the best refutation of the idea that heredity has very much to do with delinquency as an entirety, because

it is extremely improbable that there would be twice as many congenital criminals produced in Idaho in one five-year period over another, with no substantial increase in population. Heredity is denied as a substantial cause by Mr. Vincent. It would do no good to enter into a discussion of this vexed question because I am simply trying to arrive at conclusions as derived from untrained observers and from actual cases. The authorities are open to those who would wish scientific discussion.

The crimes committed by delinquents range through the entire category of human misconduct from simple mischief to the major felonies. It is difficult to fix any average course of crime among delinquents, if there is an average. Often times the male juvenile offends first in general misbehavior, such as truancy from school, fighting, petty thefts, etc. He is difficult to control, and even at a very early age his unstable mental and emotional status is recognizable. There are an astonishingly large number of boys between 9 and 12 arrested for delinquency. It is the tendency of this sort of child to "gang up," and from these gangs are graduated the complete juvenile criminal. The average age of commitment of boys in Idaho is about 13 years, so it is apparent that most of their delinquent acts were done prior to that age. Deprived of family control, with their emotions unbridled and their intelligence retarded, with schools but a machine, this child is cast upon the slender resources of a country town to relieve his expanding energies. He associates with others of his kind, cultivates the habit of lying, steals what he wants, refuses to work, and ultimately is caught and punished for some crime. As he reaches adolescence he avidly listens to "dirty stories," attends low dances, feasts his eye on obscene movies, and ends up in lewdness of some sort. This is not an exaggerated picture of the course of the average male delinquent who goes the whole way. By this time he is a first-class criminal, and his future in the penitentiary is reasonably assured. Also, by this time, reformation is almost impossible, and the boy, grown to be a man, has become confirmed in his anti-social tendencies.

The statistics indicate that female delinquencies are confined in a great measure to offenses against sexual morality. It is true that we find a few listed in other categories, but they are but a small percentage of the totals. The average age of commitment of girls to the Industrial School is 14 years and 9 months, which about approximates puberty in most cases. The statistics indicate that many more girls than boys are arrested for immorality. Undoubtedly, the fact that many of these delinquencies are committed with young men who have passed the juvenile state accounts in part for this discrepancy. Also

many of the judges assert that the girls are prone to lie for the purpose of protecting the guilty man or boy and he is consequently not brought to justice. As I have been informed by delinquent girls themselves, many of them maintain a peculiar code of ethics in this regard—if caught they must protect their paramours from detection, or they will be deprived of all future attentions. These girls instinctively dread the publicity of court proceedings, and as far as my observation goes they will go to any extreme to avoid it. Apparently they have an utter disregard of the truth. In only one instance have I personally known of a gang of delinquent girls turning state's evidence against their seducers, and that came about because of subsequently arising enmity and the clever manipulations of certain Department of Justice agents.

This subject of immorality of children is one sedulously avoided by prudish minds, yet I feel that the startling conclusions derived from the statistics justify some inquiry. The sex instinct in adolescent children is ever present and powerful, engendering constant speculation and discussion in some form or other. It is idle to believe that any child who is deprived of the necessary controls of a home, education and religion, can emerge from this period without injury. As this great urge comes over children, and in the natural course of their speculations, they turn to whatever sources of information are available. Uncontrolled, the constantly rising excitement takes outlet in the channels provided in any small town—cheap and lascivious movies, lewd magazines featuring immodest pictures, so called "dirty" stories, and as they get older the uncensored dance, the automobile, and perhaps illicit liquor. Before these various steps have been completed, the girls have taken the ultimate plunge into immorality, and are lost forever. To me there is something profoundly pathetic in the sight of one of these delinquent girls before the court, soiled and ruined before she ever had a chance to live, and usually without a possibility of redemption. I see her with her slight mentality, overmastered by her tremendous emotions, immoral, unclean, forgotten by society until she was caught in her delinquencies. From the ranks of these juvenile offenders are recruited the armies of women who fill the brothels of our land. This is not a particularly pleasant picture to view, but I call upon all self-satisfied folk in every small town to take a look at it.

Having discussed in a general way the personality of the juvenile and the course of his delinquencies, there remains to be determined the causes of delinquency. Any discussion of this subject strikes into the roots of American family life, because unquestionably we must place "the broken and disordered home" as the essential cause of all juvenile delinquency. Every probate judge affirms that this is so, without ex-

ception. Mr. Vincent places it foremost in his list of causes, stating that 79% of the inmates of the Industrial School were from homes where a normal home life did not prevail. Of the typical cases—only five are reported to be from ordinary homes and even as to these the judges report poverty and lack of discipline. Fifteen come from broken and disordered homes, where either the parents were divorced, were immoral, were not natural parents, or occupied some other status aside from the normal. In only two cases did the delinquent come from a united, happy, fairly prosperous home. Divorce plays an important role in delinquency statistics. Forty-five per cent of the commitments to the Industrial School in 1920 were from divorced homes, and of the twenty-one typical cases eight were from divorced homes, and three from homes where parents were separated.

The weight of this evidence is overpowering, and proves beyond any doubt that the fundamental cause of juvenile delinquency in rural communities is disordered home life. It necessarily follows that an increase in delinquency is the legitimate outcome of increased disorders in the home life of families. I have produced a few cases where the parents appear to be of low type, from which a certain degree of hereditary emotional weakness might be inherited by the delinquent, but there is no substantial proof that the majority of delinquents are anything but average children. Our reason bids us acknowledge that they are criminals because they have been deprived of parental care and control during infancy and adolescence.

There are many factors which enter into the child's relation to the home and to family life. Children must have the care of both parents if they are to develop properly, under one roof which is a permanent home. The instant that the permanency of the home or the union of the parents is destroyed, then is the child deprived of a control which nature intended for its development. A child is entitled to a reasonable degree of congeniality in the home, and it cannot be happy if the situation is otherwise. Discipline, morals and ethics can only be successfully instilled in a growing child by parents in a home. The tenets of social control and personal morality have been evolved through the centuries as necessary for the control of natural emotions. The boy must be taught the old-fashioned virtues of obedience, truth, honesty, integrity and purity—the girls must learn at the mothers knee the beauty and necessity of modesty, truth, and chastity. When these duties toward the child are not met, when he or she is compelled to face the world the prey of unknown emotions it is only natural that the boy or girl go delinquent. So then, out of these disordered homes, comes this army of delinquent children. Many of them are deprived

of a mental education—they meet the world with no equipment to resist its manifold dangers and temptations—ultimately they fall into evil ways.

Many so-called causes as listed by the probate judges are not primary causes at all, but are merely avenues of expression of delinquency. Overpowered by uncontrolled emotions, endowed only with feeble childish intellect, the delinquent child seeks whatever avenues he may find for outlet. In a previous paragraph I have outlined the average course of delinquency in the average child, as I have observed it. The ways of all small towns are fairly uniform. Each boasts a few pool joints or similar institutions where the town bums hang out, and which boys frequent as soon as they are old enough. The atmosphere of these places is highly degenerative to youth. In most towns unchaperoned commercial dances are operated at regular intervals, where children may attend at will. As I have observed, the entire object of attendance at these dances is sex excitement, which is exceedingly bad for adolescents. Certain magazines on sale at every news-stand, pander entirely to the sexual instincts, both in print and illustrations, and are bought and read by youths of both sexes, to their tremendous harm. I recently conducted a poll of such sales in Lewiston, and was told by various proprietors that most of these magazines were sold to known prostitutes and young girls. Another institution much frequented by these youths is the movie show, which in the average small town presents a sickening succession of vapid, foolish and immoral pictures, featuring often times crime and scandal. Strange as it may seem in these piping prohibition days, the probate judges affirm that intoxication among youths of both sexes is on the increase, and statistics so show.

These things may all seem very petty, and very mean. Probably no one of these institutions taken alone would be sufficient to corrupt a child if he met it with the proper equipment. Suffice it to say that any child who runs the entire gamut without control will emerge a criminal in some degree. The language, the literature, and the pictures of the degenerate side of man are ever before him, and the fall of a child in a rural town is just as potent in its ultimate consequences for him as if he were in a great city. Crime is crime—immorality is immorality—degeneracy is degeneracy—wherever found. To illustrate, just recently in Lewiston three boys who had grown up to be small town pool-room bums, whose worst crime had probably been a two-bit pea pool game, fell in with an ex-convict, robbed a bank and murdered a police officer. Today they are serving life terms in the penitentiary—five years ago they were delinquent juveniles.

The course of the delinquent has been shown. Almost entirely he or she comes from a disordered home, enters into the degenerative influences about him, and ultimately succumbs. As he falls, his spreading influence reaches other children about him, filling their minds with his own visions. If actual delinquency doubles, we may be assured that its contaminating influences on the entire child life of any community has doubled or trebled. This may account for the delinquency of many children from good homes, and it may account in part for the very decided change which has taken place in the entire ethical code of our child population in the last few years.

Apparently the public school is of questionable value in combatting delinquency. Mere mental training can never take the place of moral, ethical and religious education, and these are forbidden subjects in the school curriculum. Dr. Vincent in his 1920 report lays particular stress on this feature, saying, "I am placing, however much I regret to do so, the public school machine as a great cause of delinquency." Many of the probate judges express the same belief in various ways. The simple fact, long recognized by scientists, is that it is useless to attempt to control unstable, emotional natures by mere pedagogy. Children of varying mentalities, abilities, and talents are jammed through a rigid machine-like process of education, which seeks to impose an absolute uniformity of mind. Among these school children are always found a sprinkling of emotionally unstable natures, who early revolt from the processes in which they find themselves involved. Perchance, if it were possible, selected schooling of these individuals, with distinct reference to their lack of control and their particular talents, might be of considerable assistance.

In a general way I have sought to cover the field of juvenile delinquencies in small towns and rural communities, particularly with reference to the personality of the juvenile, the causes of delinquency, and the avenues of its expression. In my questionnaires I tried to obtain the ideas of the probate judges concerning a cure for the constantly increasing evil, which may be read at length in their opinions. They are largely concerned with the control of institutions, such as the public dance, the movie, the automobile. Many insist upon the teaching of religion and morals. One pertinently observes that adults should obey the law. All insist upon more discipline over the child by parents and teachers, and supervision of his activities. All insist upon a higher and cleaner family life.

No thinking person will disagree with these suggestions. There is nothing startling or new in any of them. I believe that they represent about the only curative actions which will occur to the average laymen.

Undoubtedly, if carried out, all or any of them would do some good. But to my mind added supervision and heavier punishment by the authorities will not cause any appreciable halt in the great march of delinquency, because the delinquency is merely one expression of a deep-seated disorder which permeates the entire social body. I have satisfied myself that these delinquent children are on an average normal beings mentally and emotionally, and that their delinquent condition is the direct result of lack of adequate control during childhood and adolescence. The great majority of cases come from broken and disordered homes, and if in five years delinquency has doubled, it is certain that broken and disordered homes have doubled in the same period. Delinquency must be charged in nearly all cases to the parents or guardians of the child. It is easy to suggest a remedy, as the judges do, "A higher and cleaner home life," but to place the suggestion in concrete form is another matter. Such remedy involves a spiritual regeneration of the people of the state, which brings it within the realm of religion, where the law is of small moment.

Apparently we are witnessing a decline in family life in America, come the development from whence it may. It is evidenced by mounting divorce records, by a falling off of owned homes, by the feverish desire of large parts of our population for change and amusement. This is the underlying cause of all delinquency, and I freely profess my inability to offer any remedy. I deny the ability of the state to ever successfully take the place of parents in the life of a child. I doubt the ability of public schools to inculcate morality into an uncontrolled child. I doubt that the punishment of the child by the public authorities is a regenerative agency. The whole problem reverts back to the responsibility of the parents. It may be that a stiff law holding the parents of delinquents for punishment would be of benefit. And I firmly believe that, if society will interest itself in this problem, not by way of a reform wave or revival, but as a part of its every-day existence, much good work can be done towards abating the evil. Reform must become a personal matter with each citizen, in his own home, in his neighborhood, in his city. Uncontrolled children must be taken in hand by some agency before they become criminals. This is to me the crux of the whole problem.