

## A Further Letter From the Children's Aid Society

(Article No. 2 as prepared by the Association of Children's Aid Societies of the Province of Ontario.)

Throughout the area in which you live—may be a city, a town, or the wider boundaries of the county—there are children whose harsh circumstances have deprived of the rights, opportunities and happiness that your children enjoy. For the moment we need not ask why this has happened to them or whose fault it is, or whether that has made them its victims are not has made them its victims are are conditions of society for which we are all responsible.

There is a long trail of cause and effect that leads to broken homes to irresponsible parenthood to low standards of living out of which can come nothing but the stunted lives and souls of children. This calls up such reflections upon the organization of human society that most of us immediately find ourselves in a bog of economic and political thinking!

Let us at once admit that the underpinnings of Canadian society cry out for enlightened social engineering and that many of our social and human problems stem out from faulty economics. Nevertheless let us all face our children's problem in Canada with informed minds and warm hearts and recognize that there are tools waiting to be used—good tools, in every community! More tools than there are people using them!

There are at least 40,000 children in this province who for one reason and another during one year must come under the protection of the Children's Aid Societies. Of these at least 8000 children have been found to be so utterly deprived of normal home and care that our courts have legally committed them as wards of some one of the 52 societies in Ontario. Tens of thousands of others must be temporarily protected while every effort is made to improve the conditions of their own homes and help, advise and educate their parents.

These are just cold statistical statements. Let us use our imaginations a little! They mean that forty thousand and little boys and girls in this beautiful province of Ontario, for some cause, have lacked care, opportunity and happiness that in a Christian country is their birthright! Nameless babies placed out in squalor and neglect; little boys and girls so neglected physically that their clothes have had to be burnt and their bodies rid of vermin and some even sent to hospital to bring them back to health; children with the blight of their parents' vices beginning to tarnish their own innocence; children, if not actually abused and neglected, suffering physically and spiritually from discord

and incapacity and low intelligence within the home. And sometimes children living impoverished lives because a loving mother has been deserted or a hard working, careworn father, has been left to fill a mother's place.

It was for such children as these that about 70 years ago and through the efforts of a few great humanitarians, our world began to bestir itself. It was a benevolent English businessman, who having seen the beginning of the child welfare movement in New York, brought the idea of a society to protect children to England. He went to a meeting of the Liverpool Society for the protection of animals and standing up in the audience said: "I am here for the prevention of cruelty to animals and I cannot draw the line at children!" Famous philanthropists took up the challenge; societies sprang up; the great Lord Shaftesbury, fathered the first protection act in 1889. It was the beginning of a new era.

Toronto saw the first efforts in Ontario to establish a law to protect the child, even against its own parents; a shelter for abandoned waifs and regulations to prevent hundreds of little boys and girls begging, selling papers or shoe laces. These conditions had aroused the strong sympathies of a reporter on the Toronto Globe, Mr. J. J. Kelso, who really became the father of the first Children's Aid Society in Canada. As elsewhere, the movement was bound up with protection for animals and it is an arresting fact that the first response to this dual movement on the part of the Toronto City Council was a drinking trough for horses in 1887. The children came after!

It was several years after this first stirring of child welfare in Toronto that a group of people in Winnipeg went into a meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and submitted a motion that this work be extended to include the homeless children running the streets of this expanding new city. It is a fact that argument was raised that if the children were included then the dogs and cats would not get adequate protection! It is a matter of record that an elderly spinster on the platform rose, and clutching her little pet dog in her arms, spoke strongly against the motion. Finally Dean (later Archbishop) Matheson, who was the chairman, said: "All who want to fight for the children go to the left and all who want to go to the dogs stay on the right!"

Believe it or not, that meeting carried for the dogs and cats! Eleven of the people who were there went out and applied for a charter to start a Children's Aid Society.

## Five Lean Years---And Here Is the Food Britain Will Eat

Not until 1960—first year of world surpluses—will you be able to shop as freely at the grocer's, butcher's and dairy as you did in 1939. This is the agreed opinion of food experts who analysed the prospects for Britain's menu.

"Five lean years," are just beginning—Colonel Llewellyn, Food Minister has given that warning. He added: "We are going to be very short of meat and dairy produce for a considerable number of years after this war is won."

"It may be rather a gloomy picture, but unfortunately it is a true one." Experts assured me, however, that we shall not go short of nourishing food, and every year a few more commodities will get less scarce.

There should be more Mediterranean fruit in 1945! 1946 will see more fish. Highlight of 1947, which the experts see as the turning-point in the lean years, will be the first bananas.

Dairy produce will be coming in increasing supplies in 1945. Sweets come off the ration in 1949. Then in 1950 the pre-war days of plenty, with real ice-cream.

This is the bill of fare food experts drew up:

1944—Cut in the meat ration is possible later this year. Butter and margarine may get scarcer if there are big demands from liberated countries.

Fats will be one of the big world shortages, but the milk ration should remain unchanged.

There will be fewer shell eggs and less tinned fruits and jams as the developing Pacific offensive increases the burden on Australian resources.

The sugar ration will be maintained, guaranteed by home-grown sugar.

For variety you will have to look to such imported oranges and lemons as shipping permits. Next Christmas may see some figs, raisins, dates, and nut on the market.

1945—Slightly more imported mutton and lamb, but beef may be scarcer. Serving soldiers do not like mutton. As we get more men in action there will be less beef for civilians.

Meat, will still be scarce, and potatoes may not be so plentiful because of the needs of the people in liberated countries.

Milk may be scarcer because of the world reduction in herds, but you can look forward to considerably more fruit from the Mediterranean area.

1946—More home-fed meat, beef, and pork, and a probable trickle of imports from the Continent. There may be fish from Scandinavia and dairy produce from the Low Countries late in the year.

Supplies of butter, cooking fats and potatoes and tinned foods will still be restricted, because of the needs of the liberated peoples.

1947—Rationing begins to ease. Prime fish will be landed in plenty as more deep-sea trawlers are released from patrol work.

Quantities of stone fruit, such as cherries, will come from France. Margarine goes off the ration as edible oil imports increase. Empire cheese and honey imports arrive with a greater variety of fruit including possibly your first bananas, grape fruit, peaches, pineapples and big cargoes of apples.

1948—This may be a bumper. The food experts even look forward to some strawberries from France and plenty of bananas. Meat rationing will be relaxed as world supplies increase.

British farmers will have got over the urgency of the wheat and milk drive, and be getting back to beef production.

Imports of dairy produce will increase from the Low Countries—in 1939 we bought £34,000,000 worth from Denmark alone. More sugar and liquid milk, more canned goods.

1949—Chocolate and sweets come off the ration, and jams return to normal. Fruit and fish will be plentiful, with more meat of all kinds.

Shell eggs are more plentiful, and there is table poultry for all. Salads arrive from the Continent, early potatoes from the Channel Islands. Tomatoes are on the counter, and biscuits of the ration.

1950—Real ice cream, milk off the ration, apples all the year round, dried fruits, and nuts, Krugere, Camembert, Brie, and Stilton cheeses.

In fact, back to 1939; with a whole list of new dehydrated products to help in cooking, or, if you like, to take your mind back to the days of 1944.

Britain's bread for the "lean years" is safe. The farmers' ploughing-up programme, which is adding another 700,000 acres of corn to the nation's menu, will reach its peak in 1947.

Meat and fats are the biggest problems. Much here depends on how the Second Front develops—whether Western Europe is laid waste in battle, or whether quick victories will enable the liberated lands to go into quick production again.

London—The present air attacks on London are being met with the heaviest and most concentrated anti-aircraft barrage of the war, equipped with more accurate and more accurate than in the days of the Blitz of 1940-41.

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YOU—depending on your telephone for quick, essential communication at work and at home.

But telephone lines can carry this wartime load only if we all use existing facilities sparingly, and keep our calls just as short and business-like as we can. Additional equipment is severely limited by material shortages; co-operation must take the place of construction if essential calls are to go through promptly.



On Active Service Giving Wings to Words

# So often now— NAMES MAKE SAD NEWS\*



The names in this newspaper that interest you most are names of boys you know who are on active service... boys from this community. You used to read their names in school reports, in church and Sunday school items, in news of sport. You read these names today in news from the fighting fronts. So often now these names make sad news. Let's do all we can to hasten the day when our newspapers can tell of happy things.

Yes, we can do something to hasten that glad day. When we do this job we help to win victory sooner. We help to end the war sooner. And we do something to benefit ourselves.

The job that we are asked to do is to save our money and lend it to our country.

As each new fighting front is opened more money is needed. More people must be ready to furnish this money.

More Victory Bonds will be issued. Those who have not bought Victory Bonds before must buy them. Those who have bought bonds must buy more. We are not asked to give... we are just asked to lend. We will have money for things we plan to do, after the war.

Dedicate yourself to this war effort... something you can do... one thing you must do. Your help is urgently needed.

(\*A Newspaper saying—"Names Make News")

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