The law and you

(Continued from page 3)

filed, the matter will than be set down for trial which may be several months down the rond.

6. Q: Is it necessary to file a dispute if you are engaged in trying to reach a settlement out of court?

A: The ten day period for filing a dispute does not stop running even though both the plaintiff and defendant are attempting to settle out of court. This is of particular importance for example, if the plaintiff is suing on a debt. The court clerk may sign judgement against defendant who has not filed his dispute, without any trial taking place. The plaintiff who is now the judgement creditor, will then go about enforcing the judgement. Hopefully a defendant will pay voluntarily and a defendant who does not pay may be faced with garnishment of his wages or seizure of his personal belongings. 7. Q: What is the jurisdiction of the Provincial Court, Family Division with respect to separation and awards of alimony? A: Provincial

Court, Family Division (Family Court) has the power to enforce the monetary settlement that has been awarded to a wife who has sued for alimony in an independent action for alimony. It also has the power to enforce awards in Divorce for wife or child support. This is done by registering the higher court's award with the Family Court. As well the Family Court can enforce its own awards made to a wife under the provisions of the Deserted Wives and Children's Maintenance Act. Methods of enforcement take the form of garnishment of wages and a family court judgement ordering Non-compliance payment. with this order could lead to imprisonment. More often a husband is called to court to "show cause" why he is unable to pay and if a reason-

hearing in Family Court? A: This is a court session during which the Judge looks at the merits of a husband's claim that he cannot pay the amount of money to his wife that has been awarded to her by the court.

able explanation is given he may not be penalized eg. he was off work due to illness. 8. Q: What is a show cause

He must "show cause", that is, give a reasonable explanation as to why he is unable to pay. A husband must usually have a very convincing reason as to why he cannot afford to pay. He may be ordered to pay up the arrears at this time.

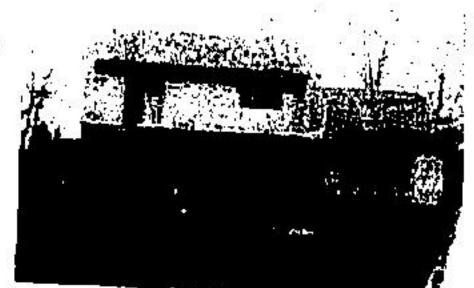
9. Q: What is the scope of punishment that may be handed down by the Family Court in respect to Juvenile offenders?

A: The court has a very wide discretion, much wider than in dealing with adult offenders. The disposition of the case can be suspended or adjourned from time to time for a definite or indefinite period. A fine not exceeding \$25.00 may be imposed. The juvenile could be entrusted to the care of a probation officer or "other suitable person". The child could be placed in its own home or a sultable foster home subject to the supervision of a probation officer and the further order of the court. The child could be committed to an "industrial or training school" or be entrusted to the care of a Children's Ald Society. Finally, as a catch-all provision, the Family Court judge can impose "such futher or other conditions as may be deemed advisable".

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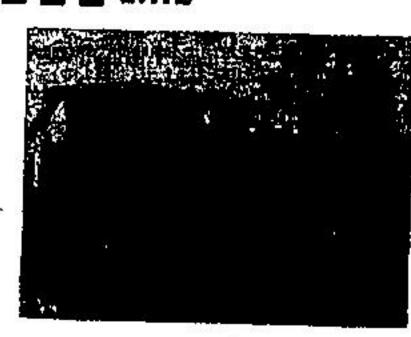
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