

Normal Children Should Be Kept Out Of Institutions, Mrs. Johnson Tells Crowd

RALEIGH, Dec. 5.—(By the Associated Press.)—"The child problem in the state can never be solved until every community accepts the responsibility of keeping normal children out of institutions by becoming itself a laboratory for the scientific study of proper care and protection of children."

This statement was made by Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson, state commissioner of public welfare, in presenting the child welfare problem to representatives of civic and fraternal organizations from all sections of the state in session here today to select definite programs of such reclamation work to undertake in their own cities and to recommend legislative support of such phases as should be provided for through the use of public funds.

Reports of the state board of charities and public welfare given at the meeting show that for the thirteen months ending with the fiscal year June 30, 1922, approximately ten thousand dependent, neglected and delinquent children were handled by clerks of the courts and superintendents of public welfare in North Carolina.

Inadequate correctional facilities and a lack of a sympathetic public understanding as to child problem makes it impossible to give these children such care, protection and training as they need in order to develop into self-supporting, self-respecting citizens, rather than to swell the ranks of adult dependents and delinquents, it was stated.

The commissioner declared that the first and probably the paramount need is better organized juvenile courts with trained probation service and clinical facilities for giving chil-

dren mental and physical examinations, while increased institutional care also is needed.

"It is evident," she continued, "that many dependent children could be cared for in their own homes if some financial aid is available, and this should be provided through a state-wide system of mothers' aid. Children should not be separated from mothers mentally, morally or physically able to care for them."

"Mothers' aid would make it possible to decrease the long waiting list of the several orphanages in the state and make room in these institutions for the many children who are totally dependent, or who come from such immoral surroundings, that it is impossible to care for them in their own homes. North Carolina at present is one of the eight states only that have no form of mothers' aid," she asserted.

The question of the mentally defective child also was presented to the conference and the legislative program of the Caswell Training school discussed. One of the most serious situations North Carolina has to face today, according to this presentation, is the totally insufficient capacity of the Caswell Training school, which is equipped to give custodial care to 400 children, but which at present, it was stated, is caring for only 300, because its maintenance fund is exhausted.

The commissioner recommended that the capacity of the school be increased to care for a unit of 1,000 children and provision made for an infirmary and vocational training.

Miss Emeth Tuttle, of the bureau of child welfare, discussed the result of the state-wide cripple census which recently was taken by this

branch in conjunction with the department of vocational rehabilitation of the state department of public instruction.

Four hundred and eighty-eight children have been reported in the census, of which 100 are estimated as sub-normal. Ninety children between the ages of 14 and 16 years have been reported in this class. Miss Tuttle urged treatment for these cases, as the state orthopedic hospital, at Gastonia, does not receive children over 14 years of age and rehabilitation is not available for persons under 16 years of age.

Need of provision for the tubercular child at the state sanatorium and the legislative program of the Jackson training school and Samarcan also were emphasized. Mrs. Johnson stated that in her opinion the state should provide a pavilion at the state sanatorium to care for the tubercular child. The Jackson Training school probably should not increase its capacity at present, according to the commissioner since six cottages have built cottages at the school since the last legislature and all have been opened with the exception of two. In a few months, the capacity of the institution will have reached three hundred and sixty boys, it was stated. The great need here is increased facilities for vocational training and academic work.

In addition to this, it is thought that a system of parole should be inaugurated and paroled officers employed to keep up with the boys who go out of the institution until the former inmates find their way in the community and become re-established. The school also is greatly in need of an infirmary to which boys could be taken upon arrival for a thorough physical examination and where they could be isolated and probably cared for in case of sickness, officials said.

A new administration building should be provided at Samarcan, Mrs. Johnson asserted, since the last were destroyed by fire. Four more cottages also are necessary as the institution now is crowded to capacity, she said, and the state board of public welfare has had to send out notices to its officials not to have any more girls committed. There should be a separate infirmary for vocational training, it was stated.

Through Mrs. A. Palmer Jerman of the North Carolina legislative council, the commissioner presented search parts of her program as pertaining to child welfare and asked the approval of the conference. The council's proposed bill to raise the age of consent to 16 years and one to give mothers equal guardianship of children were discussed.

The meeting was called to order by Roger Moore, Wilmington, district president of Rotary International, who presided. Among those present and participating in the discussion were: Harold Knapp, probation officer High Point; Chas. E. Boger, superintendent of Jackson Training School; Dr. C. Banks McNairy, superintendent of the Caswell Training School; Dr. Della Dixon Carroll, Dr. L. B. McEvey, head of the state sanatorium for tuberculosis; Miss Tuttle, of the bureau of child welfare of the state board of charities and public welfare, and representatives from the Rotary, Kiwanis, Civitan and Lions club, the Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias, Red Men, and the Masons.

GOVERNOR KEEPS SHIP PLAN QUIET

RALEIGH, Dec. 5.—Governor Cameron Morrison will not reveal his completed plans for a proposed ship line corporation for North Carolina until his annual message is presented to the general assembly in January, he told the Associated Press today.

The governor has been gathering a large amount of data from numerous sources and has held several conferences in connection with drawing up his plans to be incorporated in his message, it was stated. The proposal is said to have met with approval and encouragement in many sections of the state and a strong fight will be made to have the legislature take action on the measure at the coming session.

"do not consider it proper to disclose the details of the proposed measure or my message until it has been presented to the assembly," said the governor when asked for an outline for publication. "I have been working on my message for a long time, but cannot tell you when it will be completed."

The Horney Brothers were highly successful with the Mendenhall farm sale and the Hill & Houser lot sale—their first appearance in their old home town. If you did not see them work one of these sales it will be worth your time to come out and see them in action on the Five Points lot sale Friday, December 8th, at 1 p. m. or the J. Elwood Cox lot sale, Saturday, December 9th, at 1 p. m.

Secure \$3,500 Damages
LEXINGTON, Dec. 4.—John Hitt, youthful former employe of the Lexington Coca-Cola Bottling company, was given a compromise settlement of \$3,500 damages for injuries sustained while at work in the plant here, when attorneys representing plaintiff and defendant reached an agreement Tuesday and a judgment was drawn for signature of Judge W. F. Harding, which formally concludes this litigation.

Hitt was severely injured more than a year ago when his clothing was caught in the end of shafting in the bottling plant where he was employed.

Attend the auction sale of the J. Elwood Cox lots on East Green street, Saturday, December 9th, at 1 p. m. Horney Brothers, Asheville, N. C.

The Horney Brothers were highly successful with the Mendenhall farm sale and the Hill & Houser lot sale—their first appearance in their old home town. If you did not see them work one of these sales it will be worth your time to come out and see them in action on the Five Points lot sale Friday, December 8th, at 1 p. m. or the J. Elwood Cox lot sale, Saturday, December 9th, at 1 p. m.

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Others are absent because of boils, skin diseases, eczema, tetter and other indications that the blood is clogged with impurities. Perhaps it is rheumatism, uric acid poison or high blood pressure that is keeping many from their work. In any event this means not only suffering but the loss of real money and much happiness as well as a drain upon the vitality.

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