

In 1951, 13·3 p.c. of the delinquent boys and 17 p.c. of the delinquent girls were not attending school. At the time of leaving school their ages ranged from 10 to 15 years with the majority being 14 and 15 years of age. Nearly one-third (31·0 p.c.) of these boys were unemployed. The largest group of wage-earners (108) were in occupations concerned with transportation, such as messengers, helpers on milk-delivery routes, truck drivers' assistants, etc. The next largest group (72) were recorded as day labourers. A large percentage of the girls (42·3 p.c.) were idle after leaving school. Factory work, domestic and personal service were the main occupations of those who were employed.

Birthplaces of Juvenile Delinquents and their Parents.—Canada was the country of birth of 95·8 p.c. of the juvenile delinquents in 1951 (the place of birth was not recorded in 2·6 p.c. of the cases). One hundred and seven (1·6 p.c.) were born in the British Isles, Europe, the United States and China. Ontario was the province of residence of 67·3 p.c. of those born outside Canada.

Both parents of 70·7 p.c. of the delinquent children in 1951 were born in Canada and another 13·6 p.c. had one parent born in this country. To evaluate these figures, comparison should be made of population ratio of children from 7-16 years of age whose parents were Canadian-born with those whose parents were born elsewhere.

Home Circumstances.—The type of home in which he lives and the amount and quality of supervision he receives are important factors in a child's behaviour. The statistics of the marital status of the parents and the place and type of residence of the child reflect home conditions and are worth recording as possible reasons for social or emotional maladjustment. The parents of 76·7 p.c. of the delinquent children were reported to be living together in 1951. Homes broken by separated parents, divorce or death was the background from which 18·4 p.c. of these boys and girls came. The mothers of 8·5 p.c. of the juvenile delinquents were employed other than in the home and, in the cases of another 3·3 p.c. the mothers were dead. The fathers of 7·6 p.c. of the cases were deceased. For every five juveniles who appeared in court, four resided in an urban centre and one in a rural district. Of these boys and girls 86·5 p.c. were living in their own homes at the time they got into difficulties; 3·8 p.c. of them were in foster homes, either with a relative or some other person, and institutions were the homes of 2·2 p.c. of them.

Sources of Complaint.—The police were the complainants in the majority of juvenile cases, 76·3 p.c. of the boys having been so charged. Probation officers were responsible for 3·6 p.c. and parents for 3·2 p.c. of those charged. School authorities referred 2·6 p.c. of the boys to the courts.

The proportion (41·9 p.c.) of girls charged by the police was considerably less than in the case of the boys while parents made more use of the courts for girls than for boys (19·6 p.c.). School authorities laid complaints in 11·9 p.c. and probation officers in 9·9 p.c. of the girls' cases.

Repeaters.—Experience, which dispels or increases resentment to authority, may be a factor in encouraging or deterring repeaters. Some of the responsibility for the attitude that is built up, be it good or bad, rests with the police, the probation officer, the staff of the detention home and the judge. The recollection of how he was charged the first time, how he was handled while awaiting hearing, the opinion of those in whose care he was placed during the process of readjustment, all make an impression on a child.