

5039 Sherbrooke St., West, Apt. 1,
Montreal, Que.,
October 14th, 1943.

Mr. Henry F. Hall,
Dean,
Sir George Williams College,
1441 Drummond St.,
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir:

I read with great interest the account of your address to the members of the Iona Home and School Association which appeared in the "Gazette" to-day.

This is a subject in which I am keenly interested as I have a fourteen year old daughter, and I work at the Boy Scouts Association (as Secretary to Mr. F. C. Anderson, Executive Secretary) and therefore come in contact with a great number of boys and their problems.

I have been thinking a great deal of this question and have thought of writing to the papers, but I am afraid they might not publish it, as it is rather a lengthy topic and one on which you could write or speak for hours.

My personal opinion is that if something is not done for the YOUTH of Canada now, and done quickly, things will be just as bad after this war, as after the last, and possibly worse. There are a great many teen age boys and girls, who lose a lot of valuable time when they might be taught something constructive. I believe that one of the first things that should be taught is TOLERANCE for all races and creeds, right now there is far too much discrimination, especially in this Province where there seems to be so much prejudice. Then these boys could be taught, during the Summer holidays a couple of days a week, Carpentry, electricity, chemistry, etc., so as to keep them off the streets and out of trouble. Some of the mothers, that phone the office, say they do not want their boys of fourteen working, during the summer, as they have too much money to spend and then get into trouble that way.

Then there is the question of the teen age girls, as far as I know nothing is being done for them at all, the Girl Guides and the Big Sisters do their part, but neither is really organized along the lines of the Boys' Club or the Scout Movement. Both of these organizations do reach some of the boys. My daughter is a Guide, but as far as I can see it is not run very systematically. The big question is how many people realize that THESE GIRLS ARE THE MOTHERS OF TO-MORROW, and if they are not trained along the right lines, how can we ever hope for THIS BETTER WORLD, we all hear so much about. During the Summer months the girls could be taught cooking, home nursing, domestic science, etc. Now that so many people cannot go away in the Summer, due to wartime restrictions, these boys and girls just hang around, and do not know what to do with themselves. Of course there are lots of little chores they can do around the house, but these do not keep them busy.

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I am Church of England and attend Trinity Church, and I have noticed a gradual dwindling of the children from the Sunday School and church services. This is a very large parish and still growing as this section of the city is one which will grow for some time to, and the Sunday School should be increasing instead of decreasing. What is happening to these children? I realize that the parents are working long hours on war-work and so many people working, Sunday is the only day for relaxation, and to do lots of little chores, being the only day they have at home, but surely they can see that the children attend Sunday School at least.

Saturday nights in Montreal you cannot get in an Hotel or Night Club, as the Servicemen are off on leave and getting intoxicated and spending large sums of money, but you go to church on Sunday night, possibly they could not get up in time for the morning service, and you do not see a man or girl in uniform in the Church. Half of these young boys and girls (18-19 years) will not return after the war, but they still do not seem to realize the seriousness of the situation. I firmly believe that if the people, and particularly the YOUTH, do not turn to the church now, any religion, in this terrible crisis, then they never will after the war, when all this is over and forgotten. Then we will have a nation of Atheists like Hitler has.

Our boys and girls thirteen and fourteen years of age now will be fully grown before this war is over, I think, and what then?

Some other points that should be stressed are TRUTH, HONOUR AND LOYALTY. These are things that seem to be almost forgotten by the youth.

I have read a great many articles and heard addresses on the radio on Juvenile Delinquency and the figures are appalling, but what is being done about it?

I believe that if the parents, the schools and the Church could really get together they could do a great deal, but everyone seems to be too complacent and just leaves it to the other fellow. The parents are to blame a great deal as the fathers are too busy on war-work to help the mothers with the children. I know they are tired, but so are the wives, as everybody is carrying quite a load to-day, but they should do their share, not shirk their responsibilities, and leave it all to the wives.

Possibly the Government could organize some sort of Summer Schools for next Summer, a day or two a week or a couple of half days, and try to educate the YOUTH along the lines to make a better world after this terrible war.

My daughter attends Herbert Symonds School (7th Grade) and they are now forming a Home and School Association and I intend to attend the meetings whenever possible, but like so many others I am keep very busy with my position and keeping the home going. My husband is also on war-work. I do not attend church regularly, but I certainly see that my daughter goes, she is in the Confirmation Class. I intend to go and see Canon Naylor and discuss some of these matters with him.

I will be only too glad to help in any way.

