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An Opportunity

Richard E. Wenzel

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AN OPPORTUNITY

Over near the City of Mandan is located the North Dakota State Training School. In that institution are housed North Dakota's delinquent minors. So far as we know the institution is operated properly, and with all due regard for the best interests of the youngsters who are in it and of the society of which they are still a part.

In addition to the delinquents, however, there are a considerable number of little tots, whose very ages indicate that few of them could have been placed there by reason of any delinquency of their own. Some other circumstance or condition must have brought them to the institution, and the authority that brought them there is the authority of the State itself.

Admitting, as we are ready to do, that the treatment of these little fellows is all that a humane and kindly-disposed administration, notwithstanding its possible impersonality, can give them; nevertheless, they are placed among the wrong surroundings, will eventually go out into society with a certain imprint of past presence in a correctional institution upon them, and be subject, occasionally, to the ill-considered jeers and jibes of their fellows.

Is this as it should be? The answer seems to be "No." Then, something should be done about it, and done as soon as possible. But whose particular obligation is it to see that something is done? It is everybody's, of course, but the old, old saying still hews straight to the line.

Why could not this Bar Association, with its keen interest in Citizenship and Americanization, assume responsibility for initiating whatever program may be necessary to give these "kidlets" an honest-to-goodness, western "square deal?"