

ADJUSTMENT OF THE ADOLESCENT IN RURAL FOSTER HOMES

A Pioneer Study of the Problems in Giving Service to
Adolescent Boys and Girls, and the Difficulties This Age Group Has
in Adjustment to Foster Homes in the Rural Community.

by

HENRY MONCRIEFF McLAREN

Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfilment
of the Requirements for the Degree of
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK
in the School of Social Work

Accepted as conforming to the standard
required for the degree of
Master of Social Work

School of Social Work

1954

The University of British Columbia

ABSTRACT

This is the first study of the adjustment of adolescent children placed in foster homes in the rural community in British Columbia. As the writer is familiar with Kamloops district, this area is used to show an average rural community in British Columbia. The services given children by the Social Welfare Branch have been described as well as the development of present child welfare services. In the children studied, some of the fifty-two have now been discharged from care, while others are still in foster homes. Twelve illustrations have been selected to show the problems the adolescent has in adjustment in a foster home, as well as the problems the social workers may have in giving service.

There are both failures and successes in the adjustment of the children studied. There is evidence that further evaluation of the present services to adolescent children in foster care is needed. There seems to be a need as well to review the type of care most suited to this age group. Children who have been in care for a long period before they have reached the transition from childhood to adulthood seem to adjust easier. However, there appears to be need to re-evaluate these placements periodically, as there is evidence that problems often arise during this time.

The child who comes into care either just before the period of transition or during it, is the one who most often shows that he can not relate to adults. There is real necessity for further study of this group of children. Although there are definite problems in the adjustment of the adolescent, it is gratifying to note that the number of replacements in the rural community is small. It is speculated that the frequency with which a child is moved is much less than in urban centres.

In conclusion, it is felt that there is a need for review of services given this age group by district offices. This study only touches on the multitude of problems involved in foster placement of adolescent boys and girls. It is hoped that the study may act as an incentive to others interested in this problem to evaluate further the adjustment of this age group in foster homes and the present program in operation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The writer would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who gave of their time and energy to help in completion of this project. The following deserve special thanks for their guidance and counseling:

The executive staff of the Social Welfare Branch for their agreeing to make the records of the Kamloops Social Welfare Branch available.

Miss W.M.Urquhart, District Supervisor of the Kamloops Social Welfare Branch who gave her time and experience to help the writer organize the material available.

Special thanks are given to Dr.Leonard C.Marsh for his suggestions and guidance in the planning of the text during the school year.

The writer especially acknowledges the further guidance given by Professor Wm.Dixon who carefully read the text and revised it.

Further thanks are also due to Miss Helen K.Exner who was most helpful in making suggestions as to content.

Thanks are also given to all those who have helped in the typing, particularly Mrs.R.Strudwick who has been most patient and conscientious.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1. <u>The Adolescent in Modern Society</u>	Page
The adolescent period in general. Emotional components of the transition to adulthood. The community's concern for the child. Recreational services available. The school and its place in the adolescent's life. Adolescent problems in U.S.A. compared to British Columbia. Method used in the project.	1.
Chapter 2. <u>Present Child Welfare Services in British Columbia</u>	
Services given in the early years. Development on a provincial level through the years. Amalgamation of services. Responsibilities of Child Welfare Division: Protection of Children, Foster Home Placement, Adoptions, Children of Unmarried Parents. Industrial schools for boys and girls. Services given by district offices. Kamloops district. Supervision in the district office. Staff development. The role of allied professions: school teachers, public health, clergy, medical, police.	20
Chapter 3. <u>Illustrative Examples of Problems in Foster Home Placement of Adolescents</u>	
General placement problems. Process of evaluation. Illustrations of adolescent problems: Joan B., Fred B., John C., Rita Z., Mildred, Alma, and Ron T., Eddie D., Doug and Frank O., Helen J., Dave S., Marion K., Alice V.	46
Chapter 4. <u>Progress in Treatment of Selected Cases</u>	
Review of developments in progress of Joan B., Fred B., John C., Rita Z., Mildred, Alma and Ron T., Eddie D., Doug and Frank O., Helen J., Dave S., Marion K., Alice V.	93
Chapter 5. <u>Problems of Giving Services in Rural Community</u>	
The adolescent foster child and his problems. The Social Welfare Branch foster home program. The need for diagnostic thinking. Problems arising in placements. The improvement of services to the adolescent child.	103
Appendices:	
A. Definition of services given by Kamloops office	
B. Definition of Child Welfare terms.	

Table of Contents (continued)

	Page
C. Statistical tables	
(i) Summary of case statistics 1948 and 1953	
(ii) Number of placements of children	
D. Map of district	
E. Bibliography.	

CHARTS

Fig. 1. Structural chart of Child Welfare Division	26
--	----

ADJUSTMENT OF THE ADOLESCENT IN RURAL FOSTER HOMES.

CHAPTER 1 The Adolescent in Modern Society

In the study of the adjustment of a particular group of adolescent children, it is first necessary to gain some understanding of the normal adolescent and his problems. Adolescence can best be described as a period of transition from childhood to adulthood. To gain this status of adulthood, one of the major struggles is to become emancipated from parental control, while at the same time maintaining a happy relationship with parents.

Through the first half of the transition period, there are many physical changes taking place in the individual. During this period of change, girls are usually ahead of boys by two years, in intellectual development, as well as in physical and emotional progress. However, by the middle of the transition, the masculine sex is slowly catching up, and they are soon on an equal basis in respect to this growth. Different physical changes taking place in the body during this period are both internal and external. For instance, changes are seen in various sizes of parts of the body, and this growth as well as structural changes are apparent in both sexes.¹ The organs of the body commence to show signs of maturation, and activity of the sex glands is becoming more pronounced.

This transitional period is trying for most children, and how boys and girls react to it, is dependent to a great degree on the care and understanding they received through the developmental years from birth. During the early stages of transition, the boy

L. FARNHAM, Marjorie F. "The Adolescents", New York, Harper and Brothers, 1951. Chapter 2

will realize there is a change occurring in his voice, nocturnal omissions will commence, and unless he is properly prepared for these changes at an earlier stage, they will be very upsetting to him. Similarly, the girl, when she reaches this period, will also find her body is changing, both externally and internally. Unless she is prepared for these changes that occur, she also will be frightened. Co-ordination of muscles in boys is particularly poor at this time, and they must be given all the support possible during this period of re-establishment of equilibrium of the muscular system.

Emotional Component in Adolescence:

Through this period of development, the adolescent is striving to gain emotional maturity, and there are many difficulties that arise. Many of these problems can be traced back to unresolved conflicts during the development period, particularly prior to the sixth year. The importance of experiences, relationship of parents and child, as well as treatment received during the formative years, cannot be overstressed. The more security and happiness possessed by the child at this earlier age, the easier the transition will be to adulthood.⁽²⁾

Often the adolescent will show a great degree of ambivalence, at one point he may be aggressive, and at the next moment he may be kind and understanding. This attitude towards his family is usually caused by his realization that he must give up his childish love towards his parents for a more mature kind of love. However, there are times when the development may become

(2) IBID CHAPTER 2 & 3

so difficult that he may become fearful and regress to an earlier stage which in the past has brought him love and understanding. This period of regression, as a rule, is only temporary and soon again he will set out to strive for independence. The adolescent will need a great deal of understanding. For adults to be able to advise the boy and girl, the relationship of this age group to their parents must be strong, and this can only be accomplished through a strong relationship being developed from babyhood.

The adolescent has a great need to experiment as well as to gain knowledge, and although he is experimenting in many new experiences, he usually has some doubts about his ability to handle a new situation. It is most important for him to gain experience in handling himself, his friends, and the opposite sex. The conflicts that the adolescent must cope with have been effectively summed up in the following words:

"Before there can be rebuilding, there inevitably will be a period of emotional dismantling and destruction, expressed in swings from adult to childish behaviour. Quite apart from whatever the world expects from a child, his growing up is complicated by both physical and psychological changes within himself. A new content is given to sex, all emotional drives are intensified, aggressive impulses are increased and these changes occur when the personality is not yet sure of its own ability to deal with them."¹

Of course, there are also positive factors in the growing up process: intellectual development becomes more noticed, there are definite signs of better judgement and reasoning ability. The span of concentration becomes longer, the thinking of the boy and girl becomes more precise, and there is an attempt to associate

¹ INGLE, D.A., "Family Casework Services for Adolescents"
Journal of Social Casework. November 1947, Vol.28; No.9, pp 349 -354

experience to thinking. In dealing with the adolescent, adult persons must have great patience, be willing to listen to many immature opinions, and be careful not to ridicule the boy or girl. Both must be given the freedom to think their ideas through, and although ideas may change, they are learning to set up concepts and ideals that are important in the attaining of maturity and adulthood. The adolescent must be allowed to grow on his own. There is no set pattern, and many of the ways of life must be found out by him alone. Parents cannot do the growing up for the child but they can be prepared to provide counsel, and support when it is sought.

As the period of change progresses, the adolescent becomes less restricted in what the adult world will allow him to do. His knowledge will broaden, his understanding of the environment will improve, and his general outlook will be one of a more mature nature. The adolescent gradually becomes more sure of his ability, he is more interested in groups, and this can be an advantage in guiding him to learn more about adult ways of life. Although his stay in such groups may be short and he may "try out" many of them, he is seeking ideals and a better understanding through the process of experimentation.

During this period, many an adolescent will become very attached to an adult of the same sex who is usually one who meets the ideals that the adolescent is trying to set up for himself. The friendships made by both boys and girls at this time are of great importance. Parents may often be quite upset, as they may

not approve of these friends. However, the more outward opposition shown by the parents, the more attached the adolescent will become to these persons. If the adolescent is left alone, and not opposed more than necessary, he will usually drop these undesirable friends.

Many adolescents are fearful of making an adjustment to society, as they are often under pressure at home as well as in the community and, as a result, external and internal conflicts may result. Sometimes the adolescent may want to do things which are not beneficial to him, and parents may be fearful of the effects of setting limits for him. However, it has been found that in this kind of situation, the adolescent may be testing the parents, to see if they love him enough to really protect him in such situations.

The relationships of the boy and girl to their family is of most importance, for the final attainment of maturity is first reached in the family group, and, as previously stressed, there is an initial need for the individual to assert his wish for freedom from control and domination of the family. Indications of this assertion can be seen often in the wish of the adolescent boy and girl to buy and choose clothing. They may also appear evasive and will show rebellion in all that they are asked to do, whether it be much or little.

It is during adolescence that boys and girls show real interest in each other, particularly on the American continent. "Dating" commences, and the type of reaction of parents will show the real understanding that they have of this age group. This

transitional period is one of straightening out emotions and, as already stated, the early development period cannot be overemphasized. The greater the problem left unsolved during these earlier years, the more difficult the adolescent period is. As the adolescent moves through the transition, parents must be able to relinquish more and more control, while recognizing that the ability of the child to handle his own life must be given consideration. Adolescence can best be described as a period of compromise for both adult and adolescent.

The Concern of the Community.

More than ever before, most members of the community realize that they have a responsibility to the adolescent boy and girl. The concern of the community can be seen in various examples: labour laws that have been drawn up to protect the growing youth from exploitation, to assure the child of at least a minimum of education, and other statutes that have been enacted to protect the growing boy and girl from taking responsibilities for which they are not prepared.

At this time the adolescent shows a new interest in community affairs, and the development of a new future citizen can be seen. Although a more adult outlook is developing, the boy and girl, in most cases will need a degree of protection because of lack of wise judgement. The need to be independent can often be met by the giving of more responsibility in the home, or through the child taking jobs after school or during summer holiday periods.

In the community to-day, there appears to be some break-

-down of close family ties. One factor in the urban centres may be the availability of commercialized activity. However, it is probably true that the family group remains more closely knit in the rural community.

Sexual impulses play a dominant role in adolescence and are a normal part of the growing up process. Most adolescents will approach these new impulses with a degree of temerity. These feelings can usually be traced to inner resistance resulting from parental attitudes surrounding sexual desires. Often the adolescent does not rush into relationships, and his first contact with the opposite sex may be due to social pressure more than any other factor. Usually, the first experience in this field is dating for companionship, the second, that of "going steady" appears as a rule at a much later date.

It is acknowledged that training for mature masculinity and femininity starts at birth. However, the way the adolescent reacts will depend to some degree on the cultural outlook of the area in which he lives. Teaching of sex is a continuous process, answering the child with the information asked for. As already stressed, relationship of parents to children is most important during adolescence, as often the boy or girl will need sound, active help from an adult person. The more understanding the adult is, and the more willing he is to share his thoughts, the greater the possibility for prudence and discretion in the child. The child may be helped through this period of conflict by learning to sublimate his sexual desires by turning to more socially acceptable

activities, and if these problems of sexual adjustment are handled in a sensible way, they are resolved without great difficulty.

Recreational Services for All Ages.

To-day, most adults and children are able to participate in more leisure time activities than ever before. On reviewing the services offered all age groups, there are numerous activities in the large urban centres. For instance, in the Greater Vancouver area there are the following group agencies: Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, and Community Centres. These are only a few of the agencies operating to give services to both adults and children of all age groups in this area. Some of these agencies are geared to straight physical fitness activities, while other groups offer more varied type programs for people who attend these agencies.

Since the end of World War 2, there has been a branching out by many groups/agencies into more diversified activities. For example, special programs have been set up to meet the needs of teen-age boys and girls. Both Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations are featuring programs for teen-agers which include mixed programs for both boys and girls. One agency which still seems to attract many boys in their early adolescent period is the Boy Scout movement. As well as this there has sprung up numerous teen-town groups which seem to partly fulfil the needs of some adolescents. Similarly, the Girl Guides Association carries out a similar type of program for girls. Most of these Boy Scout and Girl Guide activities usually are attached to both protestant

and catholic churches. Many churches also carry out group activities such as Canadian Girls in Training, Young Peoples' Unions, as well as other activities for both children and adults.

Up until 1952, the Department of Education, Province of British Columbia, sponsored a Provincial Program for Recreation throughout British Columbia. In the main, it was financed and administered entirely by the provincial government. When the present government came into office in British Columbia in 1952, the former Provincial Recreation program was scrapped and, in its place the Community Programmes Branch was established within the Department of Education. The new focus was to encourage local responsibility for recreation rather than providing direct service to the community.

The services given by this Branch are summarized as follows:

- (1) "The Branch will assist, in an advisory capacity, public bodies interested in recreation. To do this, it maintains a staff of nine Regional Consultants who are available to assist in this way.
- (2) A programme of leadership training for voluntary recreation leaders is provided in order to assist local areas in obtaining instructors and organizers for their programmes.
- (3) As a means of encouraging and assisting School Boards in the operation of recreational classes through regularly organized night-schools, grants-in-aid will be paid on the same basis as those which apply in the case of other non-vocational night-school courses. These are grants toward the salary of instructors.
- (4) In order to assist in the organization and co-ordination of public recreation, other than those phases which can best be conducted in school buildings by means of night-schools, the Community Programmes Branch will make grants-in-aid on behalf of local Recreation Commissions. These are grants toward the salaries of those organizing and co-ordinating local public recreation.

As a prerequisite to the payment of such grants, the Municipal or other Council is required to establish a local Recreation Commission as its governing body in matters of public recreation. In unorganized areas, Recreation Commissions are to be appointed by public meetings called for this purpose, after notice of such intention has been filed with the Regional Consultant in charge of the district.

Grants-in-aid to Recreation Commissions are paid on a basis of two schedules. "Schedule A" covers the payments on behalf of the salary of Recreation Directors employed by such Commissions. This is a grant of \$50 per month and is paid on behalf of a full-time Community Recreation Director in charge of the organization and administration of public recreation for the whole area for which he is appointed. In the case of areas with a population less than 10,000, a part-time Director may be appointed. In this case a smaller grant is paid.

Grants under "Schedule B" are for assistants to the Director, specialists in various fields of recreation, or persons employed in connection with local leadership training programmes. Grants under Schedule B vary with the population of a particular area.

Under both schedules, approval by the Community Programmes Branch of the programme to be adopted is required. The amount of the grant is in no case greater than one-third the actual sum paid to the employee by the Recreation Commission. In the case of areas with a population of less than 10,000, however, it is provided that a grant toward expenses may be made if no paid help is employed in connection with public recreation." ¹

On examination of the above aims and services offered, it is seen that there is a definite attempt to stimulate local communities to take advantage of the opportunity to sponsor activities. It is noted that in organization of group programmes in the rural districts, the Department of Education points out that Regional Consultants are available to assist communities in establishing group programs on an advisory basis. The job of these specialists in this work is not one of initiating programs but to give advice

1. Province of British Columbia, Department of Education,
"The Community Programmes Branch", Queen's Printer, Victoria, B.C.
 page 3

to those persons who are willing to accept responsibility for operation of programs.

Until the inception of this program, there was very little in the way of group activities available to persons in the more isolated parts of the Province. The only major activity for growing boys and girls was the establishment of "4H" Farm Clubs by the Department of Agriculture. The programs offered by this Department are of a high calibre, but not every child wanted to take advantage of this type of activity. It is felt that if the new Community Programmes Branch is interpreted in the right way to communities it can be quite beneficial to the people in the rural districts, as it does not set down an over-all pattern, nor does it take away the independence of the community.

Services Given by the Schools to Adolescent Children.

To-day the schools of British Columbia are offering more extra curricular activities to high school students than ever before. Education to-day not only includes the learning process but includes as well the preparation of the growing boy and girl to take their place as competent citizens in the community.

Throughout British Columbia there has been a move toward establishment of Consolidated Schools. It was felt that a better job could be done with the older child if he was to experience a period in a larger type of school, where it would also be possible to attract a better standard of teacher.

In most large centres to-day, high schools offer counseling services to the adolescent student which include advice in choice

of vocations as well as help in working out personal problems. If the school counselor feels that the problem is too deep seated to handle, he is able to call upon the services of the District Health Nurse if the problem is medical, or the district social worker if it has social implications.

In summing up the present services given the adolescent child in school, there are still many lags, however, it seems that school authorities are becoming more aware of the needs of boys and girls. They are attempting to help them to make as satisfactory an adjustment as possible when they are ready to take their places in the world. The only point that must be remembered in giving these services is that the basic learning process needed to equip the boy and girl to take responsible jobs in the community must not be entirely forgotten. Many citizens do feel that there is a tendency to overlook the important task of preparing the child to know enough to be able to handle a job satisfactorily. It is most important that this not be forgotten, for if the child does not have enough basic education, and cannot be successful at his job, then the end result is liable to be poor social adjustment.

Comparison of Adolescent Problems Found Locally, to Those in U.S.A.

In explaining the problem of adolescence, it was considered worthwhile to see how problems of adolescent behaviour differ locally from those found in parts of the U.S.A. For this purpose, the study "Elmtown's Youth" by August B. Hollinghead, has been used to provide comparative material.

One of the first points noted is that the author attributed

many of the problems of adolescents to strong class distinction in the Elmtown Community.¹ Hollingshead divided the social structure of the community into four separate groups. Class 1 included those residents who had wealth and lineage. This group of residents is stabilized from one generation to another in most cases. Class 2 included all those residents who got where they are through their own efforts. This makes up approximately one half of this group while the remainder have inherited their status in life. This class is particularly active in the affairs of the community such as civic leadership and service clubs. Most of this group receive their income from the man of the family participating in some large independent profession, or is active in some local business, perhaps operated by class 1 families. Class 3: Most of the people in class 3 have got where they are in life by their own efforts, and they made their living either by operating small businesses, farms, or are independent professional people. Many wives in this group supplement the family income themselves by working. Class 4. This group comprises those citizens who always seem to be poor, but are honest people who are the labourers and man the factories and mills.⁽²⁾ All ethnic elements are found in this group.

Most of the groups in this class system are inclined to stay quite separate from one another, although there is some closeness between class 2 and class 3. As pointed out in the Elmtown study, this class distinction has a great deal of bearing on the conflicts that can take place in the period of adolescence. From childhood through life, these boys and girls are instilled with the

1 HOLLINGSHEAD, August B. "Elmtown Youth", New York, John Wiley & Sons Inc., 1949

difference there is between each social class. From the study, it would appear that this class consciousness seems to be present to some degree in high school, and there is a tendency for the students to segregate themselves into groups as to the class structure mentioned. Girls and boys who deviate from this, and decide to be friendly with someone in one of the other groups, usually have problems with those children of their own social strata. This class distinction, as explained in the study, is also carried over to the school teachers, and it would seem that there is fear on the part of school authorities that they are liable to lose their position if they are hard on the rich man's child. As a result, the children in group 3 and 4 are often treated more roughly than they might be if this fear was not present.

In respect to the adolescent in the community, the study points out that:

"Elmtown's culture does not provide any community-wide procedures to help the adolescent define himself as an adolescent in the transition from child to adult" (1)

The author does not feel that the adolescent is helped to any degree to reach maturity by the high school which is the principal institution in the culture of this town. Instead, it seems that the school often propounds dependency on the family, particularly within the three upper class groups. In this town it seems that the institutions such as church, school, as well as commercial entertainment, often operate at cross purposes in planning affairs for teen-agers, rather than co-operating and attempting to give the best services possible. (2)

(1) Ibid page 148
 (2) " 149

The author discusses cliques, dating, religion and religious behaviour. This part of the adolescent transition appears to be similar to other parts of the United States. There is definite grouping of children, particularly in the upper three classes. With regard to "dating", there is a tendency for more adolescent boys and girls to-day to participate in "petting", as well as indulging in sexual relationships. However, it was recognized that the male sex has a tendency to boast about sexual conquests, and it is speculated that there is possibly less sexual practices in this age group than thought. In the matter of religion, most children of the upper three classes have been steeped in religion either through Sunday school, or, if of the Catholic faith, through religious ceremonies. However, most teen-age children in Elmtown seem to have difficulty in working out feelings surrounding religious beliefs.

Teen-age children in any community need money to pay for recreational needs. As a result, many children in Elmtown, particularly in the third and fourth social classes, find work either in shops, mills, or other types of labouring jobs, on Saturdays and on holidays. The children in the two higher classes may not be so interested in such jobs, as in most cases the parents are so well fixed that they do not have to work, and their parents may also feel that employment of the child is below their status. The children of the lowest class in Elmtown usually leave school at an early date, and unless they have the incentive to improve their position in life, they will carry on in similar labouring jobs as their parents. In this study it is indicated that there appears to be definite prejudice against children of poorer families on the part of other children,

as well as school authorities, which seems to cause many children to leave school earlier than they otherwise would.

As far as leisure time activities are concerned, it seems from the study, that most children sever the ties with formal organized groups when the adolescent makes the transition from pupil to young adult. When a youth withdraws from school, it seems that he withdraws from most formal activities which often include Scouting activities and church groups. It is indicated that leaders in charge of these group activities do not appear too concerned about this situation. Because of this situation, the adolescents often seem to get into the wrong type of recreation, and it is during this period that he or she may learn the habit of drinking intoxicating liquors, and the practice of unhealthy sexual habits.

The Local Scene.

An attempt has been made to give some idea of the problems that can arise in a small community such as Elmtown, in the transition period of adolescents. This is only one example of a community in the United States where there seems to be many problems due to pressures of the community in general. No doubt many communities in the United States suffer from similar problems. In British Columbia these problems are present in the life of the adolescent but they may vary in degree of intensity.

It is likely that the four classes of social structure outlined in the study are applicable to the social structure in the larger cities of this Province, such as Vancouver and Victoria. They may also be applicable to some of the towns such as Nanaimo,

Kamloops, Nelson and other towns. However, in the smaller villages of the outlying areas there seems to be more solidarity of the people. This, of course, varies when there are minority groups such as Indian or part-Indians residing. It seems that perhaps more is being done by community and school to break this feeling in the smaller towns. It appears there is less fear by school authorities of being interfered with by the wealthy parents and therefore treatment appears to be on a more even basis for most children. At present there are adequate facilities for the growing boy or girl to obtain recreation in the large cities. These seem to meet the needs of classes 1, 2 and 3. However, some adolescents of class 3, as well as many of class 4 in the social structure, seem to get into difficulties in the large cities because of the need to find satisfaction through the wrong kind of leisure time activities such as frequenting undesirable places and indulging in gang behavior.

The adolescent in this province have tended in the last years to seek employment during holidays and on Saturdays. Children of the three top social classes seem to think this is the accepted thing to do and children from seventeen years and up, or younger, seem able to find part-time jobs for holidays and Saturdays. Jobs include construction work for boys, and waitress work for girls, as well as numerous other seasonable jobs on farms, in canneries etc.

In the farming communities and labouring families there is still a tendency for children to attend school only until they reach fifteen, the legal age for leaving. The reasons for children leaving school at this age seem to be mainly because of economic problems,

or because of the lack of ability to undertake more difficult work. There do not seem to be too many cases where children leave school because of the way they are treated by the school teachers. Sometimes children have been known to quit who are in a minority racial group because of the treatment they receive from other children.

In regards to sexual problems, it appears that in the larger cities and towns these problems are very similar to those found in the United States. Although liquor laws are strict in this Province, the older adolescent child seems to be able to procure alcohol through devious methods if he wishes to. In the large cities and larger towns the adolescent boy and girl frequent cheap dance halls quite often and it is in such places that many adolescents seem to get into difficulties.

In summing up, it is felt that the adolescent boy and girl in this Province are confronted by many pressures that the community itself brings about, either consciously or unconsciously. It is felt that there is more conservatism in Canada than in the United States, and therefore the adolescent behaviour may not be so extreme.

Method.

This study deals primarily with the adjustment of the adolescent boy and girl in the rural foster home. The Kamloops area was chosen as being indicative of rural settings throughout the province. Before completing analysis of problems of adolescent foster children, the history of Child Welfare in British Columbia is reviewed in a descriptive manner to show how the present program has developed. Present services given by the Kamloops Branch in

respect to children, are described, and evaluated to some extent. Relationship of the district to Child Welfare Division is also described.

In the analysis of the problems of adolescent foster children, the records of fifty-two children are reviewed. These children came into care from 1940 to 1953. Some are still in care while others are now discharged. Some of these children came into care when young babies, while others did so before adolescence or during the transition period itself. Although fifty-two children are studied, the number of case illustrations are only twelve. However, it is felt that these illustrations show most of the problems from the child's point of view as well as that of the social workers. These case illustrations have been supplemented by some statistical tables to show more clearly the difficulties in placement of this age group in the rural community.

Where information is lacking in records, personal interviews have been arranged with staff members and the District Supervisor of the Kamloops Social Welfare Branch to fill in the needed material.

Chapter 2 Present Child Welfare Services in British Columbia

In any discussion of present services given children in British Columbia, it is important to review developments that have taken place since 1911. It was in that year that the first child welfare legislation was enacted. The statute was entitled the Infants Act, and provided for the legal transfer of orphaned and neglected children to the state. Provisions were also made for the establishment of Children's Aid Societies to give needed care to such children. In 1919, the first Superintendent of Neglected Children was appointed and her tasks included inspection of children's institutions coming under the Infant's Act, as well as supervising the Boys' Industrial School, and being responsible for administration of the Mother's Pension Act.

It should be stressed that all children who came into care including those from unorganized territory⁽¹⁾ were placed with one of the Children's Aid Societies. At this early stage of development, cities and municipalities were entirely responsible for investigating charges of neglect, and the Superintendent was not legally required to act until the child was proved to be neglected, by the local court. If no Children's Aid Society existed in the municipality where the child lived, then the Superintendent was responsible for placement of the child in an institution, usually one of the two Children's Aid Societies in Vancouver.

In the year 1927, a survey of child welfare was sponsored by the service clubs in Vancouver. This survey was carried out by--

(1) see Appendix A for definition of unorganized territory

the Canadian Welfare Council under the direction of Charlotte Whitton. The result of this survey was the implementing of radical reforms, which included the complete reorganization of the Children's Aid Societies in Vancouver. A number of trained social workers from Eastern Canada were also brought in at this time to reorganize existing programs. In 1931, there was some reorganization at the provincial level when the responsibility for existing programs was given to the Department of the Provincial Secretary.

A Superintendent of Welfare was appointed who was to be responsible for the care of neglected children as well as other social welfare activities within the province. At the same time, a Deputy Superintendent of Neglected Children was named and she was to be responsible for the mass of detail involved in carrying out Child Welfare legislation in the province. In 1935, the Children's Division, as it was then named, was established as a separate section, to be called Child Welfare Branch with a Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent, both in Vancouver. The Mother's Pension Visitors in the four outlying districts were used by the Children's Branch to gather social information and take social action as deemed necessary by the Superintendent.

One of the important results of the 1927 survey was the establishing of an adequate foster home program for the care of children by the Vancouver Children's Aid Society. In addition, standards of institutional care in British Columbia were being carefully examined, and by 1936 nearly all institutional care in the province was replaced by satisfactory foster home programs. During this era of change, an important policy, which is still in force

to-day, was established. This policy laid down that no further Children's Aid Societies were to be established unless they could appoint an official who was trained in children's work to administer their program⁽¹⁾.

Development Through the Years

In 1939, the Infant's Act was amended to allow more preventive work to be done, in the hope of cutting down the number of children taken into the care of the Superintendent. In 1943, the Infant's Act was replaced by the Protection of Children Act, which laid stress upon the more positive aspects of work with neglected children. Under this new legislation, the title of the Superintendent was changed to that of Superintendent of Child Welfare.

In 1940, for the first time, an attempt was made to promote the establishment of foster homes in rural areas. Up to this time virtually all children placed by the Provincial Government were sent for placement to the two Children's Aid Societies in Vancouver. At first, a few homes were established in the Okanagan Valley. The movement was aided by an urgent need for homes for children to be evacuated from Britain. Between district workers and Children's Aid Societies, fifteen hundred homes were approved. The districts commenced to make their own placements and at the same time took back many children who had previously been sent to the Vancouver Societies.

Additional developments were taking place. A closer relationship was established between Child Welfare Branch and the Industrial Schools. Experimentation was carried out in placement in foster homes of children discharged from these institutions, This was

(1) Protection of Children's Act, King's Printer, Chapter 47
sec. 21-24.

done where the natural home of the child proved unsatisfactory for him to return to. Post discharge services were established and carried out by the field staff to rehabilitate the child. Juvenile Courts became aware of the services of the field and the staff began to be notified of any delinquent cases to be brought up in court. (1)

Amalgamation of Services.

In October 1942, the first step in amalgamation of the services took place. The Unemployment Relief Branch, Welfare Field Service, and administration of Old Age Pensions were brought together under the Department of Provincial Secretary, which resulted in the amalgamation of the field staff of the Unemployment Relief Branch and Welfare Services. The province was divided into five regions, with a regional supervisor to be in charge of each region. An Assistant Director of Welfare was appointed with responsibility to expedite generalized service. This was the groundwork for a general family service program to be given the people of the province by a competent staff of social workers.

An attempt to unify all welfare policy was also started at this time. District offices were reorganized and workers were assigned specific districts where they were responsible to give all services offered by the Branch. The Branch also received a new title, that of the Social Assistance Branch. Although these changes took place, supervision continued to be given through correspondence with Divisional offices. This proved to be an unsatisfactory arrangement as there was great delay in writing from the field to

(1) Province of British Columbia, Annual Report of the Social Welfare Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare, King's Printer, Victoria, March 31, 1948. pp.11-13

the divisional offices and awaiting replies. Work in the field was naturally slowed down and this proved a major problem, particularly in child welfare.

On October 6, 1946, a new department to be known as the Department of Health and Welfare was established by the provincial government. It was divided into two separate branches: Health, and Welfare.⁽¹⁾ A Deputy Minister was appointed for each. With the establishment of a separate Welfare Branch, it was hoped that more unity could be given to the overall program, while at the same time more power to act could be given over to the regional and district level, instead of all decisions being made by the central office at Victoria. To enable this plan to be put into action, case supervisors were placed strategically throughout the province in district offices. As a result, it was no longer necessary for duplicate records to be kept both in district offices and Victoria. Case records became more adequate in the district offices and a more up-to-date method of recording could be used.⁽²⁾

When the Branch received Departmental status in 1946, the title of "regional supervisor" was changed to "regional administrator". The five administrators were to be responsible for administering each region, with the exception of child welfare and other specialized services which were to remain in the hands of divisional offices.

Responsibilities of Child Welfare Division.

The Child Welfare Division, located in Victoria, is responsible for the administration of three Provincial Child Welfare Acts:

-
- (1) Since 1946 a third Branch has been added, that of Hospital Insurance Services.
 - (2) Previous to 1946, files consisted mainly of correspondence to and from Central office.

Protection of Children, Adoption, and Children of Unmarried Parents⁽¹⁾

As can be seen on Chart One, there is a Superintendent of Child Welfare, who is responsible for the overall administration of the three Provincial Acts as they affect the Social Welfare Field staff, as well as the two children's agencies in Vancouver and in Victoria. The Superintendent is assisted by a Deputy Superintendent. The Division is further divided into a Protection, Adoption, Foster Placement and Children of Unmarried Parents Section. Each of the sections is staffed by a case supervisor, who usually has one or two persons assisting him. In administering these Acts, the Child Welfare Division is responsible for giving consultation to the field staff when asked, as well as to the three private child placing agencies in the province.

Protection of Children

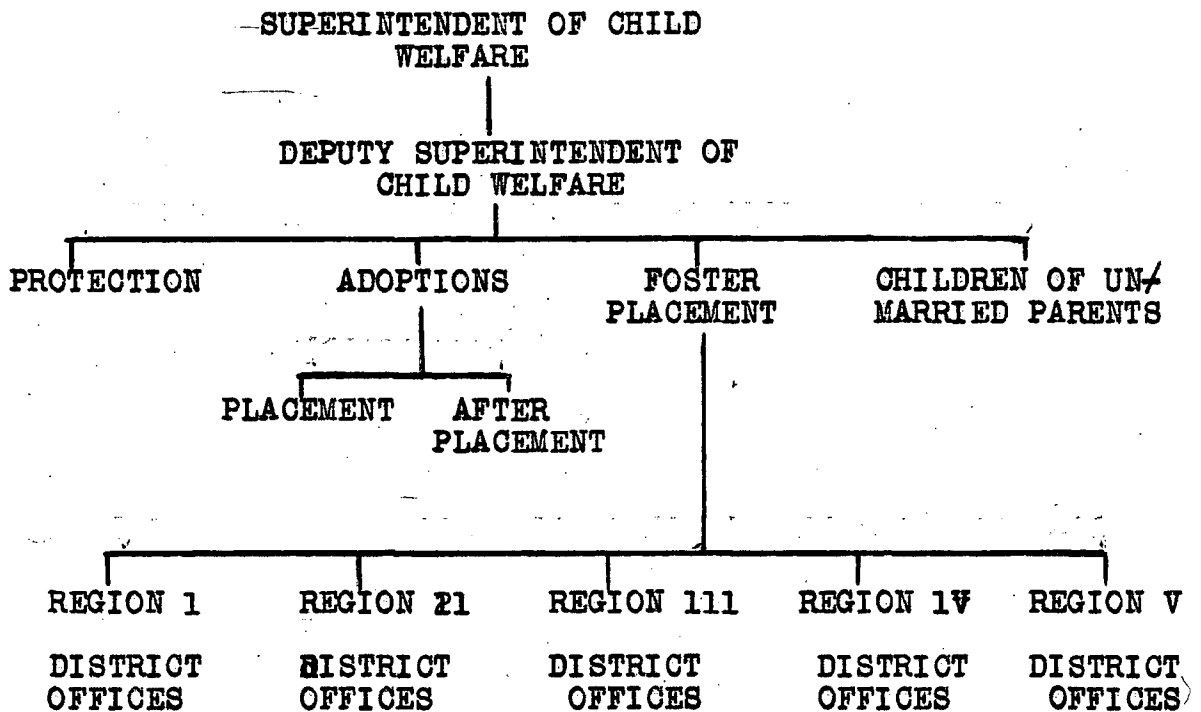
In cases of Protection, where it is felt necessary by field staff of the Social Welfare Branch to remove a child from his parents, a report setting down the reasons for removal being considered, must be submitted to the Protection Section of Divisional office. If the Protection Supervisor and Superintendent are satisfied that such action is in the best interest of the child, then written authority is issued to the district worker, and he may go ahead with court procedure and removal of the child. In the case of an emergency situation arising when a child must be apprehended⁽²⁾ because of neglect or having run away from home, the social worker, in agreement with the District Supervisor, will contact the Superintendent either by telegram or telephone. The Superintendent will

(1) Policy Manual, Social Welfare Branch, 1954, p.40

(2) Definition of "apprehend" - see appendix B

CHART 1.

STRUCTURAL CHART OF CHILD WELFARE
DIVISION - PROVINCE OF B.C.



telegraph emergency authority to hold the child to the district office, Whether further action is necessary or the complaint is withdrawn, a written report covering the situation must be forwarded to Divisional office. If the reason for apprehension is because of an older child running away, the district office or private agency where the child resides is contacted and arrangements are made for the child to return to his own district if this is the best plan. In most of these cases the child, is returned to his home area prior to the end of the seven day period when a child must be presented before a magistrate.⁽¹⁾

From the foregoing, it can be seen that apart from court jurisdiction, the Child Welfare Division has final authority in administration of the Protection of Children Act, and must be given full knowledge of the reasons for a child being brought into care. The reason for this is that the Act lays down that the social worker is acting on behalf of the Superintendent and therefore the decision must be in agreement. Until such time as the Act may be amended, this is the policy carried out.

The Protection of Children Act is applicable to all children in British Columbia, regardless of race, creed or colour. The only modification of the Act is in dealing with Indian children, at which time it is policy to consult the local Indian Superintendent and work in co-operation with him. Unless in an extreme emergency, the social worker is not to go to the reservation without first discussing the total situation with the Indian Superintendent. However, it is emphasized that Indian children are not to be set apart and must be treated as other children.⁽²⁾

(1) Protection of Children's Act, King's Printer, Chapter 47, Sec.8

(2) Only other method of bringing a child into foster care is by non-ward care which will be discussed in District Services.

Foster Home Placement

The Foster Home Placement Section of Child Welfare Division is concerned with children who are difficult to place. This Section is particularly concerned with placements of children who may have been in either the Boys' or Girls' Industrial School. The work of this Section also includes mechanical processes of seeing that foster home agreements are signed by foster parents, and the Superintendent, as well as seeing that placement slips are sent in when a child is placed or moved from a foster home. This Section is also responsible for seeing that Family Allowance payments are transferred to the Superintendent when a child comes into care. Where a district office is having difficulty in placement, the Placement Section can be called upon for consultive services.

Adoptions

The Adoption Section is divided into two offices. The Adoption Section in Vancouver is responsible for selection of homes for children available for placement. All adoption homes have studies done by the Social Welfare Branch and the approved ones are forwarded to this office. Similarly, all studies of unmarried mothers wishing to place their children in adoption homes are forwarded to this office. From these reports, selections are made for placement of children to be adopted⁽¹⁾.

The other part of the Adoption Section is in Victoria where all arrangements for legal completion of adoption are carried out. Court reports submitted by district offices are reviewed and, if necessary, corrected or rewritten before presentation at Court.

Private placement of children and step-parent adoptions are usually

(1) The three private agencies handle their own placements but work in conjunction with the Adoption Section who may use these agencies for a source of children.

referred to this office by lawyers on behalf of the adopting parents. This Section, in turn, asks that the usual study be completed by the districts involved.

The Children of unmarried Parents Section is also located in the central office in Victoria. In reality, it is the responsibility of the district office to carry an unmarried parent's case in its entirety when both parents are in the same district. If the putative father is residing in another district, then the case may be jointly shared with the other office where the man is residing. Where the putative father is in another province or country, then the district office must work through the divisional office who would communicate with the appropriate agency.⁽¹⁾ All births of children born out of wedlock are reported to Child Welfare Division by the Department of Vital Statistics, and the district office where the mother resides is notified so that services may be offered. However, if she does not wish the services, they are not forced upon her. The main job of divisional offices seems to be one of referral of cases and disbursement of funds collected under this Act. If a putative father acknowledges paternity, the district social worker will have agreements signed in triplicate by the mother and the father of the child. These are then forwarded to the Superintendent of Child Welfare for her signature⁽²⁾. These agreements are usually signed if the mother plans to keep her child and is asking for medical expenses as well as maintenance for the child.

Summary of Child Welfare Responsibilities.

In summarizing the functions of Child Welfare Division,

(1) Ibid, p.74
 (2) Ibid p.74

it is seen that by law they are responsible for action taken in all matters of Child Welfare in British Columbia. Therefore, it is most necessary that they see that district offices are carrying out policy as laid down. With fuller growth and development of the Branch, perhaps more authority may be designated to regional and district levels. However, this can only be done with proper staff who are responsible to carry out the administration. Even though this were to take place, there would still be need for a small divisional office to take care of situations such as planning for children who are wards of another province or a children's aid society. There are also many mechanical processes that would still have to be handled by such a central office. Although authority to apprehend children is only given by the Superintendent of Child Welfare, the social worker is free to plan for the children in his district within the policy laid down.

Industrial Schools.

Another part of the Social Welfare Branch that deals with children are the Boys' and Girls' Industrial Schools. At present, the administration of these schools is under a Director of Industrial Schools. Each school also has a superintendent in charge. An attempt to develop treatment services in both schools is being undertaken at the present time. The schools work closely with probation officers of the Attorney-General's Department in planning for a child on his discharge from school. Where there is no probation officer in a district, then the social worker is asked to help plan for rehabilitation of the child. A new Boys' Industrial

School is now being constructed and it is felt that, with better physical facilities, the schools may be able to develop better treatment services.

Services Given by the District Office.

Up until 1952, British Columbia was divided into five welfare regions: Region I, Vancouver Island; Region II, Vancouver Lower Mainland; Coastal area to Ocean Falls and East to Boston Bar; Region III, Okanagan Valley, Kamloops District and West to Lytton district; Region IV, Eastern British Columbia, including the East and West Kootenays; Region V, the vast Northland of the Province. In 1952 a sixth region was added. This region encompasses the eastern part of the Fraser Valley from Surrey and Haney area East to Boston Bar. The main reason for this new region being established was because of the heavy concentration of population and at the same time, lightening the load of the administrator strategically placed at the most central point. Throughout each region, there are district offices with a supervisor supervising from one to three offices depending on the size and caseload of each office. Authority for granting and payment of Social Allowance is made either by the district supervisor or Regional Administrator. Family service cases are carried by the workers and guidance in treatment is given by the supervisor. Mothers' Allowance decisions are made by Family Division, Victoria, based on recommendations of the field staff. Decisions in granting of Old Age Assistance, Bonus and Health Service, are made by a central Pension Board at Vancouver.

The geography of the Province of British Columbia has had a great bearing on the development of the present Welfare Program and this can be particularly seen in the regional plan now in operation. This province is 366,255 sq.miles in area and most of this consists of heavily folded mountain ranges which run almost continuously north and south from the United States to Alaska. Mountain ranges also extend inward from the coast to the Alberta border, with the pattern broken by numerous rivers, lakes, valleys and plateaux. In British Columbia the usual municipal forms of government are lacking mainly because of the lack of concentration of population in many areas, which make it impossible for a great many districts to support municipal institutions and services. As a result, the provincial level of government has had to absorb jurisdiction and provide many services that would not be their responsibility in a more thickly concentrated area. In this Province, the population is unevenly spread. As a result, approximately half the total population is concentrated in the Lower Mainland around Vancouver, and in the Victoria district of Vancouver Island⁽¹⁾.
Kamloops District.

As the present study deals mainly with adjustment of the adolescent child placed in foster homes in Kamloops City and surrounding district, it is important to know something about this area and the District Social Welfare Branch. Kamloops is two hundred eighty-four miles east of Vancouver, and the city itself has a population of approximately 8,500 people. Two railways pass through the town and these railways are important as Kamloops is a Divisional point for both of them.

(1) HILL, Ernest, The Regional Administration of Public Welfare in British Columbia, 1950, M.S.W.Thesis, University of British Columbia chapter 1

The town itself is also a centre for ranching, farming, as well as logging operations. Kamloops is in the heart of the dry belt district, but north of Kamloops and surrounding area, both east and west, the terrain becomes more mountainous and heavily wooded. The city is also becoming more important as an industrial area because of an oil pipeline from Alberta going through Kamloops to the coastal district. In conjunction with this pipeline, an oil refinery is now in the process of being completed.

Kamloops Social Welfare District office comes under the jurisdiction of Region 111 with headquarters at Vernon in the Okanagan Valley. The staff at present consists of a Supervisor and five workers, two men and three women. There is also an office staff consisting of a clerk-stenographer and three stenographers. The supervisor is only responsible for supervision of Kamloops Branch. It should be mentioned that Kamloops City has one Social Worker who is responsible for administration of Social Assistance Act, Mother's Allowance Act and Old Age Legislation. The District office is responsible for all other services given in Kamloops City.

The services given in town are only a small percentage of services given. Like most District offices of the Social Welfare Branch, the workers give a generalized family service to the community and surrounding district. The area of this district office is immense. As can be seen on the attached map,⁽¹⁾ a great deal of the country covered by the worker is mountainous, and because of the distances, most of the workers are usually away from three to five days at a time in the district.

(1) see Appendix D

The job of the district social worker is a challenging one. Every day he is meeting new situations with which he must cope. As already stated, the worker is giving a generalized service in all areas of social work, and thus the district worker must be a very versatile person. He must be able to administer numerous provincial acts, give casework services, be a foster home finder, strengthen relationships in the community, as well as fulfil many other responsibilities. This indeed is a large task and, without the necessary support and encouragement, new workers can easily experience difficulty in meeting such a large responsibility. The importance of acceptance of the worker cannot be overstressed. How the worker acts, the services he gives, his acceptance of the people, will bring acceptance, not only of the worker, but the Social Welfare Branch as a whole.

Child Welfare is only a portion of the daily job, but must be handled with particular care and understanding. The social worker, in taking responsibility for foster placement, must find suitable homes for children of all age groups. The social worker is mainly concerned with the child, while the secondary focus is the foster parents. In many ways, the worker is almost a parent himself, for he must see that the physical and emotional needs of the foster child are being taken care of. If there are medical problems present, he must make sure that the foster parents have these attended to. The worker must also see that the child is clothed as other children. More than this, the main task of the worker is to help a foster child adjust in his home and develop as well as

possible in his substitute home. The social worker is responsible for giving services to all children, and he in turn is responsible to Child Welfare Division. It is felt that often in dealing with the Division, there is a lack of understanding between District and Victoria in planning realistically for children. It appears that, because of distance of most district offices, many situations become too impersonalized and, if there was more personal contact, the thinking of both Division and district would become more clarified in working out plans for all children.

In reviewing the growth of Child Welfare services between 1948 and 1954, there seems to be little, if any, change in the number of children placed in adoption homes. However, the number of children placed in foster homes has almost trippled between 1948 and the end of 1953. It is also noted that the number of foster homes approved for placement doubled over the same period. This seems to show that more attention is being given to the needs of children, and the possible lack found in natural homes⁽¹⁾. From the statistics of the district office, it is apparent that the Kamloops district office has been able to develop many more increased foster home resources, From 1948 to 1953 the major development of services in this district seems to have been in the area of Social Assistance, Old Age Services, and Child Welfare. The services given in other categories as seen in the statistics is shown to be comparatively small in numbers.

In reality, there is a large increase in the number of Family Service cases being carried by the Kamloops office. The

(1) see Appendix C. Statistics of Kamloops District for 1948 and 1953. Tables 1(a), 1(b), 2(a), 2(b).

major reasons for this increase is probably due to: an increase in the number of unskilled transient workers with families where there often appears to be more chance of family breakdown because of the stresses in social and economic areas. The second reason for the increase in cases of a family nature may be due to a greater realization by staff members of the needs of the people in the community. However, upon closer examination this may not be so, and from discussion with the District Supervisor, it is felt that there is a possibility that the district is just receiving more enquiries from agencies such as Family Allowance, Department of Veterans' Affairs, as well as requests from outside the province, in relation to family problems. In January 1952, Old Age Assistance legislation became effective and those persons in receipt of Social Allowance between sixty-five and seventy years became eligible for this allowance. It is logical that the number of Social Allowance cases should have decreased, but in reality there was very little change in the number of recipients of this Allowance. This gives some indication of many problems arising, such as desertion by husbands, unemployability and so on.

An examination of the amount of services given by each staff member in Kamloops office has been made for a six months period for 1948 and 1953. In 1948, there were three social workers, and the average numbers of cases active for each worker from July to December in 1948 was one hundred and seven. From Table 1(a) in the appendix⁽¹⁾ there appears to have been a great deal of time spent working

(1) Ibid see appendix C, Tables 1(a), 1(b), 2(a), 2(b).

with social allowance cases and Old age pensioners. It should also be mentioned that although the number of cases active on an average was one hundred and seven per worker, some of these cases may have been visited more than once, perhaps at least three or four times during the month.

On reviewing the total caseloads for each member of the staff for the same period, they each carried on an average of two hundred eighty-nine cases per month. These figures were not necessarily static as they would vary with some cases being closed and others opened. Also some workers' loads may have been smaller or larger depending on the size of the districts. As already mentioned, the loads were heavily weighted with social allowance cases and old age pensions. Upon averaging out the number of Child Welfare cases carried in 1948, it appears that each worker carried approximately forty-nine. Again some workers may have carried fewer and others more. During this six month period, there seems to have been about thirty-five cases active in all child welfare categories. Workers appear to have been making fairly regular visits to their child welfare cases. However, it must be remembered that in some months there might be more cases active and the number would not be static for each month.

It is now necessary to look at the work done in 1953. Again July to December has been reviewed. During this period there were five workers on staff and the average number of cases carried per month was two hundred fifty-five. Actually one caseload was smaller than the other four. This district was made by decreasing the areas covered by two of the other workers. During this period,

the number of Social Assistance and Old Age cases was large; However, the statistics are somewhat misleading because it is not necessary to make as many visits to persons in receipt of Old Age Security and provincial Bonus due to change in policy regarding annual reporting. Upon examination of child welfare categories, there seems to have been an increase and the average number of cases carried by each worker from July to December was forty-nine⁽¹⁾. Again some staff members may have been carrying more than forty-nine and others fewer. The major increase in services seems to have been mainly in Children in Foster Homes. The number of cases of a child welfare nature active on an average during this same period were forty-eight per worker. Again this is not a true picture, as there was a change in staff in September and two members of staff were away taking In Service training course during October. It is felt that due to change in pension regulations, as already outlined, the workers were able to give more time to child welfare and other specialized services.

Supervision in the District Office.

In the Kamloops Social Welfare Branch there is a full-time supervisor who carries both administrative and casework supervision responsibilities. In any supervisory conference it is important that the supervisor and worker be able to establish a two-way participating relationship, just as it is necessary in the casework process. Social workers must be willing to share problems that arise in the caseload with the supervisor if he is going to give the best services possible to all clients.

In the Kamloops Social Welfare Branch, all records are

(1) Ibid see appendix C, tables 1(a), 2(a), 1(b), 2(b).

reviewed by the supervisor regularly. If the worker has not come for guidance on a case and the supervisor feels it is needed, then she will come to the worker and discuss the record with him. Supervision is available for each worker regularly, if he desires to take advantage of it. The more experienced staff members who have reached a point of being able to take more responsibility may have supervision on a more consultive basis. It is believed from experience that the staff in this office do need more encouragement to seek help earlier than they do, so that serious problems in the life of the adolescent client and others may be minimized. It is also felt that perhaps some workers may be helped more to recognize symptoms of problems at an earlier stage than they do. As well as this, there is some feeling on the part of the supervisor that a few workers may have difficulty in appreciating the ordinary problems that must be met by the child in the growing up process. In the same manner sometimes workers may feel difficulty in appreciating problems with which the child may be confronted by being away from his own parents¹

Staff Development in District Office.

This leads into the process of staff development on the job. Through experience, individual supervision, and group meetings, staff members should be helped to give better services to their clients. Staff development in Kamloops is carried on adequately from a supervisory point of view. However, there has been some unwillingness on the part of staff to take time for staff meetings. If the Supervisor wishes to call a staff meeting to discuss matters pertaining to policy, the workers have no alternative but to attend. However,

(1) Information from district supervisor in notes received July 1, 1954

when an attempt is made to arrange staff meetings for educational purposes, then difficulties seem to arise. From experience, workers in the past have had the feeling that they have not had time to prepare material when asked ahead of time. If they do prepare material it is usually with great reluctance. In the spring and summer of 1953, staff meetings were held once a month and each staff member took a turn acting as chairman of the meeting. The group chose their own topic for each meeting and discussions included foster home placement, adoptions, social allowance, as well as other topics. Some members found it difficult to participate in the discussions; even when drawn out by the chairman, this was still a problem.

The Role of Allied Professions

In working with all children including the adolescent, both in urban setting and rural setting, it is most important that the social worker not only work with the child and foster parents but also help the child in his adjustment in all areas that he comes in contact with during this most important period of development. One of the foremost influences on the development of the adolescent in the district is the school he attends. It is believed that social workers often forget the force that school may have on the development of children, particularly the adolescent. Children who are under care of the Branch are usually bylaw, wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare of British Columbia. She is the legal guardian of these children under the terms of the Protection of Children Act. Often the social worker is described as a "parent" of his foster children because it is his responsibility to see that each child is taken care of in his total environment. It is important that a

child not only be helped in his home adjustment but also in his total social adjustment, and all social workers must be willing to work with other professions whom the child meets in his every day life. In the rural community these allied professions include school teachers, public health nurses, doctors, ministers, and sometimes police officers.

The School

The role that the school plays in the life of the adolescent must be examined. In the Kamloops district there are very few leisure time group activities for children. Therefore, the place where socialization commences outside the home is in the school. It is in this setting that the adolescent boy and girl will shape his way of living by testing and rejecting new ideas as he mixes with children of his own age group. From experience in the rural area, it is firmly believed that all social workers must have a working relationship with school principals and teachers. It is important, not only because foster children may be in attendance, but also because there may be children with behaviour problems which can be traced to some social problem in the home. The social worker, if doing a proper job, can be compared to a visiting teacher, a type of social worker sometimes attached to an urban school. It is felt that even if there are no problems present in a school, it is beneficial to make regular visits, if they only amount to courtesy calls.

The question that now arises is how much should a principal or teacher be told about a foster child. This question arises in relation to a teen-age foster child who has just been placed in a foster home in a small rural community. Soon after the placement

is made, most of the community will be aware that there will be a new child living with a family in the district. It is important for the worker to see the school and help them understand the background of the child. If the child needs help, either in academic skill or in social adjustment, the school should be given guidance on how to aid the child. If the social worker shows a genuine continuing interest in the child, then the school will take more of a personal interest in him. To gain co-operation of the school, the social worker must give the school authorities support and help in what they are doing. The amount of information discussed with teachers will depend on a number of factors. First it is important to know the teacher well enough to be assured that any information given will be used constructively to help the child. It is also important to know the teacher to decide whether the information given will be held in strictest confidence. The amount of information discussed will depend on the social adjustment and stability of each child individually⁽¹⁾.

The Public Health Nurse

Another profession which plays an important role in the life of the adolescent child is the public health nurse. Included in the many duties of the nurse is her responsibility for the health of all school children. The nurse comes in contact with school children regularly and teachers often will go to her with problems concerning behaviour of some children.

In this Province, the public health nurse is equipped to some degree to advise parents and children when such requests arise.

(1) Material derived from experience over a three year period in a rural district.

However, if the social worker is going to give the best services possible, he must have a working relationship with the nursing staff of the local Health Unit. The social worker must be willing to refer problems of health nature to the nurse, and if he can work along with her, she will gain confidence in the worker and she will refer children and families for casework services when the need arises. In placement of adolescent children and those younger, it is sound practice to at least inform the nurse that a child has been placed in her district in a foster home. If this is not done the nurse is left in ignorance and it could prove embarrassing if the nurse was to question the child about his background. Secondly, if the nurse is aware that the adolescent or younger child is a foster child, and she finds a medical problem, she will of course notify the foster parents but will also discuss the problem with the social worker. If the child is to be treated as a whole person there needs to be a proper working relationship between these two allied professions.

The Clergy

In reviewing the role the local minister may play in giving services to children in foster care, a great deal will depend on the participation of the foster parents in church activities. In most rural communities it seems that ^{if} there is a church in existence many of the families are active to some degree at least, and the denomination of the church does not appear to be too important. If the minister is the type of person who is interested in children, then often he can be helpful in the child's adjustment. In disclosing information about a child to a minister, the use he will make

of this information must be evaluated, as well as the actual help he can be to the child.

Because of the interest of the Catholic church in their adolescents it is often wise to establish a relationship with the priest. He is most interested in the children as a rule, and can be a great help. The priest is also a resource to the worker in finding suitable catholic foster homes⁽¹⁾.

The Medical Profession

In giving services to children whatever the age, the social worker must see that the child is in the best physical health possible. Because many of the doctors are practising in Kamloops City, children may not come in contact with them except for medical examination, or when they are ill. It is important that the social worker have a working relationship with local representatives of the medical profession. When there are emotional problems present, some physicians can be of great help to workers in suggesting plans for the treatment of a child. It is felt that the medical profession could be classed as part of a treatment team in the rural district. Other professions who are in reality part of this team include the school teacher, public health nurse and social worker. It is also felt that if a worker has a strong working relationship with the medical profession, it is more likely that a doctor will take a personal interest if a child should become ill.

The Police

At all times the worker should be on good terms with the local police in the area in which he is working. In most parts of

(1) Personal experience in Kamloops district.

the province, other than Vancouver and Victoria, the R.C.M.P. are responsible for law and order. Although the worker may have no reason to discuss a foster child with the police, it is most important that the social worker have the confidence and co-operation of the police if difficulties should arise.

Thus, it can be seen that there are many difficulties that can arise in the practice of social work in the rural community. Not only must the social worker be able to give casework services, but he must also be accepted, and the people must be able to look to him as an example of good living. Resources in the Kamloops district are not plentiful. Nevertheless, it is important that the social worker make use of those resources present, whether governmental or otherwise, if he is going to give the best service to both adults and children.

Chapter 3. Illustrative Examples of Problems in Foster Homes Placement of Adolescents

General Placement Problems

One of the major difficulties in placement of children in the Kamloops district, is the placement of adolescent children. Whether a child comes into care when of pre-school age or older, it seems that the child has a most difficult period of adjustment in adolescence, even though he may have been in a foster home placement for many years. It is a real task to find suitable foster parents who are desirous of taking an adolescent child into their home.

For foster parents to be suitable for adolescent children, it is necessary that they be understanding and patient, while at the same time able to take a firm stand with the boy or girl when need arises. It has been found that in some cases, foster parents who have had a child in care during his earlier life may not be able to fulfil the needs of the child when he reaches adolescence, or cope with problems that may be present. When a child is in his natural home during his adolescent period, it is usually a time of confusion, experimenting, and testing. When the adolescent is in a foster home the period seems to be most difficult because of confusion over past and present life experiences. As a result, unless foster parents are endowed with a great deal of strength, and receive the necessary support and encouragement from the social worker, they cannot help but feel defeated in their task.

Process of Evaluation

To evaluate more adequately the adjustment of adolescent

foster children placed in the Kamloops district from 1940 to 1953, records of fifty-two children have been examined. As noted in table 3⁽¹⁾ the age of children coming into care is varied; however, the greatest percentage of these children seem to come after their tenth birthday. It is noted that the older a child is when he comes into care, the more need there is for placement in a number of foster homes before he is able to make an adequate adjustment. There are many problems that must be met by the child, foster parents, and social worker, in adolescent placements. To ascertain the problems in the Kamloops district, twelve illustrations have been selected to show the difficulties that can arise from all points of view. These illustrations include one or more children of a family group that have been placed in foster homes.

Illustrations of Adolescent Problems.

Joan B. Background Leading up to Child Coming Into Care.

Joan B. was the third eldest of a family of five children, all born out of wedlock. She was born in February 1935. Her mother was part Indian, and she had been made a ward of the Catholic Children's Aid Society in 1925 when she was eighteen years of age. At the age of twenty-one she was discharged from care, and immediately returned to the Cariboo district in which she had been brought up. In 1931 Mrs. B. gave birth to her first child, and from then until 1940 she gave birth to a total of five children all born out of wedlock. By 1940, numerous complaints were received suggesting that Mrs. B. was being promiscuous and not giving her children proper care. Attempts were made by the district welfare visitor

(1) See appendix Table 3

at this time to help Mrs.B. realize that she had to give her children more attention. However, complaints continued to be received from relatives as well as from the Roman Catholic priest in the district. Although many visits were made, which included encouragement as well as warnings of possible removal, the care of the children did not improve. The local welfare representative was in correspondence continuously with the Superintendent of Child Welfare about this family and it was finally agreed by both that, because of Mrs.B.'s low mentality, she was unable to give her children the proper care, and therefore plans would have to be made for their care.

Placement History.

As a result, these five children were committed to the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare during the month of October 1941. At this time the Social Welfare Branch was making more of an attempt to place in the district rather than sending children to Vancouver. Thus foster homes for these five children were located in their home district. It is impossible to conclude what attempt was made to prepare these children for placement and removal from their mother, particularly in respect to the three eldest children who were all over five years of age and must have been upset over the reasons for their separation.

Joan and her older sister were first placed in a part-Indian home. However, this placement did not work out and it is difficult to give the exact reasons, but it is thought that the standards of the home may not have been much better than their natural home. The recording during the early years Joan was in care is somewhat incomplete, and it is difficult to obtain a proper view of the pro-

blems that may have arisen. The second placement of Joan and her sister was in the home of an old Indian couple where they remained until 1948. Recording indicated that Joan had difficulty in doing her work at school and progress was very slow. Adjustment at home was not too good, disciplining was inconsistent, and Joan did not get along too well. Because the placements up until this time had been unsatisfactory, a new attempt was made to find a suitable home for Joan, and in September 1948 a farm home was located for her in another part of the district. This family was not Indian.

From personal contact with these foster parents and information contained in the home study it was felt that this would make a good home for Joan. The foster parents were in their late forties and were well-to-do sheep ranchers. They had ten children of their own, some grown up and others attending school. They were of the Roman Catholic religion, the same as Joan. When thirteen years of age, Joan was moved to this placement, and seemed to be quite happy. It is presumed that some interpretation was given to her about the move.

A few months later after Joan was placed, a second child, the same age as Joan, was placed in this home. She was entirely a different type of girl; her temperament was the opposite, she was outgoing, very talkative and a girl of high intelligence. Joan was actually the quieter of these two girls and it was felt that she was less of a problem both at home and at school as she conformed to what was expected of her, and never verbally complained about being asked to do chores or anything. It is important to note that when Joan first came to this home, although thirteen

years of age, she was only in grade four at school and did not pass her school year. It is also indicated in the recording that the foster parents had brought up their own children quite strictly, and it is wondered if they may have been too strict with Joan, as she had received little if any discipline in her previous placements, or in the home of her mother. It is thought that placing of extreme limitations could have broken her spirit and been somewhat upsetting to her. Although Joan and the other foster child seemed to relate well, there may have been some resentment because of Joan's inability to do as well at school. It is not known whether any comparison was made verbally in front of the girls. By 1950, Joan reached grade five at school. Recording at this time stated that she was unhappy and homesick for her family and friends. As a result, it was arranged for Joan to visit with a younger brother and sister for a few days in their foster home. It is thought that she saw her mother and other members of the family while in the district. When she returned, Joan seemed happier and more content. It is felt that perhaps any feelings Joan had about the family previous to her visit may have been overlooked during her two years in this home.

From the time Joan returned from her visit, entries in her record seemed short, and it was felt that she was happy enough, but slow at school. About this time there was a change of staff in the Kamloops office and Joan had four different workers from 1950 to 1954. It is thought that one of the weaknesses in evaluating this situation before 1950 and after, was that all workers appeared convinced that this was a good home, and there was no reason why Joan should not be happy. Perhaps if more time had been spent with Joan,

the workers might have had a better understanding of her feelings around placement. Although the other girl who had been placed with Joan had been moved in 1950 to attend high school in Kamloops, Joan did not change very much. Her school work was still below average and by 1953 she had only progressed to grade seven at school. By this time Joan was eighteen years old, and it was felt that she had reached her limit in learning. Thus it was felt advisable for her to be moved from school and be placed in suitable employment. The foster parents and social worker both felt that this was best, but it is difficult to assess how much interpretation of this plan was given to Joan.

The social worker and foster parents helped her find suitable employment in Kamloops as kitchen help in an institution operated by the provincial government. She began to work but seemed unhappy, and did not get along too well with other staff. Not long after, Joan quit her job without notice, and immediately sought out her older sister who was in care and having a difficult time herself. It is likely that her previously-expressed need to be near her family may have precipitated her wish to seek her sister. Joan found her in Kamloops city and stayed with her in very cramped quarters. The worker attempted to locate her but she did all in her power to avoid him.

The next word that the Branch had was that Joan had been charged with two other girls for breaking and entering a laundry in Kamloops. When Joan was brought before the local magistrate, bail was set at one thousand dollars, and it is noted that her former foster parents put up this bond on the understanding that they would

be responsible for her until her case came before court. She was discharged by the magistrate to their care where she remained one night and then ran away, thus imperilling their bond. However, she was located and the court hearing was brought forward to an earlier date. It is interesting to note that Mrs. B. got word of the difficulties her daughter was in and appeared for the court hearing. After a plea was made for Joan by two social workers, she was given a suspended sentence and put in the care and custody of the Branch. No permanent plan could be made for her, and she was simply allowed to return with her mother to her home in the Cariboo district.

Reasons for Problems in Placement.

It is felt that there are many reasons for Joan finally rebelling as she did, and getting into difficulty with the law. In looking at her history from a diagnostic point of view, it is wondered how much better off Joan was in care, as the first two homes in which she was placed were not much better than her own. It is also wondered what placement really meant to her, and whether it had ever been discussed with her at any length previous to 1948. A child such as Joan will have formed parental images and identification, and these cannot be blocked out by the child. It is most important to work with all children who are old enough to understand, to relieve any feelings about parents, and if necessary let the child visit or help them to understand why this is impossible⁽¹⁾. In the case of Joan this was done a little, but this girl had real concern about her family and placement.

Diagnostic understanding is also needed to avoid the error of overplacement. It is established fact that this placement was

(1) HUTCHINSON, Dorothy, "The Placement Worker and the Child's Own Parents", Social Casework July 1954, Vol. 35 No. 7, pp. 292 - 296

in too high a family. It is probable that in the face of the family standards and intelligence, and the intelligence of the other girl, Joan felt inferior and as if she did not belong to the family, and turned to her mother.

In regard to Joan, it is thought, that because of the foster parents' reputation, staff members may have felt that they actually needed little help with Joan.

On summing up the situation, it is felt there were definite contributory factors to this final rebellion of Joan. These would seem to be:

- (1) Possible lack of interpretation to Joan at time of committal;
- (2) Poor placement at time of original committal;
- (3) Lack of talking and personal contact with Joan; talking out her problems and helping her participate in plans.
- (4) Lack of diagnostic thinking on the part of the workers, around Joan's feelings toward her family, and problems of overplacement and feelings of not belonging where standards and schooling are beyond her level.
- (5) Pressure of generalized caseloads of a large size sometimes does not give workers the time they need to offer concentrated services to foster children who need it.
- (6) Cultural factors also enter this situation in that Joan was moved into a completely different type of environment from what she had ever known.

Fred B.

Background Leading to Child Coming into Care

Fred was born October 19, 1939. He is Joan's younger brother.

Mrs.B.'s background has already been discussed and it is felt that this gives an adequate picture of the situation. It will be recalled that Mrs.B. was unable to give these children the proper care and they were all made wards, in October, 1941.

History While in Care.

Fred, one year old, and his sister Irene, who was three years older, were placed with Mr.& Mrs.Jones when they came into care. This couple was part-Indian, had no children of their own, and were in their early thirties when they took Fred and Irene. The first entry in Fred's record after supervisors were appointed to the district, was late in 1947.

From the recording it seems that both these children made fairly adequate adjustments in this home. Fred seemed of average intelligence, although slow at school. His sister Irene is shy and has always had difficulty in relating to the other children of her own age group. Visits seem to have been made regularly when the worker was in the district, which was approximately every two months. In comparison Fred seemed to be much easier to handle than Irene as the foster parents found Irene stubborn and difficult to handle. However it is thought that she has a real liking for her foster parents. In 1950 Irene suffered a bad fall while horseback riding, and there were signs of petit mal seizures after this. These seizures were a concern both to the foster parents and the worker. As a result, a great deal of attention was focussed on Irene. On the surface there were no problems as far as Fred was concerned. Most interviews were carried on with Irene and the foster parents, leaving Fred out a great deal of the time.

In February 1953, the worker was contacted by the local R.C.M.P. constable where Fred lived. Three boys, including Fred, had taken eighty dollars from the funds of the school student council. The Police were informed of the theft, and although the money was returned, the local constable laid a charge, and as a result a court hearing was held before the social worker was contacted. The constable has been unaware of the status of Fred and had not been told by the foster parents. Because this was the first offence for each child involved, the magistrate was quite lenient. However, Fred was put on probation for a four month period and was to report to the magistrate each week during this time. The foster parents were asked to contact the worker immediately if any similar problem should arise in the future.

On April 25, 1953, the worker received a telephone call from the foster father that Fred and three other boys had been charged with breaking and entering the root cellar of a local cafe and had taken some vegetables and fruit. The worker contacted the R.C.M.P. and discussed the situation with the constable. Although the theft was minor, the worker was concerned as this was a second offence for Fred, and there would be a possibility of the boy being sent to the Boys' Industrial School if the case went before the magistrate. As a result, an emergency trip was made by the worker to the village where Fred lived, on the same day. The offence was discussed with the R.C.M.P. as well as the foster parents and Fred. A compromise was made with the R.C.M.P. and it was agreed that the worker and constable should see all the children involved and the children's parents. The boys were asked to repay what they had stolen by wor-

king a few hours each for the cafe owner, and the worker discussed the seriousness of the offence with each boy.

Fred was upset about this incident and was handled in a similar manner. However, because of this being a second offence for him, it was agreed by the constable, foster parents, and social worker that certain limitations should be placed upon him. It was explained to the boy by the worker that for a month he was to be deprived of going to the weekly show in the village, and for a little while longer he was to remain in his yard after school and during the evenings. It is possible that in some areas this would appear to be a poor plan. However, because of the size of the community, most children were made aware of the seriousness of what these children had done, and rather than engaging in ridicule, they were sorry for Fred. Gradually the restrictions were removed and it was felt that the method of disciplining here was effective because Fred needed more attention which he had missed because of the concern for Irene. Perhaps also Fred was a little immature for his years and he may have been more comfortable in having limitations set, for fear his impulses would lead him into further difficulties. It is possible also that consciously or unconsciously Fred may have been testing both his foster parents and social worker in this behaviour to see if they really loved him enough to protect him when he did get into difficulty.

Reasons for Problems Arising.

This illustration, it is felt, shows a number of problems that a district worker may have to watch for, in working with an

adolescent and foster parents:

- (1) Equal concentration is needed on all children in the same foster home;
- (2) Rural social workers must have a strong relationship with all local officials in a district;
- (3) There is need for diagnostic thinking and understanding when suggesting discipline. If needed, it should be carefully planned to meet the needs of each individual child.

In this case, it is noted that the mother of these children lived in the district, and they did have some contact with her. There were no problems in this area as there were with their older sister Joan.

John C.

Background Leading up to Child Coming Into Care.

John was born out of wedlock in April 1940. Although the putative father admitted paternity, he was financially unable to contribute towards the maintenance of this child. Miss C., mother of John, wished to place him in an adoption home. However, because of a history of asthma in the family, it was believed inadvisable to place the child, and very little help was given to the mother in making plans. She went to live with a Mrs. Flint who was to care for John while his mother went out to work. Mrs. Flint and her husband had previously made application to the Kamloops Branch to adopt a child, but their application was refused because of a background of heavy drinking. Miss C. left the home of Mrs. Flint; but John remained there because of the insistence of Mrs. Flint. Although this child remained continuously with this couple, they made no

attempt to complete legal adoption. For approximately two years Miss C. maintained an interest in John and showed concern about the behaviour of Mr. & Mrs. Flint, but did nothing to improve the situation. In 1944 Mrs. Flint became pregnant and gave birth to a son of her own.

In 1946 Mrs. Flint and her husband moved to a small railway town one hundred miles north of Kamloops but still in the area covered by this district office. By 1948, complaints were received by the district worker about Mrs. Flint's behaviour. The complaints centered around the heavy drinking of both parents and the resulting lack of care of John and her own son. No real evidence of neglect could be established, but visits every four months were maintained in an effort to better the total home situation. In 1951, Mr. Flint was moved by the railway to a small town in Alberta. Soon after he went to this area, Mrs. Flint and the two children joined him. During the spring of 1952, Mrs. Flint and the children returned to the Kamloops district and took up residence with her mother who was quite old and in receipt of Social Allowance. On her return to British Columbia, Mrs. Flint applied for allowance on behalf of herself and the two children. However, she had not established residence and therefore was not eligible. She indicated to the Branch that her husband had left her and the children to go to the United States. An attempt was made to locate him by the Divisional Office in Victoria through contact with social agencies in the State of Washington where he was thought to be. Mrs. Flint ~~returned~~ was able to get part-time work where she was, and seemed to be drinking off and on.

In May 1952, soon after Mrs. Flint returned to B.C., her own child was drowned in a mill pond near where they lived. She was able to contact her husband who came for the funeral. An attempt was made to interview Mr. Flint concerning his wife, but the man kept completely away from the worker. Soon after, Mr. Flint left the area and Mrs. Flint seemed to deteriorate. Her drinking habits became worse and she became a real problem. She would often leave John two or three days at a time with her mother, and go to Kamloops where she was seen reeling down the street more than once by the worker. It was most unsatisfactory for John to be left with the mother, as she was a woman of sixty-nine years, and suffered from a cardiac condition. During this period, Mrs. Flint was made aware that she must give better care to John if she intended to keep him. In early June of 1953, Mrs. Flint decided to go to Washington State in an attempt to locate her husband and bring about a reconciliation. She informed the worker that she did not intend to be away more than a week. The worker was dubious about this trip because of the past behaviour of this woman, and also he did not feel that it was a very satisfactory plan leaving the child with her mother who was anything but well.

Three weeks went by and there was no word from Mrs. Flint. Her mother could not give John proper care, and Child Welfare Division was asked to give authority to remove the child. On June 27, 1953, John was taken from the home by the district worker. The reasons for John leaving were discussed with him, but it is felt that John knew no different care from that which he had received, and he was bitter about his removal. The worker was able to

contact his natural mother and discuss plans for him as she was still his legal guardian. She would have liked to have John with her, but she was now married, with one son, and was fearful that by bringing John into the family, her marriage would be damaged. As a result, the only remaining plan that seemed to be in the boy's best interest was to ask for committal of this child to the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare. Mrs. Flint returned to Kamloops district during July 1953 and was upset about the removal of the child. However, it was felt advisable to proceed with committal, which took place in Kamloops in the month of August 1953.

History of Placements.

When John came into care he was thirteen years of age. There were many difficulties in finding a suitable placement for him, and the only plan that could be worked out was a temporary placement on the outskirts of Kamloops city. Before John was placed in this home, the worker had talked to him about the reasons for him going to a new home, and told him about the foster family. This boy was quite withdrawn, and seemed to be apprehensive about his future. There were two other children in the home, one older and the other younger, both natural children of the foster parents. While he remained here John's behaviour was quite difficult and he would not accept any limitations placed upon him. It is possible that this lad may have been indirectly expressing his wish to return to the home of Mrs. Flint, or he may have had no experience with parental limitations, having been largely "on his own" except for the indulgences and whims of an alcoholic. John remained in this foster home for

approximately three weeks, while an effort was made to find a more permanent placement. During this period his outlook did not improve; he smoked in bed, was late for meals, and generally appeared to be attempting to show his annoyance at being taken away from Mrs. Flint, as well as reflecting her way of life. The boy was seen frequently during this period by the worker and it was most difficult to establish relationship because of John's resistance towards him. It was undesirable to place John in the same area in which Mrs. Flint resided for fear of interference from her, thus making it difficult to find a home. However, a new foster home has been opened up in another district, and after some discussion between staff members, it was felt that this home might fulfil the needs of this boy. Actually there was no other home suitable, and as a result, after the home was described to John, he was placed there. He was taken to his new home by the district social worker and the boy seemed to accept this plan. The placement only lasted a short time because the foster parents did not seem to realize that John needed a great deal of help and guidance. They continued to make a great many demands upon him and expected him to comply with all they asked. As a result, two weeks after placement was made, the foster parents asked that he be removed immediately on the same day. John was placed again temporarily in Kamloops city in a home where the foster mother was separated from her husband. She had two small children of her own and did have previous experience with older children placed by the Kamloops Branch. John was still resisting placement, but it is felt that less demands were made upon him. and the home, like Mrs. Flint's,

lacked an adult male as authority and rival. As a result, he found it easier to adjust. In the meantime, a permanent placement became available east of Kamloops and both the foster parents as well as John were prepared for going to this home in the early autumn of 1953.

Reasons for Problems in Placement.

In reviewing the history of John, it is felt that if proper services had been given to his mother when he was born, plans could have been made for him in 1940. In accordance with present thinking, a good adoption placement could, and should, have been made. Emphasis is now on agency responsibility to aid children in acquiring good adoptive parents. It is believed that adoptive applicants who can offer love, parental guidance, and a stable home, have a right to take a chance on such factors as asthma in the family, if they wish. Unfortunately this was not done, and as a result John remained with Mrs. Flint, which was a grave mistake. As it was, Mrs. Flint was alcoholic and was having marital problems through the years, which she never seemed to be able to discuss with the social workers who visited her. At the time of the mother's desertion, again, John could have been apprehended as without proper guardianship, and better plans made for him. It is definitely thought that an attempt was made by the workers to try to help John, but due to heavy loads they may not have been able to spend the time needed to improve his general adjustment. This illustration does point out the lack of foster home resources for older children, and it seems that there are very few families that are willing to give homes to children who come into care over ten years of age.

In summary, it is felt that the problems present in this

illustrations may be due to the following reasons:

- (1) Poor handling of this case in 1940 when it was first known to the Branch;
- (2) John spent his first thirteen years in the midst of drunken quarrelling, followed by living alone with an alcoholic "foster" mother. Certainly he could receive little normal training or guidance, and could not be expected to develop normally in this setting.
- (3) The need for replacements may have been due partly to a lack of understanding by some of the foster parents, of this child's needs;
- (4) Case loads may be heavy for workers to give the needed time to this type of case.
- (5) There is need for some type of care for children in a group setting where they will not be expected to relate on too personal a basis, and where the group standards would aid the acceptance of rules and reasonable behaviour. Since John had had little experience sharing with other children, the group might also have meant a different adjustment.

Rita Z.

Background Leading up to Child's Coming into Care.

Rita was born in January 1939, She had one brother twenty-nine years of age, separated from his wife, as well as two older sisters both married. A younger brother was born in 1940.

Her mother was Indian, while her father was of Italian origin. As in many Indian families in this area, the standards of living were very low. Mrs.Z. was in poor health and died in 1953

as a result of advanced tuberculosis. Before her death she showed little interest in her children and the young ones could not be kept in hand at all. Mr. Z. did not provide well for the family and took little interest in the children, even after the death of his wife. Rita was not attending school regularly and most of her time was spent walking the streets in a town nearby. It was felt by the police and members of the community that she was promiscuous and was willing to take up with any man. Rita was shy, spoke little, and only answered direct questions.

In January 1953, this girl gave birth to a child born out of wedlock. After her confinement, the baby was taken into care by the Kamloops Branch while Rita returned home and went back to her old habit of walking the streets. She and her young brother received very little care, although an older sister was supposed to be looking after them. As the situation did not improve, steps were taken to make plans for the children, and they were committed to the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare in the autumn of 1953.

Placement History.

When these children were taken into care, the boy was sent to the Preventorium in Vancouver for observation and treatment as it was feared that he might have tuberculosis. When he is well enough, he will return to the Kamloops district and be placed in a foster home. When Rita came into care she was first placed on a free home basis near Kamloops. At this time she had difficulty in deciding whether she wanted to keep her baby or have it placed in an adoption home. This first placement did not work out well, possibly due to

the lack of guidance and understanding of the foster parents. In her second placement Rita settled down better and there appear to be signs of her being able to relate better. She has now decided that she would like to have her child, and plans are being made for its return in the very near future.

Remarks

This illustration shows the policy of the Social Welfare Branch concerning services given children regardless of origin. The Branch makes no difference in giving services in respect to race, creed or religion. It is thought that the presentation shows that children may be brought into care not only because of neglect, but because of the absence of a parent, or for medical reasons. Although it was not recorded in the file, it is known that a great amount of work was done with the Indian Superintendent in searching for a home, by the worker, before making placement plans for these children. Again it is seen that placements for adolescent children are not easy to locate, especially when the adolescent has shown socially unacceptable behaviour. However, it is felt that the plans made for Rita seem to fulfil her needs at this time.

Mildred, Alma and Ron T.

Background Leading up to Children Coming Into Care.

This family was first known to the Kamloops office when Mr. T. deserted his wife and three children. Mrs. T. was left completely without funds, and it was necessary to grant her Social Allowance. Mrs. T. was in poor health, and she died in the spring of 1950, as a result of cancer. The problem was now to plan for the three children: Ron, born in 1936; Mildred in 1938; and Alma in 1940. It is

noted from the recording that Mrs.T. had been married once before, and there was one grown son from this first marriage, When Mrs.T. died, this son felt a great responsibility towards his half brother Ronald and his two sisters. The young couple insisted that these three children be placed in their home rather than in a foster home.

Reasons for Children Coming Into Care .

There was real concern on the part of the District Supervisor and Regional Consultant for fear that this would be too much of a responsibility for this young couple who were only twenty-five years old. They thought that this marriage was not too strong, and the extra responsibility of these three children might be too much for this couple. The Consultant and District Supervisor were correct in their thinking. However, the social workers who worked with this family did not seem to see this, or accept the possibility. As a rule, when a situation such as that of a relative caring for a child occurs, the usual policy is to pay Social Allowance on behalf of the child if needed, rather than the Superintendent of Child Welfare assuming legal guardianship. However, in the case of Ron, Mildred and Alma, it was felt advisable to have more control over these children, so that the Branch could act quickly if necessary. As a result of these feelings, these children were made wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare in June 1950.

History While in Care.

A foster home study was completed on this home, but there is scant evidence of diagnostic thinking in the recording. Continuous problems seemed to arise after placement of these children.

Ron, the eldest, appeared most unhappy and had difficulty in his overall adjustment. There were difficulties also with Mildred and Alma. There was a problem of enuresis, both had trouble accepting limitations, and there was continual bickering between the girls. There is very little in the recording to give any indication of the relationship of the foster parents, but it is thought that they were having marital difficulties, and it is possible that some arguing may have taken place in front of the children. If this is the case, it is felt that this could be very upsetting to these three children, particularly because of the experience they underwent in their own home before placement. The death of the mother, and the earlier desertion of the father of these children were probably still fresh in their minds, and made the present placement a most unsatisfactory experience for them. The worker did the best he could to try and help this couple with the children, and visits were made nearly every week. In the spring of 1951, the young foster mother left her husband and the foster children. It is believed that this desertion of the foster mother had a great bearing on future adjustments of these children, particularly the girls.

Before this placement ended in this manner, Ron had been a real problem. He was unhappy, and felt that he was not liked by his foster parents. In February, 1951, he ran away with another foster child and was located quite a distance from Kamloops on his way to the Cariboo. At this point Ron had very definite feelings concerning his foster parents, and he would give no consideration to returning to them. He could not be persuaded to change his mind, and it was felt that the more insistence he received from adults

the more antagonistic he would become. A temporary placement was found for Ron in Kamloops, but he would not return to school and, because of his age (fifteen years), it was not felt advisable to push him in this matter. As Ron could not accept too much personal direction no attempt was made by the worker to interfere with his plans, but only to direct him when it was thought to be absolutely necessary. In the spring, he found a job on a ranch close to Kamloops and seemed to get on fairly well at first. However, due to his inability to do what his employer asked, his job did not last for more than two months.

To return to the situation of the two girls, Mildred and Alma, it was necessary that plans be made for these girls because of the desertion of their foster mother. They were moved to a family where they remained till October 1951. From the recording it seems that these foster parents lacked understanding of the needs of these children, and also had difficulty in accepting them as they were. For example, the foster mother complained of their personal hygiene as well as the poor training they had received. In October 1951, the girls were placed in their third foster home in the Kamloops area. The foster mother appeared to have difficulty in relating to Mildred. This child was very upset, and the enuretic problem continued. It is likely that this enuresis may have been a result of the fear and resentment caused by the repeated loss of parents which she was unable to verbalize. The girls remained in this home until the end of October when a more permanent placement was located for them in a home outside the Kamloops district.

Reasons for Difficulties Arising.

In reviewing the problems arising in these placements, it is felt that there was a lack of diagnostic thinking in the original planning for these children. Admittedly, proper precautions were taken in case the placement with the half brother of the children did not work out. However, there seemed little if any awareness of the shakiness of this marriage until it was too late to do anything about it. In fact, the addition of three halfgrown children would be a hazard to any new marriage. It is felt that this placement was only more upsetting to these three children, and the lack of experience of the foster parents with children, made the total situation worse. It is probable that without his unsatisfactory experience in this home, Ron would still have had a difficult adolescent period because of his past life experiences, but that his difficulty was increased by his feeling unwanted due to the lack of experience and unity of the foster parents.

In summing up, it is felt that the placement of these children illustrates the following:

- (1) The need for social workers to be completely trained people who are able to guide foster parents in handling the adolescent or pre-adolescent groups of children in care;
- (2) It is felt that there is need for all social workers to be able to think from a diagnostic point of view and be aware of what can happen in multiple placements such as that of Ron, Mildred and Alma, with inexperienced young foster parents.
- (3) There appears to have been a lack of experience and unders-

-standing on the part of the foster parents in these first two placements, particularly in respect to the two girls.

- (4) It is felt that this illustration shows the inability of many children who are placed in foster homes to relate to adults because of life experiences previous to placement, which are not talked through with the social worker in preparation for placement. Such problems are made worse by lack of understanding in the foster parents.
- (5) This illustration also shows the need for more suitable foster placements for the adolescent group of children.

Eddie D.

Background Leading to Child Coming Into Care.

Eddie D. was born July 27, 1937. His sister Ann was born August 8, 1938. The parents of these children were divorced and Mr.D. had remarried. The mother of the children took no responsibility for them, and Mr.D. and his second wife had both the children with them. From information available it seems that the second wife showed little understanding of, or liking for the children. The family first became known to the Branch when Mr.D. applied for Social Allowance. There was concern in the community, as it was thought that Eddie and his sister were having sexual relationship with one another. In 1949, these two children were brought into court on a charge of burning down a vacant house. Although it was not proved that they had done this, these children were committed to the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare under the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

History of Placements.

Temporary placement of the children was made in their home town, although it was thought advisable to place them separately in another district because of their past experiences together, to avoid interference from their father, and because of feelings of the community. There was great difficulty in finding suitable placements, but Ann was finally placed in a home in Region 3. Kamloops was eventually able to offer a home that seemed suitable for Eddie. The home suggested was a farm placement where there was a natural son of the same age as Eddie, and a daughter who was eight years old. There were also two other sons living in the home, but they had completed school and were out working. It appears that the foster mother was the dominant figure in this family, and that perhaps the foster father was not too strong a person. Eddie was met by his new worker in the district and taken to his new home, where he seemed to settle down fairly well.

He was bright at school but seemed immature for his age. Perhaps this may have been his way of getting the attention he needed. The foster mother showed a good understanding of this boy and helped him a great deal. However, when the foster father was at home, there were difficulties arising between him and Eddie. Visits were made to this home every six to eight weeks, sometimes oftener if the need arose. During this placement Eddie maintained a continued interest in his sister Ann, and they wrote regularly and exchanged gifts at Christmas and on their birthdays. Eddie never heard from his father, even though the district office where the latter lived tried to gain his co-operation while the children were away from him.

This boy, as already mentioned, seemed to have a need for recognition. He seemed to gain a great satisfaction out of day-dreaming, and did tell stories not completely true. This bothered the foster parents, and through discussions with the foster parents and Eddie, he seemed to relate better. School adjustment was good. When Eddie came to the district he was in grade seven at school and his work gradually improved. In the spring of 1952, Eddie nearly had a finger torn off when a horse bolted. Because of the condition of the finger it was necessary for Eddie to be placed in a temporary foster home in Kamloops where he remained four weeks. It was hoped that the finger would not have to be amputated, but it was finally necessary to remove about two inches of the finger.

Eddie returned to the foster home in which he was placed in 1950. He seemed to be as happy, and the only reservation that the worker had was that perhaps the foster parents expected him to do too much work. In 1953, during the month of August, arrangements were made for Eddie to visit his sister in her foster home in the Okanagan, and he appeared to benefit from his vacation.

Remarks.

In presenting this case it is felt that it shows that if there are the proper type of homes available for the adolescent age group, some are able to relate and be happy. However, no foster home can be a perfect substitute for the natural home of a child. Perhaps if Eddie had had more individual attention from his foster parents, this need for recognition may not have been so pronounced. It is not felt that any child the age of Eddie would have necessarily adjusted as well as he did, and in placement of adolescent children

it is recognized that there is need for careful evaluation before placement.

Doug and Frank O.

Background Leading to Children Coming Into Care.

Doug and Frank are brothers. Doug was born in 1935 and Frank in 1938. Mr.O., father of the boys, was married in 1929, and as his wife was Roman Catholic, he became a member of that faith. As well as the two boys, there are two older ones and two younger girls. Mr.O.'s marriage was not happy. He seemed to have trouble in maintaining a position for any length of time. His employment consisted mainly of orderly work in hospitals. In 1938 he entered the Provincial Mental Hospital as a voluntary patient, but soon after his admittance he gave the hospital five days notice of his intention to discontinue treatment. Mr.O. returned to his wife and attempted to hold the marriage together. However, their marital relationships did not improve, and in 1945, this couple finally separated. Mr.O. left, taking the two eldest boys and Doug with him. This was an unsatisfactory arrangement for the father and the three boys, as he was trying to hold down a position, while at the same time trying to care for the boys. He took the boys to Kamloops where he found employment as an orderly in a hospital. In November of 1945 Mr.O. learned that his wife was living with another man, and as a result he returned to the coast and took Frank from her, leaving the two girls who were in a Roman Catholic Convent. In January 1946 Mr.O. placed Doug and Frank in a private home in the Kamloops district, the two older boys remaining with Mr.O. This arrangement continued until 1948. However, as Mr.O. was having difficulty in keeping up

payments for the care of the children, the foster parents contacted the Kamloops Branch and it was agreed that both Doug and Frank should be taken into non-ward care⁽¹⁾. Mr.O. was to remain guardian of the children, while the Branch would take care of the boys until Mr.O. was able to make more permanent plans.

Placement History.

The children were made non-wards in 1948. Mr.O. had agreed to pay maintenance when possible and look after the payment of Hospital Insurance premiums. A further study of the foster home was completed and this home was placed on the approved list of foster homes in the Kamloops district. Since 1948 Mr.O. has maintained a continual interest in the boys, but due to his inability to stay on one job for any length of time, maintenance payments for the boys have been irregular. After responsibility for these boys was taken over by the Social Welfare Branch, the foster mother moved into Kamloops city to live. The household in this family included, as well as the foster boys and the foster mother, her daughter who was younger than the boys, and the aged mother of the foster mother. The foster mother's mother was in poor health and inclined to be cranky and irritable. From 1949 there was no father person in this home, but it was still felt to be satisfactory for these children and a move would have been upsetting to the boys. It must be remembered also that the boys were in contact with their own father. As Doug reached the adolescent period, and after the foster father's death, the foster mother seemed to become overconcerned about Doug, and she tried to place too many limits upon him. As a result, and

(1) Non-ward care, see appendix B for definition

possibly in reaction to the loss of the foster father also, this brought out a great deal of adolescent rebellion. There also seemed to be some conflict between the boys and the mother of the foster mother. This was kept under control as much as possible, nevertheless, it was almost continuously present, which brought more confusion and antagonism from Doug.

In 1950, when Doug was fifteen years old, he insisted on leaving school. However, it was felt by the social worker and foster mother that this was unwise, and the boy was persuaded to return for at least another year. This was not a good plan, as it only led to more antagonism from Doug towards adults. During the winter months the foster mother found it more difficult to control Doug. She seemed to find it trying to accept his need for more independence and attempted to control his activities more by directing his every move. As a result, Doug ran away during February 1951 with another foster child. The social worker was able to locate him, he was agreeable to return to his foster home, but this lasted only a short time. He left again and found accommodation in one of the less desirable sections of Kamloops. He would not consider returning to school, and it was thought advisable not to push this at this time.

During the spring and summer of 1951, this lad worked at numerous jobs in and around Kamloops and finally settled down to work as a bellhop at one of the local hotels in the city. He seemed contented enough at the job, but in August, 1951 he quit. It is probable that Doug was trying to find out why he could not have a home like other children. The relationship of Doug to his social worker was poor at this time and he was resistant to any attempt to

help him. Mr.O., father of Doug, was notified of the difficulties this lad was having, and as a result, he visited and tried to help him. However, Doug still needed to go his own way. Soon after, he went to stay with a man who was about thirty-five years of age. The relationship of this man to Doug was questionable, but he seemed to have a genuine interest in the boy and was able to help him somewhat. Through him, Doug became interested in the Salvation Army and this affiliation did seem to be a strength to him at this time.

In July 1952, Mr.O. again visited Kamloops and it was thought advisable to discharge Doug from care to his father. Doug returned to the prairies with his father. During this period, he and his father did a great deal of travelling, as both had numerous jobs. However, in late November 1952, Doug returned on his own to Kamloops and immediately went to his foster mother. Any previous difficulties seemed to be forgotten and he decided to settle down in the town, and has held numerous labouring jobs since his return.

Little has been said about Frank; largely because there were not many problems which appeared through this period. This lad was seen regularly and an attempt was made to give him as much guidance as possible.

Problems Arising in Placement.

The first question that comes to mind is whether it may have been better to take Doug and Frank into care in 1948. This might have given these boys more security, and certainly would not have destroyed any contact that they might have had with their family. Even if this had been done, the same adolescent problems would pro-

-bably still have arisen. The real difficulty seems to have arisen when the foster father died in 1948, and these boys, as well as the foster mother, were left without a male figure to help guide them during a time when Doug particularly needed someone to pattern himself after. The fears aroused by the death must also be considered. The question in such a situation is whether it is more harmful to leave a child in such a situation, or should the existing ties be broken. It is suggested that more thought be given to each individual situation such as this; from the child's viewpoint as well as a re-evaluation of the capabilities of the foster mother to cope with future problems. If this had been done, the staff might have had a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of this total situation. Probably all those who had contact with Doug in 1950 tried to control him too much, and if this was the case, then there could be no other reaction but the resulting adolescent rebellion. It is interesting to note that after Doug had come face to face with life from the spring of 1950 to the fall of 1952, he returned to his foster mother. This shows that he had a strong underlying relationship with her.

Helen J.

Background Leading up to Child Coming Into Care.

Helen J. was born in August 1934, on an Indian reserve in the Kamloops district. She was born out of wedlock and is part-Indian. Her mother died when Helen was young, and up to 1941 her father attempted to look after her. In 1941, Mr. J. placed Helen privately in a home in the Kamloops district. He tried to make payments for her care, but these were irregular. This situation was reported to

Kamloops Branch office, and by 1942 the Branch was giving consideration to committing Helen to the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare; but nothing was done about this. As Helen grew older her father seems to have been trying to direct her life through the letters that he wrote. Relationships between this girl and her father became poor as she resisted his attempts to interfere with her. The over-all situation did not improve, and in December 1948 commitment of this girl to the care of the Superintendent was completed.

Problems in Placement.

Helen had been with the same family since 1941 and as she seemed happy, it was felt it was best for her to remain there. From the time this girl came into care until 1950 the recording was sketchy, and visits were few and far between. In 1950, Helen was unsettled, and thought was given to moving her to another home. However, an attempt was made to work out the problem with Helen and the foster mother, rather than moving her. There seems to have been some diagnostic thinking on the part of staff, and it was thought that the foster mother lacked understanding of the child's need to be like other girls of her age. At the same time, it was recognized that there was some attachment between the foster parents and Helen.

Since 1950, Helen had become very active in the local United Church, as well as school and community activities. As she grew older, she was able to locate jobs during school holidays and Saturdays in the local shops in Kamloops, and proved her ability in such positions. In 1950, Helen showed some concern about her Indian background, and at one point she expressed a desire to live

with an aunt who was Indian. She may have felt that her foster parents had let her down, and she would be better off with her relatives. However, after a visit to her aunt on two separate occasions she seems to have changed her mind. From 1950 to 1952, Helen was helped by the social worker who visited regularly at least every two weeks.

In 1952 she completed grade twelve at school and for the next year she was employed as clerk in an office and did well at her work. In March 1953 it was finally necessary to move Helen from her foster home because of the foster mother's continual interference in the way she behaved. In the period previous to this, Helen's future had not been forgotten. It was her wish to become a nurse and, as she had the intelligence to go further, the Branch and Child Welfare Division were willing to assist her in this plan. Therefore the Kamloops Branch helped her to enroll in a hospital for the course. Because of the continued interference of the foster mother, who even went so far as to tell the minister of the Church that Helen's behaviour was so bad that she should not be president of the Young People's Union, it was agreed that it would be best that this girl should take training away from Kamloops. The Branch was very generous in the plans made. As Helen was to commence training in September, she was asked to pay the registration fee of fifty dollars, while Child Welfare Division agreed to pay the remaining fees, as well as supply her with uniforms and pay her a spending allowance of fifteen dollars per month. Helen entered her course in 1953. By this time she had matured enough to be able to accept her father,

and relationship between them improved considerably.

Remarks.

It is thought that if more attempt had been made to assess the total situation when Helen was made a ward of the Superintendent of Child Welfare, there might have been more awareness of the problems that could arise. Although the child was not moved when this situation became a problem, it is felt that staff showed skill in keeping things as comfortable as they were for this child in that home. However, this case again points out the need for more diagnostic thinking at the time children are brought into care.

Dave S.

Background Leading up to Child Coming Into Care.

Dave S. was born June 2, 1941. He was the second of four boys, the oldest being one year older than Dave. The father of these boys died in 1948, the cause of death not being known. In the family history, it is noted that Mrs.S. is described as being selfish, boastful, and not very interested in her children. Before the children came into care Mrs.S. was employed as a waitress in numerous cafes. It is noted that Mrs.S. has a history of epileptic seizures. Shortly after the death of Mr.S., Mrs.S. commenced living with another man reputed to be a bootlegger. She was not giving the children the proper care, and the children were committed to the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare in 1948.

Placement History.

Dave is described as being tall, slender, with blue eyes. The recording indicated he was untruthful, unable to concentrate

for any length of time, and defensive toward adults. In 1949, Dave was seen at Child Guidance Clinic, Vancouver, and the report indicated that he was suffering from a lack of security, and he might adjust if his home life was stabilized. This was followed by placement in a foster home close to Vancouver. However, because of his behaviour at school, he was expelled, and further feelings of rejection resulted. For a period of time Dave was placed in a receiving home in the Fraser Valley where his adjustment seemed better. After a period of four months this boy went to a foster home in the Valley. Unfortunately, his adjustment in the home and at school was poor and it was necessary to return him to the receiving home where he remained fairly happy. During 1950 Dave was placed in a foster home by the Children's Aid Society. Because of his behaviour he upset this home and as a result he was placed temporarily in the Vancouver Detention Home.

On October 3, 1950, this lad was again returned to the receiving home in the Fraser Valley. The recording gives no indication of what interpretation was given to Dave before placement was made in these homes. During the last period in the receiving home, he was seen quite frequently by a doctor at Children's Hospital in Vancouver, who was able to help him in his adjustment toward other children and adults. There were still problems in school. He still talked out in class and generally upset the routine. As Dave had been in the receiving home off and on from 1950 to 1952, it was felt it would be best if a suitable foster home could be found for this boy. During the rest of his stay in the receiving home Dave remained

quite dependent and was unable to accept much in the way of responsibility.

In the summer of 1952 a request was made to the Kamloops Branch of the Social Welfare for a foster home for him. At the end of August 1952, one was located, and although he remained very dependent, he seemed to settle into the home very well. The foster parents had three little girls, one just starting school and the other two of pre-school age. It should also be noted that the foster father in this family is a veteran of the Second World War, and lost both his legs in the service. This man has made a remarkable adjustment and is able to do most jobs around the farm with artificial limbs. Dave was made aware of the total home situation and it is felt that, for once, he felt that perhaps he was wanted and needed. Dave was given some chores to do in this home and was very proud of himself when allowed to drive the tractor on the farm. This, more than anything else, seemed to give this lad recognition and confidence in himself.

Although there were many ups and downs through the first year, Dave was in this home, his foster mother and father seemed to be able to cope with the problems as they arose. The main difficulty in placement was school adjustment. His behaviour did not improve much and the teacher had a great deal of difficulty in managing him. Close contact was maintained by both the foster mother and social worker, but the teacher still seemed to have difficulties with the boy. The home situation remained satisfactory, and although Dave threatened to run away in previous placements, there was no mention of this in this home. In the spring of 1953 an incident arose

when he took eight dollars out of a Junior Red Cross donation box in the school. However, the foster parents found out about this, and they were able to make him return the money on his own. During the same year it was arranged with Child Welfare Division to have them help purchase a show calf for Dave out of his Family Allowance Trust Account. He took a great pride in this animal and prepared it for the fall stock show held in the late autumn of every year. Because of the continuous difficulties at school, a conference was held with the local school Inspector and a decision was reached that it was best if Dave attended a larger school where he could receive more attention and help. The first few months things seemed to go better for Dave. As this lad was settling down nicely in his home, thought was given to placing a second child there. The child considered was two years older, well adjusted, and quite intelligent. After surveying the whole situation very carefully it was thought that perhaps this boy, if placed, might help Dave settle down and adjust better in school. Placement was made and these boys have got along very well.

Remarks.

In using this illustration it is felt that it shows the following:

- (1) The need for individual attention, as well as encouraging the child to realize that he could take some responsibility in helping other people.
- (2) The use of a treatment centre or receiving home for a period of adjustment of a child who is emotionally disturbed.

- (3) The importance of social workers working with school authorities as well as other professions and community as a whole when giving services to foster children.
- (4) The use of certain types of homes to suit the needs of each individual child, such as in the case of Dave, to help him feel needed, accept responsibility and develop self-confidence.

Marion K.

Background Leading up to Child Coming Into Care.

Marion K. is the youngest of a part-Indian family. She was born in December 1936. She has four older brothers, one of whom was born out of wedlock. The eldest was born in January 1932, the next in December 1932, the third was born in January 1934 and the fourth in August 1935. This family has been known to the Kamloops office since 1940 when they applied for social assistance. Mr.K. was then suffering from chronic asthma and allowance was granted. From 1940 to 1943 Mrs.K. was out of the home a great part of the time, wandering around Kamloops city and frequenting the local beer parlours. There was criticism that family allowance was not being used for the children; however, nothing was done about this yet. It is noted that in April 1946 Mrs.K. was giving consideration to leaving her husband and children, but seemed to change her mind again.

In 1946, because social allowance and family allowance were not being used properly, it was agreed that both these allowances should be administered by the Kamloops Branch, and this method of payment of both allowances was continued until 1950. Because of the disinterest of Mrs.K., and because of the inadequacy of the

father, it was thought that perhaps these children should be made wards of the Superintendent of Child Welfare. But, because of lack of Catholic foster homes it was impossible to make plans of such nature. Mr.K. did not improve in health, and in 1948 he went to stay in the Provincial Home for men in Kamloops. A few months later he returned home and died.

Even after this, Mrs.k. paid little attention to the children and they were left most of the time to manage on their own. During the period from 1948 to 1950, the Branch gave close supervision to the children in this home. In 1949 the boys began to wander, picking up seasonable work where they could. School attendance was very spotty and the family seemed to be splitting up. In 1950 Mrs.K. took Marion, came to Kamloops, and found a room in the less desirable part of the town. Marion was not attending school regularly, and Mrs.K. continued to spend most of her time frequenting the beer parlours with different men. Social allowance was paid to Mrs.k. on behalf of Marion and herself. However, this was paid carefully and not too much at one time. By this time the four boys had left home and had gone their own ways.

By November 1950 Marion was most unhappy, and agreed to go and stay with a cousin and her husband who lived in a logging camp in the mountains behind Kamloops. This cousin asked that social allowance be paid to her on behalf of Marion. She was having her own difficulties with her husband, and the suggested plan was looked upon with some doubt by the Kamloops staff. However, the allowance was paid, but in February 1951 she and her husband split up. Marion had become friendly with another family in this logging camp and in

reality found her own foster home. She appeared happy with this family, and after some discussion and thought it was agreed that a foster home study should be completed. Although the standards of this home were not of the highest calibre it seemed to meet the needs of Marion. Thus authority was requested from Child Welfare Division to take this girl into care, and she was apprehended on February 27, 1951, and committal to the Superintendent of Child Welfare was completed a month later.

History of Placement.

Soon after Child Welfare Division undertook the care of this child, the family she was with moved to another part of the Kamloops district and Marion went with them. She was now attending school quite regularly and did pass both her grade four and five work in 1951. Marion seemed to be happy in this home, but the worker was not able to make visits more than three or four times in the year due to weather as well as other pressures on his caseload. There seemed to be little of a problem nature, and even though Mrs.K. spent much time between Vancouver and Kamloops, Marion was not particularly interested in her. Her brothers did visit Marion on different occasions which seemed to make her happy as she did sometimes worry about them.

Marion remained here until the summer of 1953 when she reached grade seven at school. At this time she became interested in a boy older than herself who forced her to accept an engagement ring. She seemed to be very confused about the whole idea of marrying him. As this girl did not wish to return to school, and it was recognized

that she did not have the ability to go further, Marion found a position as a chambermaid in a motel just outside Kamloops and seemed to settle down. However, she seemed very confused, suffered from nightmares, and therefore left her position. Soon after this she found another job as domestic help near Kamloops.

Remarks.

In presenting this case it shows a number of problems. There has always been a lack of Catholic foster homes in the Kamloops district, and this situation is still prevalent. Perhaps a drive for such homes with the co-operation of the local parishes would be helpful. To gain a further understanding of this total situation, it should be known that the boy of the family closest to Marion in age has continued to be a problem. Although this lad was not taken into care, close contact has been kept with him. During the winter months in 1952, this lad needed help; it was felt by the Kamloops staff that he would not relate in a foster home. However, because there was no other way help could be given, he was apprehended and placed in a foster home. He had one meal, and rather than sleep the night with these people, he slept in a railway station. He would not return to the home, and eventually a job was found for him. This points out the need for more flexibility on the part of Child Welfare Division in planning for children who cannot relate in a foster home. It is definitely felt that there is a need for some type of group living plan in this district for this type of child.

In reviewing the history of Marion, it is felt that if there had been more use of summaries, including observations, impressions

and plan, in the recording, there would have been more possibility of refocussing. Perhaps the staff would have gained a better understanding of the total family situation and might have planned differently. In the visiting of Marion in her foster home, it was also felt that if caseloads had been smaller, the worker might have been able to give more time to this child, established a relationship with her before her involvement with the boy, and been able to help her talk through her confusion. There is a probability that reactions to her mother's relations with men were a basic part of Marion's confusion and that Marion had needed to express her fears before.

Alice V.

Background Leading up to Child Coming Into Care.

Alice was born in July 1935. She was the fifth youngest of seven children in the family. The father left Mrs.V. in 1945 and the family has been known since that time to the Branch in Kamloops. In 1946 Alice and her two younger brothers were taken into non-ward care, the agreed plan being that they would be returned to Mrs.K. when she was able to look after them.

Placement History.

The children were first placed in a foster home in the mining town in which they lived, but in August 1947 a new placement was necessary as the foster parents were leaving the area and could not take the children with them. The younger children were placed separately, while Alice was placed in a foster home in Kamloops, where the foster parents were of the Catholic religion, the same as Alice and her family. At this age, Alice appeared to be a bright, intelligent

-gent child. Her first placement was temporary, and she was soon placed in what was hoped to be a more permanent home. However, Alice found it difficult to relate to these parents and had to be moved again. In November, 1947, she was placed in a farm home where there were several children. The foster parents were in their late thirties and well-to-do sheep ranchers. During this period Alice adjusted quite well, her work habits and school work improved a great deal.

In 1950, it was necessary that she plan to move into Kamloops for Junior and Senior High. Alice had become very attached to her foster parents and this move into Kamloops was quite upsetting to her. A temporary placement was located with a young couple, but Alice did not relate well in this home and another move was necessary. A fairly good home Roman Catholic placement was located for her in Kamloops where she remained from the summer of 1950 until November 1951. During this period she attended Catholic day school in Kamloops where she did very well. The adjustment of Alice in her foster home was only fair. Her foster parents had three young children of their own and it is believed that there was a tendency on their part to expect too much work from this girl. In November 1951, the placement finally broke down because the foster parents expected too much. This resulted in insecurity as well as rebellion to some degree on her part.

Because of the lack of Roman Catholic foster homes in Kamloops, her former foster parents were contacted and they suggested one home in Kamloops. The worker saw this couple and a plan was

worked out with Alice and them. The foster mother was a nurse employed during the day at the local hospital. Her husband was also employed in Kamloops and they wished a girl to do small chores and get lunch for their two sons each day. In return they would give Alice free board, room, and ten dollars spending money each month. Alice was quite pleased with this plan and it was felt that the placement would be quite good. This home worked out very well until September 1952 when the foster parents decided to move to Vancouver. It should be pointed out that during Alice's stay in this home, she had difficulty with the Sisters at the Catholic school, and in the spring of 1952 she left this school on her own and transferred to the High School. The worker did not know about this until after Alice had discussed it with her priest, and it was a little late to suggest that she finish her year, and then change schools.

Because of her change at this time, it was necessary for her to write the government examinations, She did very well and passed with high marks into grade eleven. As already mentioned, Alice was moved again to another home in September 1952. She had a chum, the same religion as she was, who was anxious to have her in her home. The parents were seen and Alice was placed in this home with some hesitation. The placement did not work out and another move was necessary. The Catholic Priest was contacted but neither he or the social worker were able to find a suitable home for the girl. As a result he was quite willing for her to be placed in a Protestant home, as he felt that she was old enough to take responsibility for attending church regularly. Alice was placed in a

Protestant home on a boarding home basis where she related well to the foster parents and kept her interest in her religion. During the past summer Alice has been employed in a department store in Kamloops and has done very well at this job. She seems happy in her present home and is now in grade twelve at school. She has the potentialities to go further, and she wants to be either a stenographer or a teacher. She has shown interest periodically in her family but has not wished to be with them. With proper guidance over the next year this child should do very well in life.

Remarks.

In presenting this illustration it is thought that it shows difficulties that can arise in finding suitable placement when a child comes into care. It also points out the lack of educational facilities in some parts of Kamloops district for high school students, and the need for change of placement sometimes because of this. In reviewing the placements of Alice, it is felt that perhaps the placement with the sheep ranchers may have been too strict, as there were signs of adolescent rebellion when she was moved to Kamloops, or this could have been due to her wish to remain in her foster home. When Alice was receiving free board it is felt that perhaps when given more freedom, she was inclined to take advantage of the situation, and certainly needed more guidance.

Perhaps if more guidance had been forthcoming for both Alice and the foster parents, she might have been helped. In the total contact with Alice up until 1953 this girl always had a male worker. This brings up a problem of whether it would have been better for

this child to have had a woman worker. In theory it is felt that in most cases an adolescent girl could relate more easily to a female worker, but it must be remembered that in a small office there may not be a woman staff member. Also if a child lives some distance from the office it is not practical for another worker to be sent out to a district already covered by another worker. However, in the case of Alice, it is possible that if she had had a female worker in Kamloops she might have related better. It is also felt that perhaps the number of homes Alice has been in may have some bearing on her being somewhat difficult to manage. She was in a total of eight foster homes, which is not a satisfactory arrangement for any child. Perhaps if there had been more attempt to find a more permanent home it would have been better. However, this again goes back to the lack of Catholic homes in most districts.

Chapter 4 Progress in Treatment of Selected Cases

Twelve children of the fifty-two adolescent group of foster boys and girls given services from 1940 to 1953 by the Kamloops Social Welfare Branch have been examined from the following points of view: Family background, difficulties in foster home placement, and general over-all social adjustments. To complete the review, it is necessary to look at the progress of these children to the present time. It appears that in many placements there seems to be a degree of success, while at the same time there is failure in helping the adolescent to make a satisfactory adjustment to life.

Joan B.

On reviewing the cases it is first important to examine the progress of Joan B. In 1953, Joan returned to her mother for a two month period. Mrs. B. had married in 1945 and had two children by this union. It is felt that as Joan had little attachment to this family group she became restless, and this is her reason for drifting back to Kamloops. While Joan had been away, some attempt was made to locate suitable employment for her. However, the proper type of placement was not found. When Joan returned it was felt that she was relating better and was able to discuss future plans more easily with her social worker. This girl became restless in Kamloops and she was able to obtain some employment and make enough money to go to Alberta where she remained for a

short period. Later in the spring of 1954 she returned to Kamloops at which time she was much more settled and was able to discuss her problems in a franker manner than ever before. It is understood that Joan is interested in a Chinese-Canadian boy and is most anxious to marry him. When the record was last seen, Joan was asking for permission to marry. However, before the Superintendent of Child Welfare could give her consent it was necessary to evaluate the total situation to make sure that this would be the best plan.

In summary, it is felt that Joan has had a most difficult time over the past two years. If there had been more awareness of the real feelings of this girl through the earlier years in care, perhaps many of the problems that had to be dealt with more recently could have been averted. It is also thought that the staff members in the Kamloops office may not have been able to give Joan as much attention as they should because of large caseloads which did not allow them to visit her as often or spend as much time with her as she needed. Although Joan did go through a most difficult period she seems to have worked through many of her problems herself. Nevertheless she may always have some difficulty in her inability to relate to other persons. Joan seems to be adjusting as well now as is possible for her to do in her total environment.

Fred B.

Since Fred has had difficulties with the police during 1953, he has settled down well. It is thought that he is receiving more encouragement and recognition from both his foster parents and social worker. Fred is slow at school and it is questionable whether

he has the ability to go further than the eighth grade. This lad is now in grade six at school and is fifteen years old. Although it is improbable that he will seek higher education, he does have potentialities for making a good citizen, and with proper guidance and understanding he should be able to find satisfactory employment and take his place in the community.

In comparing Fred's history of placement with that of his sister Joan's, the presentation of these two illustrations seems to show that when a child is placed in a good and suitable foster home as a baby, the child appears to have a better chance to make a more satisfactory adjustment, and his adolescent period seems to be less trying. There were recent problems in Fred's adjustment, but these are traceable mainly to lack of encouragement and recognition. Another reason for the difficulty arising in 1953 may also be due to lack of community activities for children in outlying districts. From experience it definitely seems that there is a need for more community activities in the rural communities, but unless there is a proper person to give leadership there is little hope of improving such situations.

John C.

In the fall of 1953 John was placed in a foster home in the country which had previously proved to be one of the better foster homes in the Kamloops district. The placement was in a rural community similar to the type of community in which this boy had previously lived. John had been aware for the past three years that

his natural mother lived in Kamloops city but he was never able to verbalize any feelings he may have had about her. The placement now seems to be excellent mainly because John, for the first time, has a strong male figure to pattern himself after who accepts him, and as a result, his total attitude toward life seems to have improved. Previous to this placement this lad was very quiet, and only answered when directly questioned. He is now able to talk more freely to his foster parents and other members of the community.

It is hoped that this will be a permanent home for John, and if he continues to adjust as well as he has, he will probably remain with his present foster parents until he is able to become independent and go out into the world. Although he does not see Mrs. Flint often, some contact is maintained as she sends gifts to him through the Kamloops office. Although John is not too intelligent a boy, he will probably continue school to at least grade nine. It is difficult to know what type of work he will decide to do when older, but it is thought that his interest may lie in farming.

Rita Z.

In reviewing Rita's Placements, this girl has only been in care a comparatively short period of time. Her adjustment in her second placement seems to have been much better, and the last information is that she was happy, and consideration was being given to returning her baby to her.

This illustration shows some of the difficulties that can arise in placement of an older girl who has been accustomed to

very low standards and a very different culture. It will be interesting to watch Rita's progress over the remainder of her period in care. From experience it has been found that many children of Indian background revert to the earlier culture that they have known. This can be seen in other illustrations presented as well as in the records of many Indian or part-Indian children who have been known to the Kamloops Branch over a period of years.

Mildred, Alma and Ron T.

Since Mildred and Alma were moved from the Kamloops district they have remained in one foster home. There have been many problems to work out since these girls were placed in their present home. However, there seems to be a more satisfactory relationship between the girls and their present foster parents. Since the girls were placed in this home their foster parents moved to another part of the Okanagan Valley and the girls went with them. It is noted that in the spring of 1954, the foster mother was pregnant and she seemed to be having some difficulty in controlling Mildred and Alma. There is some discussion that it may be necessary to move the girls at the end of the school term if their behaviour does not improve.

Mildred and Alma have had a most difficult period since their mother died. It is unfortunate that the placement with the relatives was not evaluated more carefully when the children were originally taken into care. It is also felt that there should have been more awareness by the staff of the problems that were developing in the young couple's marriage because of the responsibility

of having these children. It is possible that if the first placement of these children had been more stable many of the behaviour problems that had to be dealt with later might have been averted.

As far as Ron is concerned, he has moved from job to job throughout the district. Although it has not been easy, staff have been able to keep contact with him, and maintain a relationship with him on an objective basis. Ron seems to have a better understanding of himself and life, and this has been gained through finding out "the hard way" by trial and error. On last report, this lad's relationship with the social worker is quite good, and it is felt that he is making better adjustment to people than ever before. It is difficult to know what the future holds for this boy. However, it is very likely that he will do no other work than unskilled labour jobs or be a handy man on a ranch or farm.

Eddie D.

Eddie has remained in his present foster home and he seems to be fairly happy and is still anxious to obtain more schooling. He is still immature for his age, however, he is slowly starting to grow up. It has always been felt that his foster mother has shown a good understanding of this lad, but, the foster father has been a problem as he has very little patience with the boy. As Eddie grows older it may be necessary to move him as it is felt the foster parents may have some difficulty in managing him. Eddie still continues to have strong attachment for his sister. He writes regularly to her and has recently visited her in her foster home. It is felt that, although Mr.D. has let Eddie down in not

keeping contact with the boy, there is some emotional attachment and it is thought that when Eddie comes of age he will return to his home town and clarify his feelings towards his father. With proper guidance and understanding it is felt that Eddie has the ability to complete full or part university training if this is his wish.

Doug and Frank O.

Since Doug O. returned to Kamloops, he has remained with his foster mother. He has held numerous jobs which include working on a ranch, in mills, as well as on the oil pipeline. He has visited his mother at the coast and always seems quite happy to return to Kamloops. He is no longer in care; however, the social worker here regularly about how he is getting along, from his foster mother. Doug has potentialities to go further in school and it was hoped that he might return after he spent a period of time working. However, this has not happened and such thoughts are probably the last thing in this lad's mind. Since he returned to Kamloops, the foster mother's home was destroyed by fire and Doug has been a real strength to her through this trying time.

As far as Frank is concerned, it is felt that he may not have the same difficult time as Doug had, mainly because the foster mother has accepted employment which takes her out of the home part of the day. It is felt that by working she will be more occupied and she will not have the need to try and control Frank as much as she did Doug.

In reviewing the difficulties that Doug has had with his

foster mother, it is felt that this experience with him will probably give her a more positive outlook as Frank goes through the adolescent phase. Frank has potentialities to complete grade twelve at school, and with proper direction it is felt that he will be able to make a satisfactory adjustment to life.

Helen J.

Since Helen left Kamloops in 1953 for nursing school, difficulties have arisen. Soon after she began her course, she was bothered with pain in her back. Upon medical examination it has been found that there is a congenital injury present, which may mean that Helen will have to give up her course. If this proves necessary, she is interested in becoming a laboratory technician. She continues to receive supervision from the child placing agency in Victoria where she has been taking training. It is unfortunate that this back injury was not discovered before she commenced her training. However, the trouble did not show up when the necessary medical examination was completed at the time of her acceptance. It is felt that this illustration shows the type of help the Superintendent of Child Welfare is willing to provide for foster children who show the ability to undertake further professional training.

Dave S.

Dave is still in the same foster home in which he was placed in 1952. Although it has been a difficult struggle for the foster parents, they have had unbounded patience with this boy. There have been many ups and downs in Dave's adjustment, but, he does seem happier than ever before. Unfortunately his school adjustment

remains poor. Dave was moved to a larger school in the fall of 1953 but his behaviour has not changed. He has been so much of a problem that the School Board in this district does not wish him to attend any school any longer. He seems to continue to need extra attention from the teacher and, if he does not receive this, he becomes a nuisance by speaking out and making many attempts to become the centre of attention. Dave's intelligence is poor, and he will not go far in school. He is now thirteen years of age and only in grade five. There are definite strengths in his foster home, and it is thought that the social worker will attempt to work with the school authorities to make things easier for all concerned for the remaining time he has at school. It is thought that Dave will need concentrated help over the next few years from his foster parents and social worker.

Marion K.

This is another example of a part-Indian child taken into care when fifteen years of age. Marion settled down well in her foster home, and there appears to have been no real problem until she became emotionally involved with a young man. It is thought that Marion's confusion may have resulted from her reflection on the unhappiness of her mother's marriage, and her own life as a child. If the worker had been able to give more time to discussing this girl's feelings about her past life experiences, perhaps she could have been helped to work out this problem. Instead, Marion left Kamloops on her own, probably in an attempt to work out these

problems herself. It is unfortunate that because her foster home was not in the main part of the district, home visits were not made as regularly as they might have been. If more time could have been spent with her during the earlier period of placement, the total adjustment of this girl might have been more satisfactory.

Alice V.

Alice remained in her present foster home and it was felt that her adjustment was quite good. She was treated as one of the family and her foster parents took her with them on any trip they made away from Kamloops. On one trip to Vancouver she was able to visit her mother and older sister which seems to have satisfied any feelings she had concerning her family. She was able to discuss this visit with her worker and she evidently felt that her relatives had no real interest in her.

For the last year Alice has had a boy friend, and although this may be only an adolescent crush, it is felt that perhaps the high school counselors did not take this romance seriously enough. Because of her confusion about her boy friend, Alice quit school two months before the end of the term this year. Staff of the Social Welfare Branch felt that perhaps counselors at the school missed this situation, and if they had contacted the local Branch concerning this problem it might have been met more helpfully. From last report, Alice is not married but has been very difficult to handle. She is a non-ward, and therefore actually a legal responsibility of her mother's. It is not known whether she has been discharged from care. The intelligence of this girl is above average, and it

is unfortunate that she did not complete her year at school. Until this year Alice had planned to be either a teacher or a stenographer. Perhaps with some thought on her part as well as understanding and guidance, she may be helped to return to school, as she certainly has the ability to have professional training.

Chapter 5 The Problems in Giving Services in the Rural Community

In evaluating the adjustment of adolescent children placed in foster homes, it must be remembered that as a rule, most adolescent boys and girls are faced with inner conflicts as well as fear of the adult world. Therefore it is logical to assume that children who are placed in foster homes, particularly when they are older, will have a more stormy transition to adulthood than the child who is in his natural family group. Because of past life experiences with parents and the world in general, foster children who are placed beyond early infancy, usually enter placement with some fear and apprehension. Although their father or mother may have been very unkind, or completely disinterested, the child has taken on an image of the parents, which he needs to feel is positive. Because of the child's need to feel his origin and source are good, and his need to belong, and because his parents are the primary source of support and of standards he knows, he tends to magnify the better part of the parents. Therefore it can be seen that how a child is prepared for placement, and the warmth and understanding shown by the social worker are most important. Children cannot be completely cut off in their thoughts from parents, and if there is any possibility of some contact being maintained without damage to the child, then it is wise to do so. If this is impossible, then it is impor-

tant that the social worker remember that the child will have certain feelings about his parents, and these should be brought out in the open rather than letting them lie dormant without some explanation, especially in understanding of their inadequacies.

The Social Welfare Branch Foster Home Problem.

The present day foster program offered by the Social Welfare Branch has grown considerably in the last fifteen year period. This growth is normal and is due in many respects to the complexity of modern day living, and growth in population throughout British Columbia. With the changes that have taken place over the years, there is no longer the interdependence found in families that was present in the 1930s and earlier years. Although there is more awareness of family breakdown, it must be pointed out that foster care in the district office of the Branch in most areas is still in the pioneering stage of development. This is very true, particularly in the area served by the Kamloops Branch. It is only since 1946 that a real foster home program has developed there and, although there are many weaknesses still present, the work done in the district is commendable. Weather conditions, bad roads, and heavy caseloads make the work of the worker very demanding. Moreover, because of the geographical make-up of the province, it is difficult to make any attempt to give services except by the present method of generalized caseloads being carried by all workers.

Through the years, the Social Welfare Branch has attempted to strengthen services by placing as many skilled workers as possible in district offices. However, like other agencies both in Canada

and the United States, there are problems in obtaining the necessary trained staff. To counteract this, it has been necessary to set up an "In Service Training" program to teach suitable people the basic skills needed in social work. More time has latterly been given to teaching basic skills in social work, and, as a rule, in-service personnel are given closer supervision than the staff who have had the benefit of professional training.

Need for Diagnostic Thinking.

In spite of the increasing emphasis on care work skills, there seems to be a lack of diagnostic thinking, and a failure on the part of workers to see the problems that may be burried in the secret thinking of the foster child. Although the Kamloops staff is a mixture of both graduates and in-service staff, this has been a problem with many workers through the years. This lack of diagnostic thinking and lack of the knowledge of the problems that can appear in the older foster child, and how to help him with them, might be corrected through the implementation of a staff development program geared to the needs of the staff members. The question must be raised as to whether there is a tendency not to give as much service to adolescent children as necessary. Perhaps the size of caseloads may have something to do with this. However, with the addition of a fifth worker in 1953, caseloads of the other four workers were decreased, which should have helped the situation. Nevertheless it seems that, because of the pressure of other work, staff are not able to visit foster children as much as they would like to do. Some workers may feel that a child appears to be making

a satisfactory adjustment and, as a result, visits may not be made frequently enough, but it is often in these foster homes that trouble begins, and earlier attention might have saved much later work. This lack of foresight indicates the need for workers to receive as much help as possible through both staff development and supervision, so that they may become aware of what can happen during placement, and when help can best be given. The simple knowledge that most children "try out" foster parents, often after a short period of conforming, can be of great value to workers and to foster parents if known before placement. Similar help in knowing the child's need to feel that he is liked and wanted, and that his parents are not belittled, can be of great value to all those trying to help him.

The use made of existing resources in working with adolescents in the Kamloops district, seems to be left to each individual social worker to decide largely for himself. Over the years, some staff made good use of these resources, while other workers completely ignored them. In working with the adolescent, it is clear that schools, churches, police and many other professions can often be of great assistance in helping the child. More stress could be paid upon the part the school plays in the life of the adolescent, for, outside his family, this is the major interest of the growing child in the more isolated community. With the advent of the Community Programmes Branch in most parts of British Columbia, it may be that established groups in the communities might be used profitably in the adolescent's adjustment.

Problems Arising in Placement.

In the case illustrations presented in the earlier chapters, both positive and negative points are brought out. From the illustrations, particularly that of Joan B., it appears that placements in 1941 were not evaluated too well, and that there was need for more care in the selection of homes. The foster home placement program was in its early stage of development but, with untapped foster home resources and proper interpretation, the standards of homes used might have been higher. After Joan's poor start, she seems to have been placed in a more suitable home, but one in which standards may have been so high that she could not feel she belonged, nor could she live up to them.

Another problem with Joan, as well as with her brother Fred, was loss of focus. In the case of Joan, this seems definitely apparent over a long time, and as a result she has had a most trying adolescent period. If there had been more awareness of her feelings about herself and her family, many of the problems present might have been worked through, and her conflict might have been averted to some extent. Although Fred's difficulties seem to have been short lived, again focus was lost because of concern for this lad's sister. Fortunately this was corrected and, with recognition and encouragement, Fred was helped to be more comfortable in his total environment. This illustration also shows the need for workers to establish relationship with all professions whether they be police, public health nurses, school authorities or doctors.

In the other cases presented, John C. again illustrates that there was some lack of thinking at the time of his birth. It seems that the staff, even at this time, may have been so heavily loaded with work that they did not have time to give sufficiently concentrated services. If John's mother had been given more support, or her plan for adoption been more realistically accepted, placement at a later date could have been averted. When John finally did come into care, there was lack of suitable foster homes for adolescents. This is also apparent in other cases presented, such as Mildred and Alma T. as well as in the case of Marion K. The case of John C. also shows that, because of distance from the office, workers are unable to visit more isolated areas as often as they wish. Because of the distance Mrs. Flint lived from Kamloops, it was impossible for the worker to visit very often; and difficult to evaluate the real need for protection and suitable guardianship. Because of the inability of John to relate in foster homes, the example shows the need for some type of group living for adolescents, where less is expected of them than in a foster home setting. In actuality, this suggestion is also applicable to some of the others. Doug O., who rebelled against his foster mother, could have been helped in such a setting. The same is true of Ron T., who also rebelled or the brother of Marion K.

In the case of Mildred and Alma T., there is seen a lack of diagnostic understanding on the part of staff, as well as lack of understanding on the part of the foster parents. This case, also,

illustrated the ever-present problem of suitable foster home placements.

The need of a father person is evident in the case of Doug and Frank O.. Although a single woman or widow is sometimes able to help an adolescent adjust, this does not always work out, and there is need for further study of the ultimate effects of an adolescence spent without male authority or example. This illustration is another argument for careful evaluation of each individual case in this respect. Similarly, in the case of Helen J., it might have helped if more thought had been given to the possible complication that could arise with the type of foster mother with whom they were dealing.

In an earlier chapter the problem of Marion K.'s brother was discussed briefly. If there were more flexibility allowed by the Divisional Office in planning for such a boy, such as allowing him a room, or having some group-living plan, he might have adjusted more easily than he did when it was arranged for him to go to a foster home. In the case of Alice V., there was a need to move Alice mainly because of schooling. Other factors may have entered the picture, but the precipitating factor was the lack of a high school in her district. This need to move a child for educational reasons is becoming less of a problem, due to the introduction of the consolidated school in many districts around Kamloops.

To say the least, the problems shown in the illustrations of adolescent children in foster care are numerous. They may be summarized as follows:

- (1) There is often difficulty with the adolescent child who is unable to relate closely to foster parents, in the same way that younger children can, since adolescents are normally moving away from parental ties towards independence.
- (2) There is a growing need to find suitable foster homes for adolescents. There is a lack of these homes, and although many foster parents are willing to take young children, there seems to be a fear on the part of many people that they cannot cope with the problem of a disturbed adolescent.
- (3) There is some possibility that the size of caseloads carried by district workers may be too large, and perhaps it is time to review the size of each worker's load in relation to his individual capabilities to give the needed services. Some efforts have been made elsewhere to weigh different types of cases in relation to the usual time needed for them, and adolescents, especially away from their own homes are always given a heavy weighting.
- (4) There seems to be a need for staff to be analytical in their evaluation of foster homes to be used. In addition, the worker must be aware of how his total situation can affect the growing child.
- (5) There appears a need for social workers to be more aware that the major focus in giving services to foster children is the child, while the foster parents are secondary, and visits to them are for the purpose of working together to help the child make a more satisfactory adjustment, and

find a place where he feels he can belong and is accepted and liked.

- (6) In some cases, there should be more thought given to the implications of the first placement of a child.
- (7) There is a need for social workers to become more aware of the help other professions can be in giving services to children in foster care.
- (8) There may be need for other resources to be developed by Child Welfare Division and the districts in planning for adolescent children who may have run away from home, or whose personalities are such that they will not adjust to the limits of a foster home.
- (9) There seem to be some problems in giving services because of distances and weather conditions being variable in the Kamloops district.
- (10) There is, in this area, the problem of adolescent children being placed with single women or widows. This problem is also apparent in other areas as well as in Kamloops, and should be studied both as to its causes and its ultimate effects.

The Improvement of Services.

Although these problems are present in Kamloops district, it is to be supposed that most District Branches throughout the Province of British Columbia are experiencing similar issues in adolescent foster placement. It is felt that there are ways in which most of these can be met. Some of the following suggestions

may not be feasible at this time, but they may act as a base for further study and evaluation:

- (1) Because of the apparent difficulty many adolescent children have in accepting foster home care, there is a need for some experimentation in group-living facilities for adolescents. A type of home that could be used for such children could be tried first on a small scale with perhaps three or four children being cared for, and a couple in charge. If it is not practical to do this on a Kamloops district basis, then perhaps it might be tried on a regional basis with all district offices participating in such a scheme. The type of home suggested would be on a more impersonal basis where the children would not be expected to relate so closely to parent figures as they would in a foster home. There should be a husband and wife with some training in understanding the needs of adolescent boys and girls, and group programs should be worked out. The children would attend school in the district, and participate in community affairs as any other children would. They would also be free to invite children from the community to their home.

It might be wise to try such an experiment in a large centre so that the total plan could be evaluated carefully, and case-work services could be available for each child.

- (2) Many adolescent children, if placed in suitable foster homes, might do better than they have in past experience. Kamloops is not the only area that is having difficulty in locating adequate

resources for this age group. In reality, the adolescent boy or girl seems to demand more than just boarding home care. Rates paid to foster parents have been increased over the past year and, although some special rates are paid in exceptional situations, this is not a standard policy. If maintenance rates were increased⁽¹⁾ for adolescent children, one wonders if it might induce more people of quality to apply for children of this age group.

- (3) The size of caseloads is a real problem in most district offices. The only way that this could be improved would be by further increase in staff. This is difficult to achieve when there are many claims upon government in an expanding economy. However, as has been mentioned, time studies and weighting of kinds of cases, have been helpful elsewhere. Certainly both recognition and interpretation of the greater time required by child placement and especially placement of adolescents is essential.
- (4) The need for more careful evaluation of foster homes, as well as diagnostic thinking on the part of the staff, can only be met through individual supervision, staff development programs, reading of professional literature, and experience. Perhaps there is a need for implementation of fuller staff development program, not only in Kamloops but in other district offices, and also in many private agencies.
- (5) The placement of Child Welfare Consultants in each Region would undoubtedly be of great benefit to the program.

(1) This has been tried in the State of Washington, with some success, since 1948.

- (6) The problems of distance and weather are very real in the Kamloops district. The only satisfactory answer to the dilemma is additional workers, and this appears remote at the time of writing.

In spite of pressing problems, the illustrations do indicate a sincere wish on the part of all members of the Kamloops staff to give the best services possible to all clients, including adolescents. The Superintendent of Child Welfare and her staff make every effort to see that the adolescent receives the best care possible under the existing circumstances and resources. It is hoped that some of the suggestions made may be of assistance to them in their constant wish to improve services throughout the province.

Appendix A.

Definitions of Services Given by the Social Welfare Branch

Child Guidance Clinic. For the most part cases in this category are Shared Services, Child Guidance Clinic cases should only be defined as such when they are in the process of clinical examination, either awaiting their examinations, or immediately afterwards

Collections These cases are usually referred by the Collector of Institutional Revenue for investigation as to the ability of relatives to pay for keep of patients in a Provincial Institution.

Family Service. Any case where casework or counseling services are rendered to individuals or families in need of such service where financial assistance or specialized child welfare services are not required.

Hospital Clearance. These are cases referred for clearance by the Inspector of Hospitals or a responsible municipality. Clearance refers to planning for patients in hospital whose illness is of a chronic nature and have no one who can make plans for them.

Mothers' Allowance means all cases in receipt of Mothers' Allowance, as well as any case in which an application for this allowance is being made by an applicant.

Old Age Assistance means a case in which an application is made for Old Age Assistance; where investigation is made regarding an application whether assistance is granted or not, or where case work services are rendered to a family or individual in receipt of Old Age Assistance.

Provincial Home. Any case in which an application to the Provincial Home has been submitted.

Provincial Infirmary Any case in which an application to the Provincial Infirmary has been submitted.

Provincial Mental Hospital refers to any case where the patient is in hospital and contact is maintained with the patient's family or with the patient himself when he returns home.

Crease Clinic. Any case referred for services when a patient is in clinic or after he returns home.

Social Allowance means all cases in receipt of Social Allowance as well as any in which an application is made for Social Allowance and an investigation made regarding such application, irrespective of whether or not Social Allowance is granted.

Appendix A (continued)

Tuberculosis. Unless a social worker is asked to perform a public health function, all cases in which tuberculosis is a factor should be counted in another category.

Welfare Institutions. A Welfare Institution is any project which comes under the scope of the Welfare Institutions Licensing Act and which is referred by the Inspector of Welfare Institutions or directly by the applicant.

Pending Adoption Homes are homes in the process of investigation and awaiting approval.

Approved Adoption Homes are homes that have been approved and awaiting placement of children.

Children in Adoption Homes means the actual number of children under supervision in adoption homes whether they have been placed by the Child Welfare Division, a private agency, or privately.

Children in Care A child in care is a child for whom the Superintendent of Child Welfare has assumed responsibility either permanently through court action, or temporarily at the requests of the child's parent, parents, or guardian.

Children of Unmarried Parents Act means a case in which this Act is used or in which unmarried parenthood or illegitimacy is the primary problem.

Pending Foster Homes are homes in the process of investigation and pending final approval of placement of children.

Approved Foster Homes are approved homes awaiting placement, and all foster homes in use.

Protection of Children. A protection case is one in which there is need for the amelioration or removal by casework methods of conditions in the home that cannot be overlooked by a child welfare agency, and which, if permitted to continue, would in all likelihood, result in court action under the Protection of Children Act or the Juvenile Delinquents Act.

Special Services means those cases in which the Superintendent of Child Welfare is concerned, other than specified Child Welfare legislation.

Unorganized Territory refers to any part of the province not organized as a city or municipality⁽¹⁾.

(1) Compiled from office Manual, Department of Health and Welfare, Province of British Columbia.

Appendix B.

Child Welfare Definitions

Apprehension refers to the holding of a child for reasons of protection. Authority is usually given in writing or by telegram, by the Superintendent or the Deputy Superintendent of Child Welfare. Within seven days, the child must be presented before a stipendiary magistrate, judge, or if neither of the two is represented in the area, then two Justices of the Peace. At this point the case may be adjourned until a later date and the child remain in the care of the Superintendent of Child Welfare while he or she is before the court.

Committal. When evidence has been given as to the need for protection of a child, then the social worker will usually ask the magistrate or two Justices of the Peace, to complete transfer of guardianship to the Superintendent of Child Welfare.

Non-ward Care refers to a child being placed in care for a temporary period. Although a parent is asked to contribute to maintenance, the payments are not compulsory and each case is reviewed on an individual basis. Authority to bring a child into this type of care is given by the district supervisor. The Superintendent of Child Welfare or social worker has no control over the return of the child. There is only a written agreement between the parent and district office.

Ward Care refers to a child who is committed to the care of the superintendent. If home conditions should improve then the parents may apply to the court for rescinding of the order. If the order is rescinded, it is on the recommendation of the district office where the parents live, after the total situation has been re-evaluated.

Appendix C.

- (i) Statistics form Kamloops District for two comparative years, 1948 and 1953.
Tables 1(a) , 1(b); 2(a), 2(b).
Material for tables summarized from district statistics for each month.

- (ii) Frequency of placement of fifty-two children studied.
Material derived from records of the Kamloops Social Welfare Branch which have been reviewed.

TABLE 1 (a) Total Number of Cases Carried by Kamloops Social Welfare Branch from July 1948 to December 1948 (1)

Category of Case	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av. No Cases Ea. Mo
Social Allowance	170	170	173	172	166	172	171
Mothers' Allowance	9	9	10	10	10	10	10
Family Service	36	37	36	35	35	36	36
Old Age Pension	384	392	398	409	507	510	433
Prot. of Children	45	49	52	50	46	47	48
Pend. Foster Homes	3	4	4	3	3	2	3
Appr'd Foster Homes	27	27	28	28	29	31	29
Children in F. Homes	26	26	31	31	31	32	30
Chn. of Unm. Parents	31	32	32	33	35	36	33
Pending Adoptions	12	10	10	8	11	5	9
App'd. Adop. Homes	17	21	21	24	24	30	23
Chn. in Adopt. Homes	33	33	37	33	32	30	33
Special Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Tuberculosis	7	6	7	7	6	6	7
Mental Hospital	9	10	9	7	6	9	8
Child Gdnce. Clinic	2	2	2	2	2	1	2
Hospital Clearance	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Welfare Institutes	1	0	0	0	0	0	-
Prov. Infirmary	0	1	0	0	0	0	-
Collections	3	0	0	2	0	0	-
Family Allowance	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Provincial Home	0	1	2	2	1	1	1
Totals Each Month	815	830	813	854	946	949	

(1) This table shows cases added or closed each month, thus making a difference in each month's total.

**TABLE 1(b) Total Number of Cases Active Each Month in Kamloops
Social Welfare Branch From July 1948 to December 1948**

Category of Case	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av. No. Cases Es. Mo.
Social Allowance	53	69	68	70	65	49	62
Mothers Allowance	4	4	6	4	6	6	5
Family Service	17	14	17	15	18	15	16
Old Age Pension	100	124	117	101	132	125	117
Prot. of Children	19	19	21	22	19	18	20
Pend. Foster Homes	3	3	4	4	3	3	3
Approved Fos. Homes	11	11	15	13	13	14	13
Chn. in Fos. Homes	22	17	19	21	23	23	21
Chn. of Unm. Parents	19	19	17	20	21	17	19
Pending Adoptions	5	7	7	7	6	4	6
Appr'd Adop. Homes	11	6	7	9	7	9	8
Chn. in Adop. Homes	18	15	16	22	18	18	18
Special Services	1	0	0	0	0	0	-
Tuberculosis	4	3	4	5	4	6	4
Mental Hospital	4	3	4	5	4	6	4
Child Gdnce. Clinic	2	1	0	0	0	1	-
Hospital Clearance	1	0	1	0	0	0	-
Welfare Institutes	1	0	1	0	0	0	-
Provincial Infirmary	0	0	0	1	2	1	-
Collections	4	0	0	0	3	3	2
Family Allowance	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Provincial Home	1	1	3	3	3	1	2
Total Each Month	298	317	328	321	347	322	

TABLE 2(a) Total Number of Cases Carried by Kamloops Social Welfare Branch from July 1953 to December 1953(1)

Category of Case	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av. No. Cases Ea. Mo.
Family Service	89	98	103	102	105	106	101
Mothers' Allowance	6	6	6	6	5	5	6
Social Allowance	157	154	152	149	157	162	156
Blind Pension	9	9	9	10	10	11	10
Old Age Assistance	141	142	146	147	151	150	146
Old Age Security	595	597	597	587	584	586	591
Adop. Homes Pending	10	8	8	9	10	11	9
Adop. Homes Appr'd	25	26	23	23	21	19	25
Chn. in Adop. Homes	35	31	34	35	39	44	36
Chn. in Foster Homes	61	63	67	66	78	77	69
Foster Homes Pend.	8	7	10	12	12	12	10
Foster Homes App'd	54	53	55	54	55	55	54
Prot'n of Children	8	8	7	6	6	6	7
Chn. of Unm. Parents	34	32	29	32	33	34	32
Special Services	1	1	1	1	1	1	-
Child Gdnce. Clinic	0	0	4	0	5	0	-
Creche Clinic	4	4	10	4	11	5	6
Prov. Mental Hosp.	7	8	0	9	0	10	5
Collections	3	5	6	7	8	7	6
Hosp. Clearance	0	0	0	0	0	1	-
Provincial Home	0	1	1	1	1	0	-
Prov. Infirmary	0	0	1	1	1	0	-
Welfare Institutes	4	4	4	4	4	5	4
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Totals Each Month	1251	1257	1273	1265	1297	1307	

(1) This Table shows cases added or closed each month, thus making a difference in each month's total.

**TABLE 2(b) Total Number of Cases Active Each Month in Kamloops
Social Welfare Branch From July 1957 to December 1953.**

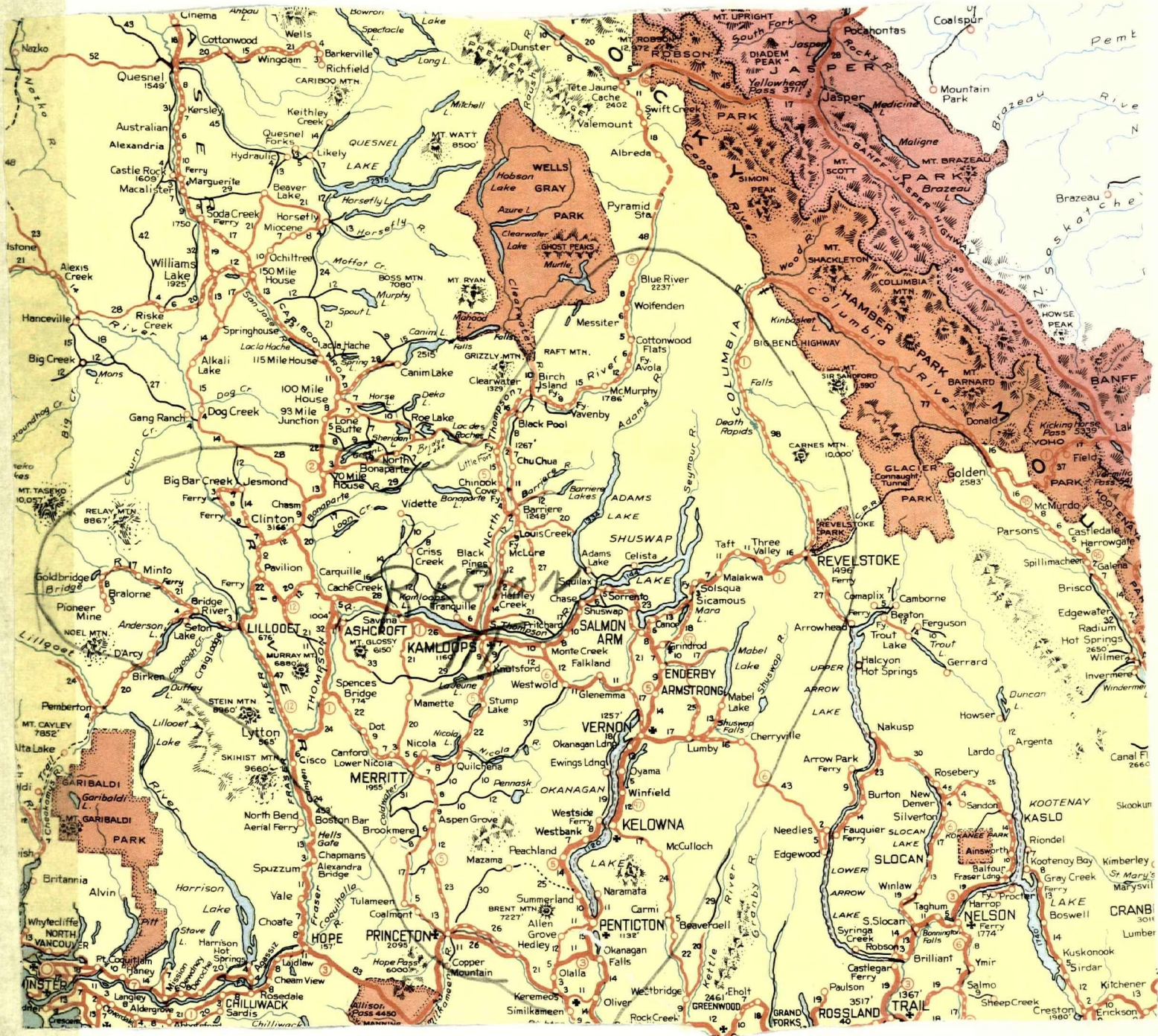
Category of Case	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Av. No. Cases Pa. Mo
Family Service	22	40	25	29	20	23	27
Mothers' Allowance	2	4	3	2	2	2	3
Social Allowance	58	72	36	70	60	74	62
Blind Pension	0	0	0	2	2	5	-
Old Age Assistance	13	13	13	18	16	16	15
Old Age Security	32	55	42	66	23	31	41
Adop. Homes Pending	4	4	5	1	4	1	3
Adop. Homes Appr'd	5	5	4	5	5	7	5
Chn. in Adop. Homes	9	14	6	7	10	13	10
Chn. in Foster Homes	30	42	26	33	33	28	32
Foster Homes Pending	5	7	51	5	5	2	4
Foster Homes App'd	13	22	17	16	18	13	17
Prot'n of Children	1	6	2	1	1	2	2
Chn. of Unm. Parents	14	12	12	9	5	12	10
Special Services	0	0	0	1	1	0	-
Child Ednce. Clinic	0	1	1	0	1	0	-
Crease Clinic	0	0	1	1	0	0	-
Prov. Mental Hosp.	2	0	0	2	3	6	2
Collections	1	2	4	4	2	1	2
Hosp. Clearance	1	1	0	0	1	2	-
Provincial Home	1	0	0	1	2	3	-
Prov. Infirmary	1	0	0	0	0	1	-
Welfare Institutes	4	0	2	4	1	1	2
Tuberculosis	1	0	0	0	0	0	-
Totals Each Month	219	301	202	277	215	244	

TABLE 3 Shows Ages of the Fifty-two Children When Admitted to Care, and Number of Placements Each Has Had. (1)

Age Child Admitted to Care	Number of Placements			Total	
	1-2	3-4	5 or more	No.	Percentage
0 - 3	3	1	-	4	7.7
3 - 7	-	6	-	6	11.5
7 - 10	1	5	4	10	19.2
10 - 12	4	4	3	11	21.2
12 - 15	11	8	-	19	36.5
15 and over	1	1	-	2	3.9
TOTAL	20	25	7	52	100.0

(1) Taken over a period from 1940 - 1953.
Some of these children are now discharged from care.

APPENDIX D MAP REGION 3



Appendix E.

Bibliography.

General References.

- Day, Gladys D., Home Finding, Washington D.C. Federal Security Agency, 1951
- Farnham, Marjorie F., The Adolescent, New York, Harper and Brothers 1951
- Hill, Ernest David, The Regional Administration of Public Welfare in British Columbia. M.S.W.Thesis, University of British Columbia, 1950
- Hollingshead, August B., Elmtown's Youth, New York, John Wiley & Sons 1949
- Josselyn, Irene M., The Adolescent and His World, New York. Family Service Association of America, 1952
- Saddler, Wm. S., Adolescence Problems, St.Louis. The C.V.Mosby Company, 1948

Pamphlets

- Foster, Frances E., "Basic Principles in Casework Treatment of an Adolescent", The Family, Vol.20(October 1939 pp.184 - 191
- Hutchinson, D., "The Parent-Child Relationship As a Factor in Child Placement," The Family, Journal of Social Casework, Volume 27 (April 1946)
- Ingle, D.A., "Family Casework Services for Adolescents", Journal of Social Casework, Volume 28 (November 1947)p.349.
- Rall, Mary E., "Dependency and the Adolescent", Journal of Social Casework, Volume 28,(April 1947) p.123
- Ross, Helen, "The Caseworker and the Adolescent", The Family, Volume 22, (November 1941) p.231
- Province of British Columbia, Department of Education, "The Community Programmes Branch", Don McDiarmid, Queen's Printer, Victoria, B.C. 1953

Bibliography (continued)

Specific References

Province of British Columbia, Annual Report of the Social Welfare Branch of the Department of Health and Welfare, Victoria B.C., Don McDiarmid, King's Printer, March 31, 1948

Province of British Columbia, Department of Health and Welfare, Policy Manual, Victoria, 1950. Revised 1951, 1952, 1953 1954

Province of British Columbia, Department of Health and Welfare, Social Welfare Branch, Office Manual, Victoria, B.C. (Continued revisions since 1946)

Province of British Columbia, Department of Health and Welfare, Social Welfare Branch, Acts and Regulations, Victoria, Don McDiarmid, Queen's Printer. A compilation of Provincial and Federal Statutes applicable to administration of Social Welfare in British Columbia.

Pamphlet

Hutchinson, Dorothy, "The Placement Worker and the Child's Own Parents", Social Casework Volume 35 (July 1954) p.292