

JUDGE'S CHAMBERS

**County Court****Juvenile Court**

DENVER, COLO.

BEN B. LINDSEY, JUDGE

April 1, 1908.

To the Editor of Neues Frauenleben,  
Rieglergasse 5,  
Vienna, Austria.

My dear Sir:

Your kind letter was received and I deeply appreciate your kind words.

The Juvenile Court idea is spreading quite rapidly in this country. It does not depend so much upon laws upon the statute books as upon the laws of the human heart. Our purpose is primarily to build up a scheme of systematic work with and for the child, especially in the city where so many of them drift into crime. This work is done through co-operation with the home, the neighborhood, the school, the church and the employer of juvenile labor. By a system of probation we keep in touch with the youth for several years. We divide homes into two classes: the careless home and the helpless home. We have what we call the contributory delinquent law-- that is a law to compel parents and adults to perform their duty towards children. In a word, they are made legally responsible for the moral welfare of children, where that responsibility can be enforced. I wrote this law and secured its passage through the legislature after several years of experimental work, but it is only a part of the juvenile laws, some of which originated in other states than my own, though I think the particular kind of personal work we do in



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Denver has been until recently somewhat different from that in other cities called by the same name, and this I am trying to describe in a book I am now endeavoring to prepare for publication. Many people do not understand the principles involved, for instance, in taking the shackles from a young burglar of nineteen and sending him alone and unattended to prison, (two hundred and fifty miles from Denver) It is based primarily upon personal contact and work with and for the prisoner. I simply convince him that we are doing absolute justice, and in this way I prevent that hate against society that so often dominates the young prisoner and makes society a worse victim and a prisoner a worse marauder when he comes out of prison. Of course, ninety per cent of the youth brought to our court correct their errors without imprisonment, but I have had to commit several hundred to what is known as the reform school and <sup>prisoners</sup> places of detention for young ~~burglars~~ under twenty-one, and I have been able to send practically all of them alone and unattended and never lost a single prisoner yet, though we have had trouble with four or five, who were afterwards brought to me and went alone the second time. It was not until very recently that any other court in this country attempted personal work of this kind, and I am glad to say that it is proving equally successful with other judges. But that is only a detail of probation work that is now being used with gratifying success in about twenty-five large cities in this country. I think I have had the honor of speaking inprac-

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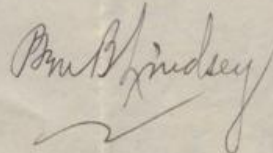
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tically all of these cities in behalf of the new scheme and have attended about twenty state legislatures, where the Juvenile Court Laws were adopted as being based on sound principles in dealing with erring childhood.

Two pamphlets have been mailed you, and I have directed that two others be sent you. The ones I am about to send contain addresses I have delivered, which may serve your purposes, for you are gladly given consent to publish anything in this letter or anything in the pamphlets sent you. We do not feel we have by any means perfected our system of work even in this country. We have much yet to learn and much to do before we can approach any such state, so that we should be always glad to hear from you, for I am sure you could be of great help to us. I expect to come to Europe next year, when I hope to visit Vienna, and shall have the pleasure of seeing you. It is very gratifying to know that Emperor Francis Joseph is so interested in the work for childhood. He is highly respected in this country as being one of the most lightened and up to date European Monarchs.

With kindest regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,



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