

Remember the Children's Aid
Society in Your Will

FORM OF BEQUEST

I further give and bequeath to the City of Belleville and Hasting County CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, the sum of..... Dollars, to be paid to the President and Treasurer thereof, and to be used by the Officers of the said Society for any purpose connected with its work as they may deem advisable.

Members of the Bar are earnestly requested to consider this Society when engaged in preparing wills for any of their clients who are inclined to make bequests for the benefit of Charitable Institutions.

All communications or applications for Children should be sent to **Thos. D. Ruston, Superintendent, Office, 28 Cedar Street. Belleville Phone 836.**

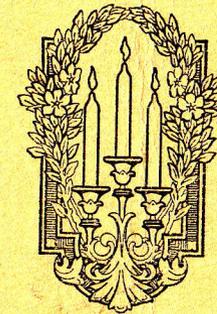
All Subscriptions sent and made payable to **H. F. Ketcheson, Treasurer, 30 Bridge St., Belleville.**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Children's Aid Society

OF THE CITY OF BELLEVILLE, COUNTY OF HASTINGS, TOWN OF TRENTON

INCORPORATED UNDER THE CHILDREN'S PROTECTION ACT
OF ONTARIO



"We Protect the Children."

Year ending October 31st, 1927

INTELLIGENCER PRINT, BELLEVILLE, ONT.

FOREWORD.

In publishing the Annual Report of the Childrens Aid Society, of Belleville and Hastings County for the year 1927, our earnest desire is that its perusal will stimulate interest in all who sympathize with dependant children, and especially those whose dire need, so constantly confronts this Society demanding care and investigation.

The Report in detail tells of the activities of this Society and puts before you our need of your co-operation and generous assistance for the coming year, that we may be enabled to carry to completion the effort to establish a summer camp for children, where their health and constitutions may be established.

The very generous gift of R. J. Graham, Esq., leads us to believe that others may willingly enable us to complete this gracious memorial given for the alone benefit of the underprivileged children of our City and County.

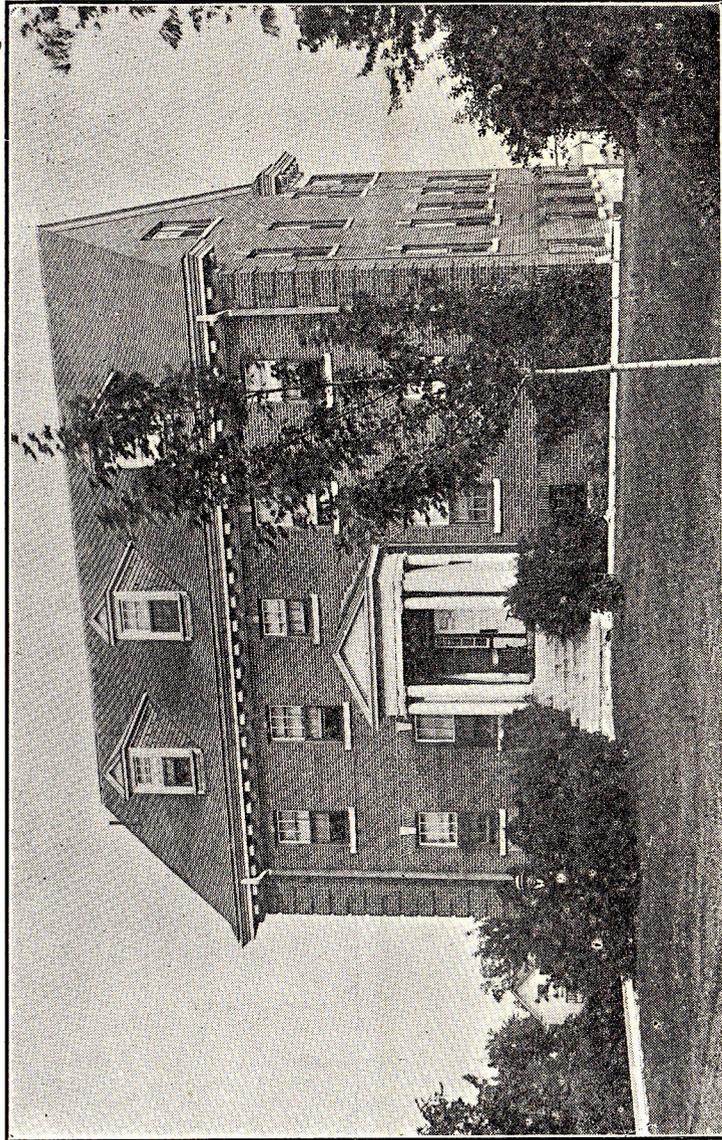
We are proud of the splendid home on Dundas Street, its order and cleanliness, the care exercised in its control, and we invite your inspection.

The following extract is illustrative of the cost of the care of these needy little ones "The actual cost to Woodstock in providing for its work of child protection is about eight cents per year per person of population."

This is a work that consumes much time and labour and does not count much in statistics but it is a work standing high in the quality of its results.

John W. S. McCullough, M.D., says of the "C.A.S." "The influence of your work has done wonders in smoothing and brightening the way of many a homeless child, who, with the boundless opportunities of this young country, may go far to repay his country for the start in life which has been afforded by your Society—The work merits the highest praise"

W. H. MERRY,
President.



THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY'S SHELTERING HOME.

Annual Report of Children's Aid Society

1926—1927.

CITY OF BELLEVILLE, COUNTY OF HASTINGS, TOWN OF TRENTON

The annual meeting of the Children's Aid Society was held yesterday afternoon in the Y.M.C.A. building when the reports for the year were received and officers elected.

The report of the treasurer showed slight deficit but this was due to increased expenditures and increase in salaries during the year.

Thos. D. Ruston, Superintendent, presented a lengthy statement outlining the work done by the Society. Thirty-nine children were committed during the year to the care of the Society and these were only removed after the Superintendent had satisfied himself that the surroundings necessitated it. The report which follows in detail is interesting and contains many points well worth examining.

Rev. Dr. Bishop, Principal of Albert College, was the speaker at the meeting and commended the Society on the work undertaken. He spoke of the many opportunities presented to the Society for social service work such as is being carried on.

Mr. W. H. Merry was elected President for the coming year, and H. F. Ketcheson was again honored with the office of treasurer. R. H. Ketcheson recording secretary was re-elected.

THE OFFICERS:

Hon. Presidents—H. W. Ackerman, Esq., A. E. Bailey, Esq., Rev. D. C. Ramsay.

Vice Presidents—S. B. Rollins, Tweed; Dr. Embury, M.P., Bancroft; S. B. Wright, Deloro; Chas. Hanna, W. H. Nugent, Rev. Geo. Marshall, Mrs. C. B. Scantlebury, Warden of the County, Mayor of the City, W. E. Tummson, M.P., W. Ireland, M.P.P., J. F. Hill, M.P.P.

President—W. H. Merry, Esq.

Recording Secretary—R. H. Ketcheson, Esq.

Treasurer—H. F. Ketcheson, Esq.

Local Superintendent and Corresponding Secretary—T. D. Ruston, Office 28 Cedar St., Belleville. (Phone 836.)

Hon. Solicitor—B. C. Donnan, Esq., County Crown Attorney.

Auditors—W. H. Nugent, Esq., H. B. Stock, Esq.

Maintenance Committee—Mrs. C. B. Scantlebury.

Sewing and Clothing Committee—Mrs. E. R. McBride.

Child Welfare Committee—T. D. Ruston, Mrs. J. A. McFee, Mrs. F. S. Anderson, Rev. Geo. Marshall, Mrs. H. E. Fairfield.

Shelter Management, Household Purchase and Minor Repairs—Mrs. J. A. McFee, Mrs. F. S. Anderson, Mrs. Geo. Reid, Mr. C. Hanna.

Church Representatives—Rev. R. G. Stewart, Rev. D. C. Ramsay, Rev. F. E. Malott, Rev. Geo. Marshall, Rev. J. Lyons, Rev. H. Jones, Rev. L. S. Wight, Rev. C. E. Clarke, Rev. McCutcheon, Adj. Boulton, Rev. Father Killeen, Mr. E. R. McBride, Mrs. W. A. Gribble, Mrs. J. A. McFee, Mrs. C. B. Scantlebury, Mr. J. H. Clare, Mr. M. W. Mott, Mrs. Thos. Clare, Mr. A. E. Bailey, Mrs. A. E. Bailey, Chief Constable Kidd, Mrs. W. H. Nugent, Mrs. Geo. Reid, Mr. J. Newton, Mr. R. H. Ketcheson, Mrs. J. Barlow, Mrs. F. S. Anderson, Mr. J. Truatsch, Mr. Merry, Miss A. Hitchon, Mrs. E. R. McBride, Mrs. T. D. Ruston, Mr. B. W. Brown, Mrs. Luscombe, Mrs. H. E. Fairfield and Mrs. M. F. Armstrong.

Applied Christianity.

"Applied Christianity in various phases," was the essence of an address given yesterday afternoon by Rev. Dr. C. W. Bishop, principal of Albert College. The occasion was the annual meeting of the Children's Aid Society, held in the Council Chamber of the City Building and presided over by Mr. W. H. Merry, the president.

In his opening remarks the Principal expressed the pleasure it gave him to be present and to speak to such a gathering. Christianity, he stated, is being applied in more than one way to every day life. Religion might be likened to a fire which creates dynatic power for locomotive purposes. Incidentally steam will warm the engineer and fireman in the cab of the engine but no railway company will have an engine constructed for that purpose alone. The steam generated is for the purpose of providing power for the hauling of heavy loads. Through God we have religion to give us power to get down to our dynatic force to haul something, that sometimes is hard to do. Christianity helps us to serve in a hard place. The work in which the Children's Aid Society is engaged in is one of true Christianity. Many children, who become neglected are taken care of and placed in environments that are helpful for their future welfare. The Society is one of the distinctive ways of lifting a load of neglected and suffering children to a higher place. It is one of the most ingenious Societies and is also a society that has governmental status. Whilst it is a semi-independent society, it is backed by legislation and governmental power. Whilst it is not a religious organization, religion is implied. We are all thankful that such an organization exists, yet it cannot do its work without the state power behind it. All do or should appreciate the importance of the work the Society is doing. It is something that should be upon the hearts of all. God sees big things in Societies such as this even though the Society numerically is not large. It is a Society that is assisting in bringing in the kingdom of God.

It was with pleasure that he could bear his tribute to the Society.

Rev. Mr. Marshall, in a few well chosen remarks, moved a vote of thanks to Rev. Dr. Bishop for his address. This was unanimously adopted.

Superintendent's Report,

"When we begin a year the end seems quite distant, but when we reach the end, we wonder how we reached it so quickly. Could we have seen all we would be called upon to do or endure and knew we had to face it alone just for a brief space of one year. How would be begin it? Were it not for the energizing truth of the first four words in our Bible, it would not be worth while beginning a year. I would not do a day's work for the Children's Aid Society, were I not assured of the glorious possibilities wrapped up in that truth for me.

"In the Beginning God" means much to the beginning of anything but it means everything to the work of the Children's Aid Society. There are problems and responsibilities connected with this work which can never be properly solved nor met except He is in the beginning and right through to the end.

There are some pieces of mechanism which do not require much skill to operate and secure splendid results. But when a human life is put in our hands with all its glorious possibilities, there is a duty placed upon us which is impossible of accomplishment apart from God. The Children's Aid Society has to do with the beginnings of human lives and the job is too big and the load too heavy except God is in the beginning.

"To view the work of the past year and take credit to ourselves, would be playing false to our best Friend and Partner and rob us of the joy of praise."

INVESTIGATIONS OF YEAR

The investigations of complaints received at the office takes your Superintendent daily into homes in which children are not receiving a fair chance in life. Poverty, Moral Laxness, Domestic Difficulties and all manner of character weaknesses in the parents themselves make conditions unfavorable to the proper up-bringing of children. Very often these parents have themselves been poorly equipped for the battles of life which accounts for their failure to provide proper environments for their children. As a rule, however, conditions in these homes are not hopeless and remarkable transformation in the home life have been effected through kindly intervention, the adjustment of difficulties and arousing of parents to a sense of their responsibilities.

PARENT PROBLEM

The family deserted by the husband and father presents a problem which we do not seem to get much nearer solving. The Courts have dealt with some offenders, but never with sufficient severity to make a real example and many of these men make a complete getaway to parts unknown.

Thirty-nine (39) children (eight less than last year) in whose cases no other solution could be found, were committed during the year to the Society's guardianship. These commitments are made by court order and constitute the children wards of the Children's Aid Society during

the term of their minority. And may I point out that no child is committed without those interested in the child having every opportunity to state their case, and unless the Judge is perfectly satisfied after all the evidence has been put in, he will not make an order.

The Society would rather err on the side of hesitation than to be too drastic in its action to permanently remove children from their natural parents; and who have more right to care for and maintain them than the parents? Some I know are very anxious to place the responsibility and cost upon the country and we have to watch with great care that the municipality is not made the burden bearer.

UNMARRIED PARENT ACT

The Act has taken its place as a necessary piece of legislation and its operation has been shown to be a very strong link in the chain of social service work. Its enforcement, through the officers of the society from the beginning and is a great help to us in our efforts to intelligently give us intimate knowledge of the cases of children born out of wedlock and provided for or become chargeable to the municipality. To comply with gently deal with and better the conditions of these helpless little ones. Forty-nine (49) cases have been dealt with during the past year. This piece of our work involves considerable travelling, making investigations, bringing about settlements and gathering evidence to bring to the court, collecting payments and involving many unpleasant experiences. However, we trust the good accomplished by the enforcement of this Act makes it well worth while. You may not fully realize the great benefit this Act is to the Un-Married mother, the child, and also the municipality, for in most cases if it was not for the money collected through the operations of the Act, these little unwanted babies would be poorly provided for or become chargeable to the municipality. To comply with Prov. Supt. J. J. Kelso, Esq's., request in respect to the Mothers of Illegitimate children, the Board of Management engaged Mrs. Green, Bannockburn, to be the Children's nurse, and it would be difficult to find a more capable woman for the position, especially caring for the infants. The Provincial Officer collects all monies under court orders or agreements. The total receipts this year amounted to \$88,358.80, with disbursements of \$79,540.00. Cheques go out monthly to the mothers or whoever is caring for the child. Since the Act came into operation, July 1921, to October 30th, 1926, \$332,588.40 have been collected.

There are many cases that are impossible to close by court action or agreement because of lack of corroborative evidence, but these also take a great deal of effort and time in striving to make some satisfactory arrangement for the care of the child which, in some cases, we eventually have to take under the Society's care as the only solution. But no illegitimate child can be made the ward of the Society without the consent of Mr. J. J. Kelso, the Provincial Officer.

ADOPTION ACT

The provisions of the Adoption Act do not limit its privileges to wards of Children's Aid Societies, but can and is being put into operation in cases of other children as well. We have taken up other applications for adoption orders, made investigations, given recommendations and,

in cases, take the matter before court. Three wards of our Society were legally adopted during the past year.

SHELTER

At the close of last year, we had twenty-six (26) children in residence. We closed this year with thirty (30). The average number of children in residence during the past year were twenty-nine (29) per month. Considerable less than the year previous when the average was (35) per month. You will note that owing to the small number of children carried, the Treasurer's report is not so favorable as last year. It is also very gratifying to us that only thirty-nine (39) children had to be committed to the care of the Society, (eight less than last year); also only 20 returned in comparison with (42) the year previous. It is also gratifying that we have had no serious sickness in the Shelter during the past year, and no deaths. On the recommendation of the Child Welfare Committee, the Board of Directors, made a great step forward in deciding to provide a permanent summer camp for the children, not only for our own wards, but for the under-privileged children of the city and County, between the ages of 6 and 12.

A fine sight was procured on the bay shore at Rednersville, and splendid dormitories and staff quarters and also a cook-house were erected, which have proven a great blessing to the children. We hope this coming year to be able to build a permanent dining-hall and make other improvements to the camp site. Permit me, Mr. President, here to express upon behalf of the Camp Committee, our sincere thanks to all who, in any way, contributed or assisted in the carrying out of this project. I need not enter into the details for no doubt the Treasurer H. F. Ketcheson, will give a full report.

STATISTICS

The following statistics for the year ending October 30th, 1927, will give some slight conception of the operations carried on:—

Wards in the Shelter October 30, 26.
 Applications for Children 94.
 Children brought to the Shelter, not wards, 6.
 Received from Juvenile Court, 15.
 Children returned from Shelter to Parents, not wards, 3.
 Children made wards of the Society, 39.
 Children sent to Industrial Schools, 9.
 Complaints received, 44.
 Investigations at homes of children, 47.
 Mail received approx., 1825.
 Mail sent out, 2190.
 Meetings addressed, 11.
 Office interviews, about 580.
 Parents or Guardians Prosecuted, 5.
 Visiting wards outside city and investigations (approx.) miles, 8,992.
 Court attendance, 77.
 Foster homes heard from, 71.
 Wards placed out, 66.
 Wards returned to Shelter, 20.

Wards visited, 196.
 Wards in School for the Deaf, 2.
 Wards placed in Hospital for Feeble-minded, Orillia, 4.
 Warnings given, 23.
 Legal Adoptions, (wards), 3.
 Unmarried Parent Cases, 49.
 Wards in the Shelter, year ending October 30th, 1927, 30.
 Average per month during past year, 29.
 Average per month, previous year, 5.
 Approx. age of Children in the Shelter at close of year:
 Nine from 8 to 12 years of age.
 Seven from 6½ to 7½.
 Ten from 3 to 5.
 Four under two years of age. (Total 24 boys and 6 girls).

In conclusion I wish to thank all who have so liberally contributed to our work, the doctors of the city who have given so freely of their valuable time to the welfare of our wards; Chief Constable Kidd, Inspector Loughed, and their staff; Chief Bain, Trenton, who have always and in every way helped me in my work. It is a privilege and joy to have such sterling men to work with. The Police Magistrates, Mr. W. C. Mikel, Mr. H. R. Bedford, Mr. Geo. L. Jarman, Mr. P. J. O'Rourke, Mr. R. R. Casement and Mr. B. C. Donnan. The County Crown Attorney, the reeves and councillors who are ever willing and anxious to assist in the work throughout the county for the welfare of the children; the various women's institutes, the different societies and service clubs, the Press of our city who have given so liberally of their space to the work of the Society."

And we are greatly indebted to our President, Mr. W. H. Merry, a tower of strength to your Superintendent, also Mr. H. F. Ketcheson, treasurer, and Mr. R. H. Ketcheson, recording secretary, for their kindly sympathetic help and encouragement.

"What greater honor can we pay to Christ than see to it that every little soul is given a decent environment into which to be born and into which to live their little lives."



Treasurer's Report.

1926—1927.

The Treasurer's report of the Children's Aid Society of the City of Belleville and the County of Hastings, for the year ending October 31st, 1927.

Detailed reports of the receipts and expenditures have been presented to your Society at its monthly meetings, and I now give a summary of same:

Receipts	
Balance on hand	\$ 250.76
Donations, Ritchie Estate	2,250.00
Donations and Memberships	808.38
Maintenance	8,453.79
Sundry	5.90
	\$11,768.83
Expenditures	
Maintenance	\$ 6,257.86
Salaries	3,502.35
Deposit, Ritchie Estate	2,250.00
Sundries	706.30
	\$12,716.51
Deficit	\$ 947.68

You will notice on comparing this statement with that of the previous year, that the expenditures have been somewhat increased owing principally to increase in salaries and extra help required caused by the large number of very young children in the Shelter during the year.

All accounts that have been presented to the Society and passed are paid.

The following donations of \$10.00 and over were made to the Society during the year:

Mrs. Corby	\$25.00
Miss Aldry	12.00
Miss A. Corby	25.00
Roy Stafford	10.00
Dr. J. J. Farley	20.00
H. W. Ackerman	10.00
Moirs Lodge, No. 11, A.F. & A.M.	10.00
Quinte Hotel Shower	16.25
Belleville Council No. 1008, K. or C.	10.00
B. C. Donnan	10.00
W. H. Harvey, Orange Prov. Grand Lodge of Ontario E.	10.00
Rev. F. E. Malott, for Ministerial Association	20.00

The balance coming to the Society from the Estate of Thomas Ritchie \$2,250, was paid during the year and carried to the savings bank account.

During the year the Society purchased land and built a summer camp for the children. This is intended not only for the wards of the Children's Aid Society, but also for the under-privileged children belonging to the city between the ages of six and twelve.

It was found necessary to borrow temporarily from the savings bank account \$2,400 to carry on this work and this was made possible by a generous donation promised by one of our citizens, amounting to \$2,000, which cannot be paid until May, 1928.

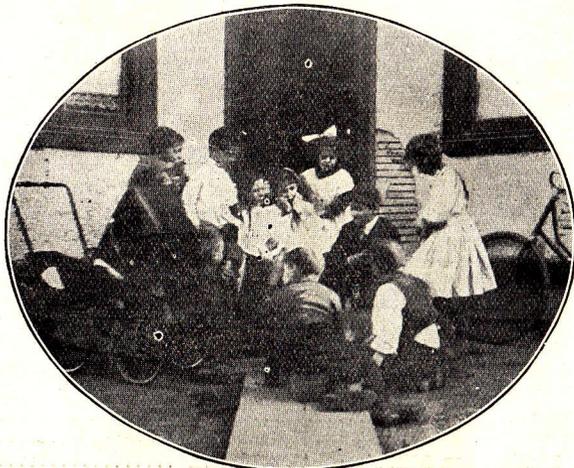
Statement of the Trust Account of the Society

The bond holdings of the Society remain the same as in the previous year.

Balance on hand Oct. 31, 1926	\$ 222.73
Deposit—Ritchie Estate	2,250.00
Interest	14.30
	<hr/>
	\$2,487.03
Loan—General account for purpose of building summer camp	\$2,400.00
Balance	\$ 87.03

All of which are respectfully submitted.

H. F. KETCHESON,
Treasurer.



Cash Subscriptions to the Children's Aid Society,

Year Ending October 31st, 1927.

Mite Boxes	\$33.05	A. H. Bywater	5.00
Miss A. Corby	25.00	Miss G. Linn	5.00
Dr. J. J. Farley	20.00	Mrs. A. L. Geen	5.00
Belleville Ministerial Assoc. per Dr. Malott	20.00	Ivanhoe Missionary Society .	5.00
Miss Aldry	12.00	S. Burrows	5.00
B. C. Donnan	10.00	W. N. Belair	2.00
W. H. Harvey	10.00	J. S. Peck	5.00
H. W. Ackerman	10.00	Misses Wallbridge	2.00
Moira Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 11	10.00	J. W. Pearce	2.00
Belleville Council 1008 K of C	10.00	C. A. Cameron	2.00
Provincial Grand Lodge, East L. O. L.	10.00	Jos. Delaney	2.00
J. Lill	5.00	Miss Nina Brown	2.00
C. S. Rollins	5.00	Miss Templeton	2.00
J. Elliott	5.00	Everitt Rush	2.50
Diamond & Hyde	5.00	A Friend	1.00
Miss H. A. Hudson	5.00	Mrs. M. F. Armstrong	1.00
G.I.A. Locomotive Engineers .	5.00	Mrs. C. B. Scantlebury	1.00
E. P. Frederick	5.00	Mrs. J. A. McFee	1.00
Womens Institute, Chatterton	5.00	Miss A. Hitchon	1.00
D. M. Waters	5.00	Mrs. F. S. Anderson	1.00
W. McKeown	5.00	Mrs. T. D. Ruston	1.00
R. Tannahill	5.00	Mr. T. D. Ruston	1.00
Judge Deroche	5.00	Mr. J. Leigh	1.00
C. A. C. Weir	5.00	Mrs. Palos	1.00
D. H. Ackerill	5.00	A Newcomer	1.00
		Mrs. Fred Ward. Stirling	1.00
		Billie and Teddy Doyle	1.00
		B. W. Brown	1.00
		Baptist Bible Class50



ACT OF INCORPORATION

Setting forth the Aims and Objects of the Children's Aid Society.

The objects of the Society are to care for and protect neglected children, to secure the enactment and enforcement of the laws relating to neglected children and juvenile offenders, to provide free summer excursions and other means of recreation or pleasure for poor children and generally to advocate the claims of neglected children upon the sympathy and support of the public.

THE ADOPTION ACT

The above mentioned Act came into force July, 1927, which enables foster parents to adopt a child outright, thereby becoming the parents in full sense, and doing away with further supervision from any Society or Institution. Application can be made to the **Local Superintendent of the Children's Aid Society.**

CHILDREN OF UNMARRIED PARENTS

Another important Act was passed and placed under the Direction of Mr. J. J. Kelso, is one requiring that a record be kept of all children born out of wedlock and action taken to compel the putative father to contribute to the maintenance of the child. Local Superintendent of Children's Aid Societies are made Deputy Provincial Officers for the enforcement of the Act.

Any information or assistance can be obtained by applying to Thos. **D. Ruston, Deputy Pro. Officer for the City of Belleville and Hastings County.**

*donor T. S. Ransom
1961*