

Lewisburg Feb 13, 1930

public more accurate information.

IN DEFENSE OF DR. MARY M. WOLFE

(Editor's Note:- The following article was written by Mr. B. B. Cannon, an executive of the American Car and Foundry Co., of Milton, whose honesty and integrity have never been questioned.)

Editor Lewisburg Journal,
Lewisburg, Pa.

Dear Sir:-

Referring to the unfair charges against the administration of Dr. Mary M. Wolfe, Superintendent of the Laurelton State Village, which have been appearing at regular intervals in the Saturday News, and all of which have been so ably answered in the columns of the JOURNAL, I desire to add a word of testimony in defense of this good woman.

One of the most malicious and untruthful statements made by the Saturday News was to the effect that girls committed to the Village are practically prisoners for life, with little or no hope of ever securing their freedom. Your reply to this charge showed that at the very time the same was made, thirty-five of the girls were on parole, working in private homes and elsewhere throughout the state and earning wages for their services. The Editor of the News dismissed your proof by airily declaring that he was "not ready to believe the story about the parole system," and I may be equally unsuccessful in trying to convince him that such a system is actually in force. However, permit me to say

Letter from
Mr. B. B. Cannon.
Milton.

successful in trying to convince him that such a system is actually in force. However, permit me to say that over a period of several years past, three of these girls have been employed in my own home. The first of these girls has been released by the Village authorities and is now living on her brother's farm in New Jersey; letters which we receive from her occasionally, indicate that she is happy and contented, and getting along nicely. The second girl is now living with her own family in Philadelphia. The third girl is still in our employ.

All of the girls referred to above gave evidence of the careful and painstaking training which they had received at the Village; not one of them ever made a single complaint of their treatment while there, but on

the contrary all of them seemed to appreciate the training they had received and the opportunity afforded them to make good by earning a living for themselves. All three girls not only respected, but seemed to have a really sincere affection for Dr. Wolfe and her able assistants.

While in our employ, the conduct of the girls was carefully supervised by the Village authorities, who visited them occasionally, and made frequent inquiries as to their welfare. The girls were always glad to spend their holidays at the Village, preferring to go there rather than elsewhere, which does not seem to indicate that they regarded the institution as a dreaded lifetime prison.

I question if any State Institution has a more conscientious and capable Superintendent than Dr. Mary M. Wolfe, and it is to be regretted that such unfair and untruthful criticisms of her management of the Laurelton State Village have been circulated; however her record is her very best defense and no one can study the history of the Village and learn of its remarkable progress, without giving her the credit which she so richly deserves.

Yours very truly,

B. B. CANNON,

Milton, Pa.

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