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## Editorial

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**EDITORIAL**

**Charles L. Chute Retires**

The National Probation and Parole Association, at its annual meeting in Chicago, gave a luncheon on May 24 in honor of its retiring Executive Director, Mr. Charles L. Chute.

As a mark of our recognition of Mr. Chute's great services we record here the remarks made on that occasion by the President of the Association, the Hon. George W. Smyth, Judge of the Children's Court of Westchester County, New York.—  
EDITOR.

We approach this occasion with mixed feelings of happiness and regret. Happiness in paying a tribute of respect and admiration to our old friend and associate, Mr. Charles L. Chute, and regret because the occasion marks his retirement from active service in the field he has served so well for over 40 years.

From the time he graduated from the New York School of Social Work in 1910, Mr. Chute has made youth and the service of youth his life work. He was appointed a field agent of the National Child Labor Society in New York and served until 1912. During those two years he launched investigations into child labor conditions in eight states and conducted campaigns for legislation against child labor in four states. All of us realize how bad conditions were in those days and how greatly they have improved through the devoted work of men and women inspired as Mr. Chute was to abolish child labor.

In 1913 he became Executive Secretary of the New York State Probation Commission, which was at that time a separate State Department created to develop and supervise probation work in the courts. In those days he wrote and spoke for the passage of laws on probation and juvenile delinquency and secured the appointment of a number of well-qualified probation officers. While still with the Commission he became interested in the work of the National Probation Association, an unincorporated organization of probation officers, and in 1915 he volunteered to give it his unpaid part-time services as Secretary, which he continued during the next five years. In 1921 he began giving his whole time to the work of the National Probation and Parole Association and within a year the Association was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. In those days it was a struggling organization, with an annual budget of perhaps \$10,000, and during the next

30 years Mr. Chute, through his untiring efforts, built it up to the splendid organization which it now is, operating on an annual budget of almost \$300,000 per year.

Mr. Chute has the faculty of surrounding himself with very distinguished and able men. I remember when I was honored by an invitation to join the Board of Trustees in 1930, Mr. George W. Wickersham, then Attorney General of the United States, was Chairman of the Board. He was succeeded by Mr. Charles E. Hughes, Jr., Mr. Timothy L. Pfeiffer and the present Chairman of our Board, Roscoe Pound, former Dean of the Harvard Law School. During all of these years I admired the energetic and unflagging enthusiasm and the zeal which Charles L. Chute has given to the promotion of well organized Children's Courts, sound probation work carried on by well qualified people and the establishment of Parole Departments pursuant to the merit system. His accomplishments are a remarkable demonstration of what one person who devotes himself enthusiastically to an ideal can accomplish within the comparatively short span of a lifetime. He has traveled all over this country preaching the need for staffing our courts with probation personnel of high caliber, for the elimination of political influence, for the appointment of Juvenile Court Judges well qualified by experience and natural aptitude for their delicate tasks, and for the recognition of parole as a necessary and dignified part of our correctional system. His name, and he in person, are known far and wide throughout this land and the name "Chute" is indelibly written in the history of Probation, Parole and Juvenile Courts in this country. I think it is safe to say that although many have contributed to the development of these services during the past 50 years, that Charles L. Chute, more than any other one person, has made the great outstanding contribution. He has been aided and encouraged by his happy home life.

In 1915 he married Audrey Smith whom he met in Memphis, Tennessee. Mrs. Chute says regarding her marriage, "I met Charles at my first National Conference of Social Work at Memphis, Tennessee on a Sunday night when the Conference delegates were singing hymns in the hotel lobby—Homer Folks and Jane Addams among them." That seems to me typical of the earnestness and devotion which characterizes his work. At that time Audrey was a caseworker with the Associated Charities of Minneapolis. Her first job was substitute probation officer for the Juvenile Court in Minneapolis with the famous Judge Waite, who coined the phrase respecting the great gulf that separates

the Court which does something *to* a person because of what he has done, from the Court which does something *for* a person because of what he is and what he needs. "The rightful holder of my job recovered, contrary to anticipation, and the Charities took me in." Thereupon Audrey took Charles in and shared his interests in the work in which they both got their start.

Now the time has come when Charlie is passing the working tools into younger hands and we deeply regret that this milestone in his life has been reached. He has blazed the path for us to follow, has given us the standards to which we must aspire and has given us a demonstration of devotion, zeal, energy and consecration to a great cause which we can hardly hope to equal, but which we shall endeavor to approach. He continues to be a Vice President of the National Probation and Parole Association, our sage adviser and counsellor and I am sure that though he lays down the chief responsibility, he will never be content to give up his activity in the field to which he has devoted his entire adult life.

Charlie, as you make this transition from the strenuous years in which you have worked so hard, to the period of comparative leisure which lies before you and which we hope you will enjoy for many years to come, you take with you the affectionate regard of all of those with whom you have been associated on the Board of Trustees of this great organization you have built, and the admiration and esteem of many hundreds of workers in the field throughout this country. Nay, more than that, you take with you a remembrance of a service rendered to the youth of this country, which is beyond my power to express in words. May your life continue to be filled with happiness and may you continue to enjoy the blessings which flow as the reward from a life of service and devotion.