

very apparent and their effect upon morale has been excellent.

And here, I should like to say a word of appreciation to the ladies of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Kingston who have recently undertaken to assist in providing some extra-curricular activities for the inmates of our Prison for Women. This work is deeply appreciated and will, I am confident, have very beneficial effect upon the morale and attitude of our women prisoners.

We have been able in the past year to increase substantially the size and scope of our penitentiary libraries and to improve the methods of selection and delivery of library books. We are now within sight of our objective of the standard of ten volumes per inmate.

In my last Annual Report I referred at some length to the development of full time vocational training courses for the young convicts under 21 years of age and others of the reformable type in their early twenties. There have been, of course, for many years in Canadian Penitentiaries opportunities for prisoners to learn useful trades in the various industrial shops and construction activities that have been carried on, but this type of "on the job" training, while it benefited those who had the will and the ambition to apply themselves, failed to produce the skilled workman who could compete in quality and quantity with the employee on the outside. It was evident therefore, that if we were to equip these young men to obtain and hold employment in the competitive world outside, we must first develop an interest and pride in work itself and then train them so well that the quantity and quality of their productive output would rival that of their equivalents in outside shops and give them a social consciousness and sense of achievement that will make them capable of attaining a position of economic independence upon release. With this aim in view we embarked in 1947 on a programme of full time vocational training designed to give the trainees a thorough grounding in trade theory and practice on actual projects during a basic training period of approximately 1000 hours, or practically nine months of elapsed time by penitentiary work standards. In addition the trainee receives instruction in related subjects of blueprint reading, shop mathematics and others necessary to achieve successful journeyman status. The initial courses were undertaken at Collin's Bay and St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiaries. The trades included Brickmasonry, Construction Carpentry, Plumbing and Steamfitting, Tinsmithing and Sheet Metal Working, Draughting and Cabinet Making. In January of this year this type of vocational training was extended to Saskatchewan Penitentiary and we are now in process of organizing similar courses at Dorchester. At each institution a Chief Vocational Officer has been appointed to organize and supervise the carrying out of the courses, and competent vocational instructors, separate from those employed in the regular institutional maintenance shops, each well qualified in his trade and with previous teaching experience, were employed to conduct the training. The classes are restricted in size to enable each instructor to give individual instruction and to follow the progress of the individual trainees. During the training period the trainee's progress is closely checked and reported on daily by the instructor in charge. The course itself is designed so that the trainee must keep striving to attain passing marks on his tests, or run the risk of being dropped from