

**A Graded Out-Door Prison**

**If It Were Sought To Devise an Institution Which Should Effectively Prevent The Growth of The Power of Self Control in Men No Better Contrivance Than a Modern Prison Could be Found**

(By J. W. MacMillan, in Montreal Journal of Commerce.)

William R. George, founder of the famous George Junior Republic, has just published, in outline, a new proposal for reformatory treatment of offenders. The success which has attended the penal village which he invented and supervised has earned a hearing for anything he has to say upon the punishment of crime. His proposal relates to adult offenders, and is mainly an extension of the principles of the George Junior Republic. There are many such respected citizens in the United States. The model of the Republic has been copied till there are now seven such institutions in the United States and one in England.

Every one who directs a glance at the typical prisons of the world sees that they fail, and must continue to fail, in their efforts to reform prisoners because they do not develop in them any power of self-control. A man in possession of his liberty, moving among his fellows, with chances constantly before him to advantage himself at their expense, must, unless within his nature power to restrain anti-social tendencies, the honest man is tempted, no less than the thief. But the honest man overcomes the temptation, whereas the thief does not. Frequently the thief does not wish to maim or kill his foe. But their wishes are frail obstacles to the torments of cupidity or rage which

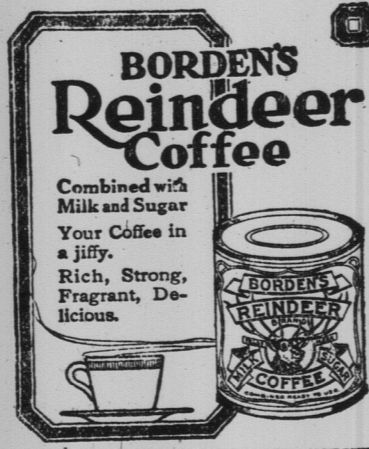
the temptation releases. They are unable to restrain their passions. In a word they lack self-control.

**Self-Control.**

Now, self-control never comes without practice. The child learns it slowly, during years of training, where the progressive awakening and growth of his faculties, his economic dependence, and his timidity assist the process of education. Gradually the region of his self-directing activities is enlarged, until after a score or so of years, he is fit to be trusted alone in the midst of the world. Fortunately the adult offender, for various reasons, does not usually require so universal or so prolonged control by others. But his attainment of the power to restrain the lower impulses of his being must come after the same fashion, if it comes at all.

If it were sought to devise an institution which should effectively prevent the growth of the power of self-control in men no better contrivance than a modern prison could be invented. The iron discipline, the fixed schedule, the steady repression, the lack of chance of initiating things or of carrying any vestige of self-control which may linger in the men subjected to its rule. Prisons are indeed effective for restraint, but never for reformation. They do succeed in protecting society against malefactors, but only while the malefactors are shut within them. They afford no protection after the sentence has been completed and the offender set free.

Mr. George knew that, of course, as



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to live with them. They would be allowed to acquire property, though the land would naturally be incapable of estrangement from the state. If they had business interests outside they could keep in touch with them. They would be required to support themselves, on the penalty of starving if they did not. They would be required to support their dependent relatives, wherever they were. They would be required to make restitution for injuries they had committed, and they would be unable to leave till the penological experts decided that they had reached such a stage of improvement as made it possible for them to be trusted with their liberty.

Many a misdemeaner would never enter any other village but the first. Some, however, would not obey the laws operative there. They would then be created and tried by their fellows resident in the village. For lesser offenses there would be jail sentences in the village jail. For more serious or repeated offenses the punishment would be banishment to the second village.

This second village would be similar to the first. The only difference would be that they would find themselves further removed from the outer world. If they were well-behaved they would be readmitted to the first village after a lapse into crime can succeed unless it first village. Then would begin anew

the probationary period looking to release at the hands of the experts.

If, however, the offender continued to break the laws he would be liable to banishment to the third village, where he would be still farther from freedom in the outer world. And, again, if he still persisted in his criminal career he might be sent to the fourth and, in turn, to the fifth and last of the villages. By this time he might fairly be considered an incorrigible offender, and the discipline of this last village might be administered by guards. Or, the offender, having proven obdurate, might be taken to some permanent prison, to be there restrained for life. He should have demonstrated, by this time, his complete unfitness for liberty.

It is to be hoped that Mr. George may procure the same chance to try this penological experiment that he obtained in the case of juvenile offenders. It would be an immense gain to the cause of reform in the treatment of criminals if it should prove to possess the rehabilitating power which the George Junior Republic has displayed. Certainly it does provide for responsibility, which, in the case of law-breakers who are mentally sound, is one of the indispensable factors of reform. No scheme for calling to integrity those who have lapsed into crime can succeed unless it contains this element.

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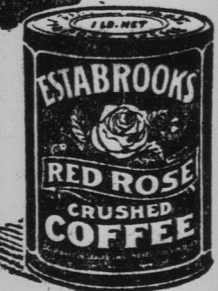
From the Valparaiso Vidette:—On Friday evening Mr. Mack Evans of Chicago and Vera Dilly of Hebron were quickly married. As sweetly as the blending of two light beams in the solemn hush that fell over the little com-

pany of friends these two souls melted into each other under the words of union spoken by the officiating clergyman.

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