

*Borstal System*

present moment to make any definite reply because the movement of these men to whom the hon. member refers is at present being carried out by the premier of Saskatchewan.

Mr. MACKENZIE (Vancouver): I want to make it very definite that there is no objection to returning to British Columbia those who are properly domiciled in that province, but we know very well that not twenty-five per cent of those in the camps and properly domiciled in the province of British Columbia belong to the active strikers.

Mr. STIRLING: Yes, I think I fully realize that point.

## TRADE AGREEMENT WITH UNITED STATES

On the orders of the day:

Right Hon. W. L. MACKENZIE KING (Leader of the Opposition): Mr. Speaker, yesterday this house passed a bill approving a treaty between Poland and Canada which had the effect of reducing duties on some of the commodities of each of these countries. May I ask the Prime Minister whether further progress has been made towards effecting such an arrangement with the United States, an arrangement that will have the effect of reducing the duties, on each side, on certain commodities, something that is greatly to be desired?

Right Hon. R. B. BENNETT (Prime Minister): Mr. Speaker, I have nothing to add to what I said the other day. If any finality had been reached I would have advised the house, but no final conclusion has been reached with respect to any of the terms that would enable me to make a statement to the house.

## BORSTAL SYSTEM

On the orders of the day:

Hon. HUGH GUTHRIE (Minister of Justice): Mr. Speaker, some little time ago my hon. friend from Quebec East (Mr. Lapointe) asked me if any statement would be made in the house in regard to the establishment of the Borstal system in the penitentiaries of the Dominion of Canada. I have now obtained what is called an interim report on the subject from the superintendent of penitentiaries together with a number of appendices, some five or six, which if the house will permit me I would like to put on Hansard for the benefit of the members.

The superintendent of the penitentiaries visited Great Britain and returned about the first of June. During his visit there he carefully examined many of the leading Borstal

[Mr. Stirling.]

institutions. Those particularly noted in the report are the ones at Wormwood Scrubs, Wandsworth, Feltham, Portland, Rochester, Lowdham Grange. Those are the leading Borstal institutions in England at the present time.

In his interim report the superintendent sets out in a good deal of detail his observations, and I would particularly draw to the attention of the house the statement contained in appendix "B" which sets out the youthful population in Canadian penitentiaries as of the seventeenth day of June last. In Kingston penitentiary there are 42 under the age of 21 years; in St. Vincent de Paul, 92; in Dorchester penitentiary, 46; in Manitoba penitentiary, 33; in British Columbia penitentiary, 19; in Saskatchewan penitentiary, 22; in Collin's Bay penitentiary, 12. Of course the house is aware that by far the larger portion of youthful offenders in Canada are not in the federal institutions but are in provincial reformatories, prisons, gaols, homes and various other provincial institutions.

The superintendent reports that the Borstal system may be introduced into Canadian penitentiaries within the next sixty days. There will be no legislation necessary to achieve this end. The Penitentiary Act is already broad enough to provide for it. There is sufficient in the penitentiary vote to cover all the expenses of instituting that system in the Canadian penitentiaries. Some additional staff will be required as is set out in the report and it will be necessary to construct some additional buildings but in the opinion of the superintendent this system can be made applicable to the Canadian penitentiaries within sixty days and be based almost precisely upon the system now in effect in Great Britain. In Great Britain the prison population is under a single government, the prison commission. They do not have provincial institutions to deal with such as we have. There are many different prisons and the report gives a fairly good idea of what is accomplished in this respect in the leading Borstal institutions in Great Britain. The government is prepared to adopt the Borstal system in Canadian penitentiaries for the youthful prisoners. I ask leave of the house to have this report placed on Hansard for the use of hon. members. The report reads:

Memorandum to the Deputy Minister of Justice  
Re: Interim report on the Borstal system of England.

Re: Convicts under twenty-one years of age in Canadian penitentiaries.

1. By direction, the undersigned proceeded to England for the purpose of making an