

good on the whole. There have been some few instances of violence and insubordination, but their demeanour, generally, has been quiet and respectful.

In the passage through the Penitentiaries of such a variety of characters, many with more than one previous conviction recorded against them, it can hardly be expected that all will turn out well after their discharge. Although I feel assured the great majority take advantage of the opportunities they receive for their future well-doing, some few men of low moral sentiment do not do so, but relapse into crime, and the consequent punishment of such characters belongs to their own vicious dispositions, and not to the system of convict treatment pursued in the Penitentiaries.

I think it proper to remark upon the frequency with which returned convicts receive much lighter sentences than the law contemplates. This, doubtless, is owing to the fact, in many instances, that their former convictions are not included in their indictments, the Crown Counsels not being, probably, aware of them.

The Catholic Chaplain of St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary refers to this matter, in his report, and gives an instance which came to his knowledge of the manner in which a more severe sentence than what had been inflicted was evaded by an *alias*. This is not a solitary case; it is of frequent occurrence.

The recommitted convicts are the bane of our Penitentiaries. They are, for the most part, hardened and confirmed criminals. They require to be dealt with firmly and severely. In order that this class of convicts be brought under the full operation of the law, I beg leave to offer the following suggestions:—

First,—That an experienced and trustworthy officer be appointed from each of the Penitentiaries of Kingston and St. Vincent de Paul, upon recommendation of the respective Wardens, whose duty it would be to make himself thoroughly acquainted with the convicts confined in these institutions, in view of visiting the gaols of each Province, previous to the holding of the Court of Assize and Queen's Bench, to identify any former convicts that may be awaiting trial.

Second,—To make provision, in the Penitentiary Act, that all convicts who had served a previous term of imprisonment, in any Penitentiary, and who had escaped identification upon a second or subsequent trial, should suffer a longer period of imprisonment than is usually imposed for a first offence, the fact of a former conviction being established, at any time, after the last sentence, to the satisfaction of any tribunal that may be appointed to decide such cases.

Third,—That convicts undergoing more than one term of imprisonment be deprived of remission time and of such other privileges as will sufficiently mark them out from the prisoners who are worthy of more consideration.

Although not, perhaps, properly a portion of the Report of the Inspector of Penitentiaries, it may not be improper to call attention to the rare cases in which police supervision is ordered in the case of discharged convicts, especially as regards those of notoriously bad repute. So far as my experience extends, placing a discharged convict under police *surveillance* has a deterrent effect in Great Britain and Ireland, only less than that of a lengthened term of imprisonment. It has the advantage of being almost inexpensive, and especially in our large cities and towns, is probably a very great assistance to the police in pointing out to them suspicious characters, hitherto strangers to the locality.

The only objection that might be urged against police supervision is its possible interference with the endeavours of discharged convicts to obtain employment. This objection appears to be of secondary importance - the protection of the law-abiding public being the first consideration. It should also be taken into account that a first conviction cannot entail police supervision, which can only be ordered after a previous conviction for felony. It appears to me that police supervision ought to be an assistance to the discharged convict who is really desirous to lead an honest life. It operates most advantageously in England and Ireland, there seems no reason why it should not prove equally beneficial in Canada.

Happily, the reports of the Wardens and of Dr. Dickson, the Medical Superintendent of Rockwood Asylum, with the very full and varied financial and statistical