

ther this frightful state of things shall be permitted any longer to continue. Is it hopeless to attempt to remedy the evil? The cause of the evil is patent to all, nor is the true remedy far to seek. The source of the evil is the present unchecked association of prisoners which obtains in many of our gaols, especially in our large city prisons, and the obvious and only remedy of the evil is to be found in putting an effectual stop to this practice, and enforcing a strict and absolute separation of the prisoners from each other during the whole period of their imprisonment.

The object, then, of the present paper is to advocate this system of separation among prisoners in gaol, and I trust that I shall be able to show that by establishing this system we may not only reasonably hope to prevent our gaols from being, as they have hitherto been, centres for the dissemination of vice and crime through the country, but that we shall also render them much more deterrent in their character and at the same time materially diminish their cost to the country.

The repression of crime is, it is almost needless to state, the paramount object of all penal legislation and of all penal institutions. It is for this purpose that the State has organized its costly machinery of refuges, reformatories, gaols and penitentiaries. But while the great aim and object of all these institutions is one and the same, the agencies by which they severally seek to effect it are widely different. These agencies may be said to be three-fold—preventive, remedial, and deterrent. All the institutions we have named employ to some extent each of these agencies, but they employ them in very different degrees. Refuges or homes for example are essentially preventive; reformatories are mainly remedial; while penitentiaries and gaols partake more of the deterrent character than of either the preventive or remedial.

The remarks which follow are meant to apply more particularly to common gaols as distinguished from *Central* or *District* gaols, such as exist in other countries, and such as the Board has earnestly laboured to have established in Canada. In other words, they are more particularly applicable to gaols for *short-sentenced* prisoners.

Common gaols, such as are now referred to, are supposed to assist in repressing crime in two ways :