

One of the most important steps undertaken has been the institution of training courses for our penitentiary officers to train them in this new approach to prison administration, because the success of such a programme is obviously dependent upon the co-operation and understanding of those who have to carry it out from day to day. We are now carrying on our tenth course and more than 250 officers from all across Canada have attended the Training School at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police barracks in Rockcliffe. The response of these officers and the interest they have shown, some of them with ten, twenty and even thirty years of penitentiary service, has been most encouraging and has indicated a real willingness on their part to apply the principles of this philosophy in their own daily duties with the inmates with whom they have to deal.

A constructive programme obviously requires individualized treatment and a knowledge on the part of those who have to deal with the prisoner, of his assets and liabilities. Classification officers with professional training have been appointed at all penitentiaries. It is the duty of these officers to interview each newcomer, to investigate his educational, social and economic background, his mental ability and his fields of interest. Information is obtained from other agencies who may previously have been in contact with him and he is interviewed by the other prison specialists. On the basis of the information thus obtained, a programme of treatment and training is planned for him by the institution's Classification Board. In this process counselling has an important place and more and more prisoners are seeking advice and taking advantage of the facilities available as the sincerity of the efforts being made to assist them becomes more apparent.

To assist the rehabilitative process the facilities for education have been greatly increased -- our staff of school teachers has been more than doubled, correspondence courses are now available to all prisoners without cost through the Department of Veterans Affairs or the provincial Departments of Education. More than 1,200 prisoners are at present taking these courses. The libraries have been enlarged, over 30,000 books are now available in the seven penitentiaries, and the yearly circulation is over 100 books per inmate. At four penitentiaries full time vocational training courses have been set up for selected groups of young convicts -- these courses are of about nine months' duration and give full and detailed instruction in all the essentials of the trades taught as well as related training in blue print reading, shop mathematics and other subjects necessary for successful status. The trades taught are brickmasonry, construction, carpentry, cabinet making, painting and decorating, plumbing and steamfitting, tin-smithing and sheet metal work, plastering and rural machinery repairs. These courses are carried out in small classes where each trainee receives individual training and counselling from a competent instructor. While these courses are at present available only to a small number of selected volunteers, the results during the training period have been most encouraging in the changed attitude and interest of the prisoners and of those so far released after completing this training, more than 65 per cent have obtained and held gainful employment in their trades.

During the past two years more than \$500,000 has been spent in providing new equipment, machinery and tools for the 130 industrial shops in the penitentiaries, and in improving the kitchen, medical and other physical facilities. These improvements have resulted in a much higher standard of "on the job" training and, for the prisoner who is willing to profit by his work, greater opportunities for increasing his skill in many lines of manufacturing.