

Supply—Justice

so that they would not become habitual offenders.

Three points should be kept in mind. First, prisoners must be kept in safe custody until they have served their terms. Second, the term of imprisonment should be used to effect a change in the attitude of the accused to society, and to provide him with some special knowledge or skill which would enable him to take his place in society again without resorting to his criminal habits. Third, the prisoner should be treated fairly and humanely during his term of imprisonment.

Resulting from the Archambault report, we set up a commission to deal with penitentiaries. The commissioner, Major General R. B. Gibson, has done a good job. He is assisted by the deputy commissioner, Mr. Joseph McCulley, a prominent Ontario educationist, and Dr. L. P. Gendreau. I am told by those persons who are in a position to know that they are doing an excellent job. What are they doing? I am told that in 1948 they commenced training classes for persons who might be engaged on penitentiary staffs. These courses are designed to develop a knowledge of principles of modern penology and to raise the standards of the officers.

In addition, I am informed that educational courses are being provided for those persons who are incarcerated. Correspondence courses are provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to all prisoners, and prisoners who are qualified to do so are permitted to take university extension courses. Library facilities have been extended, and there are now available to prisoners somewhere in the neighbourhood of 30,000 books, as well as a fine collection of periodicals and magazines. Experience has proved that the circulation of good literature tends to combat less desirable activities.

Then there are those who desire to engage in the industrial shops and construction activities of the penitentiary. They are taught valuable trades and vocations which they may use when they return to civilian life. Some of the trades that are taught are brick masonry, construction, carpentry, cabinet making, plumbing and steam-fitting, sheet metal work, and plastering. These activities have been carried on in a very fine manner since the reorganization which took place in 1946. They teach the men valuable vocations which may be of benefit to them when they return to civilian life. But they do more. They keep the prisoner busy, and his mind occupied during the period of his incarceration. However fine this work is which may have been done by the penitentiaries commission, I believe there is much room for

[Mr. Cavers.]

improvement in the period preceding the prisoner's return to society which I should like to call the "tapering off" process.

To expect prisoners to get into step with the march of life immediately is imposing a great strain on human nature. Not so long ago a man reported to an office of the John Howard society after having served ten years in a federal institution. He was out of touch with the world, and was afraid to cross the street alone. He could not handle the changing of a two-dollar bill, and shrank from eating in the restaurant in the presence of others, when for so long a time he had eaten his meals alone. I suggest that during the last few weeks of imprisonment prisoners should be permitted to hear the radio at all times; they should be supplied with the daily newspapers, and have their meals in common with others. I am sure if this course were followed they would find civil rehabilitation a great deal easier.

I further suggest that these prisoners should have the opportunity of speaking to carefully screened lay persons concerning their personal problems or current events. This would establish some contact with the outside world which would ease the change-over for the prisoner. Then there are the personal needs of the dischargee which must be provided. A person released from a penitentiary comes out with an outfit of clothing and not less than \$10 in cash, plus a one-way ticket to the place from which he was sentenced. Many dischargees have no homes to go to, no savings on which to depend, and few friends to aid them. Not long ago a man reported to a business place in Ontario. When he arrived the personnel manager thought he was slightly crippled because he walked with a limp. It turned out that the shoes which had been supplied to him on his discharge did not fit. They were good shoes, properly made but ill fitting, and the man had difficulty in walking. He could not throw them away because he did not have the price of a new pair of shoes. He felt himself conspicuous enough without the added embarrassment of his peculiar walk. Let us take care to see that these people are permitted the proper clothing and attire when they attempt to adjust themselves to civilian life.

Then there is the problem of securing employment for the ex-prisoner, so that he will not return to his former illegal practices. Whether it is proper "to tell or not to tell" the boss presents a thorny question. Some require tools with which to work and are unable to pay for them. Others are impeded by the hurdle of providing a bond which is usually refused when one has had a prison