

to have a psychiatrist connected with prisons for properly estimating the possibilities or the adaptability of the convict. We have no psychiatrists at present but it is quite possible that in the near future we will have them at the larger penitentiaries.

Another question that is very pressing is that of the segregation of the youthful prisoners. We have not as yet any system for youthful segregation nor so far as I am aware have they in any other country unless it be England. One cannot make a very fair comparison between the prison system in England and that of Canada. The best and most recent book on the English prison system is by one of the prison commissioners, Mr. L. W. Fox, a book published a few months ago and to be found in the library here. It brings the regulations up to date and explains the system concisely. But in England there is only one governing power. The British government or the Home Secretary has authority throughout the whole United Kingdom over all their prisons; in Canada we have a different system and the only prisons under the jurisdiction of the federal government are the penitentiaries. All the gaols, all the refuges, all the reformatories and all the provincial prisons are under the control of provincial authorities and the federal government has nothing to do with them. In England, where there is a single control, they are able to allocate their prisons to certain classes of prisoners, something which this department has no power to do, and they are allocating certain prisons for certain classes of prisoners. Of course in England they have a very large number of prisons at their disposal and they have instituted and are carrying out what is known as the Borstal system, a system which it is hoped will have the effect in many cases of reclaiming youthful offenders before they go too far in their careers of crime. The Borstal system applies in the first instance to those who are under twenty-four and afterwards there is a special period of application for those who are from twenty-four to twenty-eight. I believe from all I have read that the Borstal system has produced good results. We have, however, no experience in the dominion field in our penitentiaries of instituting a system of that kind. The youths and the young men do not and should not go to our penitentiaries. But it so happens that among our young offenders under twenty-one there are some very violent criminals with long criminal records and it is a very serious question whether they should be placed with other youths who may be in for a first offence.

I doubt very much whether to do so would have a good effect on first offenders. You cannot classify them very well by age. It is a problem that should be and is being studied by many people, but the chief work to be done in that respect is not in the penitentiaries but in the provincial prisons and common gaols. Some of the provinces have as yet no reformatories as we have them in Ontario. In some of the provinces the common gaols are very strongly condemned by those who have had reason to visit them. On the other hand let me say this; a comparison between the treatment of prisoners in Canada and in England so far as humanity goes, so far as lenient treatment goes, is entirely favourable to this country.

Perhaps just at this moment I might refer to one other matter, and that is a letter which has been circulated throughout the House of Commons by Mr. A. E. Smith, Secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League. I always refer to this organization as the Communist league. It was the Communist league until the trial of the seven offenders took place, until the convictions were made against them a couple of years ago. Then, at the instigation or at the instance of A. E. Smith the name of the organization was changed and the same band of people now carry on under the name of the Canadian Labour Defence League, but the man who has instigated most of the unrest in Canada in regard to penitentiary matters is A. E. Smith. The hon. member for Southeast Grey said the other night: How is it that there were disturbances in penitentiaries before there were any communist activities in Canada? The history of the world has shown that there are periodical disturbances in penitentiaries and prisons where there were no communists at all. We have had prison riots in Canada as far back as fifty years ago, very serious ones where the troops were called out, where firing took place, where the warden and deputy warden were murdered as in St. Vincent de Paul. We have had them at Kingston and at other points. There have been innumerable serious revolts in the United States with great loss of life not due to the communists' activities at all and they have had them in England as the late insurrections at Dartmoor show. Riots must be expected in all penal institutions and one must be prepared for them with a special staff of guards and appliances to restrain them. But it is strange that ever since the seven communists were imprisoned in Kingston, the agitation has gone on; it started within two months after their incarceration. The first was the complaint about not supplying cigarette papers.