

Mr. ILSLEY: Yes.

Mr. GREEN: I realize that he will give the most careful consideration both to the Archambault report and to the report of General Gibson, but I am a little worried for fear that General Gibson will not be supported as he should be. There are in his report certain suggestions having to do, for example, with the treatment of young offenders between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one. I can assure the minister that in British Columbia at any rate, the utmost interest is being taken in the treatment of the young offenders. Our government there is planning to establish a Borstal home, and I know I have had representations from many responsible citizens in Vancouver, and no doubt there have been similar representations from other parts of the province, all urging action on this question of penal reform. That one question of what is to be done with the young offenders is, I think, the key question worrying most of the people who are making these representations. General Gibson deals with that problem and on page 16 of his report he makes this recommendation. After discussing the Borstal system and the treatment of young offenders and pointing out that the provinces have a certain jurisdiction over the young offenders, the general says:

These developments emphasize the necessity for a conference of the responsible authorities to determine the respective responsibilities of dominion and provinces in dealing with this problem and to define and coordinate the action to be taken by each to avoid overlapping and duplication of facilities.

I should like the minister to tell the committee whether or not he is prepared to call a conference of that type at an early day. It does seem to me that such a conference is important in working out proper plans for improving the methods of dealing with these young offenders.

Another recommendation made by General Gibson has to do with the prisoners' aid societies. His remarks will be found at the bottom of page 16:

Your commissioner is of opinion that the activities of these societies should be encouraged and recognized and recommends that when a society demonstrates that it has been organized to carry out its duties with a reasonable degree of efficiency, provision should be made for it to receive financial assistance from the dominion government, based on the numbers released from federal institutions who have been assisted by its activities, to supplement the funds received from other sources.

[Mr. Green.]

I should like the minister to tell us whether or not he agrees with that suggestion and whether the government intends to take action that will enable support of that kind to be given to these voluntary associations.

One other question has to do with the training of personnel of the penitentiary staffs. General Gibson emphasizes in different parts of his report the great need for giving modern training to the staffs of the penitentiaries, and at page 9 of his report he says that in the middle and higher range of salaries the penitentiary employees are not getting proper pay at the present time and he recommends that there should be a revision upwards. My third question of the minister would be whether or not the government is willing to make the necessary changes by way of giving these officials proper salaries and by enabling General Gibson to set up a proper training school for his staff. If there is no willingness to support the general on these different points I am afraid he has not very much chance of making a success of his new position. I should like to have the minister's answer to these three questions.

Mr. ILSLEY: I shall have to give my answer at a later day. On the question of salaries, my impression is that a great many adjustments upwards have already been made.

Mr. GREEN: The minister will find that recommendation on page 9 of the report.

Mr. ILSLEY: What is the date of the report? It was in February, was it not?

Mr. GREEN: February 5, 1947.

Mr. ILSLEY: Yes. There will be no hesitation on the part of the government to pay the men what they ought to receive. The trouble about that is that there is never any agreement about what people should receive. It is the whole problem of pay of the civil service in all its branches. Thousands and thousands of adjustments are being made all the time, and I am not aware that at the moment this particular class of officials of the government is being discriminated against.

Mr. GREEN: If I may interrupt the minister, General Gibson does not say that there is discrimination, but he does say that if he is to have the proper type of personnel to do the work he is of opinion that the salaries will have to be increased.

Mr. ILSLEY: I think they are being increased. I understand that process is going on.