

committee may order other punishments within their powers in addition to or in lieu of the corporal punishment.

And then in relation to education the author goes on to show how much the British have improved their educational system within the prisons. I quote:

The prison authority still remains in a sense an educational authority; but the role it plays is not ambitious, and does not aim higher than to teach the illiterate to read and write, and in the small space an opportunity given, to raise to a higher standard those who are just a little better than illiterates.

He goes on to show that great change has been made. To quote further:

Five years later we read: "The adult education classes have shown some further development during the year under review. The number of classes held has increased and they have been attended by some 9,000 individual prisoners."

Quoting again:

This "Adult education scheme" was set up in 1923 with the advice and cooperation of the adult education committee of the board of education. Its aim is not, primarily to improve the "standard" of imperfectly educated prisoners, but to counteract the mental deterioration inevitably attendant on prison life, and to increase the prisoner's fitness for citizenship, by stimulating his mind and furnishing it with material for healthy activity in confinement, and of continuing value in after life. Evening classes are held in the prison after long hours of associated labour, and the subjects are chosen on the broadest basis to include not only "school" subjects such as history, mathematics, or modern languages, but "vocational" subjects such as shorthand, gardening, technical trade courses, or handicrafts,

And so on. In relation to care after discharge the author goes on to say that one of the greatest difficulties is the reestablishment of the man when he comes out of prison. No matter how much a man may want to learn a trade in prison, when he comes out he has not a trade at his finger ends that he has learned from beginning to end, and what knowledge the prisoner possesses of a trade is incomplete. The author goes on to say at pages 130 and 131 that in England they have set up a Federation of Northern and Midland Aid Societies which are partly voluntary organizations but partly governmental inasmuch as they receive a government grant for accepting responsibility for the prisoners returned to this area.

These are but three or four things from the British system which show how very much in advance they are to anything we have here.

I want to take one moment to speak of Lewis E. Lawes, warden of Sing Sing, who has written a very excellent book called *Life and*

[Miss Macphail.]

*Death in Sing Sing*, and in that he says much of what we all want. He says that when prisoners come in they are very carefully examined by psychiatrists, psychologists and medical men. He says:

These prisoners will be subjected to a period of observation and study by the administrative department in order that it may get a line on their general character, by the medical department for physical condition and disease, by the psychiatric clinic to ascertain their mentality, by the school for their education, by the industrial department for vocational ability, and by the chaplains for moral and religious ideas.

And further:

This work is now being done in part only, but each of the departments has been established and is now functioning. The last department, the psychiatric clinic, was started in 1927 and within a year was utilizing the services of a psychiatrist, assistant psychiatrist, psychologist, and two field investigators.

And then I quote from the last paragraph of his book:

From personal experience it is my firm belief that much of the recidivism (crime repeating) is due to the fact that the ten dollars which the state pays a prisoner upon release is insufficient with his other handicaps to enable him to get a real start.

He goes on to tell that he has made it his business as warden to give the men who needed it small loans and that in almost every case they have repaid the loan. He thinks that some assistance on the discharge of the prisoner is needed in order to get him re-established again.

The minister has referred to the Canadian Prisoners Welfare Association, of which I am a member, but whose meetings I may say, in order I may not prejudice the minister, I have never attended. They say in their report:

In our experience very few penitents emerge from our penitentiaries, a fact which shows how signally our penitive system fails to correct and discipline.

On top of that we can take it from the superintendent's report that seventy-five per cent of our prison population have had previous convictions and over fifty per cent have served previous terms in a penitentiary.

That shows that the system we are using has not been good enough. It is not reclaiming as many men as I feel should be reclaimed, granting that twenty per cent are incorrigibles, using the superintendent's own figure, the highest figure that has been used by any investigating committee or royal commission report or penologist's statement I have read.

In closing I am going to make the following recommendations to the minister.