

promised to adopt this, if no more suitable way could be found as a solution. Yet if the goods were marked, it must mean that they would be cheaper than regular products. It would mean that they would either be cheaper and find a wider market, or there would be no market at all. If it was a bigger market, that was no remedy at all. If there was no market, it simply meant that other fields of labor must be found for the prisoners.

It occurred to the government that perhaps it could be arranged that the prisoners could be employed on a farm, raising produce for their own support, to the profit of themselves and the province. (Applause.) Many of the prisoners in Central prison were not bad fellows. They were first offenders, men who had been drinking, got into a fight, a brawl, or done some minor thing under evil influences. Eighty per cent of them could be trusted to take a chance. There would be no stripes, no handcuffs, no cropped heads. They would be given a chance to keep their self-respect. They would be given another chance. (Cheers.)

On a farm of 400 acres they would be given intelligent employment. They could not be put into competition with free labor, and they would be given a chance to get away from evil associations. It was not a matter of politics. Both sides wish the movement God-speed. Many of those in Central prison came from the western part of Ontario. The district around Fort William, Port Arthur, Kenora, sent 100 out of the 400 prisoners. It meant a big expense, and so it was proposed to have a branch of the institution in the northern country. Up there were roads to make, at which white labor refused to work. Eighty per cent of the prisoners could safely be taken out, and with a promise of some months off their sentence they could be made to do good work in the open, away from stripes, handcuffs and cropped heads. It was quite true that all criminals were not in prison, and not all prisoners were criminals, and so these fellows should be given this chance to be men. The prisoners were not of the penitentiary variety. There had been \$20,000 set apart for it would, the plan would be carried to completion.

REFORMATORY GIRLS

Hon. Mr. Hanna told of the government plan for dealing with the Mercer

reformatory girls. There were 76 in the institution—a bright, healthy lot. They had minds, and hearts, and souls, as well as other people, and it was a shame to keep them locked up behind steel bars. The cost of the maintenance for girls was \$400 per year, and under the old system, after they got through being cooped up, they were given a ticket and sent back to the environment that worked their ruin in the first place. Mr. Hanna referred to the good work done by Adam Brown in this connection, as well as by J. J. Kelso. He told of the experiment of taking 25 girls out of the prison, placing them in good homes in the province, and of how happy the girls were in these good homes. He told of how 25 more were taken out, until the reformatory officials were afraid they were going to lose their jobs. Finally only four were left, and then these were provided for, after they had pleaded hard for a chance. Since then 30 or 40 more had been taken care of in this way. Six or seven were married and lived now in decent homes. The success of this encouraged the government to go ahead with the Central prison scheme.

IMPROVEMENT IN ASYLUMS

Mr. Hanna, in conclusion, dealt with the asylums, which are also under his charge. He told of the high compliment paid by Dr. McFedren, of Toronto university, to the government, for its advances in the asylum treatment. Dr. McFedren was Scotch, Presbyterian and a Grit, and that made his commendation worth all the more. Mr. Hanna dealt briefly with the asylum arrangements, showing how, since the Whitney government's time, an advance in medical and scientific lines had been made in treating patients, how the government was arranging for a hospital for incipient cases, so that no man need have the stigma of insanity against him until he was really seriously insane. It was a great work, and the doctors themselves were the first ones to appreciate it. (Cheers.)

Dr. W. F. Langrill moved a vote of thanks to Hon. Mr. Hanna, corroborating what had been said about the value of the treatment of the insane patients, and Charles Peebles seconded the motion. It was carried enthusiastically, and then the meeting adjourned.