

who are responsible for their administration. That has been one of the greatest drawbacks of the system which we have had up to now, and it is something about which the country can complain.

I was interested in the fact that one of the deputy commissioners is to be the instructor, as it were, of the inspector's staff. He is a man who assumes a tremendous responsibility and the man who, if he is left alone and is not interfered with, will imprint his ideas in regard to care in penitentiaries upon the whole penitentiary system. In my opinion, his selection is a matter of tremendous importance. I hope we have decided that education is perhaps the most important work that can be carried on in connection with prisoners. Surely at this time these institutions should be considered not merely as punitive institutions but almost wholly as reformatory.

Speaking of commissions and of their reports, I should like to put on the record my admiration of the report of the commission which studied the prisons and penitentiaries of Saskatchewan, a commission headed by Doctor S. R. Laycock. That report more than any other which I have read attacks the problem of crime from the right angle, that is to say, reformatory, to which I have already referred.

Mr. GAUTHIER (Portneuf): May I say a word in support of what the hon. member said about the Borstal system. It is true that it is only an institution; it is not a penitentiary. But, of course, some accidents happen once in a while in Borstal institutions. The other day I saw a report in a paper that a young detainee was guilty of an assault on one of the guards; but it was just an accident. I do not say that to speak against the Borstal system, because I favour it.

A week ago, I believe, in Quebec the legislature adopted a law to provide subsidies for the study of juvenile delinquency in that province. I may say, in passing, that I do not approve the centralization of all the penal systems in Canada. If there has to be centralization, I trust it will be done only after a long and careful study and parleying with the different provinces.

The hon. member said that some of our young detainees were coming out of penitentiaries worse than they were when they went in. That is true. I have a special case under consideration, a young man who is not an idiot or insane, but who has been sentenced for three years for robbery of some kind. I know he was not responsible, because he had taken a glass of wine with a companion he had just met on the road. I am positive that it may happen that when he

comes out he will be worse than when he went in. He is easily influenced. One thing I noticed in the Gibson report is that Colonel Gibson said there is only one psychiatrist in one penitentiary in Canada, Kingston. There was none in any other penitentiary. That is due to the lack of administration and comprehension of the *status mentis* of all prisoners, especially criminals. In the *Toronto Star* of April 24, 1947, I also noticed an article by Wessely Hicks. In this article he mentions that Mr. Edmison, president of the Canadian penal institution, a lawyer with a lifelong interest in penology, recently visited penitentiaries across Canada. I should like to quote the following from that article:

I visited Stony Mountain, Prince Albert and New Westminster penitentiaries in the west. I visited Dorchester prison in New Brunswick, and the penitentiary in Kingston. There was one psychiatrist at Kingston, Doctor C. M. Crawford, and he is the only psychiatrist attached to any prison in Canada.

Every prison should have at least one psychiatrist to deal with abnormal offenders such as sex perverts.

And so forth.

I have read that just to come to the question I wish to ask of the minister. Is it the intention of the government to appoint a medical man as one of the two deputy commissioners on the new commission that is proposed? I think that is essential.

Mr. ILSLEY: The nature of the duties to be discharged by one of the deputy commissioners would, it is expected, call for some knowledge of medicine or psychiatry. I cannot say anything about the intentions of the government beyond this, that we shall be disposed to accept the recommendation of General Gibson as to the division of responsibility between the two deputy commissioners. I placed those duties on record tonight. The language is very carefully framed. I will read it again:

It is proposed that the second deputy commissioner will be primarily charged with supervision and development of the medical and psychiatric services, physical training and recreational facilities as well as the development of research and statistics to assess the adequacy and results of present and proposed methods of correctional treatment.

If those are to be his duties the government will seek a man qualified to discharge them, which, I assume, would call for some knowledge of medicine or psychiatry.

Mr. GREEN: I take it from the reluctance of the minister to give any details of his plans for improving the penal system in Canada that he has still somewhat of an open mind.