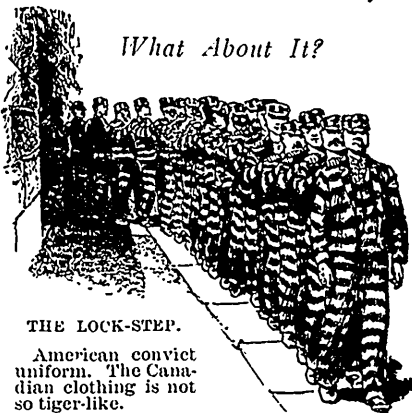


of the "separate" system, and has features abhorrent to humanity.

### *What About It?*



THE LOCK-STEP.

American convict uniform. The Canadian clothing is not so tiger-like.

Such is a brief, imperfect outline of the institution of stone and iron in which you and I and the rest of us keep six hundred of our kind, that they may think over their past, and rue the day of their attempt to successfully break our laws. What is it all for, anyway? What is the object of a prison? Is the object a good one, and is this ancient tool of punishment in prison the most effective instrument for its attainment; or are we unthinkingly following past tradition in a wrong direction? In this age of science, has the pathology of the criminal been examined, and has the prison been found to afford the best treatment for him in the interest of the state? If so, is our prison system, as we at present conduct it, the last and best expression of what prisons should and can be? From the point of view of the scientist, what are the facts and what are the inferences therefrom? Is the present prison system a monument to wisdom, ignorance, or folly? From the point of view of the citizen, are we taking the best course for the protection of society and advancing the interests of the State? From the point of view of the humanitarian, the Christian, is our present treatment of our criminals the best

for them, for us, and for all concerned, and is it a logical sequence of the following out of the Golden Rule? If not, why not, and what are we going to do about it?

Now, be it remembered, we in the first place sketched out the arrangement of Kingston Penitentiary, merely to give us a concrete basis to start with. It was impossible to be exhaustive. He who knows no more about our prison system in Canada than what we have related in this article about the penitentiary at Kingston, knows neither that prison, nor has he any correct conception of our prisons generally. Nor will he at all understand the point of the question we have asked above. It is only to be hoped that any reader of this article who is so situated will hereafter take all possible steps to get a good working knowledge of some gaol or penitentiary, or both, and let that take the place of the slight outline of a concrete prison in this article. Especially let him look into his local gaol, examine its arrangement, enquire into its workings, and learn about its usual inmates as they there meet in forced conclave, and he will find the attempt to answer the questions which we have placed above a highly interesting, difficult at times, and not very satisfactory business.

### *The Reason for Prisons.*

Let us briefly deal with some of these questions. First, what is the object of a prison? Speaking generally, it is that we may have a safe place in which to keep men and women whom, having grossly infringed the rights of other citizens, society sees fit to compel, for a longer or shorter time, to live apart from their fellow men.

Since those thus detained are generally held against their will, a prison must be built strongly and must be further strengthened by