

paper; it was porous, they said, and would not smoke as a cigarette. From that time on complaint after complaint was made about the want of cigarette papers. During his first visit to the penitentiary in August, 1931, the superintendent discussed with acting warden Smith that question of cigarette papers. He was inclined to recommend it; he consulted the various wardens in regard to it, and I believe all but one approved an allowance of cigarette papers. One did not approve. The matter had not been decided but was about to be decided when the first riot took place in Kingston. Now prisoners are allowed a moderate supply of cigarette papers. That was the first complaint of nearly all the prisoners who were examined. There were over seven hundred prisoners whose evidence I have read, and ninety per cent of them, placed the want of cigarette papers as their first complaint.

After cigarette papers I think the largest number of complaints would be on the question of cropping the hair, a reference to which caused so much merriment in the chamber. Prisoners object to cropping as an indignity. They complain that when their relatives come to see them it is a great indignity that they have to appear with a close crop. In some prisons in England now they allow the military hair cut, and the military hair cut is now permitted in the penitentiaries of Canada, in order to remove what the prisoners describe as a great indignity.

Lack of recreation and amusement was a common complaint, I am inclined to think that there was some ground for complaint in that respect. Exercise and recreation hours were not utilized as they could have been in what I would call useful exercises. The new superintendent has taken that matter up and has increased the time allowance for exercise and the method of exercise, and the reports I get from the wardens throughout Canada are that there has been a great deal of improvement in regard to the exercise, and far less complaint.

Lack of newspapers and magazines has been an outstanding grievance. In nearly all countries, as far as I know, the rule prohibiting newspapers in prisons prevails, although in Sing Sing and some American prisons these are permitted. There was recommendation by a commission in this country some ten years ago that weekly newspapers be permitted in limited numbers. That recommendation was never adopted. Magazines are permitted, certain classes of books are permitted. One great complaint is that the magazines when given to the prisoners have been mutilated by the

editor, and all the interesting articles, they say, have been cut out. Newspapers have not yet been granted.

Insufficient lighting in the cells—I think there was a real grievance. I think they had only what they call a ten candle power lamp light. We have increased that to twenty-five so that in the long hours of darkness during the winter particularly they will have a longer period for reading.

Harsh treatment by officers—there were complaints from many prisoners in that respect, and we tried to verify them as well as we could. Many of them, I have no doubt, were exaggerated, and some fictitious, but others may have some foundation in fact.

Compulsory church attendance is alleged as a grievance by probably fifty per cent of those who gave evidence or made complaints to the superintendent. One of the inspectors said that compulsory church attendance was really part of the punishment and should be continued. But a number of prisoners take strong exception to church attendance and say they will refuse to go, that they do not enjoy the services, that they do them no good, that they do not believe in what they hear. Compulsory church attendance, particularly in the Protestant chapel, has been a serious question not only in Kingston but in other penitentiaries.

Insufficient medical and dental treatment are complaints that occur in the statements of many prisoners. Some complained of lack of toilet articles, combs and mirrors and the like; some even wanted a canteen or shop where they could buy these articles. We have now allowed them each a comb; as we are allowing the hair to grow, of course a comb will be necessary. Mirrors are not allowed on account of the danger of the glass, and there are many complaints on this score. Others want knives and forks, but these are not allowed on account of the danger in the use of them by dangerous men. All these are very serious complaints on the part of the prisoners. They do not think they are laughing matters.

More frequent letters—we have allowed a letter a month instead of every two months. We have doubled the number of visits from one every two months to one a month by relatives or close friends. Lack of paroles has been complained of by eight or ten of the seven hundred; the objection to steam cooked food is a common complaint, and the monotony of prison diet is another. While these may appear rather trivial to us they are very serious matters with the prisoners concerned. They look upon them very differently, and these constitute the chief com-