

## PAROLE.

The method of dealing with prisoners by parole is not unlike, in a general way, that of Ontario, except that the volunteer Board of Parole has been superseded by a Board of three paid Commissioners who have a large staff to deal with all cases.

One of the Commissioners, Mr. Lord, assured me that up to the age of twenty-five he always has hope of reclaiming a man, but after that age it is more doubtful.

When being released he obtains work for the man, and takes him to it and introduces him where his case is known, and he is given a chance to make good, and a very large percentage of them do so.

The annual report of the Parole Commission is herewith.

They have no system in any of the prisons by which a man can earn anything for himself or to support his family, but would heartily welcome an innovation of that kind.

The Commissioner, Mr. Lord, with whom I discussed the matter, is fully impressed with the possibility of reforming criminals and desires to have greater facilities for accomplishing that object, and the results they obtain on parole are very encouraging.

## PLACES OF CONFINEMENT.

1. Police cells; 2, detention prisons; 3, detention homes and hospitals; 4, gaols; 5, penitentiaries.

These are so numerous and widespread throughout the city and State, and as there is no annual report available from the Corrections Department it is impossible even to enumerate them.

I visited 1, an old police cell; 2, a modern police cell; 3, several places of detention for persons awaiting trial; 4, The Tombs prison in New York; 5, The City Penitentiary for men on Blackwells Island; 6, The Workhouse Prison for women on Blackwells Island.

In these Institutions they have all the problems which are acute in Ontario.

Segregation of the different classes is very incomplete.

Dormitory versus cell. In discussion with the officers I found them in favor of cells. My own view is that large rooms or corridors for day-time and evening use, where unemployed and under supervision, and cells to sleep in would be a fair compromise.

As to the lucrative employment of the prisoner, so as to change him and his family from a public liability to self-supporting, it is not carried out and no advance made, nor is there any hopeful expression about his becoming an earning factor so as to pay his board and contribute to the support of his family.

This I believe is chiefly owing to the fact that it would require such an enormous amount of legislation, negotiation (with Labour Unions), organization, reconstruction, rearrangement, etc., as to make the outlook on such a stupendous task discouraging to the point of being impracticable though it is not considered at all impossible.

The prisons I visited are some of them old-fashioned and should be modernized. Others of more recent erection or rebuilding have modern equipment and conveniences.

All are clean and well kept, and the officers appear to be an efficient, capable and reliable body of men.