

Supply—Justice

in custody and have come up on charges will appreciate that 60 per cent or 70 per cent of those children confined in penitentiary, and of the 11 thousand odd convicted of juvenile delinquency involving one crime or another, are the products of divided homes, so the fault is not theirs. The fault is ours in society and the fault is all the greater when we place them in institutions with hardened criminals.

The judge considered the matter for some time. The nature of the boy's previous offences indicated that he was in serious need of help. But there were no facilities for handling such a case. The judge finally sentenced Henri to two years in St. Vincent de Paul.

This was for striking a man whom he had found in a certain condition with his mother, as a result of which he was charged with assault. Let me tell you the story. He was so small and so young and he had no toys to play with. Even the guards in the penitentiary felt sorry for him and they took up a collection and bought him a bicycle so that he could ride around within the prison walls. This is Canada. This is the administration of justice in its practical sense which we are supposed to be proud of. The boy had one request to make. What was the request? One day he said to the guard, "Could I go outside these walls and play?" This boy, Henri, is 12 years of age. What was the answer? The rules do not permit criminals who are confined to the penitentiary to go outside the walls to play." This is our country.

I have raised this question before. I hope that tonight, now that I have raised it in the House of Commons, something will be done about it. I hope something will be done about it, not a week from now but tomorrow. Let us do something immediately about this. This could be your child, and these are Canadian children. The only thing they have done has been to run afoul of the law. Surely, what we should be doing today is putting these children in some kind of institution where they could be educated, where the proper environment would be provided. If they come from broken homes, surely they should be in institutions where they can be rehabilitated to enable them to take their places as men and women in society.

An hon. Member: It has been done.

Mr. Woolliams: It may have been done, but just look at the record. Would you say tonight there are no juveniles in the penitentiaries? If you or the Minister of Justice can say that tonight, I will be the most happy person and I will take my seat. You cannot say it. I am sorry about this interruption because this is a very serious matter which affects the youth of our country.

[Mr. Woolliams.]

I say to the minister, therefore, that there was a plan to build an institution for young offenders in Alberta. The land has been purchased and \$100,000 has already been put into this project. The water has been put through to the site because of an agreement between the Department of Public Works and the city. Why does the government not proceed with this plan forthwith? If the government decides to stick by this decision to postpone the building of this institution until 1964, when will they start? How much will be built in 1964?

I want to deal with another matter, and that is the reason Drumheller was chosen as the site for this institution. Drumheller is one of the depressed areas of Canada. I am not talking about the farming area, but the mining area. Back in the fifties there were 20 mines operating. By 1962, there were six mines operating and today there are only two mines operating. In 1950, these mines employed 1,866 men. By 1963, only 183 men were employed. Now the Minister of Industry has removed Drumheller from the list of depressed areas. He said the statistics in the unemployment office revealed there were not too many unemployed. These men have been unemployed for a long time. They were unemployed in 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957. They were unemployed when we were in office, but some of them went to Canmore, where they obtained employment in connection with the shipment of coal to Japan. They have been unemployed so long they have no unemployment insurance benefits left. They are not statistics in the unemployment insurance office. Therefore, when the minister removed Drumheller from the list of depressed areas, that was wrong.

They talk about rich Alberta, but there is no place in Canada where conditions are such as they are in East Coulee, Newcastle, Rosedale and those areas which were coal mining areas surrounding the city of Drumheller. Even the former minister of labour agreed with this statement. When the demand arose in Canada for an institution to rehabilitate the youth, Drumheller was chosen because it was a depressed area. In addition, the province of Alberta was the only province in Canada which had no such institution. I say that to shelve this project until 1964 is an injustice to the youth of this country whom I have described and who are in our penitentiaries. It is an injustice to the unemployed men in that area who were brought there during the last war. During the last war there was a demand for the soft coal in that area and the men were brought from various parts of Canada. When the war ended, the market for soft coal disappeared because of competition with petroleum and natural gas.