

these recommendations may have to be deferred and it is possible that not all of them will be carried out, but these are matters that will have to be considered. I shall have to make a statement at a later date as soon as the decisions are arrived at.

Mr. TIMMINS: Would the minister consider the suggestion that in the meantime only the commissioner be appointed and that the government wait until the commissioner is fully seized of these matters before appointing the two deputies? Then, when the deputies are appointed some programme should be brought down.

Mr. ILSLEY: I think it is desirable that the commissioner be appointed as soon as possible and I would hope that the deputies would be appointed shortly afterward. I made the statement a while ago that the commissioner would be General Gibson. A minister should not make a statement like that; he should say, which I am quite prepared to say, that the recommendation of the government—

Mr. GREEN: We heard you the first time.

Mr. ILSLEY: —to His Excellency the Governor General will be that General Gibson be appointed.

Mr. TIMMINS: Having regard to the report that we have before us, I think we are all pretty much in agreement with that appointment.

Mr. MATTHEWS (Kootenay East): I am sorry that I was not in my seat when the discussion began tonight and have therefore missed many of the things said by the Minister of Justice. I am one of those who have read this report very carefully. I am impressed with its goodness. It is indeed a step in the right direction. However I was sorry to hear the minister say that the government is not prepared to adopt all the recommendations made in this report, because to me they are all alike, commendable. However, as the minister said, it is the first step. We who are interested in this subject will watch the development of these commissioners' work very carefully indeed.

In recent years I have been one of those who have been very much impressed with the Borstal system as it is being worked out today in the old country, and I should like to see that system adopted in Canada on a federal scale.

There is one item on page 11 of the report which I should like to read:

Your commissioner, therefore, recommends that authority be obtained for the establishment of a new institution in the province of Quebec, separate from St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary and that this institution be of the reformatory

[Mr. Ilsley.]

type to which could be transferred the youthful and reformable offenders sentenced to terms of two years or more in the province of Quebec. It is anticipated that the principles of the Borstal system may be applied to this institution.

And so on. So far as Canada is concerned, the only place where the Borstal system has been tried out was in British Columbia a few years ago. I am happy to say that that system is again to be reintroduced in that province. I hope that its usefulness will be of such a nature that we shall watch it carefully in the House of Commons, and that we shall be prepared to adopt it more generally across the dominion because, if there is one phase of our penitentiary system which is weak today, it is that of sending young offenders of the reformable type into our federal penitentiaries where they meet from day to day the most hardened criminals that we have in the country.

It is noted from time to time in this and other reports that some of these young men come out of our federal penitentiaries infinitely worse than when they went in, just because of their association with hardened criminals. The mistake, to my mind, is made in the first place by putting these young reformable-type prisoners into these institutions.

I noticed that the minister said a Borstal institution is not a penitentiary. I admit the truth of that statement and I hope they will never be looked upon as penitentiaries. I remember visiting a Borstal institution in Lincolnshire, England, last fall. There it is spoken of as an institution. The word "prison" is never used. I admit that it is what is called an open Borstal. There are both closed and open Borstals; but there the word "prison" is not used. In fact it is a punishable offence if any boy mentions the word "prison". There are no locks and no bars. The boys are treated with every degree of trust and confidence. They are being trained day to day to become the type of citizen they ought to be. I should like to see that system developed more and more in our Canadian prison institutions.

There are many other matters in connection with this report that one might speak on; but, as I said a few moments ago, I have not prepared any speech in this regard. I have read the report. I am impressed with it and I believe it is indeed a forward step. I hope that, if not all, as many as possible of these recommendations may be carried out.

Mr. KNIGHT: I wish to say a word on one phase of what the minister has said. I am particularly glad that definite and skilled instruction is to be given to the people who are to be in charge of the penitentiaries, and