

*Borstal System*

England the superior officers are appointed by the secretary of state; in Canada, these officers are appointed by the governor in council. In England the subordinate officers are appointed by the prison commissioners; in Canada they are appointed by the superintendent of penitentiaries, in consultation with the inspectors, after having received recommendations from the wardens of penitentiaries.

2. It is submitted that the introduction of separate training for youthful convicts would require the creation of new positions in the penitentiary service, the duties of which would be similar to those performed by housemasters and assistant housemasters in the Borstal institutions of the prison service of England.

3. It is submitted that, if authorized, the new positions might be called, "supervisor" and "assistant supervisor" until such time as a shorter or more appropriate descriptive name for each position is decided upon.

4. It is submitted that these positions should be graded as coming within the classification of superior officers, the appointment to the position of supervisor being made by the governor in council, and the appointment to the position of assistant supervisor to be made by the superintendent of penitentiaries, after consultation with persons outside of the penitentiary service. It is considered that the position of supervisor should be filled by promotion from assistant supervisor.

5. The duties of supervising officers, would be entirely in connection with the management, training and treatment of youthful convicts, particularly during the periods outside of hours set aside for labour, (see appendix "A").

6. A study of staff requirements indicates that there should be one supervising officer for each 30, or part of 30, youthful convicts, and that not less than two of these officers should be employed in each institution, even when there are less than thirty youthful convicts confined in the institution.

7. The persons selected to fill the supervisory positions require to be men of good character, good education, even temperament, optimistic nature, possessed of good common sense, untiring patience, athletic, and having a wide experience in dealing with men. The hours of duty would be long, broken, and making heavy demands on the physical and mental capacities of the supervisory officers.

8. The rate of pay for these positions may be left for the present, but it is considered that it should be approximately that of chief trade instructor for a supervisor, and that of chief keeper for an assistant supervisor.

9. In the initial stages, the subordinate officers, including trade instructors, doing duty with the youthful convicts, could be specially selected from existing staffs, and would be given a special course of training before being assigned to these duties.

10. The matter of the creation of the positions of matrons would come up for consideration after the separate training had been inaugurated and further experience had been gained.

11. If the positions of supervisors should be decided upon, it would be necessary to assemble the officers appointed at some central point for a period of intensive training.

## Appendix "D"

## Buildings and Accommodation

1. "The principles of the Borstal system," published by the prison commission, home office, 1932, commencing at the bottom of page 20, reads as follows:

[Mr. Guthrie.]

"The Borstal system has no merit apart from the Borstal staff. It is men and not buildings who will change the hearts and ways of misguided lads. Better an institution that consists of two log huts in swamp or desert, with a staff devoted to their task, than a model block of buildings, equipped without thought of economy, whose staff is solely concerned with thoughts of pay and promotion. The foundations of the Borstal system are first the recruitment of the right men, then their proper training, and finally their full cooperation with one another in an atmosphere of freedom and mutual understanding."

2. The prison commission of England strongly believes in the foregoing, and has adhered to the policy throughout the developments of the Borstal system in England.

3. It was not until the year 1930 that the experiment at Lowdham Grange was commenced, this being the first and only Borstal institution not surrounded by a high boundary wall.

4. Lowdham Grange houses only the selected lads, who are considered to be the most hopeful cases, for whom the full period of training will probably not prove necessary (vide "The Modern English Prison," page 180).

5. In Wormwood Scrubs, the Borstal lads are confined within the same boundary wall, but in a separate building from short term prisoners and prisoners held on remand.

6. The Borstal buildings form a part of Wandsworth prison. Feltham is an old reformatory building converted to use as a Borstal institution. Rochester and Portland were both convict prisons.

7. When making observations on the question of walls, bars on the windows, and other security measures, the undersigned was reminded that the great public schools of England are enclosed within high walls, with broken glass on the top, and that the windows are barred, these precautions being considered reasonable and necessary to assist in the management of the high-spirited and youthful students, and that there does not appear to be any reason why similar arrangements should not be made when controlling youths who have been proven to be delinquent.

## Kingston Penitentiary

8. On this date there are 42 convicts in Kingston penitentiary under twenty-one years of age. These could very acceptably be accommodated in the old prison for women, presently utilized for the confinement of selected convicts who are receiving special treatment.

9. Presently before the department is a recommendation to segregate "C" corridor of Kingston penitentiary for the purpose of housing the most unsatisfactory type of convict in that institution. If that is put into effect, it would leave available the east cell block, which might be used for the treatment and segregation of specially selected convicts over twenty-one years of age, or, in the alternative, it might be utilized for the segregation and treatment of youthful convicts.

10. By putting up a brick wall, in the yard a subdivision could readily be arranged in which youthful convicts could carry out their exercises out of view of the other convicts.

11. These youthful convicts could be employed in separate shops, or parts of shops partitioned off from the adult convicts, arrangements being made to pass them to and from work at different hours from those of the older convicts.