

11, which deals with the power to discharge on license persons sentenced to preventive detention, for naturally it is hoped that the changes brought about by the Bill may be reformatory as well as preventive, and, therefore, it will be necessary that ample scope should be afforded of considering the conduct, and progress of reformation if such occurs, of habitual criminals undergoing sentences of preventive detention. The Secretary of State, once at least in every three years, is to consider whether the person detained shall be released on license, and the directors of convict prisons are to report periodically to him on the conduct and industry of the persons detained, and for this purpose are to be assisted by a committee at each prison consisting of the governor and members of the board of visitors, such committee to hold meetings at least every six months. If the Secretary of State is satisfied that there is a reasonable probability that the person detained will abstain from crime and lead a useful and industrious life, or that he is no longer capable of engaging in crime, he may by license permit the person detained to be discharged from prison on probation and on condition that he be placed under the supervision or authority of any society or person named in the license. Clause 12 embodies the provisions as to persons so placed out on license. and, if this measure passes into law, it is clear that any relapse of an habitual criminal into a life of crime will result in a more or less permanent detention.

Everybody who has had any experience of crime and criminals will, we feel sure, cordially approve the principles of this measure. It aims to stop the criminal at his earliest stages, and to try to bring him back to an honest mode of living so that he may become a respectable citizen, while, at the same time, it is hoped to free society of those persons who are apparently beyond reclamation, although opportunity is to be given to them to hew that they desire to leave that course of life which they have mainly followed throughout their existence.—

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