

Mr. MacNICOL: It is a reclamation system.

Mr. ILSLEY: A Borstal institution is not a penitentiary.

Mr. MacNICOL: It is a reclamation of offenders.

Mr. CHURCH: Mr. Chairman, there are two or three matters I should like to bring to the attention of the minister. I am glad he is at the head of this department, because he has the habit of making some changes and securing some efficiency for the money expended.

Is a definite policy to be adopted of training these officials? Before the minister took charge of this department, most of the officials just learned from experience. I found out that you cannot learn the police business in a day. We had a chief of police who had been at the head of our force in Toronto for thirty-five years. He retired, and a deputation came to me and wanted to put a businessman who had no training for the work into that position. I told them, "You cannot learn Eaton's or Simpson's business in a day; how are you going to learn to be chief of police in a day?" It is the same in this department. The civil service commission have been making the appointments, based mostly on party patronage. The result is that they have not had the class of official they should have at the head of this most important work.

I hope the minister will be able to make some of the necessary changes. Every large corporation or business has a new manager or a new president who could take hold the next day. I hope there will be some such new system adopted in this department. Since the Archambault report was tabled ten or twelve years ago, they have recently changed for the better one hundred of the regulations. I should like to see them go farther and confer with the provinces about what should be done in connection with the Borstal system. A return was tabled this session stating that this matter was waiting a conference with the provinces. Ontario and Toronto have been leaders in reform and they had two or three crime institutions in operation in 1910, long before the Nickle report of 1921, at North Yonge street cure farm for men, and for women a farm at Concord, taken over in the war by the province for a hospital. Mr. Dunbar, the provincial secretary of Ontario who represents an Ottawa seat, has opened a reformation school at Brampton, I believe, for youthful offenders.

Another matter I should like to see looked into is that of definite and indeterminate sentences. The late Chief Justice R. M.

Meredith took the view that a sentence of 365 days in a provincial institution plus an indefinite period was not legal. I hope the minister will look into this problem of indeterminate detention. It is not in the public interest.

Mr. TIMMINS: There seems to be more involved in this matter than the mere appointment of three officials; apparently it is linked up with a programme which is essential if these officials are to function. I should like to ask the minister, who is the person who has been directly responsible up to this time for administration in connection with these matters? Who has been directly responsible to the minister? Is the work of that person who is directly responsible to be superseded by these new appointments? Many of us have read General Gibson's report which is quite comprehensive and covers the whole field, but I think we should like to know what express programme is to be handed to General Gibson and his two assistants to carry through. I do not think we should be asked to appoint a commissioner and two deputies when we do not know what parts of this report are to be formulated into a programme in order that we may have a definite penal system in the future.

Mr. ILSLEY: At the present time there are a superintendent and inspector.

Mr. TIMMINS: Is the superintendent vested with plenary powers under the minister to do many of the things set out here?

Mr. ILSLEY: I am not just sure how far the Penitentiary Act goes in giving the superintendent power. I speak subject to correction, but there are certain vacancies in the organization. One of the inspectors has been acting as superintendent and another inspector has retired. Instead of there being a superintendent and three inspectors, there is an acting superintendent and one inspector. With the shrinkage of the organization it became necessary for someone else to take on additional duties, so that, for the last six months or so, General Gibson has been engaged to a considerable extent in administrative duties in connection with the penitentiaries.

Mr. TIMMINS: Will the programme go into effect with the appointment of the commissioners?

Mr. ILSLEY: I would prefer to state at a later stage just how far the commissioner will go in carrying out the recommendations made by him in the report that is before the house. As I say, undoubtedly most of that report should be put into effect at the earliest possible moment. The carrying out of some of