

a life is turned from the path of crime to that of decent citizenship, a worthwhile act of crime prevention has been accomplished.

The police and the social worker are striving to make the world a better place in which to live. In many points the two fields of endeavour overlap and success in either field may only be attained through closer co-operation, one with the other. Without the assistance of the social worker, without the influence and assistance of the church, the home and the school, the police cannot make any very real progress in their endeavours to curb the devastation of crime. It is an undertaking beyond the scope of any section or group of men to combat. It must be fought through the determined effort of all good right minded citizens.

With some, as we all know, crime is a disease; with others it is lack of proper education, home training and healthy environment and yet with others it is weakness, inability to resist temptation. However, all committed to penal institutions are not habitual criminals—a few can be accurately classified as professional lawbreakers who devote their entire activity to nothing but crime and law-breaking, but, fortunately, for the most part, these institutions are occupied with the casual rather than the deliberate offender. These men emanate from all walks of life and every strata of society, each contributing its quota with no particular profession, trade or degree of learning failing to have its representative.

In the upper classes crime is particularly revolting. Surrounded with comforts, the upper class criminal is a monster of greed, selfishness and cruelty. With the advantage of a college education, this individual lays his plans too well to permit of detection or conviction. Under a cloak of respectability the hypocrite moves in the best circles, having political and even church prominence. It is seldom that this type of criminal ever serves a term in a penal institution—he is too clever for that. He is quite as despicable as the habitual criminal who devotes his life to crime and law-breaking as a vocation for cruelly selfish gain. It is doubtful if any improvement can be made within the compass of a single generation with either of these classes, but there is much that can be done for the first offender who has fallen perhaps because the burden of existence under our unequal standards of social justice has proven unbearable; and for others who have failed, after release from a penal institution, to make the necessary adjustments to civilian life.

The ex-convict is faced with a problem when he leaves the prison gates that is far greater than any he has previously experienced. Without employment and with a stigma on his name that makes it very difficult for him to find work, he will often slide back into a life of crime. To confine offenders to penal institutions for a certain period, then to release them from prison gates without any idea of their destination or future well-being is throwing away a golden opportunity for social service and will accomplish nothing, either for them or the public in general. The task of crime prevention does not and cannot end when the prisoner has served his sentence—it must follow him through to a re-establishment in civilian life.

During the past five years it has been my privilege to direct an organization having as its object a broader social attitude in the work of rehabilitation among offenders against society and I am indeed pleased to say that throughout the Province of Ontario the larger percentage of some 2500 men who passed through our hands was absorbed into useful citizenship. In carrying