

your President, Mr. Edmison and to the Executive Committees of the various Societies for the splendid advances that have been made in the efficiency and effectiveness of the organizations available to undertake this most important task. The assistance of the Special Placement Division of the National Employment Service in the work of finding suitable employment for discharged prisoners has also contributed greatly to the present arrangements. The liaison that now exists between the penitentiaries through the Classification Officers, the local societies, and the National Employment Service is proving most effective in providing full information as to the individual's capabilities for employment and in preparing him for placement. There is a receptiveness and an appreciation on the part of the majority of our prisoners of the sincerity of these efforts that is a decided contrast to the attitude that prevailed in the past, and that is a great encouragement for the future. The results to be obtained from these efforts are dependent on two factors: - and I mention first the one that appears to be the most important -- the willingness on the part of the public and employers to offer employment to a man or woman who has served a prison term, and secondly, the will and ability of the prisoner to hold the job once he has obtained it. The second factor can only be tested if the job is made available for him, and all too often that opportunity is delayed until the will is weakened and the ability dulled by disappointment. It should therefore be the objective of all of us who have this reformative programme at heart, to do all in our power to convince employers that it is a vital factor for its success that employment should be made available for those who have, by their conduct and attitude in prison, demonstrated that they are reasonable prospects for future good citizenship in spite of past failures.

I have endeavoured to review very briefly some of the constructive developments that have taken place in our penitentiary programme during the past two years. During the past week we have had a conference of our Wardens in Ottawa which has given us a very useful opportunity to discuss together many administrative problems and to lay plans for the future. Further changes will be developed when those discussions have been fully considered and the proposals resulting from them have received approval. We have still many difficult problems to solve, not the least of which is our constantly increasing population, particularly in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec where for several years the admissions have considerably exceeded the releases. However, we feel that real progress has been made and that there is now a better understanding and greater co-operation between the various agencies, Federal, Provincial and private, that are concerned with the problem of dealing with offenders than has ever existed before in Canada. At this Congress we have the opportunity of considering together all the methods that penology provides for reducing the incidence of crime, - initial prevention, probation and parole as well as institutional treatment.

I think that the theme chosen as the keynote of this Congress, "Team Work" is a most appropriate one at this stage of the development of penal reform in Canada. Improvements in institutional treatment are not alone the answer to the problem of reducing crime and preventing its recurrence. Only by the teamwork of all the agencies concerned with this problem will real progress be made.

November 25, 1949.

RP/A