

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1921

## PRISON CHAPLAIN'S VIEWS ON CRIMINALS

Fondness for Reputation, No  
Matter How Black, Creates  
Them, Says Father Cashin  
—Limited Mental Outlook.

(New York Times)  
Father William J. Cashin, Catholic  
Chaplain at Sing Sing, has been up the  
river for nine and a half years. Or, as  
he puts it, "nine years and a wop."  
He has walked the last few steps with  
many doomed men. He has talked with  
many more. He has lived among convicts,  
and he ought to know what makes  
them.

Especially the young criminal, of  
whom, according to all authorities, there  
is an ever-increasing number.  
"It's the same thing that makes  
many actors and many politicians," he  
explained, "the love of being noticed.  
The fondness for having a reputation—  
no matter what the reputation may be.  
That's the main reason, as I see it,  
but, of course, there are others—the de-  
sire for luxury, poor upbringing, lack  
of religious influence and bad surround-  
ings."

"Father Bill," as they call him in the  
silent city on the Hudson, was doing  
his talking down in the Criminal Courts  
Building. Off in a small room a strip-  
pling of twenty years was being grilled.  
The lad—Hoey—was charged with killing  
a policeman. He had surrendered to the  
priest and the priest had taken him down  
to the District Attorney, just as the  
trembling fugitive had asked:

"A great number of the boys I've met  
had a very limited mental outlook, and,  
as such, they entered their thoughts  
mostly upon themselves," said Father  
Cashin. "They were always looking  
out for their advantage. They could  
see things only from the point of view  
of what's in it for me?"

"I don't agree with those who write  
and talk on the theory that criminals  
are mentally deficient. The criminals  
may be deficient in the sense that they  
may not have had the proper moral  
training. They may be deficient in that  
they usually have perverted views on  
life. But they most certainly are not  
mentally deficient. They are, as a rule,  
well 'trained,' but their intelligence  
never was given opportunity to expand,  
to move along rigid courses."

"Lack of religious training in schools  
—I do not think of any one religion in  
particular—undoubtedly is contributory  
to the turning out of the youthful law-  
breaker. Out of the total number of  
prisoners in Sing Sing, of all shades of  
religious belief, there are not more than  
three out of every one hundred who  
have ever had anything like proper  
moral training in their youth. Of the  
Catholic population up there, to cite

in example, not more than 5 per cent.  
have been students in parochial schools.  
"We have found that the great bulk  
of the criminal population comes from  
the great cities. Greater New York  
contributes 60 per cent. of all the in-  
mates in the State's prisons, but if fa-  
cilities were available I dare say we  
could cut down that figure somewhat.  
"And if we could survey New York

City, with a view to ascertaining where  
the criminal comes from, we'd find that  
he comes from certain well-defined  
areas. The standards in these areas,  
these gang playgrounds, are radically  
different from the standards in other  
areas of the big city.  
"I'd define these areas as certain  
localities on the lower west side, in the  
lower east side, the middle west side,

## Mass Meetings

In the interests of the  
Meighen Candidates  
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NORTH END

This Evening  
At 8.00 P. M.

Speakers:—  
Hon. J. B. M. Baxter,  
Col. Murray MacLaren,  
S. K. Smith, Major C. R. Mersereau  
Chairman—Commissioner John Thornton.

And At

## OPERA HOUSE

This Evening  
At 9 P. M.

Speakers:—  
HON. J. B. M. BAXTER  
COL. MURRAY MacLAREN  
(The Candidates)  
Chairman—Dr. J. Roy Campbell.  
All Invited.  
L. P. D. TILLEY, K. C.,  
General Chairman.

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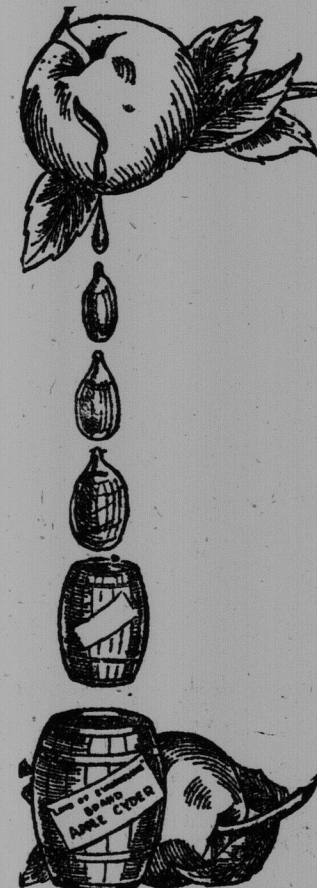
Now Going On in the

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12-2

Harlem and certain neighborhoods in  
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criminality and eliminate them. It is  
surprising the number of young convicts  
who get their start in these vicinities."

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