

## A Graded Out-Door Prison

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By J. W. MACMILLAN.

Mr. William R. George, founder of the famous George Junior Republic, has just published, in outline, a new proposal for reformatory treatment of offenders. The success which has attended the penal village which he invented and supervised has earned a hearing for anything he has to say upon the punishment of crime. His proposal relates to adult offenders, and is mainly an extension of the principles of the George Junior Republic.

There are respected citizens of Canada who owe the fresh start they got in life to the sentences they served in the Republic which Mr. George founded. There are many such respected citizens in the United States. The model of the Republic has been copied till there are now seven such institutions in the United States, and one in England.

Every one who directs a glance at the typical prisons of the world sees that they fail, and must continue to fail, in their efforts to reform prisoners because they do not develop in them any power of self-control. A man in possession of his liberty, moving among his fellows, with chances constantly before him to advantage himself at their expense, must possess within his nature power to restrain anti-social tendencies. The honest man is tempted, no less than the thief. But the honest man overcomes the temptation, whereas the thief does not. Frequently the thief does not wish to steal. The passionate man does not wish to maim or kill his foe. But their wishes are frail obstacles to the torrents of cupidity or rage which the temptation releases. They are unable to restrain their passions. In a word they lack self-control.

### SELF-CONTROL.

Now, self-control never comes without practice. The child learns it slowly, during years of training, where the progressive awakening and growth of his faculties, his economic dependence, and his timidity assist the process of education. Gradually the region of his self-directing activities is enlarged, until after a score or so of years, he is fit to be trusted alone in the midst of the world. Fortunately the adult offender, for various reasons, does not usually require so universal or so prolonged control by others. But his attainment of the power to restrain the lower impulses of his being must come after the same fashion, if it comes at all.

If it were sought to devise an institution which should effectively prevent the growth of the power of self-control in men no better contrivance than a modern prison could be invented. The iron discipline, the fixed schedule, the steady repression, the lack of chance of initiating things or of carrying responsibility, all combine to destroy any vestige of self-control which may linger in the men subjected to its rule. Prisons are indeed effective for restraint, but never for reformation. They do succeed in protecting society against malefactors, but only while the malefactors are shut within them. They afford no protection after the sentence has been completed and the offender set free.

### GROUP-SPIRIT.

Mr. George knew that, of course, as all men who had looked into the matter knew it. What was original in his Republic was the appropriation of the group-spirit of the offenders themselves to effect the transformation of character required. Here is his own description of the way it was done:

"Many of the young outlaws who have come to the Republic have been proud of their lawlessness. They had gained popularity with their comrades and notoriety with the officials in the cities where they had lived. Their names had been printed in the newspapers; they were persons of distinction, and, in their own eyes, of honor. What a change they found when they brought this spirit to the Republic! Here their depredations against property and persons injured the very people who had formerly made much of them — their own companions. Property in the Republic belongs to the citizens, and the citizens have their own laws, courts and machinery of justice, so that when the new-comer committed offenses that had formerly brought him applause, he suddenly found himself arrested by Republic officials. He was tried by a court of his own companions, held guilty by a jury of his own peers, and ultimately sent to

a Republic prison in the custody of his own pals. Wrong-doing lost its romance. The result was that his conception of his own relation to society was changed in short order. If he possessed a strong instinct for leadership, the only way he could exercise that instinct was by working with, not against, the group in which he lived. As he was likely to acquire property himself, he soon came to have a hearty dislike for thieves who could not let what belong to others alone."

### NEW PLAN.

The plan which Mr. George now submits for the judgment of penologists and governments enlarges the scope of the "village," which contains the Republic. He would place five villages, so called, side by side. Into the first of these misdemeanants would be introduced after sentence. (Possibly criminals of a few rare sorts, such as murderers, might be disposed of otherwise.) Here the offender would live until he had proved himself fit to be released and to re-enter society. When this time had arrived would be determined by a board of expert penologists, as is the familiar custom wherever the indeterminate sentence is in use.

This first village would conform as closely as possible to the type of any other village. There would be complete freedom of action within its bounds. Its inhabitants would dress like ordinary people, and be subject to the laws of the state. They would earn their living by their own work. They would administer the municipal government of the village. Their friends from outside would be allowed to visit them. Possibly their families might be permitted to live with them. They would be allowed to acquire property, though the land would naturally be incapable of estrangement from the state. If they had business interests outside they could keep in touch with them. They would be required to support themselves, on the penalty of starving if they did not. They would be required to support their dependent relatives, wherever they were. They would be required to make restitution for injuries they had committed, and they would be unable to leave till the penological experts decided that they had reached such a stage of improvement as made it possible for them to be trusted with their liberty.

Many a misdemeanor would never enter any other village but the first. Some, however, would not obey the laws operative there. They would then be arrested and tried by their fellows resident in the village. For lesser offenses there would be jail sentences in the village jail. For more serious or repeated offenses the punishment would be banishment to the second village.

This second village would be similar to the first. The only difference would be that they would find themselves farther removed from the outer world. If they were well-behaved they would be readmitted to the first village after a time, on the vote of the citizens of the first village. Then would begin anew the probationary period looking to release at the hands of the experts.

If, however, the offender continued to break the laws he would be liable to banishment to the third village, where he would be still farther from freedom in the outer world. And, again, if he still persisted in his criminal career he might be sent to the fourth and, in turn, to the fifth and last of the villages. By this time he might fairly be considered an incorrigible offender, and the discipline of this last village might be administered by guards. Or, the offender, having proven obdurate, might be taken to some permanent prison, to be there restrained for life. He should have demonstrated, by this time, his complete unfitness for liberty.

It is to be hoped that Mr. George may procure the same chance to try this penological experiment that he obtained in the case of juvenile offenders. It would be an immense gain to the cause of reform in the treatment of criminals if it should prove to possess the rehabilitating power which the George Junior Republic has displayed. Certainly it does provide for responsibility, which, in the case of law-breakers who are mentally sound, is one of the indispensable factors of reform. No scheme for recalling to integrity those who have lapsed into crime can succeed unless it contains this element.

## BRITISH CRITICISM OF CANADIAN INCOME TAX.

The Canadian income tax law, which will come into operation next year, is being severely criticized in London, where its effect will be considerably felt by a number of companies. Many London companies carrying on business in Canada will be subjected to the tax, and the principle of "collection at source" which has been adopted will bring many incomes derived by residents of Great Britain from investments in Canada within the scope of the act.

In the act the word "person" means any individual, syndicate, association or body corporate, so that the word includes all English or foreign companies engaged in business in the Dominion. By another section, in the case of "persons" residing or having their head office or principal place of business outside of Canada the assessable income is declared to be the net profit or gain arising from the business of such "person" in Canada, with exemption to the extent of \$3,000 annually.

Writing in the London "Financial Times," Faithfull Begg, the English financier, points out that "too much in this connection and in other portions of the act is left to the Minister for the time being."

"For example, 'taxpayer' is defined to be any person paying, liable to pay, or 'believed by the Minister to be liable to pay' any tax imposed by the act. There are other wide powers of discretion vested in the Minister for the time being out of which will doubtless arise much discussion in the future. In addition to the 'normal' tax there is provided a super-tax, but for this companies are declared not to be liable. The sooner, therefore, all individuals doing business in Canada form themselves into corporations the better for them."

"There is one provision which will lead to endless discussion," continues Mr. Begg, "if indeed it does not prove unworkable. It is stated that for the purposes of the 'normal' tax (nothing is said under this head about super-tax) the income embraced in a personal return shall be credited with the amount received as dividends upon the stock or from the net earnings of any company or other person which is taxable upon its income under the act. The point is in the words 'or from the net earnings of any company or other person.' How is this to be done? Who will decide and how is the individual shareholder to protect himself?"

"Many minor points in the act might be discussed, but it is impossible to overlook the fact that by this legislation Canada has embarked upon the policy of imposing a double income tax within the Empire. So much has been said upon the principle of such a tax that it is needless to recapitulate the arguments. It is come to be universally recognized that this principle is unsound and eminently unfair to the taxpayers."

"The recent budget has recognized this by a special concession, and a promise has been made of full reconsideration after the war. Why should Canada in these circumstances choose this particular time to pass an act in which this admittedly unfair principle is incorporated? No doubt the Double Income Tax Association will at once take the matter up, and it is to be hoped will press definitely and strongly for a modification. The principle of such a tax is condemned both at home and by leading colonial statesmen, and no time should be lost in pointing this out to the Canadian Government."

## LEARN TO IGNORE NON-ESSENTIALS.

The agent who learns to ignore non-essentials saves for himself lots of trouble and travels much faster and by a more direct route to his destination, namely a completed insurance sale, than he who allows himself to be side-tracked by unimportant objections.

It is human nature for one to assume the defensive when solicited to buy or invest. Maybe one is not always conscious of the fact that this is his attitude, but nevertheless it is usually the case. If you doubt the accuracy of this statement, think over what your attitude has been in the past and watch yourself the next time a salesman calls on you.

We find this condition in all lines of business and probably to as great an extent in life insurance as any.

Many times you meet with specific objections to life insurance. Many of these objections are only "straw" obstacles and really can be ignored or passed over so easily, that the front is cleared and you can at once "go over the top" and hold the ground gained.

—By F. A. G. Merrill, in Insurance Independent.