

the young. It is a disgrace to our boasted civilization that boys of 17 years of age, or even young men of 21, should be sent to Dorchester, in many cases their misdemeanor being their first offence. All under 30 years of age should be sent to a Reformatory, not for a limited period, but until those in charge are satisfied they are capable of earning a living and are willing to try. A well equipped and properly conducted Reformatory is a crying necessity in our Province. The institutions we now have, that is the Industrial School and St. Patrick's Home, are doing as good work as can be expected under the circumstances, as their incomes are limited. The Province might well relieve them and allow their means to flow into some other charitable channel. What we need is an institution to which young persons with criminal tendencies can be sent and where they will receive a careful physical, mental and moral training and a sufficient insight into some handicraft by which they may be able to earn a living. To send a young man to any of our penal institutions is, in *nine* cases out of *ten*, to destroy all the chances of his reformation. We place a brand of infamy upon him and then turn him loose upon society, a greater enemy of civil order than at first. What is needed is a thorough examination of all sent up, and that followed by a treatment suitable to each particular case.

The time is coming when our criminals will be studied and treated as our insane. When a person gives evidence of disordered mental action he is sent to Mount Hope for treatment. Is he sent there for 60 days or 2 years? No. He is sent there to stay, until experts say he is fit to take his place in society again. There is no time limit. So should it be with our criminals. Crime is a disease and should be treated as such. No reformatory system however has yet been devised that will reclaim all. After everything has been done, there still remains a residuum of incurables. *These should be carefully guarded and never allowed at large.*

One of the saddest examples of our system, is the case of that poor unfortunate Nell Reardon. Sent to prison *three* or *four* times a year, and as soon as the time of her incarceration expires, she returns to her old haunts, commits the same offence and is sent back again. In the name of common decency, is it not about time such exhibitions should cease?

A few years ago on a visit to the Maritime penitentiary at Dorchester, we were shown through the building by the Deputy Warden. On passing around among the cells, he asked us to