

became so choked that the government had to resort to transportation and penal colonies for the disposal of their human rubbish.

After eighty years of futile experiment of this kind, the failure of the transportation plan was admitted, and practically abandoned. But this was not without its value, for, at least, it gave the world the lesson that in many cases a desperate criminal could turn over a new leaf in the new environment, and become a useful member of society. The advent of hope in our British penal institutions brought with it the dawn of a new life for the criminal classes, and opportunity succeeded where mere cruelty had failed.

In the Victorian era the penologists, profiting by the failures of the past, evolved the humanitarian plan of reformation and rehabilitation. They began to work with the criminal as well as for him. The beginning of the twentieth century has witnessed the advent of preventative methods as well as the adoption of many curative agencies now in operation in our penal institutions.

The causes of social disorders, the relationship between pauperism and crime, the better housing of the poor, the child placing from the crowded and congested slums of our larger cities, are all vital questions in the new criminology of the Dominion, and they are having the thoughtful and serious consideration of the best thinking people from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast.

The curative agencies of the Dominion penitentiaries, working through the channels of authority and discipline, accompanied by the industrial and the educational methods, with the helpful auxiliary of the parole system embracing the kindly oversight of the discharged prisoner in providing friends and employment on the day of his discharge, are producing magnificent results in the transformation of the criminal strata to the social strata of usefulness and good citizenship.

One of the great advantages England has in her penal system, is embodied in the fact that all her jails and prisons come under one authority. In Canada only the penitentiaries come under Federal authority, the province holding jurisdiction over provincial prisons and jails.

The wisdom of the parole system, and the discretion exercised in its administration can be judged by results. From the adoption of the system in 1899 until the close of the last fiscal year there were 1082 paroles granted. Of this number of prisoners paroled, 657, or about sixty-one per cent. have