

kind of recommendation, because the dismissal had been made without his sanction. I think the committee will see that I actually have some reason for the position I am taking in this matter. This paper which was found is used as something against Smith. It was called Barbarism in Civilization, and the figure 26 appeared upon it. It was not as if this paper had been circulating around; they got it and nothing like it has appeared since. There was nothing at all to that, but it is pasted all over this report as being something awful. There is no doubt that it was the work of a communist or someone of that kind; I do not dispute that, but it should not be taken as sufficient cause for the dismissal of an inspector who was doing his duty to the best of his ability.

I am not going to discuss this matter any further. In our part of the country we feel that a great deal of damage has been done and considerable expense will be incurred by the community. The rioting on the second day could have been prevented. A member of the permanent forces wanted to go in and stop it but his offer was refused by the superintendent. I have been in touch with this penitentiary for many years. I came down here and complained about the treatment given to Warden Ponsford, which I thought was very unfair. He was told that if he would apply for two months' leave of absence he would be put back on at the time of the elections. When his leave came through he found it was for three months and no one could be found who would admit having changed it. He was practically thrown out. Ponsford was no friend of mine; I never got and never asked a favour of him. I thought the treatment unfair and I came down here to protest. I will say for the minister that he received us and I think, after all, used perhaps the best judgment in the settlement of that case. However, the treatment Ponsford received was unfair and I came down here to fight for him.

Mr. WOODSWORTH: Mr. Chairman, it seems to me to be quite obvious that this committee cannot form a clear conclusion from the details which have been presented during this debate. I submit that from the statements made by the minister and the charges levelled by the hon. member for Kingston (Mr. Ross), we would be warranted in urging upon the government the absolute necessity of the appointment of an independent commission to investigate the whole question of our treatment of criminals. I agree very largely with the hon. member for Kingston in his criticism of the report upon the riots at

Kingston penitentiary. It seems to me that the attitude of the superintendent is simply that of adopting repressive measures. He stated that there was only occasional foot and arm drill, that twice a year each guard fired eight shots and that during the annual drill a certain number of guards were put through some sort of perfunctory fire drill. He states further that shortly after the end of the late war a fair sprinkling of guards were brought into the service who had had military training of some type or other. The attention of the committee has been drawn to the rather peculiar statement of the superintendent with regard to the inability of the ordinary soldier to become an efficient guard. I do not want to go into that matter, but I would say that a soldier's training, whether he be a private or an officer, is not necessarily such as to fit him to be a guard or other official in a penal institution. Had I the time I would have liked to submit some memoranda which have come to me—copies have been sent to the minister—dealing with the whole question of the treatment of criminals. One was from the Canadian Prisoners' Welfare Association, another from the Social Service Council of Ontario, and so on.

I think it is high time that we in Canada followed a line of procedure similar to that followed in Great Britain and many countries of Europe. In those countries a very careful investigation has been made not only of the details of the administration of the penitentiaries but of the general question of penology. Following these investigations in Great Britain and elsewhere, men have been appointed to take charge of these institutions who had a good knowledge of sociology, psychology and penology. These men have a wide knowledge of the type of treatment that had proved to be the best in other institutions, and they have brought into effect certain new types of treatment which have proved very effective.

I do not think that any hon. member who has a boy of his own could listen to the instance quoted by the hon. member for Kingston of a fifteen year old lad who had become a hardened criminal without feeling that that statement alone was sufficient to warrant our asking for a royal commission to inquire into the whole situation. The minister himself has had to admit that after all these years we have not as yet succeeded in segregating the youthful offenders. It is high time we had a thorough and far-reaching investigation of these matters. The minister has admitted also that there is considerable overcrowding. There has not been a very great increase in our population in recent