

other social services concerned. Courts are conducted day by day in the quiet dignity of courtrooms all across the land. Prisons are operated by officials who conscientiously perform their duties without much in the way of public knowledge or appreciation. And through it all peace officers are familiar figures in every city, town and hamlet throughout the country. They are the living and ever-present symbols of the law.

There was a day when the "man in blue" was a person to be feared. But that day is rapidly passing. Efforts are now being made towards the training of officers for more effective police duties, and a younger generation is growing up with an increasing recognition of the fact that "the policeman is youth's good friend". If this end is to be wholly achieved, however, it is essential that police forces everywhere should be aware of the efforts now being made by progressive prison officials to make imprisonment serve a more useful purpose than mere custody of the offender. It is the purpose of this article to outline some aspects of the program now being introduced into the federal penitentiaries, and to suggest the basic philosophy on which this program is founded. It is hoped that such knowledge will contribute to a greater understanding by peace officers of the part they play in a process which commences with the arrest of a law-breaker and terminates, if successful, in his readjustment to normal living in society.

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It may be of interest to note that, in addition to his other magnificent achievements, Mr. Winston Churchill ranks as one of the great penal reformers of our generation. In July 1910, when he was Home Secretary for the United Kingdom, he spoke to the British House of Commons as follows:

"The mood and temper of the public with regard to the treatment of crime and criminals is one of the most unfailing tests of the civilization of any country. A calm, dispassionate recognition of the

rights of the accused, and even of the convicted criminal against the State—a constant heart-searching by all charged with the duty of punishment—a desire and eagerness to rehabilitate in the world of industry those who have paid their due in the hard coinage of punishment; tireless efforts towards the discovery of curative and regenerative processes; unfailing faith that there is a treasure, if you can find it, in the heart of every man. These are the symbols, which, in the treatment of crime and criminal, mark and measure the stored-up strength of a nation, and are sign and proof of the living virtue in it."

This statement is as good now as it was when first uttered and can be accepted as a satisfactory expression of the philosophy underlying the present Canadian federal program.

Crime appears to be a permanent phenomenon of organized society everywhere. We are not likely to eliminate it entirely, although Mr. Walter Thayer, formerly Commissioner of Corrections, New York State, at one time spoke as follows:

"In all my 40 years of prison experience I never met a man who could not be rehabilitated."

This seems to be an extreme statement. What Mr. Thayer meant, however, is that with greater knowledge of the factors influencing human behavior, and with more skilful treatment, it is possible to cut down the number of repeaters, to forestall the development of criminals at an earlier point in their careers and to reduce the overall cost and tragedy of crime to society.

The treatment of offenders has varied throughout history. Readers will recall the pillory, the stocks, the whipping post and other forms of public humiliation, also deportation. As late as the early part of the 19th century there were over 200 offences in England punishable by death. It is important to note that there never has been any correlation between the incidence of crime and the severity of punishment.