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THE CANADIAN

PRISON SUNDAY

VOL. I.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1892.

No. 1.

Recommendations of Ontario Prison Reform Commissioners.

JUVENILE CRIMINALITY.

1. *Compulsory Education, Truancy, etc.*—That such changes be made in the school laws as are requisite to give full effect to the provisions which require all children of a proper age to attend school for a reasonable period in each year; the law in this respect to be rigorously, but, at the same time, judiciously enforced; so that the attendance at school of all children whom such a law should reach may be secured, and yet no injustice wrought or hardship inflicted. . . . The rigorous enforcement of such a law is an imperative necessity in laying the foundation of all preventative measures relating to juvenile criminality. . . .

2. *Day Industrial Schools.*—That the establishment of one or more day industrial schools in every city and large towns be made compulsory; that provision be made in these schools for the control and instruction during the day of disorderly or neglected children belonging to what is generally described as the "Arab Class," of habitual truants, of those who cannot be controlled by parents or guardians, or who otherwise require special supervision, and of destitute and forsaken children who may not be proper subjects for constant residence in charitable institutions, but require partial assistance in obtaining proper food and clothing; and for carrying on work of a simple kind for the industrial training of these classes.

3. *Children on Street at Night—Playground for Children.*—That cities, towns and villages be empowered to pass by-laws forbidding, as is now done in the county of Waterloo, the running at large of boys and girls in the streets after dark, and to enforce such laws effectively through the agency of the police and truant officers, and that the parents or guardians be held responsible in such cases, and after one or more warnings, be punished with a fine if they allow their children to remain on the streets after the time appointed, unless there be some good reason therefor, or unless they show that they cannot control their children. That in order to furnish amusement and exercise, chiefly for children of these classes, suitable playgrounds, with a gymnasium attached be provided in every city and town, and that an officer be appointed to attend during certain hours of play and exercise, and prevent all disorderly conduct and the use of profane or obscene language.

4. *Second-hand Shops.*—That the inspection and regulation of second-hand stores, pawn-brokers shops and junk shops be made so strict by law as to prevent the purchase of any goods that may be stolen, and that the exposure of goods for sale be so regulated that children shall not be tempted by the opportunities for pilfering which it affords.

5. *Immigrant Children.*— . . . That such precaution be taken as will effectually prevent the bringing into this country of children of parents known to be criminal, or of children who have spent their whole lives in an atmosphere of vice and crime; who are so saturated with evil and know so little of good that their reformation, if at all possible, must be a work of much time and of patient, skilful, charitable effort.

6. *Child Saving.*—As the hearty co-operation of the charitable and philanthropic is essential to the success of any effort for the prevention of vice and crime, the Commissioners recommend that all practical measures undertaken for that purpose by any association or charitable organization receive the most cordial encouragement and assistance from the municipal and other authorities interested in the saving of children.

7. *Arrest and Trial of Children.*—That no child under the age of fourteen shall be arrested and taken through the public streets as a prisoner when it can possibly be avoided. If the offence committed is of a trivial nature, and the policeman knows the child's parents or guardian, they shall be summoned to produce the child at such time and at such place as may be directed. If the offence is of a serious nature, and it is necessary to place the child under arrest, he or she should not, if at all possible, be committed or remanded to a common goal, but should be detained in a place provided for the purpose, and entirely separate and away from a police station, and, if practicable, in the house of a police officer or other person who will be responsible for the child's appearance before the magistrate or justice at the time and place appointed. That no child under the age of fourteen be tried in public on any charge, but that the magistrate or justice hold a special session at a convenient time and place for the trial of such offenders, and that none be permitted to be present except the officers of the court, the necessary witnesses, the truant or probation officer, and the parents or guardians of the children to be tried.

8. *Children Found Guilty.*—If a child under fourteen years of age is found guilty of the offence with which he is charged, commitment to a common goal should, under no circumstance, be made, nor should the child be committed to a refuge or reformatory until all other means of correcting or reclaiming such child have been tried. In the cases of children convicted of first offences of a trivial nature, full authority should be conferred on magistrates and justices to discharge with an admonition, particularly if parents or guardians will undertake a more careful supervision of them. The system of suspended sentence, under the surveillance of the police, should also be more availed of, unless the environments and general surroundings of the children are extremely bad. Above all, it is urgently recommended that a law be enacted giving full effect to the Probation System, as now in operation in the State of Massachusetts and other States, with such modifications as the circumstances of this Province and the ideas and habits of its people may render desirable. The truant officers, referred to in the first recommendation, to act, as far as possible, as probation officers in respect of this class of juvenile offenders.

9. *Industrial Schools.*—That the immediate erection of industrial schools, sufficient for the accommodation of all children whom it may be found necessary to place in such institutions, be provided for, and that in any district in which there is no large city, and the erection and support of such a school would be too great a burden on one county, certain counties, having geographical proximity, be grouped together for the purpose of founding and maintaining an industrial school for all the municipalities within such group. . . . that the means of giving a good technological training, to such boys as will not adopt farm life, be furn-

ished; that the literary and the moral and religious instruction of the boys and girls detained in such schools be carefully attended to; that the boys and girls be detained in industrial schools only so long as may be absolutely necessary to render them fit to be placed in a private family, either as apprentices or boarders. That those who are not thoroughly vicious should be so placed out, even before they have received such literary instruction as is absolutely necessary for their future well-being, provision being made for their attending school when placed out. That a vigilant and kindly supervision of the children so placed out be constantly maintained, and that the managers of the school, with the approval of the proper provincial officer, may recall any child so placed out, or remove him or her from one family to another.

10. That in addition to any provincial grant to aid in the acquisition of land and the erection of buildings for such industrial schools, the provisions of the charity Aid Act in respect to the maintenance of refuges be made applicable to industrial schools.

11. *Reformatory for Boys.*—That the Reformatory for boys be removed, as soon as practicable, to a more suitable locality, where the cottage system, a proper classification of the boys, a thorough system of industrial training, the mark system, and other approved reformatory methods, can be introduced, and that when this has been done, moral restraints be entirely substituted for those material restraints which still do so much to make the atmosphere of the reformatory that of a prison. That a larger number of the boys be employed in practical farming and garden work, and that means of giving a thorough technological training be at once provided. Such a school to be of real value should be a hive of active, earnest, unremitting industry, in which every boy should learn how to do as much work as is expected of any boy of his age on any farm or in any factory or workshop, and to do it at least as well. That the laws be so amended also, that all boys shall be sent to the reformatory under what is known as the indeterminate sentence, and every boy be enabled to earn a remission of a portion of the extreme penalty attached to the offence which he has committed, by his industry, his diligence and general good conduct, whether under a mark system, or such a system as that of Lansing, Michigan; that when the superintendent, chaplain, schoolmaster, and farm or trade instructor report that a boy has earned such remission, and is entitled to it by reason of the proofs he has given of being really reformed, the Attorney General of the Province, or some one acting on his behalf, should be empowered to remit the remainder of the penalty, or to allow that boy to go out on license or parole, subject to being arrested and taken back to the reformatory if he violate any of the conditions of his parole.

12. *Refuge for Girls. Industrial School for Girls.*—That the refuge for girls be entirely separate from the Mercer Reformatory, and that an institution which may serve as a reformatory for girls of less than fifteen years of age, who have entered upon a dissolute career, or who have committed serious offences, be established in a suitable locality; that a quantity of good land be attached to it so that the girls may be taught farm and dairy work and all kinds of house work. And that one or more industrial schools be established in suitable positions to which girls who commit petty offences, girls who are homeless or destitute, and girls who, because of the misconduct of their

parents, are in danger of falling into criminal ways, may be sent.

13. *Children, Wards of The Province.*—That all children sent to industrial schools who have, for a second time, been convicted of an offence, or who have been sent to such school because, through the neglect and bad example of dissolute, vicious, or criminal parents, or through vicious training and evil associations, they are in danger, if not rescued, of becoming criminals; and also, all children who are committed to the reformatory for boys or refuge for girls, shall be regarded and treated as wards of the Province, and shall be absolutely under the control and care of the managers of such industrial school, or such boys' reformatory, or girls refuge—subject, in certain cases, to the authority of such provincial officer—until they attain their majority, or until at any time previous to attaining their majority, the managers of such institutions and such provincial officer are satisfied that they can be trusted to take care of themselves.

14. *Indeterminate Sentences and Parole.*—That, when the system of indeterminate sentences has been adopted, and inmates of reformatories for juveniles and of industrial schools can, by good conduct, and by giving evidence of reformation, earn a remission of part of their sentence; and when provision has been made for committing to industrial schools, the refuge for girls or the boys' reformatory, juveniles who are in danger of falling into criminal habits, or who have committed small offences, every means of testing the moral strength of those supposed to be reformed and of increasing that strength, should be employed by the adoption of the parole system, apprenticeship and boarding out in families.

15. *Local Boards to Care for Children on Parole.*—While no boy or girl should be retained in an industrial school, reformatory, or refuge any longer than is necessary for complete reformation, it is equally, or perhaps more, important that none should be allowed to leave these institutions unless to return to a good home, or until such employment has been provided on a farm, or elsewhere, as will afford the boy or girl a fair opportunity of earning a respectable living and leading a moral life. To this end, and in order that supervision and care may be judiciously exercised over discharged, paroled, or apprenticed children, it is of the utmost importance that an association shall be formed, having local boards in every important centre of the Province, who shall take upon themselves the important but delicate duty of looking after and caring for these children. The actual expenses connected with the settlement of the children should be defrayed by the Province.

16. *Dominion Laws, Changes Required.*—That such changes be made in the Dominion laws as may be found necessary to confer on the Provincial governments and its officers all requisite authority to pardon, parole, apprentice, board out, and generally deal with and exercise control over all children and youths sentenced or committed to or placed in the reformatory for boys, the refuge or reformatory for girls, and the industrial schools of the Province, whether such boys and girls have been sentenced or committed to or placed in such institutions under the provisions of Dominion or Provincial laws.

17. *Drunkards—Recommendations of Prison Reform Commissioners.*—The Commissioners recommend that the Government, out of the funds derived from the fees for Provincial licenses (which might be temporarily increased for that purpose), shall erect in the centres of population one or more industrial reformatories for inebriates. Every such reformatory should be near a city, and should have attached to it a sufficient area of good land for the employment of the inmates in farming and market gardening: it should also be furnished with means for employing the inmates in suitable industrial occupations.

18. That to this reformatory be committed all habitual drunkards, that is to say, all who have been previously convicted of drunkenness three times within two years: such other persons addicted to the use of strong drink as in the opinion of the county Judge may be reclaimed by timely

restraint and judicious treatment: and those who may be compulsorily committed to an inebriate asylum under the provisions of the Inebriate Asylum Act. The first commitment to this reformatory should be for a period not shorter than six months; the second for not less than one year, and the third for two years, less one day. That any inmate whose term of imprisonment exceeds six months, may, after he has been detained for six months or more, be permitted to return home on parole if he has given satisfactory evidence of a sincere desire to live soberly and of strength of mind sufficient to enable him to keep his good resolution—such license to be granted on the recommendation of the Superintendent, endorsed by the Inspector of Prisons, and approved by the Provincial Secretary; such license to be revoked if the conditions on which it is granted be not observed.

19. That if the families of any inmates of a reformatory for inebriates be wholly dependent on them for support, a portion of the proceeds of the earning of such inmates be paid to their families; also, that a portion of the net earnings of the inmates, after defraying cost of maintenance, shall be set apart to form a fund, out of which those whose general conduct has been good and who give evidence of being reformed, shall be assisted in their efforts to earn a living for a time after leaving the reformatory.

20. That if after a third commitment to an industrial reformatory for inebriates, a drunkard again be convicted of drunkenness, he shall then be sentenced to the Central Prison for the full period authorized by law.

21. *Tramps and Vagrants: Recommendations.*—That in the case of every tramp and vagrant sentenced to imprisonment in a common gaol, hard labor shall form part of the sentence, and in order to provide the means of rigidly enforcing such sentence, it shall be compulsory on county councils to provide in every common gaol a sufficient quantity of stone to be broken; or to provide some other work to be approved of by the Inspector of Prisons; and it shall be the duty of the gaol officials to see that every professional tramp or vagrant that is committed shall do a full day's labour, unless the gaol surgeon certifies that he is physically unable to do such work.

22. That after a second conviction and commitment to a common gaol of a tramp or vagrant, he shall, if certified to be able to do hard labor, be sentenced to the Central Prison for progressive periods commencing with not less than six months, to be increased upon a further conviction to the full period authorized by law.

23. *Homeless and Destitute Prisoners: Recommendations.*—It is urgently recommended that, in order to abolish completely the inhuman system of committing homeless and destitute men, women and children to common goals, many of whom are, from old age or physical incapacity, unable to earn a living, the establishment of a poor house be made compulsory (instead of permissive as at present) on every county in the Province; or where the population and requirements of a county in respect of its poor do not seem to warrant such an expenditure, that two or more counties be grouped for that purpose; every poor house to have attached to it a sufficient quantity of land to furnish employment for the inmates.

24. That it shall be unlawful, when a poor house is established in a county, or group of counties, for a magistrate or justice to commit to a common gaol as a vagrant any homeless and destitute person who seems to be physically incapable of working, unless such person has committed some offence.

25. *Insane Prisoners: Recommendations.*—That the admission of lunatics to the asylums for the insane should, when at all possible, be effected by direct removal to an asylum on the certificate of physicians; that no lunatic be sent to a common gaol unless in case of absolute necessity; that whatever is possible be done to ensure that application for admission to an asylum be made in the case of every lunatic as soon as insanity has been fully developed and while yet the person afflicted may be amenable to asylum treatment.

26. That when it becomes necessary to commit a lunatic to gaol, and it is found that the person is of unsound mind but not a fit subject for a lunatic asylum because incurable, or imbecile and harmless, the examining authorities enquire fully into all the circumstances of the case and determine whether the insane person may, with safety, be entrusted to the care of his family, and that if they so find, the family shall be required immediately to take charge of such insane person, unless it be shown that they are unable to furnish proper maintenance and care for the insane person, in which case the examining authorities shall enquire and ascertain whether the insane person can be properly cared for in a poor house, and if they so determine, the insane person shall forthwith be removed thereto.

27. *Young Criminals, First Offenders: Recommendations.*—With a view to overcoming the evil, and, in many cases, fatal results of associating young men, who have been convicted of a first felony or serious misdemeanor, with the most depraved and hardened criminals in the Central Prison, Kingston Penitentiary, and other penitentiaries of the Dominion, it is urgently recommended that the strongest pressure be brought to bear on the Dominion Government by the Government and Legislative Assembly of the Province, as well as by all societies and individuals interested in the reformation of criminals, for the establishment of an industrial reformatory for this class, which institution shall incorporate in its methods of treatment all the best features of the Elmira system, and the systems in operation in the other establishments of a similar kind in the United States.

28. That to this reformatory be committed all young men, between the ages of seventeen and thirty, who have been convicted for the first time of a felony or serious misdemeanor, and who in the opinion of the judges imposing sentence are proper cases for reformatory treatment: all prisoners sent to this Reformatory to be committed for an indeterminate period.

29. *Sentences: Recommendations.*—The Commissioners recommend that the sentences passed on all juvenile offenders sent to reformatories or industrial schools be indeterminate, and that the Attorney-General of the Province, or some one duly authorized to act in his behalf, be empowered to liberate such juvenile offenders unconditionally or conditionally, and on parole as may seem best calculated to promote the welfare of the offenders and the interests of the State.

30. That the sentences of those committed to the proposed reformatory for young men be in all cases indeterminate with a maximum limit, and that commissioners or others be empowered to make regulations for the management of the reformatory, to establish a system of grades and marks, or such other means of stimulating the inmate to habits of order and industry and promoting their reformation as they may deem it best: to liberate on parole such of the inmates as by their attention to work, diligence in study, observance of the rules, earnest efforts to reform and general good conduct, have proved that they will do their duty faithfully in any position in which they may be placed: and to discharge unconditionally those who having been paroled behave well for any appointed time.

31. Sentences should, as far as possible, be progressive or cumulative. The Bertillon system or some other effective method should be employed to establish the identity of criminals who have been previously convicted of serious offences. The identification of those guilty of minor offences is also important. The criminal and the offender should know that the penalty for a second offence will certainly be greater than that imposed for the first, and the penalty for a third certainly greater than that imposed for the second, and that the penalty will increase in severity as the crimes or offences increase in number.

32. *Good Time System: Recommendations.*—It may be inexpedient to introduce the indeterminate sentence system in the Central Prison or the Mercer Reformatory, because so many of the

prisoners in these institutions are sentenced for short terms, but the Commissioners see no reason why what is called the "good time," system may not at once be established in both. If the prisoners knew, that by observance of the rules, diligence at work and general good conduct they could earn a certain number of good marks every day and thus earn a remission of some portion of their sentence, they would certainly become better prisoners, and probably become more amenable to all good influences.

33. *Lock-ups and Police Stations: Recommendations.*—That full effect be given to the provision in the Prison and Asylum Inspection Act, requiring the inspector of prisons to make, at least, one inspection in the year of all the lock-ups in the province, and to report upon their condition and management in the same manner as is done with the common gaols; and that that official also have the same authority vested in him in respect to the construction and alteration of lock-ups, as well as in respect to the means of removing prisoners from the lock-ups to gaols as he now has under the Inspection Act, in respect of common gaols.

34. That structural provision be made in every lock-up for the complete isolation of the sexes in separate and distinct wards; that there shall also be the means of making a complete separation of prostitutes from other female prisoners, and that the separation of these classes of prisoners shall also be effected and carried out in taking them to and from court, and in their subsequent transfer to the common gaol.

35. That in every lock-up to which female prisoners are committed there shall be a police matron who shall have entire charge of the female prisoners in the lock-up, and who shall also be present at their removal to court and transfer to gaol.

36. *Common Gaols: Recommendations.*—It is claimed that when the common gaols are used only as places of detention for prisoners, waiting trial, and of confinement for the short term prisoners, they should be conducted strictly on the separate or cellular system. The Commissioners have little doubt that if a proper system of cellular seclusion could be strictly provided, and when provided, effectually carried out, it would be greatly superior to the present system of day association in corridors.

They earnestly recommend that when a new gaol is built or the complete interior reconstruction of an old gaol is found necessary, the separate or cellular system now in operation in the English local prisons be adopted; and that whatever can be done in any gaol, without great expense, to provide for even a partial adoption of the cellular system, or a more satisfactory classification of prisoners (the proposed reduction in the number of prisoners being taken into account), should be done as soon as possible.

37. *Prison Labor: Recommendation.*—It is recommended that in all prisons and reformatories entirely under the supervision and direction of the Provincial Government, the labor of the prisoners and inmates shall be conducted on what may be termed the Provincial Account System; that is, that the Province shall supply all the machinery, plant and fixtures necessary for carrying on industrial operations; that it shall purchase all the raw material and shall, under the direction and control of its officers, instructors and servants, use the labor of the prisoners and inmates in the manufacture and production of such articles and goods as may be best suited for the employment of such labor and for the best interests of the respective institutions and their inmates.

38. That is the selection of prison or reformatory industries, next to such branches of work as will best afford the means of giving good technical instruction to the prisoners, which should always receive the first consideration, preference should be given to the manufacture and production to the largest possible extent, of all goods required for every branch of the public service, including asylums, prisons, county jails, Government offices, etc., and also for hospitals, charities, and other institutions aided by Government grants.

39. That with respect to the youths committed to the Boys' Reformatory at Penetanguishene and to the Industrial school, although a great deal of the time of the inmates must be taken up in ordinary schooling, the inculcation of industrious habits is of the very first importance. The Commissioners are of the opinion that the managers of these institutions should endeavor, by every means in their power, to induce the large majority of the inmates to adopt the occupation of farming. If there is anything to fear from hereditary tendencies in the youths of the class sent to reformatories, no better foil to them could be found than the honest work and quiet and contentment of farm life. For boys drawn from urban quarters, who will not take to farming, but desire to learn a trade, thorough and effective instruction, technical and practical, in a few branches, such as carpentering, shoemaking and tailoring should be provided. The young girls in the Refuge should be thoroughly instructed in cooking, laundry work, general housework, and plain sewing, so as to fit them for domestic service.

40. *Supervision and Inspection: Recommendations.*—The commissioners were convinced by all that they saw in their visits to several penal and reformatory institutions in this Province and in the United States, that it is absolutely essential to the successful working of any system of management that competent, zealous men, capable of commanding the respect and gaining the sympathy of those entrusted to their care, should be employed in every branch of the service. In several of the United States, if not in all, this work is done by a local board of commissioners, directors or managers who, acting independently of or in subordination to a State board, make all the rules and regulations, authorize the most important executive acts of the warden or superintendent, and themselves do much work of importance directly at their meetings. . . . But whatever be the system of inspection and supervision, it must always be of the utmost importance that the best man be chosen for the position of warden or superintendent of prison or reformatory, and that his assistants be disposed to take an intelligent interest in their work and act thoroughly in accord and sympathy with their superior.

Ontario Prison Reform Commissioners' Report.—Excerpts.

Industrial Schools in Great Britain.—The industrial schools are for the greater part denominational. In England there are 46 industrial schools for Protestant boys, 38 for Protestant girls; 11 schools for Catholic boys, and 9 for Catholic girls. In Scotland the Protestants have 14 schools for boys, and 11 for girls; the Catholics, 3 for boys, and 2 for girls. In England there are 4 schools, and in Scotland 4 in which the detained are Protestant and Catholic. In the Edinburgh schools of this class, and indeed at all the others, and in the training-ship schools, Catholic teachers are employed for the Catholic children, and proper regulations as to their religious instruction and attendance at public worship are enforced.

Day Industrial Schools in Great Britain.—In 1873 Mr. Sydney Turner reported that for a considerable portion of the children sent to industrial schools "a much cheaper and simpler form of institution, in fact a good day feeding school with fair means of instruction and employment, would answer the end in view as well as the present costly industrial schools." The present inspector says that experience has shown this opinion to have been well founded, and thinks that the time will shortly come when such schools will form part of every school board system. It is remarkable that there are but three day industrial schools now in Scotland, where the idea of such schools originated and was first successfully carried out. These three, established by authority of a special act of parliament, are all in Glasgow.

These day schools provide for the control and training during the day of disorderly or neglected children generally belonging to what has been described as the Arab class, at a very low cost to the public, and without taking them away

from their homes, to which they return in the evening. It may be taken as a rule that the homes are poor rather than criminal. Three meals are provided—breakfast, dinner and supper. The schools are all well managed. The Inspector says, "the results of the examinations have, without exception, been most satisfactory."

Probation Laws.—The opinion that in many cases better modes of punishing or preventing offences than imprisonment may be found, has gained much ground in England. The Summary Jurisdiction Act of 1879 not only increased the powers conferred on magistrates by the Juvenile Offenders Act of 1847, to dismiss young persons on admonition and without imprisonment in certain cases, but also permitted the substitution of fines instead of detention for various offences under the Acts relating to poaching, vagrancy, public health and even to some felonies. The previous scale of sentences for several offences was also reduced by this Act, and it obviated many imprisonments of poor persons by authorizing the fines to be paid gradually by instalments. In 1887 an Act was passed entitled in the Statute Book, "An Act to permit the conditional release of first offenders in certain cases;" this as is provided "may be cited as the Probation of First Offenders' Act, 1877." The Act says: "Whereas it is expedient to make provision for cases where the reformation of persons convicted of first offences may, by reason of the offender's youth or the trivial nature of the offence, be brought about without imprisonment, be it enacted, etc."

There has scarcely been time to test the Act of 1887, but Mr. Tallack says that "these two Acts together, with the collateral measures for the committal of delinquent and neglected youth to reformatories and industrial schools, have already materially contributed towards that diminution, both of prisoners and of gaols in Great Britain, which is a gratifying feature of the age. Especially satisfactory is the approximate abandonment of the imprisonment of children in this country of late years. In proportion as the gaol has been less used than at a former period, it has been proved that other ways of disposing of offenders, at once less costly and less degrading, have been found practically advantageous." May this lesson be practically pondered.

The Massachusetts System.—Following the example of older countries, Massachusetts at first strove to gather vicious and neglected and destitute juveniles into large institutions, and she employed training ships as reformatories. All this has been essentially changed. Mr. Wrightington, superintendent of indoor poor, in his evidence before the commission, said: "When Massachusetts was only half its present size we had a reform school with 600 boys and two school ships full. Now we have only one school and no ships, and the school has only got one hundred and odd inmates! Why! Because we have attended upon the courts and prevented committals to those institutions. We saw there was no use committing them to such establishments when we could put them out to their own homes on probation, or into families with constant surveillance and visitation, with a provision that if they are worthless they may be subsequently recommitted."

Probation is the peculiar feature of the Massachusetts system, and it seems remarkable that it was not used when the work of saving and reforming juveniles was first undertaken, and that it is not carried farther now. From the first settlement of New England, and for many years after, each community asserted, and through its selectmen or otherwise exercised, the right of safe guarding its morals, by watching closely and vigilantly the conduct of families and individuals, and imposing severe penalties for offences of omission or commission. The probation officer and his assistants now discharge some of the duties which the selectmen undertook even in Boston a few years ago.

The law relating to the appointment of probation officers provides that the aldermen of any city or the selectmen of any town may establish the office of probation officer and fix the salary. The mode of appointment is prescribed, and the powers of police officers conferred on the person so appointed.

(Continued on page 7.)

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PRISON SUNDAY.

"PRISON SUNDAY" is issued this year more especially in the interests of prison reform in the Province of Ontario. The Report of the Ontario Prison Reform Commission was presented to the Legislature in June, 1890, and it was expected that some action would be taken with a view of giving effect to its practical recommendations before the close of that session, but in this we were disappointed.

At the opening of the session of the Legislature in 1891, as no reference was made to the subject in the Speech from the Throne, a deputation from the Children's Aid Society waited upon the Government urging immediate action, and more especially in the interests of neglected and destitute children.

We believed that as all the facts were before the Government, and as the best sentiment of the country had been pronounced in favor of those recommendations, we were justified in expecting that at least a beginning would have been made in inaugurating these much needed reforms. But in this we were again disappointed.

We are in a position to know that the members of the Ontario Government heartily approve of these prison reform recommendations. Then why should there be any delay in giving effect to them. Are they waiting for the Dominion Government to take the initiative by establishing a Dominion Reformatory?

We are very much behind other countries in dealing with the crime question. Even far off Australia has far out-stripped us. A grand province like the Province of Ontario should be able to lead in all matters of moral reform instead of lagging far in the rear.

The reforms we are contending for are fully embodied in the Recommendations of

the Ontario Prison Reform Commissioners. As we wish all who are interested in the prison reform movement to know what these recommendations are, we reproduce them in these columns almost entire. We have also given considerable space to Child Saving Legislation, and especially to a sketch of the Probation system as carried out in Australia and in Massachusetts. We have been asked which of these recommendations we consider most important. Our reply is, "They are all important and should be acted upon by our legislators without unnecessary delay." If, however, the funds at the disposal of the Government do not permit full effect being given to these proposed reforms in their entirety and at once, and we were compelled to make a choice we would say, "Whatever else we may do or not do, let us arrest this rising tide of juvenile criminality in our midst; let us legislate in behalf of neglected and destitute children, and let us put our reformatories on a proper basis."

With regard to the Dominion Government we have great pleasure in being able to announce, that the Minister of Justice has given a promise that he will recommend that a Dominion Reformatory for young Men,—first offenders,—be established at an early date by the Federal Government, and also that the practical operation of the pardoning power will be modified so as to admit of the managers of reformatories pardoning and paroling the inmates of these institutions as a reward of and an incentive to good conduct.

We are very much indebted to the various Church Courts, to the Ministerial Associations, and to the clergy in general for sympathy and practical help in this prison reform movement, and we bespeak a continuance of this hearty coöperation until all of these desired reforms are fully obtained. Our legislators, unfortunately, will not move in matters of this kind until they are compelled by force of public opinion. We look to the press and to the pulpit to aid us in bringing to bear a sound healthy public opinion on this most important question.

On Prison Sunday, we trust the clergy generally will be able to call attention to the prison reform question, and the necessity of immediate remedial measures on the part of our legislators. We also ask that the prisoner himself be remembered on that day as well as all prison officials and all who have to do with the administration of justice. We ask also that the work of Prisoners' Aid Associ-

ations and all who extend a helping hand to the discharged prisoner, be commended to the prayers and active sympathy of all true believers.

Clergymen in the City of Toronto who propose preaching a sermon on Prison Sunday specially prepared for the day, will confer a favor by notifying us in good time so that if possible arrangements may be made to have an abstract prepared for the press.

Clergymen outside of Toronto will confer a favor by sending a copy of any paper containing a notice of a sermon or other reference to the Prison Reform movement.

This paper, "PRISON SUNDAY," is issued by the Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada, for free distribution among such of the clergy of Canada as we can readily reach. We would be glad to supply a copy to every clergyman in Canada were it within our power.

In the United States, or at least in several of the States of the Union, Prison Sunday has been observed for several years, the fourth Sunday in October being so observed. In Canada, or at least in Toronto, a beginning was made two years ago, but the date was determined by the date of the holding of the Annual Meeting of the Prisoners' Aid Association. This year, Prison Sunday will be observed on Sunday, December 4th; on the evening of Monday, December 12th, the Annual meeting will be held, and on Tuesday the 13th, a Prison Reform Conference. The Annual Meeting will be held in the Mission Rooms, 41 College Ave., commencing at 8 p.m., and the Prison Reform Conference will be held at the Educational Buildings, on Dec. 13th, commencing 10.30 a.m.

Remember the dates.—Prison Sunday, December 4th; Our Annual Meeting December 12th, and Prison Reform Conference December 13th.

Prison Reform Literature.

The Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada has formed the nucleus of a library on Penology at their office 150 Simcoe St., of which the clergy and others are invited to make free use. In addition to the Annual Reports of Prisons, Reformatories, etc., there are the following, viz: "The Prison Question," by C. H. Reeve; "War with Crime," by J. Barwick Baker; "Crime, its Nature, Causes, Treatment and Prevention," by Sanford M.

Green; "Something Attempted,—Something Done," by Dr. Barnardo; Report of the Ontario Prison Reform Commission; bound volume of the Proceedings of the National Society of Charities and Correction; bound volume of the Proceedings of the National Prison Association. The latter contain about 300 pages each, and in addition to the addresses, papers and discussions, they contain reports of sermons preached before the Association, including those of Bishop Brooks of Boston and Bishop Baldwin of London. The great work of the late Dr. E. C. Wines, on "The State of the Prisons," we are expecting in a short time. "Penology and Preventive Principles," by Wm. Tallack, of the Howard Association, we have not yet received, but it can be seen at the Toronto Free Library.

The Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada.

Ex-Mayor Howland, at the Fourth Convention of Christian Workers held in Buffalo, Oct., 1889, speaks of this Association as follows:

"I want to tell you the way we got at our work in Toronto. We have a Prisoners' Aid Association there and we help the prisoners. The mechanical part of the work is not worth a row of pins; it is the power of God that makes it effective. Anybody can get a machine, but nobody can, start the machinery without the power. There is an old mill near where I was born, and it stands there with everything complete, waterwheels and everything, but the water is gone; there is no power. And the mill is no good. It is the power that is needed. The power in this work of ours is this: It was started, as a Sunday school, in the city jail. Then the work grew, and, when the Government built the new Central Prison, they were bothered about appointing chaplains, and, finally, they looked at this little Prisoners' Aid Society and saw how to escape the difficulty. They said, why not give the Society charge of the religious meetings in the new prison, as they have now in the city jail; and from that time we took charge of the religious services in the prison. We divided it up by interesting all the ministers in the city, and getting them to take charge, in rotation, of the preaching service on Sunday. We held a Sunday school in the morning. After a while, there was a prison for women, and we took charge of the religious work there, and have a Sunday school there. We have got about a half-hundred workers who go there, and they nearly all walk to get there. The superintendents of the Sunday schools and the President and Secretary govern the Prisoners' Aid Society, and everything is done for Jesus' sake. Of course, there are mechanical features in the work, but it is the 'Jesus men,' as the Chinese say, who run the institution. We would just as soon let the devil into the work as to let in a man who is not a Christian. This is the thought I want to give you. In the Sunday school, we get all these hardened men in the prison, seven or eight and sometimes ten to a teacher. They sit there and learn their lessons just like children. We use our Bibles. I haven't seen enough Bibles in this Convention. If you are going to convert fallen men and women, you must get where you can interest them and work steadily with them. This is the principle of this work. I want to tell you, if we had organized Christian work on that basis all over the United States and Canada we would reach every fallen man or woman in the United States and Canada, and get a chance at the people, who are not fallen, in the church. My

judgment about fallen people, especially fallen women, is this, that you cannot reach them while they are pursuing their evil course, except under extraordinary circumstances, except where there have been wonderful impressions by the Holy Ghost.

"I want to tell you, when a woman has once made a break she is going to go down in nine hundred and ninety-nine cases out of a thousand. Here is a poor girl arrested for a theft she has not committed. She is taken to the station and mixed with loafers and bad women generally there. She loses her self-respect from the first. I think it is heathenish! They are brought up into the police court, that theatre for the loafers and for the blackguards, where they have the greatest treat in the world, where they see decent people pulled down for the first time, and every respectable girl is marked by the worst characters in the town as one of themselves for the future. There is nothing so successful in corrupting both women and boys as that splendid, that lovely free theatre kept by the Christian people in every town and called a Police Court. The chances are that this woman will go down. You are likely to see little of her for sometime; she will be cast back, and you cannot get near her until she is convicted and sent up for three or six months, as the case may be.

"My work for eight years has been as Superintendent of the Sunday school in the Female Reformatory. Earnest people go there to work, and I tell you that work has been a blessing and glory all the time."

"I believe this work belongs to the Holy Ghost. I tell you if you get the Holy Ghost in this work you will have souls saved all the time. When they go out, we give them some paper and envelopes. The envelopes are addressed to me. Ever since this work was started I have had to have a lady to look after these letters. Every week these letters come in, and I have had to write a series of letters to answer them. And so this work is going on. Just before I came away, I got a letter sent from one of these girls, and she was standing and happy and was now a blessing to her father and mother.

"I want to say about saving souls, get it into your minds that there is nobody that cannot be saved. Get this in your minds, and you will have souls saved. You must have the pure love of God to win souls. Make up your minds that the Lord means to use you.

"Listen to these lines, 'The Master of the Sheepfold,' by Sally Pratt McLean:

De massa ob de sheepfol'
Dat guard de sheepfol' bin,
Looks out in de gloomerin' meadows
Whar de long night rain begin—
So he call to de hirelin' shepa'd,
Is my sheep, is dey all come in?

Oh, den says de hirelin' shepa'd,
Dey's some, dey's black and thin,
And some, dey's po' ol' wedda's,
But de res', dey's all brung in,
But de res', dey's all brung in.

Den de massa ob de sheepfol'
Dat guard de sheepfol' bin,
Goes down in de gloomerin' meadows,
Whar de long night rain begin—
So he le' down de ba's ob de sheepfol'
Callin' sof', Come in, Come in,
Callin' sof', Come in, Come in.

Den up t'ro' de gloomerin' meadows,
T'ro' de col' night rain an' win',
An' up t'ro' de gloomerin' rain-paf
Whar de sleet fa' piecin' thin,
De po' los' sheep ob de sheepfol',
Dey all comes gadderin' in.
De po' los' sheep ob de sheepfol',
Dey all comes gadderin' in. [Applause.]

W. C. T. U. and Prison Reform.

We are very much indebted to the W. C. T. U. for valuable aid in this prison reform movement. Our prison reform platform has been endorsed and the government memorialized on the subject, if we mistake not, by every County Union throughout this province. The members of this temperance union are doing a valuable work in connection with our county gaols and we bid them God speed in this, as well as in every other department of their noble work.

The W. C. T. U. has done a good work in the direction indicated and it is in a position to accomplish still greater things on the same line by influencing the members of County Councils in behalf of County Gaol and County Poorhouse Reform.

Work Among Discharged Female Prisoners.

Extracts from an address before the Sixth Convention of Christian Workers at Washington, D.C., Nov. 1891, by Miss Zinkan, Bible Woman of the Prisoners' Aid Association, Toronto:

"Let me give you a few instances of how the Lord opened up positions for some of these women. There was one who came out of the reformatory, and I told her she could come to our home. I could not recommend her to anybody. I had got into the habit of telling those who engaged these women, just what their trouble was, and they were able to help them to some extent. I told this girl I could not recommend her, but she could come, and the Lord Himself would supply the situation. I had thought that, of course, no one would would take her—that was faith? Soon after we got home, and while I yet had my hat on, a lady came to the door and inquired for a girl. I told her I had two women and one was a drinker, and the other would be very apt to take things. [Laughter.] Well, she said she would not have the one who drank, and asked me to let her see the other girl. I brought her in. She was a very pleasant looking girl, and the lady engaged her. The girl has said since that she never had a place she liked better. I said, 'Nobody but the Lord Jesus Christ could find a situation for a girl who steals, if the lady who engaged her knew she did.'"

"I will tell you of one woman who was at the reformatory, down in the refractory ward. Those women who are so bad they cannot be kept with anybody else are put down in the refractory ward. I could not understand this woman. Her face was so hard and set it seemed like cast-iron, and I think she must have had seven devils by the looks of her. The first time I went to see her I went with Mr. Howland and she would not speak to him. I said to her, 'Do let us be friends. Do speak to me. I don't care what you say but say something.' So she commenced to tell me there was no use of her trying to be good. I kept on going to see her and finally she got thawed out. She said she had been in the reformatory five times, but never before had she made up her mind to do right when she came out. To day she is in the same situation she went into seven months ago, and she is doing well. There is such a change in her face that you would not know she was the same person. I am giving you these few instances to show you a little of our work."

"Rev. John C. Collins. It is a good idea to show these things to Christians, who have not got the faith they ought to have. Mr. Crittendon said at Detroit, that after the most careful investigation at least forty per cent. of

the worst women of New York, who are converted in the Florence Mission hold out."

Question by a delegate. I would like to ask how many times you receive a drunkard after they have gone back? Ans. Seventy times seven. [Laughter and applause.]

The Industrial School, Mimico.

The Board of Management of this excellent Institution, in their Annual Report for 1891, report as follows:

The work of rescuing and reforming the many lads, who would, if allowed to follow the course they had been in, soon become criminals and a burden to society, is a source of great joy and gratification. There are now 158 boys in the school, and during the year 30 boys have been sent to situations, or to their parents, mostly all of whom, we believe, will become useful and respected members of the community. We teach our lads to be industrious, regular in their habits, clean, polite, truthful, and aim to develop their whole being—physical, moral, and intellectual. The success that has attended the work thus far, is more and more convincing of the value of industrial education, combined with the regular school work. One half of the day the boys are engaged at some work in the field, garden, workshops, kitchen, cottages, or laundry, and the other half they are in the school-room, engaged at the regular school studies, yet the progress they make compares very favorably with the pupils who attend the Public School the whole day. The accommodation of the school is now being increased so as to take in 250 boys.

The Industrial School Association has opened a school for the reception of girls in East Toronto, and 20 girls are now resident therein. A site of 14 acres at East Toronto has been acquired, and two cottages built. We would commend this school to the kind sympathy of all who would take an interest in saving little girls from ruin and shame. The Lady Superintendent and Matron placed in charge have entered on the work with great energy and are very hopeful for its success.

The Prisoners' Aid Association of Canada.

The objects of this Association are the reformation of offenders, their welfare when discharged, the prevention of crime, and prison reform.

The means employed are:

1. A mission in the Central Prison.
2. A mission in the Reformatory for Women.
3. A mission in the County Jail.
4. A night school for secular education in the Central Prison.
5. The employment of an agent and a Bible woman for the welfare of discharged prisoners.
6. The distribution of prison reform literature, and the use of other means for awakening a more general interest in the cause of prison reform.
7. The formation of Branch Societies in different parts of the Province of Ontario.
8. The maintenance of a central office in the City, at 150 Simcoe Street, as a place of call and temporary shelter for prisoners after their discharge.
9. Assisting with tools and making temporary loans to discharged prisoners.
10. A preaching service weekly, in the Central Prison and Female Reformatory, by members of the Toronto Ministerial Association.

PRISON REFORM CONFERENCE.

In November, 1889, a Provincial Conference was held, at which the need of Prison Reform was so forcibly presented that the Ontario Government appointed commissioners to investigate and report as to needed improvements in the penal and reformatory system of the Province. This commission made thorough inquiry, drew up a report in which many radical changes are recommended, a noticeable feature being the great attention given to the department of juvenile criminality.

They refer to grave defects in the criminal law, and recommend that representations be made to the Federal Government with regard to the same, and also with regard to the great need of a Dominion Reformatory for young men—first offenders—between the ages of 16 and 30.

To discuss the recommendations made and to urge upon the governments and the municipalities the desirability of putting them into immediate operation, was the object of a second conference held in November, 1891.

At this conference were delegates from seven church courts, and from thirty-two other public bodies.

The recommendations of the Commissioners were endorsed by the Conference and a committee was appointed to wait upon the Minister of Justice with regard to a Dominion Reformatory and the pardoning power. The result of this interview has already been referred to.

A third conference will be held in the Educational Buildings, Toronto, on Tuesday, December 13th, commencing at 10.30 a.m., and we trust this conference will be attended not only by all the appointed delegates, but also by all who wish to see practical effect given to these prison reform recommendations.

The Toronto Children's Aid Society.

If the formation of any new society can be truly said to meet a long felt want it is the Toronto Children's Aid Society. The utility of such a society is so obvious that the only wonder is that it was not organized long ago. We are glad to extend to the new society a most hearty welcome and trust it will receive all the encouragement it so richly deserves. As its name indicates, its object is to save the children. Among the means employed a home has been opened at 18 Center Street for the temporary shelter of waifs and strays, until they can be otherwise provided for. Outings are given to poor children during the summer months, and a Christmas treat is given the last week in December. Fuller information may be obtained from the Secretary, Mr. J. S. Coleman, 32 Church Street.

Immigrant Children.

In answer to a letter of inquiry, the Secretary of the Interior informs us that during the year 1891, orphan and other children brought to Canada by Dr. Barnardo and others totalled 3418, and that for the last ten years there was a grand total of 21,744, all of whom we believe were settled in the Dominion. Nearly 22,000 in ten years! And, so far as we can learn, without any proper supervision or oversight. To whom shall we look for the remedy?

The National Prison Association.

The National Prison Association of the United States and Canada meets this year in the city of Baltimore, commencing December 3rd, and lasting six days. It was organized twenty-two years ago by the late Rev. Dr. Wines, to whom is also due the honor of organizing the International Prison Association, which latter meets every five years. The National Association met in Toronto in 1887, and the present prison reform movement in Ontario is largely an outcome of that meeting. The meeting for next year will be held in Chicago during the World's Fair.

The National Society of Charities and Correction.

The meeting of this Society for the year 1882 was held in the city of Denver in June last. The next meeting will be held in Chicago commencing June 8th. An international Society will be formed the following week at the same place. This Society is an outgrowth of the National Prison Association.

A Penological Exhibition.

During the Columbian Fair at Chicago, an international exhibition will be held showing the work that is being done throughout the world in connection with hospitals, asylums, prisons, reformatories, orphanages, prison reform and child saving. We trust the necessary steps will be taken to see that Canada be properly represented at this exhibition.

Encouragement for Prison Workers.

Warden Massie of the Central Prison having been asked to contribute to the columns of "Prison Sunday" writes as follows:—

Having occasion recently to visit New York, I arrived in the city of Buffalo late in the evening, and after supper, took a walk

on Main Street. As I walked along leisurely a well dressed man walking between two little boys passed me; as he did so he turned in the dim light and looked closely at me, then went on to the next street crossing. Sending the boys on, he returned to speak with me; asked if I remembered him. I replied I yes, the face but not the name, and asked where we had met. Said he, my name is, I was one of your boys, have you forgotten me? Having had many boys in my classes in the Sunday schools of St. Andrew's churches in Guelph and Toronto, and in many cases confounded the young men who have been my wards here with them, I asked where he had been one of my boys. He said "It was in the prison, and I have so often wished to write and tell you how often I think of what you did for me. I was months under you ten years ago. When arrested I was on the road to ruin; and it was what you said and did for me that saved me; but for you I would have been a wreck and a criminal," and he repeated what I had quite forgotten in his case. He told me he held a good position in the house where employed, had the confidence of his employers, a good salary, a comfortable and happy home, and to the few months spent in the Central Prison he attributed it all. After a pleasant chat, he joined his boys, while I returned to the hotel with the pleasing reflection, that if there are many disappointments with those who promise reform while under my charge and on leaving the prison, but fail sadly, there are some, though I cannot say how many, who like this man, do well, and look back with grateful remembrance to the turning point of their lives, and its commencement in the Central Prison.

Practical Work of our Association.

Minutes of practical work of the Association for twelve months ending September 30th, 1892:

Total number discharged from city prisons, 1,935.

The number assisted by the Association 506.

Employment found for 128.

Provisions given to 75 families.

Rent paid for 15.

Articles of clothing given 183.

Assisted with tools 36.

Railway fares to homes or where employment could be obtained, 51.

Articles of furniture given 81.

Loans to discharged prisoners, \$166.83.

Repaid during the year, \$114.92.

The Agent and Bible-woman have made 227 visits to the prisons, and 520 visits outside in the interests of the prisoners and their families.

Money Needed.

Very few have an opportunity to visit the prisoner either in prison or out of prison, but all may by proxy visit those "sick and in prison," by contributing to the funds of the Prisoners' Aid Association. The Treasurer's address is 137 Church St., Toronto.

Ontario Prison Reform Commissioners Report.—Excerpts.

(Continued from page 3.)

Mr. Pettigrove, secretary of the State Board of Prisons, describing the probation system, said: "A boy is taken into the court and adjudged guilty of a certain offence, and instead of committing him to any institution where he can come in contact with other offenders or to prison, he puts him under charge of a probation officer. In that case his liberty is not restrained, but it is required that he shall keep out of bad company, that he shall not be out late at night, that he shall report himself once or twice a month as the case may be. Sometimes this simply means keeping a boy in his old home, in his old surroundings, but not necessarily, because in many cases when the home is unsuitable the boy is taken away and a home is found for him, where he is employed under the supervision of the probation officer, who watches him for six or twelve months as the case may be. Last year, in the central district, Mr. Savage took under his care nearly 1,200 cases, and only sixty of these were reported as having violated the terms of their probation. Of these fifty surrendered to the court and ten ran away." This method of dealing with juvenile offenders Mr. Pettigrove regards as the best that can be devised if it is thoroughly carried out. He said: "I have great faith in probation—more than anything else, for this reason, that you do not associate the boys together, you have not the contaminating influence of bad boys nor their pernicious communication." He would not send more than one offender to board in a family, and great care, he said, is taken to select suitable families. The congregate system, he thinks, has a bad effect and brings out all the bad qualities of a boy. One bad boy soon contaminates a whole class, and may contaminate a whole school.

The Australian System.—In Australia the systems for dealing with destitute and neglected children and with juvenile offenders, which found favor in Great Britain, were generally adopted, but they have been materially modified, and in his report for 1888 the secretary of the department which has charge of such institutions in the Colony of Victoria, asserts that the acts relating to juvenile offenders and to neglected children, which passed in the previous session, embody the most advanced legislation that has been enacted by any of the colonial legislatures. Their system includes private denominational reformatories, assisted by the State, as in England; Government reformatories, wholly sustained and managed by the State, in which the religious rights of the inmates are carefully guarded and the importance of religious instruction is fully recognized; industrial schools and receiving depots for neglected children awaiting the action of the courts. Children found associating or dwelling with criminal persons may now be apprehended, and if the charge be sustained the guardianship of such children may be transferred to respectable relatives or others, who will be protected from the interference of objectionable relatives. The boarding out of very young children, and the licensing out of those who behave well in the schools, are regarded as important means of saving and reforming those who need the help of the State.

One reformatory and one industrial school for girls are under the management of Protestants; one reformatory and two industrial schools for girls are under the management of Catholics, and the State manages directly a reformatory for boys, a reformatory for girls, an industrial school for boys and an industrial school for girls.

Reformatory for Boys, Penetanguishene.—A great mistake was made in the selection of the site of the Reformatory for Boys at Penetanguishene. When the Government found it necessary to establish this reformatory they thought it would be economical to use for the purpose a barracks which had been unoccupied since the war of 1812. This will not seem surprising when we remember that in those days the prevailing idea respecting reformatories was that they should be little else than prisons. For a place of confinement or for an asylum in which the imbecile or the incurable insane may spend their days the situation is in many respects unobjectionable. The air is bracing and

salubrious, the water is pure and abundant, the facilities for drainage are excellent, and the outlook is grandly beautiful; but the soil is so light and sandy, and so thickly covered with boulders, that successful farming is impossible, and the place is so far away from all the great centres of population that industries which could be carried on with advantage to the boys and with some profit if the school were within easy distance of a large city, would entail heavy loss if introduced here. A still greater disadvantage is that the public almost forget that such an institution exists, and application is scarcely ever made by farmers or others for the services of boys whose term is about to expire. There is no official machinery to provide good homes and suitable employment for the boys when they return to the outer world, or to control, direct or guide them in any way, and no voluntary association has yet attempted to make amends for the law's neglect in this respect.

The superintendent, when under examination, was asked what is done to give the boys an industrial training? He said: "We have endeavored to employ the boys as best we can, but not to their benefit as it should be. . . . So far as the teaching of a particular trade goes I cannot say that it is of much benefit to them, and when they go out it frequently follows that they have a very imperfect knowledge of any trade. . . . Geographically we are so situated that were we to employ the boys at skilled labor we could not put our produce upon the market except at great cost. Technological instruction could be given if the proper means and appliances were furnished by the Government." The superintendent seemed to understand fully the importance of active productive employment as a means of reformation.

Any attempt to ascertain the percentage of the boys discharged who lead honest lives would be useless under the present system, and any statement on that point must be mere conjecture, as no care is taken of the boys after they have left, nor is there any attempt at supervision of them.

The present state of the law is undoubtedly a great obstacle to the successful working of this reformatory. All authorities agree that the reformation of any prisoner, young or old, is impossible unless the prisoner himself be brought to desire his own reformation. This, all modern authorities agree, can only be done by kind and judicious management, and the hope of earning by good conduct a remission of some part of the penalty where that has been fixed by the sentence, or an early discharge under a parole system. The difficulty that is found almost insuperable in practice seems to arise from the doubts which exist as to the powers of the Provincial Legislature and the Canadian Parliament and the consequent necessity for concurrent legislation; and from the extreme views as to the importance of maintaining the prerogative right to pardon or to commute sentences which are held by the Canadian Government.

It has happened more than once that a boy for a remission of a part of whose sentence application was duly made, served out his full term before the Minister of Justice arrived at a decision in his case. The delays and disappointments often have a most injurious effect on a boy who has striven earnestly to deserve a commutation of his sentence.

Without such regulations as the tenth section provides for, or proper authority of law obtained in some other way, the adoption of the probation or parole system as contemplated by the Provincial Act is impossible.

Until full power to license deserving boys or place them out on probation be vested in a local authority, the reformatory cannot do all the good it ought to do. This was strongly represented by the superintendent in his report for the year 1882, but his representations were disregarded. To the question, "Do you think that this institution can ever be made an effective reformatory under the present system?" put by the commissioners, the superintendent answered, "No, never; it is handicapped day by day."

Collections or Subscriptions for the Prisoners' Aid Association should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. A. M. Rosebrugh, 137 Church Street, Toronto.

The Dominion Government and Prison Reform.

We are glad to make room for the following reference to prison reform in the very able Report of the Inspector of Penitentiaries for the year 1891. We trust the important reforms therein advocated will be speedily acted upon by the Dominion Government.

Dominion Reformatory for First Offenders.—

"It is one of the recommendations of the Ontario commissioners to establish an industrial reformatory, where 'young men between the ages of 16 and 30, who have been convicted, for the first time, of a felony or serious misdemeanour, and who, in the opinion of the judges imposing sentence, are proper cases for reformatory treatment,' should be sent and 'committed for an indeterminate period.' This recommendation is a good one and must commend itself to general approval. Its taking practical shape would be, for first offenders, the realization of what has been urged in these reports so frequently, for convicts well-disposed and who give promise of reform. They should be separated from the habitual and hardened criminals. It requires no argument to show the paramount importance, the crying necessity there is to make some fit provision by which so great a number of young men may be saved from being thoroughly corrupted and ruined by constant association with the depraved and vicious, who, by their tact and cunning, will escape being committed to the prison of isolation. Allow me to bespeak your best consideration in behalf of this large array of human beings, on the threshold of manhood, who are standing, perhaps, on the very brink of destruction by becoming confirmed criminals. They may be saved from this fate, if timely steps be taken to rescue them from further contact with vice, and from the contaminating influence of wicked associates. The architectural construction of our penitentiaries does not permit the complete separation and classification required to prevent the baneful effect arising from the co-mingling of the neophytes in crime with those who are seasoned in guilt. I beg leave, therefore, earnestly, to recommend the establishment of a prison, wholly reformatory in its character and management, wherein persons, between the ages of 16 and 30, convicted of their first known crime, entailing upon them a sentence of two years and more, would be confined, in view of being subjected to such discipline and treatment as their previous habits and training, disposition and age may render necessary. For this class of offenders, it is reasonable to suppose that the indeterminate period of imprisonment would have good results. In connection with this recommendation, the question may arise, will one such prison meet the requirement, or should it be a supplement to each penitentiary? No good reason appears in support of multiplying the number of these reformatory prisons. A central one, say at Ottawa, should suffice. The cost of the transfer of prisoners from the several provinces might be considerable; but, it would be a trifle compared with the building, equipping and maintaining of five separate institutions."

The Ontario Prison Reform Commission.—"The Ontario Government has taken the initiative and done a great deal in the direction of prison reform, by having appointed a commission 'to collect information regarding prisons, houses of correction, reformatories and the like, with the view of ascertaining any practical improvements which may be made in the methods of dealing with the criminal classes in the province, so far as the subject is within the jurisdiction of the Provincial Legislature and Government.' The commissioners spent many months at the work

mapped out for them, visited several penal and reformatory institutions in Canada and in the United States, and gathered a large mass of useful information from persons officially connected with such institutions, and from the sheriffs, gaolers and others, in the various counties of the Province of Ontario. The expense of the commission and for the publication of the report, has been, it may be concluded, considerable. These facts are referred to with a view of showing what is being done by the Legislature of one of our provinces to keep pace with the spirit of the times, and be in touch with the progress made in other countries for the reform of prisons and criminals."

A Fearful Warning.—"In the penitentiaries, on 30th June last, 744 young men under 30 were confined, viz., 342 at Kingston, 207 at St. Vincent de Paul, 118 at Dorchester, 47 at Manitoba and 30 at New Westminster. It would be safe to say that one-third of these are under 21. This is very sad and suggestive, and calls for remedial measures, not only by the Dominion Government, but, also, by the Legislatures of the provinces. It is deplorable that so large a number—more than half of the whole convict population—of mere boys and young men should find their way to the penitentiaries. There must have been something dreadfully and radically wrong in their early training, either at home or at school, or in both. The disregard for parental authority, in fact for any and all authority, manifested by the greater number of boys now-a-days, the culpable neglect of parents in not correcting their children when they do wrong, the improper and evil-working restraint imposed upon the teacher by preventing the infliction of well-deserved and wholesome punishment in the school—realizing to the full, the truth of the old proverb, "Spare the rod spoil the child"—these causes combined with the latitude allowed to young people to form bad acquaintances, to cultivate bad habits and frequent questionable resorts, lead with inevitable certainty to the commission of crime and to the convict cell.

Cellular Confinement.—"The prison of isolation—an adjunct to the penitentiary at Kingston, of which mention has been made in former annual reports—is approaching completion. It is quite likely the building will be ready for occupation towards the close of next summer. Meanwhile, inquiry is being made as to the best and most suitable modes of employment for the convicts in isolation, who must necessarily work in their cells. Light industries, which would not injure health by being carried on in the cells, by vitiating the air, such as mat making, willow and rattan work, broom and cane chair-making, etc., would be suitable, and the very limited output from each kind of such handiwork would not interfere, to any appreciable extent, with outside manufacturers. The necessity of providing the convicts, not only in the prison of isolation, but in all the departments of the penitentiaries, with work calculated to elevate and reform, instead of lowering and degrading them, is evident and is of the first importance.

"In view of the completion of the prison for isolation, at no distant day, the time has arrived when it is indispensably necessary to devise a system of management and frame suitable rules and regulations for the guidance of the convicts, who will be placed in separate confinement, as well as for the officers who will be appointed to take charge of the discipline and the industries to be carried into operation.

"Under the circumstances, it may not be amiss—as it certainly appears necessary—to appoint some one properly qualified, or a commission to visit and examine the prisons in Belgium and Ireland, especially, where the separate plan is in vogue, and such other countries, on the continent, as would supply such information and experience as would prove useful and advanta-

geous in improving our own rather defective system. It is very evident that a thorough acquaintance with those various modes of treatment, and their adaptation to our own system, would be most advantageous.

"It is not necessary to look for Christian work, soul-saving work, in distant 'Boorioboola Gha.' There is plenty of it within the walls of our penitentiaries. It rests with the Government to decide whether, with the 'prison of isolation' at Kingston, a new and healthy system of penitentiary régime shall be inaugurated, all over, or whether we shall be content to let things take their course, *quies non movere*, following the *laissez faire*, 'rest and be thankful' policy of the past."

A Representative Conference.

The Prison Reform Conference held in Toronto, in 1891, was preëminently a representative one. It was composed of delegates duly appointed by and representing seven church courts, and thirty-two other public bodies. We trust the Conference of 1892 will be equally representative. While we desire the attendance of all who are in sympathy with this Prison Reform movement, we specially desire the attendance of all duly appointed delegates. For the sake of our children, and for the sake of our country come to the rescue. Remember the date, Tuesday, December 13th, at the Educational Buildings, Toronto, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

The Prison Night School.

The secular night school at the Central Prison, is increasing in interest and efficiency from year to year. Last year there was an average attendance of about 90. Two evenings a week, Mr. Boddy conducts the senior class, and two evenings a week, Mr. Madden conducts the junior class. 39 of those entering the junior class last year could neither read nor write. The teachers are God-fearing men, and are able incidentally to very materially strengthen the hands of the clergy and Sunday School teachers, who so faithfully minister to the spiritual wants of the prisoners from week to week.

The Work of our Agent.

The following extract from the diary of Mr. Taylor, our agent, for one day (Oct. 12th), will give some idea of the work done by him in aid of discharged prisoners:

"Visited Mrs. M——, C—— St., husband in jail, found family in great need of assistance, gave them some provisions.

Received a note from Mrs. M—— G——, late of the A. Mercer Reformatory, visited her, found her ill of consumption, and very short of bed covering, her blankets being in pawn, which I have redeemed and made the poor creature comfortable.

Went to S—— St. and obtained work in Mr. A——'s wood yard for J—— W—— from the jail, to commence in the morning.

Spent some time in Central Prison, visiting and advising the men who are shortly to leave that institution; had a very interesting conversation with W—— C——, who will be discharged on the 17th. This man professes conversion and wishes to remain in the city, he promises to come to the office to me on the morning that he is discharged.

Received a letter from E. F. D., known in the prison as E. C. M. He is still in the situation to which I sent him on being discharged from the C. P., where he professes to have been converted, he says, "I am so glad that I came here. The farmer I am working for is an old gentleman, he is not well, and so I have to look after the stock myself. He told me that he was well satisfied with my work. There is a methodist church quite close to where I am living, so I am able to attend meeting on Sunday and prayer meeting week nights. The Lord has been indeed good to me for giving me a place like this."