

regarding the introduction of prison farms as a modern prison reform. This reform has been in operation at the Canadian penitentiaries for fifty years, and has afforded remunerative and healthful employment to such of the penal-class criminals as can with reasonable safety be employed outside the walls. The restriction imposed by climatic conditions in this country necessitates the provision of other suitable employment during more than half the year, but the farming operations, as an auxiliary industry, have been a boon to prison management.

There are four principles that are discussed by penologists as modern reforms, which have been in practice in Canada for the past fifty years. These are: (1) Segregation of the penal class in separate institutions and under separate management; (2) A separate cell for each convict; (3) Prison farms operated by convict labour; (4) Remission of sentence for good conduct and industry. The provision for remission of sentence was enlarged in 1886. Formerly five days per month was the limit allowed, but, in 1886 the allowance was increased; so that long term convicts can shorten the penalty by approximately one third of the entire original sentence. It is applicable to all classes of convicts, irrespective of the length of the sentence.

The practice of furnishing tobacco to convicts at public expense was one of the abuses that ante-dated Confederation, and was not abolished until 1897. Not more than 20 p. c. of the men were habitual chewers when admitted, but all claimed to be such in order that they might have an article of commercial value with which to traffic within the prison. Weak officers were supplied by convicts, who were thus immune from report whatever prison offence they committed. The tobacco ration was stored and sold through dishonest officers in exchange for liquor, drugs, etc. It was also used between convicts as payment for unnatural and immoral practices. The dormitory cells and workshops were rendered unclean and unsanitary by the tobacco-chewing industry and daily complaints were made as to the quality and quantity supplied. It has been suggested by ill-informed persons that its re-introduction would be an incentive to good conduct and industry—in other words, that the convicts should be bribed to behave; but those who have had experience in prison management, when it was permitted, know that in such cases the convict regards the privilege as a right, and if for cause it is attempted to deprive him of it, he would make it a serious grievance, and, as a matter of fact, his fellow convicts would supply him with larger quantities than he was deprived of. The elimination of the practice has greatly improved the sanitary condition of the prisons, and has in many cases enabled men to break a useless and filthy habit.

Of all the various improvements effected, the license or parole system has been the most important, and its successful operation is a just cause of satisfaction to those who have been responsible for its administration. In conjunction with the remission system, it is the greatest and all-sufficient incentive to good conduct and industry. It has been in operation since 1899, and of the thousands who have been released on license, 94 p. c. have completed their sentences under the rigid conditions of life that the terms of the license impose. This