

problem of deciding, in each case it considers, whether or not there is a reasonable chance of reformation. Parole should not be confused with clemency and is not granted on humanitarian grounds alone. It is not a matter of shortening sentence, although it has the effect of shortening the time a man spends in gaol. Parole means that an inmate is allowed to serve the remainder of his sentence at large in society but under certain restrictions that will ensure his leading a law-abiding life. These restrictions are designed for the protection of the public and for his own welfare.

The decision of the Board is based on reports it receives from the police, from the trial judge or magistrate and from various people at the institution who deal with the inmate. Reports are also obtained from a psychologist or psychiatrist, when available. Where necessary a community investigation is conducted to secure as much information as possible about the man's family and background, his work record, and his position in the community. From all these reports, an assessment is made to determine whether or not he has changed his attitude and is likely to lead a law-abiding life. An inmate need not obtain the services of a lawyer to apply for parole. He may apply by sending a letter to the Board and is assisted in preparing such application at the institution, or another person may apply on his behalf. The Board automatically reviews all sentences of over two years. As soon as an application is received, a file is opened and investigation begun, the results of which are presented to the Board for decision. All applications and reports are processed by the Parole Board staff at Ottawa. In addition to the headquarters staff, there are nine Regional Officers stationed across the country. They interview all applicants for parole to give them an opportunity of making verbal representations to a representative of the Board. The Regional Officers also submit to the Board a report of the interview and their assessment of the inmate's suitability for parole. These Regional Officers have authority over the parolees in their various areas, and also give information and counsel to all inmates regarding possibility of parole and preparation for it.

A person on parole is under the care of a supervisor, usually an after-care agency worker or a probation officer, who reports to the Regional Officer. If he violates the conditions of his parole or commits further offence or misbehaves in any manner, the Board may revoke his parole and return him to the institution to serve that part of his sentence outstanding at the time his parole was granted.

The inmate coming out of an institution faces many problems in regaining his place in society. He is assisted as much as possible by the members of the Parole Service, the after-care agencies and the provincial probation officers. But the success of the parole system depends on the public's understanding of the purpose of parole and its sympathy toward the problems of the ex-inmate. If he is unable to get a job or form new associations because of his past, the chances of his being rehabilitated are remote. However, with the increasing efficiency of the system, with greater co-operation and understanding among all people involved in the correction system and with the public generally, recidivism in Canada should be lessened and some of the problems of criminality solved.

Subsection 2.—Reformatories and Other Corrective Institutions

The latest information on reformatories and corrective institutions is that made available by the 1951 Census. Summary data only are given here.

As of June 1, 1951, there were 13 reformatory and corrective institutions, four of which were for women. Enumeration cards were completed for 2,551 men and 141 women on June 1, 1951. In these institutions for adults 29 p.c. of the inmates were under 21 years of age at the time of admission and almost 50 p.c. were between the ages of 21 and 39 years. The proportion of single men was 63 p.c. and three out of four of the men whose residence was known lived in urban centres. More than one-half of the women (53.2 p.c.) were single and the majority (91.0 p.c.) of those whose residence was known lived in urban centres. From five to eight years of elementary school education were recorded for about